

# Northern California Olympians and Paralympians (NCOPA) Grant Application Guidelines

## Eligibility

Individuals and teams applying for this Grant must be United States citizens or legal residents and meet the following requirements:

- - Applicants must be a resident of Northern California (geographic boundaries include areas north to the Oregon border, south to Fresno/San Luis Obispo, and across to the Nevada border, including Reno.)
- - Lives in Northern California now and for how long, OR used to live in Northern California, when and for how long, OR attends college or university in Northern California, OR from Northern California, but attends college or university outside of Northern California, OR from Northern California, but is a resident of an Olympic Training Center, OR registered with a Northern California sports governing body, OR competes for a Northern California team or club, OR competes for a Northern California team or club, but lives outside Northern California.
- - Applicants must demonstrate the ability, based on competitive record and years in training, to compete at an elite level.
- - Any athlete who is a member of a team already applying for a team grant may not also apply for an individual grant in the same grant period.
- - In order to provide support to as many athletes and teams as possible, requests for funding by past grant winners are not guaranteed and chances may decrease with each successful funding application.
- - Any money awarded to an athlete that cannot be used by the recipient for its intended purpose must be returned to the Northern California Olympians and Paralympians organization.
- - Please be aware that it is likely that by accepting this grant an athlete's college eligibility may be affected. If a grant is awarded in the name of the team, eligibility is usually not a problem. If the grant is made out to an individual and this athlete plans to participate in intercollegiate sports at a Division I school, the NCAA advises you to consult with the college coach or compliance officer to determine whether funding through this grant program will affect eligibility. The NCAA regulations are technical and must

be interpreted by the NCAA or your college to determine eligibility in your specific circumstances.

### **Grant Guidelines**

• - **Grant applications open on February 1, 2027 and are due on August 31, 2027. Grant Committee members will review the grants during the month of July 2027 and the NCOPA will announce the awards on September 1st, 2027. Preference in awarding this year's grants will be granted to those elite athletes aspiring to make the 2028 Summer Olympic or Paralympic team.**

- - Typed applications are preferred over hand-written applications.
- - Two letters of recommendation are required.

One recommendation must be from the applicant's governing body (i.e. - USA Swimming, U.S. Ski and Snowboard). This letter must be on the letterhead of the governing body. Its purpose is to verify that an individual or team is competing at the regional, National or International level and is in good standing. The letter should also address the level of competition reached (i.e. if you are a regional champion: how many participants competed, does winning a competition qualify you for a National tournament, how many regions participate in such a competition and the significance of winning) NGBs are encouraged to include any other information that will assist the NCOPA in effectively evaluating candidates.

The second letter of recommendation may be from an individual or team's coach or someone familiar with an individual, team coach or someone familiar with the applicant's athletic competition and experience.

- - Applicants may include up to three pages of additional information (i.e. athletic results, newspaper articles). Application packets, however, may not exceed 9 pages.

### **Completed Application forms should be e-mailed or mailed to:**

Northern California Olympians and Paralympians Training and Travel Grants C/O Jim Schmitz 3605 20th St. #9 San Francisco, CA 94110.

For questions, Jim Schmitz email is [jimschmitz@mac.com](mailto:jimschmitz@mac.com).

### **Notification and Application Acceptance**

All applicants will receive notification (via mail and email) from the NCOPA that an application was received and whether or not it was accepted for evaluation.

**Application Evaluation Criteria**

Emergency training assistance will receive priority evaluation. Examples of such emergency needs might include unexpected training or travel expenses associated with an elite-level competition that would provide necessary exposure benefiting future Olympic/Paralympic Team placement, or funding for necessary sport specific equipment to compete in an elite-level competition.

**Questions**

For questions associated with this application, please call: Jim Schmitz at 415.595.8067. or email Jim at [jimschmitz@mac.com](mailto:jimschmitz@mac.com)