**SLPYHA HARDSHIP FUND POLICY**

**INTENT**

To help Spring Lake Park Youth Hockey Association (SLPYHA) families continue to participate in our youth hockey program when it may not otherwise be feasible without financial assistance. Specific fundraising dollars will be set aside each year, in an amount determined by the Board of Directors, and distributed to eligible families based on an approved process and established criteria. Funds distributed may not exceed the total hardship funds set aside annually, except by a formal vote of the Board of Directors.

**WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE CONTRIBUTIONS FROM THE FUND?**

Financial assistance is available to qualifying applicants who play on house or travel teams through SLPYHA. Partial scholarships will be awarded to help offset the cost of SLPYHA registration and/or team fees. Slush fund fees, apparel and equipment costs must be paid out of pocket by the family. The maximum scholarship per player is 50% of total registration and/or team fees for the season.

Assistance is designed to help families through short-term periods of financial stress caused by hardships such as income loss, unemployment, sickness, divorce, death, etc. It is not designed as an annual subsidy and is limited to 2 years per family/player. This Fund is not intended for families who would otherwise be capable of financing their children’s hockey.

Members not currently in good standing with regard to past due balances or non-compliance with current policies (Volunteering, Fundraising, Codes of Conduct, etc.) are not eligible for hardship assistance except with prior approval by the Executive Committee of the SLPYHA Board of Directors.

**HOW DOES THE PROCESS WORK?**

1. Submit application form to SLPYHA President via Sports Ngin. Applications are due by September 1.

2. Names/addresses will be removed for anonymity prior to forwarding to the hardship committee for review. The hardship committee will consist of at least 3 of the following: SLPYHA President, Vice President, Treasurer and Registrar.

3. Hardship committee will review the applications, confirm eligibility and will make final decision of award or denial.

4. Funds will be automatically credited toward the selected families’ SLPYHA account.

5. Assistance will be granted based on eligibility, total number of applicants, the amount of budgeted funds available and other financial factors considered relevant by the selection committee. All decisions made by the selection committee are final; there is no appeal process.

**ELIGIBILITY**

Families are to be granted hardship funds based on the following general criteria:

1. Demonstrated need as defined in the application;

2. Length of time that the SLPYHA family has been a member; family must have been a member of SLPYHA for a minimum of 1 year;

3. Preference will be given for families who qualify for public assistance programs such as school lunch subsidies, medical assistance, etc.;

4. Special circumstances.