

Scholarship Policy

This scholarship is available due to a generous bequest from Life Member Mr Allen Patrick Smith (aka 'Paddy Smith') who passed away in 2008 and the ongoing efforts of the current committee. Paddy was a member of the club during the 1940's and 50's. He was a distance runner predominantly, and competed over all distances, winning races at every distance. Paddy was Tasmanian Cross-Country Champion from 1954 to 1956 inclusive.

In 1956, he had the honour of being an Olympic torch relay bearer as it crossed Tasmania. Paddy retired from running at 33 years of age, however continued to maintain an interest in the club. He believed that running was for everyone, young and old; the brilliant and the battlers.

This policy is designed to:

1. Build athlete numbers in the club
2. Encourage athletes to compete in Track and Field and Cross Country events
3. Increase visibility of the club in the sport
4. Encourage new runners to join our club
5. Facilitate retention of current members
6. Assist financially disadvantaged members or new members to participate in the sport

The club will

- Pay the appropriate AT registration for the athlete (or reimburse)
- Provide 1 club competition uniform (Singlet, t-shirt or crop top) for both full and half scholarships
- Pay for *Relay* entries in State Championships
- Provide access to a nationally accredited club coach to the athlete if required
- Provide free weekly entry into our club run Cross country competition
- Reimburse individual entry fees in state competition for up to 11 events
- Provide financial support to the athlete for interstate athletics events as per our State Team Policy

Successful scholarship recipients are expected to:

- Wear the club uniform at public running events as much as possible
- Wear club uniform for medal presentations
- Attend the end of season awards function at their own cost (when costs apply)
- Be accompanied by a parent or guardian to all events if aged under 16
- Participate (and/or parents) in club activities (E.g. fundraising, competition day assistance)

Successful Cross-Country recipients are expected to:

- Compete in at least ½ of club Cross- country events
- Compete in State Cross Country Championships and relays.
- Compete in the State All Schools Cross-Country Championships (e.g. Symmons Plains)

The successful T&F athlete is also expected to:

- Compete in at least ½ of Senior/ Northern Tasmanian Athletics (NTA) competition during the season
- Participate in club Relay competition at Interclub and State Track and Field events
- Compete in State Track & Field Championships (12 years and over)

Scholarship applications are open from

- 1st September to 21st September
 - All competition (T&F and OOS)
 - Out of Stadium (cross country / walks)

Applicants will be advised by 30th September

- Further scholarship applications will be invited for OOS events from 1st March to 20th March
Applicants will be advised by 28th March.

Athlete Eligibility

Applications may be submitted by individual athletes who must:

- For Track and Field, be turning 12 years of age or older in the year of competition
- For Out of Stadium, be turning 10 years of age or older in the year of competition

Previous applicants

- Previous applicants (either successful or unsuccessful) are eligible to re-apply and will not be discriminated against provided they have previously met the required criteria.
- Athletes who have held a scholarship for 2 years (subject to annual application and meeting eligibility criteria) are eligible to apply for a half scholarship.

Assessment Criteria

Individuals are assessed on a range of criteria including athletic ability, enthusiasm for competing, sportsmanship, or personal hardship.

Athletes applying for a performance-based scholarship must meet one of the performance categories below to be eligible for support.

Athlete Performance Categories

Category	All athletes including Athletes with AWD Classification
1	National: Athlete represents Australia at an international level event or Athlete is a member of an Australian squad and has Australian squad training commitments
2	State: Athlete is a member of a state team program or Athlete is a member of a state squad, or Athlete is vying for selection into a state team
3	Region: Athlete has been successful at a regional level and has been recognised as having potential to meet one of the above categories in the short-term future
4	School: Athlete has produced outstanding results in school Athletic competition and has been recognised as having potential to meet one of the above categories in the short-term future

Personal Hardship Criteria

Confidentiality and privacy are important for applicants and will be protected by the assessment panel.

Eligibility Criteria

To be eligible for consideration for financial support you should

- Possess an Australian Low Income Health Care Card that is current at the application date.

Or

- Those experiencing hardship due to sudden change in circumstances (unforeseen situation funded only once). This includes but is not restricted to:
 - Sudden loss of employment and subsequent income from the main income earner of the family. This does not include voluntary unemployment or circumstances where a redundancy payment has been received.
 - Death or serious illness of a parent/guardian causing significant impact on the household.
 - Fire, flood or other natural disaster causing significant impact on the household.
 - Situations when the child has been placed into care (of the State, foster or extended family) and the relevant concession cards are unavailable.

What is the application process?

- Applicants should read and understand the scholarship policy before commencing the application process
- Applications must be submitted using the application form
- All applications must be lodged by midnight on the published closing date.

No late applications will be accepted

- Additional requirements for a personal hardship support scholarship.
- In addition to the standard application form please also submit
 - a letter no longer than one A4 page to the club by email briefly outlining the circumstances of financial hardship
 - Any supporting documentation relevant to your application, E.g. A scanned copy of your Low-Income Health Care Card
 - email and phone contact details where you can be contacted during the assessment period
- be prepared to attend a brief interview/phone call with a member of the Executive in the case that additional information/evidence is required to substantiate your application.

How will applications be assessed?

Assessment

- By the Club scholarship sub-committee of 5 comprising at least 3 of the club executive plus one/two other. Note: Applicants under personal hardship may contact a member of the Executive to discuss their application (prior to submitting the application)
- Newstead Athletics will be providing a limited number of scholarship opportunities depending upon applications received
- Athletes with previous or current membership of the club will not be disadvantaged when assessing their application.

Notification

- All applicants will be notified via email
- Successful applicants will receive a Letter of Understanding to sign from Newstead Athletics.
- The decision of the sub-committee is final and no correspondence will be entered into.