

**TORONTO LEASIDE GIRLS HOCKEY ASSOCIATION
FINANCIAL AID POLICY
DECEMBER 2019**

Guiding Principles

The Toronto Leaside Girls Hockey Association provides residents of Forest Hill, North Toronto, Leaside, East York, Rosedale, Riverdale, North York, the Beach, and Don Mills with exceptional female hockey programming. The TLGHA is one of Ontario's largest hockey associations for women and girls, with over 1,500 participants ranging in age from three- and four-year-olds in our Learn-to-Play program to over 200 adults playing in our senior house league.

Sport inclusion is a fundamental value for Toronto Leaside Girls Hockey Association ("TLGHA"). Our organization is fully committed to providing a safe, supportive and respectful environment for all of our participants – players, coaches, volunteers, officials, and parents – regardless of any differences based on race, national or ethnic origin, colour, religion, age, gender identity and expression, sexual orientation, socio-economic bracket or (dis)ability.

Hockey can be expensive. Learn-to-play programs and houseleague are more reasonable than competitive hockey, but for many families, paying for hockey is out of reach. Even after registration, there is the cost of equipment and often travel. Furthermore, the cost of ice in the City of Toronto can increase cost by 50% over some of our neighbouring communities. Even our houseleague families must travel to many different rinks around the city as the demand is greater than the supply of ice in the City of Toronto.

Purpose

The TLGHA believes there are many girls in our community who wish to play hockey but cannot afford to do so. As an organization, we want to foster a community that gives back and remove the barriers for these girls to play. In increasing frequency, the TLGHA has received requests for financial assistance from families, as well as charitable organizations such as ProAction Cops and Kids. The Board of TLGHA decided to create a policy to establish a framework, including guidelines for who would be eligible to receive funds to play, and to outline the application and selection process.

Financial Support

There are several means of financial support in Canada, including JumpStart charities, and Grindstone Awards among others. These groups typically provide a structure to qualify and quantify, as well as offer funding for certain individuals, TLGHA delivers the programming required in terms of ice time, uniforms and skills development. We believe this is the ideal combination to provide access for hockey families in need.

As an organization, we will meet annually to discuss the annual available amount of awards, and select an independent party to help in determining the recipients of the awards. As an organization, we will strive to continue support for girls throughout their hockey careers, even if applications are required annually.

Equipment and Transportation

Where possible, the TLGHA will solicit donations of used equipment and work with corporate sponsors for donations of new equipment. These will be stored by a volunteer for use of the sponsored girls. Equipment should be returned at the end of a season or when outgrown so other girls can benefit from its use. Where possible the TLGHA and individual teams will help to connect families who may be able to assist anyone with transportation issues, in traveling to games and practices that are far from Leaside arena.

Eligibility

Before applying to the TLGHA, applicants must show that they have applied to JumpStart at a minimum. They must also meet the following criteria:

- Be under the age of 19;
- Submit the TLGHA application before the deadline;
- Be willing to submit financial (tax return) information to an outside provider; and
- Be available for interview, if requested

Timing

The Board will decide on the amount of funds available for use each year in the spring of each year. Houseleague applications are due to TLGHA Sponsorship by June 30th and families will be advised over the summer if they are approved for funding, before the start of the season. Applications for Sponsorship to Competitive Teams should be received by April 30th and families will be advised by June 30th, if they have been approved for funding.

Our Commitment

The TLGHA pledges to:

- Provide this Policy and associated financial assistance information to Association staff, Directors, coaches, managers, and trainers for distributions to families
- Provide the TLGHA financial assistance application form (or direct families to this) for those interested in applying
- Share this application and associated financial assistance links on our website

Confidentiality

The TLGHA will not disclose to outside parties any documentation or information about a family's financial situation.

Ongoing Monitoring

The TLGHA commits to monitoring the process and investments behind the Sponsorship Program as follows:

- Meet annually each spring to review the outside party hired to select candidates each year to receive financial assistance.
- Review Eligibility conditions on a regular basis
- Invest funds accordingly such that they are available to offset costs of sponsored girls
- Decide on available funds for distribution each spring for upcoming season

The Policy is subject to review every three years.

More information

The Board will, annually, appoint a director as a Sponsorship Leader; a representative to whom members – including, players, parents, coaches, trainers, managers, officials and other volunteers and staff - may confidentially direct questions and seek further information. financialaid@torontoleasidewildcats.ca

Date

Ratified by the board at its Annual Meeting, December 2019.

**TORONTO LEASIDE GIRLS HOCKEY ASSOCIATION
FINANCIAL AID
FAQ**

What is it?

TLGHA has set up a Financial Aid policy to help families who cannot afford the cost of hockey.

Who can apply?

Anyone who meets the following criteria can apply. We recommend you apply to JumpStart first. Details on additional resources can be found at <https://www.torontoleasidewildcats.ca/resources/managing-the-cost-of-hockey/>

- Be under the age of 19;
- Submit the TLGHA application before the deadline;
- Be willing to submit financial (tax return) information to an outside provider; and
- Be available for interview, if requested

What is the process?

A link to the online application can be found on our website. Be sure to allow yourselves lots of time to complete this and you'll need tax return information.

What are the deadlines?

Applications for competitive should be submitted by March 1st and for Houseleague by May 1st. Decisions will be made by April 30th for competitive and June 30th for HL.

How much will be covered?

The amount of funding available will vary by applicant and will depend on the chosen program, your family income and expenses. TLGHA uses an outside provider to do the analysis and provide recommended funding amounts for each applicant.

How is TLGHA funding this?

We have some generous members who have made donations for this purpose alone. Further, our Board invests surplus funds during the year which generate income for the Association. This income is being used to fund the Financial Aid program.

Questions?

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