

PoCo Soccer Scholarship Program Eligibility and Criteria

Objective: To establish clear, consistent guidelines for the PoCo Soccer scholarship program to ensure fairness, transparency, and effective utilization of resources.

1. Eligibility and Criteria

- **Eligible candidates:** Applicants must be current Grade 12 students and are required to have a minimum of three years of involvement with PoCo Soccer. This involvement must include participation during their Grade 10, 11, and 12 years in any capacity as a player, referee, or coach.
- **Academic requirement:** Minimum B average.
- **Post-secondary plans:** Candidates must plan to attend a recognized post-secondary institution within 18 months of receiving the scholarship, providing proof of payment and registration.

2. Application Package Requirements – Email to info@pocosoccer.com by April 1st

- School transcript.
- Cover letter and soccer resume.
- Letters of reference from a teacher/counselor and a coach.

3. Scholarships Available

- The number and value of scholarships are listed below in Section 5
- The scholarships are not guaranteed each year and are contingent upon the club's financial health and the applicants' merit.

4. Awarding Process and Criteria

- A committee will be formed comprised of 3-5 board members each year.
- The Scholarship Committee will evaluate applicants based on their involvement in soccer (playing, refereeing, coaching), volunteer work, academic performance, and personal development.
- The Committee will use a scoring rubric to assess each application objectively (see below for description/breakdown)

5. Standardized Scholarship Tiers

To ensure fairness and consistency, scholarships will be awarded in predetermined tiers:

- 1 available: \$1,000 for outstanding all-around candidates
- 4 available: \$750 for candidates with strong but slightly lesser achievements.
- 6 available: \$500 for commendable candidates with significant potential

The tiered approach ensures transparency and fairness while recognizing varying levels of achievement.

6. Implementation and Review

- These guidelines will be implemented from the 2024 scholarship cycle.
- The Scholarship Committee will review the program annually to make adjustments as necessary, based on feedback and the evolving needs of the club.
- This proposal aims to establish a fair, transparent, and sustainable scholarship program that recognizes the diverse achievements of PoCo Soccer's youth. By standardizing the award process, we can ensure equitable distribution of funds and encourage continued excellence among our members.

PoCo Soccer Scholarship Assessment Rubric

Each application is scored on a scale of 1 to 5 in the following 6 categories, with 5 being the highest score. A description of each category is given.

A) Soccer Participation (25 points max)

1. Involvement as a player, referee, or coach
 - Level and duration on involvement
 - Roles & responsibilities undertaken
2. Leadership and teamwork demonstrated
 - Leadership roles or initiatives
 - Contributions to team dynamics & collaboration
3. Commitment and improvement over time
 - Consistency in participation
 - Growth in skills & understanding of the game
4. Contribution to Club's Community and Spirit points)
 - Participation in club events and activities
 - Positive influence on the club culture and morale
5. Sportsmanship & respect for others
 - Adherence to the spirit of the game
 - Respect towards teammates, opponents, coaches, & officials

B) Academic Achievement (20 points max)

1. Overall GPA (Grade Point Average)
 - Assessment of the student's overall academic performance
2. Rigor of coursework
 - Evaluation of the difficulty level of the courses taken relative to what is available
3. Academic awards or recognitions
 - Acknowledgment of any notable academic achievements or honors
4. Consistency and Improvement in Academics
 - Examination of the student's academic trajectory over the high school years.
5. Participation in Academic Clubs or Activities
 - Involvement in extracurricular activities that demonstrate a commitment to academic interests, such as science fairs, debate clubs, or math competitions.

C) Volunteer and Community Service (20 points max)

1. Involvement within and outside PoCo Soccer

- Active participation in volunteer roles specific to PoCo Soccer
- 2. Impact and leadership in volunteer roles
 - Contributions that have made a significant difference and any leadership roles undertaken in volunteering
- 3. Duration and diversity of service activities
 - Long-term commitment to volunteer service, demonstrating sustained involvement
- 4. Involvement in Community Service Outside of PoCo Soccer
 - Engagement in volunteer activities beyond the soccer club.
- 5. Diversity of Service Activities
 - Participation in a variety of volunteer roles, showing a broad range of community engagement

D) Personal Development (15 points max)

1. Personal Challenges Overcome
 - Recognition of significant personal obstacles the candidate has faced and overcome.
2. Growth in Character and Skills
 - Assessment of the development in personal qualities and skill sets.
3. Contributions to Team or Community Morale
 - Impact on the positive spirit and cohesion of the team or community.
4. Resilience and Adaptability
 - Ability to effectively handle change, adversity, or challenges.
5. Initiative and Independence
 - Demonstrating proactivity and self-reliance in personal or team endeavors.

E) Future Goals and Plans (10 points max)

1. Clarity of Post-Secondary Plans
 - Assessment of how well the applicant has outlined their intended post-secondary education, including specific goals and plans.
2. Relevance of Career Goals to Personal Growth
 - Evaluation of how the applicant's career goals reflect their personal development and growth.
3. Connection Between Soccer Experience and Future Aspirations
 - Understanding of how the applicant's experiences in soccer relate to and influence their future goals and aspirations.
4. Overall Coherence and Thoughtfulness
 - Additional point for applications that demonstrate a particularly cohesive and well-thought-out plan that integrates all aspects of their goals and experiences.

F) Letters of Reference (10 points max)

1. Strength of Endorsement
 - Evaluation of the level of support and commendation expressed in the reference. This includes the referee's confidence in the applicant's abilities and potential.
2. Insights into the Candidate's Character and Achievements
 - Assessment of the depth and relevance of the information provided about the candidate's character, personal qualities, achievements, and impact.

Total Points: 100

Scoring Guide:

- 1 (Poor) - Does not meet expectations in the category.
- 2 (Fair) - Meets minimal expectations with room for improvement.
- 3 (Good) - Meets and occasionally exceeds expectations.
- 4 (Very Good) - Consistently exceeds expectations.
- 5 (Excellent) - Far exceeds expectations with exceptional achievements.

Points are awarded as follows for each category and score:

Score	Cat. A	Cat. B	Cat. C	Cat. D	Cat. E	Cat. F
5	25	20	20	15	10	10
4	20	16	16	12	8	8
3	15	12	12	9	6	6
2	10	8	8	6	4	4
1	5	4	4	3	2	2

Scores from each committee member will be totalled and added together, giving a total score, which will determine the ranking of each applicant, and the subsequent scholarship awarded.