

2025/2026 Fusion VBC Needs-Based Scholarship Application

OVERVIEW

Fusion VBC provides needs-based scholarships for athletes who without financial assistance would be unable to participate in club (travel) volleyball at Fusion VBC. For the 2025/2026 season, Fusion VBC will offer two types of scholarships to our athletes:

Type 1 - General Needs-Based Scholarships

Type 1 scholarships are directed to athletes participating on any of the Fusion VBC Club Teams (U12-U18). The maximum amount awarded for the General scholarship is \$200. Depending on the funding available, multiple Type 1 scholarships (in varying amounts of money) may be offered. Fusion VBC will determine the amount of funding available on an annual basis.

Type 2 - “*Empowered to Play*” Needs-Based Scholarship

The *Empowered to Play* Scholarship is an alumni-funded, yearly scholarship established in 2025 to provide an individual athlete with the opportunity to experience all that Fusion VBC has to offer when they wouldn’t otherwise be able to do so. The *Empowered to Play* Scholarship is awarded to an athlete participating on a Fusion VBC National-Level Travel Team (U15-U18). The awarded amount of this scholarship for 2025/26 Season will include \$3,000 towards Tuition/Fees, \$1,400 towards travel expenses, and approximately \$600 towards other volleyball needs (i.e. shoes, kneepads, etc).

Totaling Approximately: \$5,000

Both types of scholarships require full completion of the application process to be considered.

Fusion VBC is limited in the amount of Type 1 scholarship funds. Scholarships will be awarded on a yearly as the necessary funding allows. Information regarding the future seasons of the *Empowered to Play* Scholarship will be available by July 1st prior to new tryout year.

No guarantee of assistance is implied by this application. If the number of Type 1 scholarship applications submitted exceeds the amount available with the funds at hand, scholarships will be awarded by a lottery system.

Fusion VBC does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, or disability in its program or activities.

ELIGIBILITY: TYPE 1 GENERAL NEEDS-BASED

Requirements for eligibility:

- Athletes must be of eligible age and of the appropriate skill level to participate on the travel club teams at Fusion VBC (Regional through National Levels – U12-U18).
- Athletes/Parents/Guardians must sign and abide by the rules and standards set forth in the Fusion VBC Handbook/Contract.
- Athletes must obtain both an AAU and USAV membership for the current Club season.
- Parents/Guardians must commit that the athlete will maintain satisfactory attendance.
Athletes must be present at a minimum of 95% of all scheduled practices and events.

ELIGIBILITY: TYPE 2 *EMPOWERED TO PLAY* NEEDS-BASED

Requirements for eligibility:

- Athletes must be of eligible age and of the appropriate skill level to participate on the National-Level travel club teams at Fusion VBC (National Levels – U15-U18).
- Athletes should be focused on volleyball as their primary sport and Fusion VBC practices and events should take priority over all other sports or events.
- Athletes/Parents/Guardians must sign and abide by the rules and standards set forth in the Fusion VBC Handbook/Contract.
- Athletes must obtain both an AAU and USAV membership for the current Club season.
- Parents/Guardians must commit that the athlete will maintain satisfactory attendance. Athletes must be present at a minimum of 100% of all scheduled practices and events unless arrangements made with coaching staff (i.e. Doctors excuse, travel safety concern - weather).

APPLICATION PROCESS:

1. Complete the Needs-Based Scholarship application form in its entirety. A parent, guardian, or head of household must initial all items in the Scholarship Terms and Conditions and sign and date the form.
2. Provide copies of the following where applicable: 2 current consecutive pay stubs, W-2 Form, Unemployment Statements, and/or Child Support Order
3. Provide any additional documentation of hardship. This may include:
 - a. Documentation of assistance from programs such as Food Stamps, Medicaid, Foster Care, WIC, etc.
 - b. A recommendation by a school representative, social worker, youth community center worker, or other social service representative.
 - c. A written statement of immediate financial hardship explaining the current situation. (Fusion VBC recognizes that a family may not be receiving formal assistance or be able to fully demonstrate their financial situation with the documentation requested above, yet financial assistance may still be needed to participate on a team at Fusion VBC. In these instances, the Fusion VBC Scholarship Committee will consider the financial hardship statement to determine scholarship eligibility. Please provide any supporting documentation that may support the facts in your financial hardship statement.)
4. Attach Proof of Residency: copy of current driver's license, state-issued identification card, tax bill, or voter's registration card.
5. Submit the completed scholarship application form with all attached documentation either in-person to TJ Shultz or by mail to Fusion VBC at 1414 Wellgate Lane, Mechanicsburg, PA 17055. For any questions regarding scholarship submission, please email Fusion VBC at fusionvbc@yahoo.com.

SCHOLARSHIP AWARDING PROCESS:

Type 1 General Scholarship applications should be submitted no later than September 1st for athletes ages U15-U18 (awarded in late September) and no later than November 1st for athletes ages U12-U14 (awarded in late November).

Type 2 *Empowered to Play* Scholarship applications should be submitted no later than the last day of Summer Tryouts (7/19/25). This scholarship will be awarded at the time of team offers.

All applications submitted by the dates above will be reviewed and the scholarship awardee(s) will be notified by Fusion VBC and given further instructions once they formally declare their acceptance.

Incomplete applications will be denied, and late applications will not be considered for the available scholarship.

Scholarship applicants who are not awarded a given scholarship due to the lack of funds will remain eligible for all future scholarships that become available in the year following the date of their application.

CONFIDENTIALITY:

Fusion VBC will use the information provided by scholarship applicants only to decide if an athlete is eligible to receive a scholarship at Fusion VBC. Confidentiality will be maintained at all times. Applicants are guaranteed that personal finances will not be discussed outside of the Fusion VBC Scholarship Committee. Athlete's coaches will NOT be informed of their financial or scholarship status.

Scholarship Terms and Conditions

“I,” “me,” and “my” refer to the adult scholarship applicant.

- _____ 1. By signing this form, I certify that the information contained in this scholarship application is true and complete to the best of my knowledge.
- _____ 2. By signing this form, I agree to be bound by the responsibilities and expectations set forth in this application if I receive a scholarship.
- _____ 3. I understand that the members of the Fusion VBC Scholarship Committee consider each scholarship application on a case-by-case basis.
- _____ 4. I understand that there is no guarantee of assistance implied by this application
- _____ 5. I understand that I am responsible for any equipment and uniforms required for my child's participation.
- _____ 6. I understand that scholarship money will not be paid to the individual recipient, nor will any money be refunded to the individual recipient.
- _____ 7. I understand that if any information provided during the scholarship application process is deemed inaccurate, Fusion VBC may immediately terminate my child's privilege to benefit from the scholarship program, and in the case any information was intentionally falsified, I will repay to Fusion VBC the full value of any scholarship awarded.
- _____ 8. This application is considered private and will not be shared with anyone other than the Fusion VBC Scholarship Committee.
- _____ 9. **Type 1 (General) scholarship applicants ONLY:** I understand that I am required to maintain the eligibility requirements for Type 1 scholarships described in my application. My child must be of the appropriate age and skill level to participate in recreational classes and must attend a minimum of 95% of all scheduled classes. Failure to satisfy these conditions of eligibility will disqualify me and my child(ren) from being considered for another scholarship for 12 months.
- _____ 10. **Type 2 (Empowered to Play) scholarship applicants ONLY:** I understand that I am required to maintain the eligibility requirements for Type 2 scholarships described in my application. My child must be a registered member of the competitive team and must attend a minimum of 100% of all scheduled practices and competitions. Failure to satisfy conditions of eligibility will disqualify me and my child(ren) from being considered for another scholarship for 12 months.

Printed Name of Adult Applicant Signature of Adult Applicant

Name of Scholarship Athlete Date

Scholarship Applicant Information

Please fill out all of the following information to be considered for a needs-based scholarship:

ATHLETE INFORMATION

Athlete's Name: _____ Age: _____ Birth date: _____

Address: _____
Street City State Zip

School Athlete Attends: _____

Grade: _____

Athlete lives with: Both Parents Mother Father Other

PARENT/GUARDIAN INFORMATION:

Parent Guardian #1 Name: _____ Email Address: _____

Address: _____
Street City State Zip

Home Phone: _____

Cell Phone: _____

Work Phone: _____

Occupation: _____ Employer Name: _____

Employer Address: _____
Street City State Zip

Parent Guardian #2 Name: _____ Email Address: _____

Address: _____
Street City State Zip

Home Phone: _____

Cell Phone: _____

Work Phone: _____

Occupation: _____ Employer Name: _____

Employer Address: _____
Street City State Zip

Total Household Annual Income: \$ _____

Number of dependent children in your household during the last tax year: _____

Total number of people in your household: _____

Do you currently receive state or federal financial assistance? Yes No

If you responded yes to the previous question, what type? _____

If you receive state or federal financial assistance, is this your sole source of income? Yes No

Does your child qualify for free or reduced school lunch? Yes No

SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION:

Type of scholarship requested: Type 1: General Type 2: Empowered to Play

PREVIOUS PARTICIPATION:

What other sport(s) has the athlete played? _____

Name of Team/Organization: _____

What was the cost of that sport(s) played? _____

Has this athlete ever received scholarships before? Yes No

If yes, which sport(s)? _____ Year(s): _____ Amount: \$ _____

Please indicate supporting documentation being provided in addition to the required proof of income:

- Documentation of state or federal financial assistance
- Recommendation letter from school, social worker, youth community center worker, or other social service representative
- Written statement of immediate financial hardship
- Other: _____

Fusion VBC
1414 Wellgate Lane, Mechanicsburg, PA 17055
fusionvbc@yahoo.com
(Attn: TJ Shultz, Director)