

ATHLETE ASSISTANCE GUIDELINES

1. INTRODUCTION

Sask Sport developed Athlete Assistance as a component of the Excellence Program to enable Provincial Sport Governing Bodies to assist either athletes whose performance ranks them at the national level or athletes with national level potential. Saskatchewan Athletics encourages spending of these funds in areas that will improve the athlete's program.

2. PURPOSE

Athlete Assistance provides direct financial support to athletes to enhance and increase opportunities to prepare for Western Canada Games, Canada Games, Interprovincial, National and International competition.

3. ELIGIBILITY

Grants are dispersed to athletes meeting the performance standards established by Saskatchewan Athletics. To access funds the following conditions must be observed:

- 3.1 The athlete must be a legal resident of Saskatchewan (ie. hold a valid Saskatchewan Health Card) and be an active member in good standing of Saskatchewan Athletics at the time performances submitted were achieved.
- 3.2 The athlete must be a legal resident of Saskatchewan (ie. hold a valid Saskatchewan Health Card) and a registered active member in good standing of Saskatchewan Athletics for the funded year PRIOR to final payment being distributed.
- 3.3 Athletes who are pursuing a full-time course of study at a Post Secondary Institution outside of Saskatchewan ARE eligible for Athlete Assistance.
- 3.4 Athletes who have met the criteria for funding, but leave the province to establish residency in another province, will remain eligible for funding as follows:
 - a) Athletes who leave the province between October 1 and March 31 are eligible until September 30 of that year.
 - b) Athletes who leave after March 31 are eligible for funding until September 30 of the following year.
 - c) When athletics leave Saskatchewan to train at an Athletics Canada training centre they are still eligible for Athlete Assistance.

When an athlete leaves Saskatchewan to take up permanent residency in another province, Saskatchewan Athletics will contact that Provincial Association to facilitate the funding transition.
- 3.5 Athletes who fall within the age and scope of the Excellence or Participation programs, and who qualify for and accept Athlete Assistance funding, are not eligible to receive direct benefits from other Excellence or Participation initiatives.
- 3.6 National Carded Athletes are not eligible for Athlete Assistance.

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4. PROCEDURES AND REQUIREMENTS

- 4.1 Athletes meeting the eligibility criteria who attain a performance standard will be identified and contacted throughout the year.
- 4.2 Athletes are required to sign and return a contract confirming compliance with the conditions outlined prior to final payment being distributed.
- 4.3 Athletes will receive Athlete Assistance payments in two instalments: first half payment – February; second half payment –August, provisional on receipt of the Athlete Assistance Contract.

5. ATHLETE ASSISTANCE POLICIES

- 5.1 Athletes receive funding in the next fiscal year when their performance is equal to, or better than, a standard established by the Association. There are now TWO levels of funding; Tier I and Tier II. Each level is based on an age-progression performance chart.
- 5.2 Indoor Performances will no longer be allowed. Athletes must achieve an Outdoor Performance based on their age progression.
- 5.3 Athletes who attend National Championships must compete for Saskatchewan or a Saskatchewan club. For athletes that have moved to another province and are in their transition period of funding, a mutual agreement between Provincial Branches will be sought.
- 5.4 Athletes must retain ALL ACTUAL RECEIPTS for expenditures included under Athlete Assistance.
- 5.5 In consultation with their coach, athlete expenditures must take place primarily within the fiscal period of Saskatchewan Athletics, October 1 - September 30.
- 5.6 All athletes that accept Athlete Assistance must participate for all Provincial Teams in which they are selected for beginning Jan 1, of the current year.
- 5.7 Athletes 16 years old or younger WILL NOT receive Athlete Assistance in the year the funds are disbursed.
- 5.8 Tier II athletes will receive a maximum of \$500 with the remainder of the funds to Tier I.
- 5.9 The International Camp funds will be disbursed to Tier I only.
- 5.10 All athletes that accept Athlete Assistance must participate at all trials meets for Provincial Teams that they are eligible for beginning Jan 1, of the current year.
- 5.11 All athletes that accept Athlete Assistance must now attend the Provincial Championships for which they are eligible (or higher) beginning Jan 1, of the current year either in Saskatchewan or at a Provincial Championships in another Branch.
- 5.12 Sask Athletics will accept as an exemption from the Provincial Championships a doctor's certificate for injury, illness, and death in the immediate family, a letter from University, school, or technical school stating that an individual cannot attend due to commitments of the institution or if an athlete is competing at a conflicting national team event.

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- 5.13 Athletes may forfeit all or a portion of funding for not adhering to rules set out by Sask Athletics and/or Athletics Canada.
- 5.14 Financial support will be made available to an athlete invited to an Athletics Canada Training Camp that is approved by Athletics Canada Staff.

6. ATHLETE ASSISTANCE SPENDING GUIDELINES

NOTE: Saskatchewan Athletics recommends funds received from the Athlete Assistance program be viewed as supplement funding to the athletes and not as a replacement for club initiatives. Saskatchewan Athletics will not accept as a legitimate expense any fees being charged the athlete for the administration of this funding.

The following expenses are considered to meet the purposes, which underlie the awarding of Athlete Assistance.

- 6.1 Meals To a maximum of \$25/day without receipts (expenses greater than \$25/day require receipts).
- 6.2 Accommodation The actual cost of hotel with receipt. A maximum of \$15/night can be claimed without receipt.
- 6.3 Travel Bus/train/airline tickets to a maximum equivalent to economy airfare as verified by receipt.
Ground transport including taxi, athlete's share of car or van rental, gasoline costs with receipt.
Private automobile to a maximum of thirty cents (\$.30) per km. can be claimed without receipts.
NOTE: On long trips by private automobile, the allowable claim cannot exceed the cost of economy airfare.
- 6.4 Fees Receipts are required for:
- Competition entry fees
- Training Camp/Clinic fees
- Club membership fees
- Training facilities (approved by personal coach) over and above those provided by club
- 6.5 Equipment Training shoes
Event specific shoes
Singlets, shorts, sweat suits and wind suits (for use in training or competition); Exercise/training equipment (approved by personal coach)
- 6.6 Medical Health services or para-medical costs.
NOTE: These costs must be related to injury prevention, rehabilitation, or regenerative treatments (including massage) that are directly related to training. Only the portion of expenses not covered by other plans or programs (ie. insurance) may be claimed. Receipts specifying the treatment must be provided.
- 6.7 Coaching is usually provided at no cost by the club. To claim this expense the coach must be a minimum fully certified Competition Development NCCP in the event area and be a member in good standing of Saskatchewan Athletics.