

NAIGC Scholarship Policy
Version 4.1/ Last Amended 4/4/2026

I. Overview

- A. The NAIGC is an incorporated, tax-exempt nonprofit with 501(c)(3) status, and any donations to the NAIGC are tax-deductible.
- B. Purposes of this Policy: To provide the processes for allocating and managing funds for NAIGC Scholarships and determine how scholarships will be distributed.
- C. Before accepting contributions to the Scholarship Fund, consult the [NAIGC Gift Acceptance Policy](#).

II. Location of Scholarship Fund

- A. The NAIGC Scholarship fund shall exist as earmarked funds within a scholarship-specific bank account.

III. Responsibilities of the Scholarship Team

- A. Raising funds through sponsorships and donations, selecting the review panel, receiving applications, and overseeing the review and recipient selection process as specified in Sections V and VI.
- B. Present to the Board, as part of the annual budgeting/approval process, a proposed set of scholarship awards and additional funds to be added to the Scholarship Fund (if applicable) which will be voted on annually (see Section VI). The approved proposal would go into effect for the following fiscal year. The scholarship team should not expect funds to be transferred from the General Fund unless extenuating circumstances exist.
- C. The Scholarship Team Lead will be responsible for verifying with the Treasurer or other designated account holder that the correct scholarships have been paid to recipients and allocated to the Scholarship Fund.

IV. Allocating Assets to Scholarship Fund

- A. The Scholarship Fund will maintain at least a minimum balance needed for the following year's awards. If the Scholarship Fund does not contain the necessary amount, the number and value of scholarships the following year will be reduced so that all scholarships can be covered by the Scholarship Fund.
- B. Funds that are earmarked as Scholarship donations will be automatically allocated to the Scholarship Fund. These may come in the following forms:
 - 1) Online scholarship contributions via NAIGC.org.
 - 2) Designated portions of sponsorship payments that include a Scholarship Fund donation in their signed contract.
- C. Additional funds may be obtained by scholarship-specific fundraising events organized by the Scholarship/Fundraising Teams.

V. Scholarship Awards Offered and Selection Criteria

- A. For each scholarship category:

1. The NAIGC will grant up to two scholarships per scholarship category each year, for up to \$2000 per scholarship. A maximum of one scholarship per discipline per scholarship category shall be awarded.
 - a) The number in blue is a placeholder that may be changed at any time up to the date each scholarship application is released.
 2. Applicants for each award must be enrolled as full-time undergraduate students in good standing at a school with an NAIGC club, or are planning to participate in the NAIGC as an Independent Athlete.
 3. Ideal award winners are applicants who embody the NAIGC motto “For the Love of the Sport,” are actively involved in the greater gymnastics community, and are likely to become future leaders in the gymnastics community.
 4. Once an individual has received an NAIGC scholarship, they are not eligible to apply for or receive any additional NAIGC scholarships in any category.
- B. Leadership Scholarship
1. This scholarship intends to support college athletes who have demonstrated exceptional leadership, initiative, and commitment to strengthening the collegiate gymnastics community.
 2. Scholarship recipients should exhibit a high standard of academic achievement (minimum 3.0 GPA on 4.0 scale), in addition to service and/or involvement with their gymnastics club, and alignment with the NAIGC core values.
 3. Applicants are scored based on the [Leadership Scholarship Application Rubric](#).
- C. Underrepresented Athlete Scholarship
1. This scholarship intends to enhance representation of college athletes from diverse backgrounds historically underrepresented in the NAIGC or the gymnastics community in general.
 2. Applicants must identify as from a group that is underrepresented in the sport, including but not limited to Black/African American, Native American/Alaskan Native, Hispanic/Latino, and Hawaiian/Pacific Islander.
 3. Applicants are scored based on the [UAS Application Rubric](#).
- D. Rainbow Scholarship
1. This scholarship intends to support LGBTQ+ undergraduates who exemplify a passion for gymnastics and a commitment to creating inclusive spaces within the sport and beyond.
 2. Applicants must identify as LGBTQ+. This includes, but not limited to, individuals who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and/or queer.
 3. Applicants are scored based on the [Rainbow Scholarship Rubric](#).
- E. All scholarship recipients will also receive:
1. Complimentary NAIGC individual membership for the fiscal year of their scholarship award.
 2. Complimentary NAIGC Nationals registration during the fiscal year of their scholarship award.
- F. Any additional scholarship awards must be proposed and approved by Board vote (see Voting Policy) prior to the opening of the application period for the scholarship.

VI. Timeline

- A. This section outlines the default timeline. The Director of Operations, Director of Outreach Department, or Scholarship Team Lead may extend the application and/or selection deadline if deemed beneficial for that year.
- B. Each year, the scholarships available for the coming year should be announced by March 1st (alongside the release of the scholarship application materials.)
- C. The deadline for applying is the third Saturday in June at 11:59 pm PST for scholarships that will be disbursed for the upcoming school year.
 - 1. Late applicants can be accepted but will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.
- D. All applicants/award winners will be selected and notified of their award status (winner or non-winner) by August 15th. Non-winners will also be notified by August 15th.

VII. Selection Process for Scholarship Recipients

- A. Applicants are evaluated by a panel including members from the Scholarship Team and in conjunction with additional teams or task forces as needed. Any panel member that meets any of the conflicts of interest criteria below should recuse themselves from any activity involving the applicant where the panel member has a conflict of interest (initial rating of application for the specific applicant, semifinalist voting if a specific applicant is involved, or finalist voting if the specific applicant is involved).
 - 1. The panel member is related to an applicant.
 - 2. The panel member is a professional colleague or coach of an applicant.
 - 3. The panel member is a student or alum of the same high school or university of an applicant.
 - 4. The panel member is a current or former teammate of an applicant.
- B. During the evaluation process, applications suspected to be written (or heavily contributed to) by artificial intelligence (AI) will be ranked lower..
- C. Selection Process:
 - 1. Each applicant is initially scored per the award's specific application rubric by at least two panel members. The number of applicants reviewed by each panel member is determined by the number of award applicants and the size of the panel. After scoring each of their assigned applicants, each panel member submits their top two semifinalists per award category as determined by the rubric.
 - 2. The entire panel reviews and discusses each semifinalist application and scores them individually using the same rubric. The top four per award category are selected as finalists using the panel's scores. In case of ties for 4th, include all applicants that tied for 4th.
 - 3. After determining the four finalists per award category, each panel member may choose one applicant to advocate for as an additional finalist. The panel member may present their case to the panel, and if approved, the applicant may become a finalist.

4. The finalists' applications are then reviewed and discussed for an additional time by the entire panel. Each panel member votes on each finalist to determine the award winners.

VIII. Delivering Scholarships

- A. The Scholarship Team will contact the school's financial aid office to collect necessary disbursement information..
- B. The Treasurer is responsible for disbursing funds in accordance with each institution's process. The Treasurer will send half of the award by September 1 and the remaining half by January 1, with the second award payment contingent upon scholarship awardees meeting the expectations outlined in section IX.

IX. Expectations for Scholarship Awardees

- A. Expectations for all Scholarship Awardees
 1. Use the scholarship for undergraduate education expenses (i.e. tuition).
 2. Follow the NAIGC Code of Conduct.
 3. Attend the school specified on their Scholarship application.
 4. Accept the Scholarship via email within two weeks of notification of the award.
 5. Strongly encouraged to attend the NAIGC National Championships during the year of their scholarship.
 6. Submit a one-page report about their experience as a Scholarship recipient in the NAIGC by May 31st of the academic year in which the scholarship was received.
 7. Work with NAIGC to create a testimonial in written or video format that the NAIGC can use for promotional purposes.
 8. Regularly attend practices with an NAIGC affiliated member club, or train as an individual NAIGC athlete.
 9. Participate in at least one NAIGC event throughout the year.
- B. In cases where the above expectations are not met, or for any other reason, the Scholarship Team may vote to determine whether a scholarship will be withheld.

X. Amendments

- A. This document may be amended by the NAIGC Scholarship Team Lead or the Operations Leadership Team if the changes are minor. If the sum total of changes are big enough that a majority of members need to know about it, the changes must be approved by the NAIGC Board.

Document Revision History

Version / Date	Author	Change/Reason
1.0 / 6/12/19	Billy Suta	Wrote policy
1.1 / 2020	Scholarship committee	Updated application rubric, revised scholarship amount from \$1500 to \$2000
1.2 / 4/23/2020	Scholarship	Remove requirement for applicants to be in good standing

	Committee	in specific governing bodies Removed specific criteria and referenced the rubric Added criteria for athletic scholarship that applicant must have a history of competitive success Any new scholarships must be approved before application opens instead of by the In Person meeting
1.3 / 5/27/2020	Scholarship Committee and Policy Committee	Updated “Two awardees will be male and two will be female” to “A maximum of two scholarships per discipline shall be awarded” Rephrased “club officers or NAIGC board members in the future” to “future leaders in the gymnastics community” Updated naming relative to restructure (scholarship committee to scholarship team, chair to team lead, and other similar changes)
1.4 / 5/25/2021	Scholarship Team, BIPOC TF, Policy Committee	• Changed application deadline to third Saturday of June vs July 1st. • Updated Scholarship Fund accounting to occur separately from the NAIGC Savings Account. Fund balance will be recorded in the NAIGC Chart of Accounts. • Adding UAS Scholarship Award. Separated the Expectations for First-Year and UASI Awardees • Reduced First-Year award count to two total so total award count remains at four.
1.5 2/8/2023	Policy Committee, Scholarship Team	• Minor wording changes for clarification • Combined expectations for awardees so they are the same for both scholarships.
2.0 2/25/2024	Operations Leadership team	• Changed number of scholarships to a flexible number to be determined each year to match the amount of scholarship-specific funds raised
3.0 10/20/2024	Scholarship Team	• Updated wording regarding financial structure • Added Rainbow scholarship • Added waived NAIGC membership and individual NAIGC Nationals registration for recipients
4.0 11/17/2025	Scholarship Team	• Cleaned up general grammar, wording, and redundant language throughout • Removed II.B that called out QuickBooks accounting codes • Reordered section III to make it more readable • Section VA: Made the scholarship amount a blue number, added clarification that repeat scholarship recipients are not allowed, added detail that independent student athletes are eligible • Moved Timeline section to Section VI • Updated timeline in IX.A.4 from four to two weeks
4.1 4/4/2026	Scholarship Team	• Replaced First Year Athlete Scholarship with Leadership Scholarship - opening the scholarship to all

		undergraduate students rather than incoming only. • Added statement regarding ranking applications lower for AI use in VII. B.
--	--	---