

RATS Scholarships Policy

Purpose

1. Rotorua Association of Triathlon and Multisport Incorporated (RATS) vision is to be a vibrant, active club that fosters the development of multisport through encouraging participation within the local community.
2. RATS objectives are:
 - a) to participate in, promote, develop and encourage multisport;
 - b) to foster competition and support the development of local triathletes and multisporters;
 - c) to encourage recreational participation in multisport and camaraderie amongst members;
 - d) to increase the profile of the club and the sport within the local community;
 - e) to raise money in an appropriate manner to achieve the objectives of the club;
 - f) to provide personal development opportunities to assist club members in the pursuit of and achievement of personal goals.
3. The purpose of this policy is to provide a framework for the scholarships made available by RATS each year against a set criteria and in consideration of the club's vision and objectives.

Scope

4. This policy applies to anyone who is a full financial member of RATS.

Policy Principles

5. RATS will make available two scholarships per year including one \$500 scholarship for applicants over 18 (the Adult Scholarship) and one \$300 scholarship for applicants aged between 14 and 18 (the Youth Scholarship).
6. A RATS year, for the purpose of this policy, commences in October at the AGM and ends in October at the following AGM.
7. Applications for scholarships open each year after the annual AGM in the October and close in that same year on 31 December (Scholarship Application Period). If there are insufficient applications for the available scholarships during the Scholarship Application Period, or the applications made during the Scholarship Application Period do not meet the criteria in this policy, then the Scholarship Application Period will be extended until 31 August of the following year.
8. Criteria for applicants:
 - a) Successful applicants of both the Adult Scholarship and the Youth Scholarship cannot apply for the same scholarship in subsequent years; thus ensuring a different applicant benefits from each scholarship, each year.
 - b) Applicants of each scholarship must be a full financial member of RATS.
 - c) Applicants for the Adult Scholarship must choose a 70.3 distance event or greater, or an event of equivalent standing or distance – which will be assessed in RATS sole discretion; and applicants of the Youth Scholarship must have entered into a swim, bike, run or tri event; or alternatively use the scholarship funds towards the costs of training.

- d) Successful applicants must immediately provide RATS with a receipt as evidence of payment of their entry fee to their chosen event (or training, as the case may be) using the scholarship funds received. Failure to immediately provide a receipt upon registration may result in the successful applicant being required to refund their scholarship funds to RATS.
 - e) Successful applicants of the Adult Scholarship must give at least one day in kind of time commitment to RATS to volunteer their support at a RATS event, or to run a workshop for RATS youth; and successful applicants of the Youth Scholarship must give at least half a day in kind of time commitment to RATS to volunteer their support at a RATS event.
 - f) Successful applicants of the scholarship funds must provide RATS with a photo and race report for the event they entered (or a summary and photo depicting their season's training, as the case may be, including any accomplishments for the season) such report and photo may be published by RATS e.g. for marketing purposes on the RATS facebook page, or in the RATS newsletter.
 - g) Successful applicants must wear RATS kit on the day of their event, during public training sessions and at any media events (in so far as this is reasonable and possible) with the main aim of the criteria in this clause to ensure the successful applicant is seen to be promoting and supporting RATS rather than any other club or community organisation.
 - h) Successful applicants must uphold the name and reputation of RATS, using opportunities to promote RATS where possible; and not do anything that might bring RATS into disrepute. Failure to comply with this requirement may result in the successful applicant having to refund their scholarship funds to RATS.
9. All applications for scholarships must be submitted in writing to info@rats.org.nz and include:
- a) The full name and address of the applicant together with a copy of their photo ID; and
 - b) A brief biography describing their sporting interests and achievements to date; outlining what they plan to use the scholarship for; and describing their future goals in their chosen sport; and
 - c) Confirmation of all the criteria listed (a) to (h) above including how and when the applicant plans to contribute their in kind time commitment as a RATS volunteer; and
 - d) A supporting reference by someone independent who is not family e.g. a coach, friend or support person who has been training with the applicant.
10. The RATS committee will measure all applications for scholarships against the eligibility criteria set out in this policy; and against the RATS vision and objectives; when considering the most suitable applicant.
11. The RATS committee may award more than one scholarship in each category, in its sole discretion, in the event it receives an overwhelming number applications from deserving applicants.