FMLA Financial Hardship Policy

Purpose:
The purpose of this policy is to establish guidelines and procedures for parents with financial hardships to ensure every player, youth and high school, can participate.

Background:
Flower Mound Lacrosse Association, home of Force lacrosse, is a community based lacrosse program that is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt/public charity, non-profit organization dedicated to fostering and promoting a safe, disciplined, respectful, team-oriented program where boys and girls can learn the fundamentals of lacrosse, develop skills to be competitive in the game, and build the essential characteristics of good sportsmanship and strong character, and promote booster club fundraising to ensure the sound financial responsibility of the organization.

FMLA understands that our community, families, households and individuals may suffer financial difficulty from time to time. Financial hardship can present challenges to meeting primary needs, much less discretionary activities. FMLA acknowledges the role of youth sports in the personal, physical and emotional development of a youth or high school teenager. It is the philosophy of FMLA that no player should be turned away from recreational sports activities due to cost or affordability. As a fiduciary, FMLA manages the expenses of the association to deliver a quality program at a reasonable cost. Although we manage the program such that the collective program fees meet the expenses and capital needs of the association, FMLA will consider various forms of payment arrangements to ensure that all children can participate.

General Considerations:

- All approved Financial Hardships expire –each season – spring, fall, and camps.
- Hardship recipients should expect to pay a minimum of $50 per season.
- This policy applies to all FMLA events/programs. It does not include uniform and equipment orders.
- Player must consistently attend practices and games.
- Player must maintain a passing grade in all school classes.
- Payment arrangements may include volunteerism in support of FMLA, and fundraising outside of the committed amounts made by the parent/guardian in a FMLA program registration. Examples of the aforementioned:
    1. Sourcing FMLA donations from corporate sponsors.
    2. Camp Coaching.
    3. Participating in FMLA supported fundraisers and agreeing to meet minimum fundraising goals.
    4. Other needs of FMLA to be determined by the board, as the need may arise.

Process:

1. To be considered for a financial hardship arrangement, the parent, guardian or a concerned third party (Applicant) of a FMLA youth or high school athlete must submit a letter to the FMLA Director of Finance (DOF) requesting consideration and why. The financial hardship request will be kept confidential. Only the Director of Finance and the FMLA board members will have knowledge of the request.

2. The letter must include the following:
   - Player's name.
   - Parent's name, address, phone number and e-mail address.
   - Grade.
   - Reason for the request.
   - Programs impacted (Fall, Spring, Summer Camp, etc.).
   - Proposed payment plan – if any.

3. Upon receipt of the letter, the DOF will review with the FMLA board members.
   - The DOF will present the financial hardship request to the board.
   - The board will vote to approve, counter or deny the request. An official quorum of the board must be present to decision hardship request.
   - The DOF will communicate the board's decision and any related payment plan by letter or email to the Applicant.

Monitoring:

- The Applicant shall make payment, if any, as stipulated in the decision letter, to FMLA via check or credit card (if available). Payment can be mailed to our P.O. Box address.
- The DOF shall report to the board the status of all Financial Hardship approved arrangements on a regular basis.