

## **Hampton Roads Chess Association (HRCA) Scholarship Guidelines**

The Joan H. Schlich Memorial Scholarship was established in the summer of 2017 to honor a beloved chess coach, tournament director, and chess organizer who passed away. In her memory, and because of her love of the game, we can uphold our philosophy that no player will be turned away due to their inability to meet the expenses of chess related activities. This needs-based scholarship ensures that every player, regardless of means, can achieve success. The HRCA Board raises funds to ensure there are ample resources to meet the needs of those who want to participate.

### **Who is eligible to receive a scholarship?**

Scholarships are available to any local member of HRCA regardless of age, ability level, or ethnicity. Participants in any and all programs run by HRCA are eligible for full and partial scholarships. While some of our online programs are open to students from out of our area, our scholarships are reserved exclusively for the local residents of Hampton Roads.

### **What can scholarships be used for?**

Awarded scholarships may be used to pay for chess club fees or dues, school chess program tuition, tournament entry fees, tournament travel expenses, online training programs such as ChessKid.com or Chess.com, private coaching, USCF and Virginia Chess memberships, chess equipment for home use, and any other activity that may assist a player in the pursuit of chess.

### **How much are scholarships? Is there a limit?**

Both full and partial scholarships are available depending upon individual needs and funds available. A scholarship is awarded for the anticipated expenses of a particular HRCA program or approved chess activity. The maximum amount of scholarship aid is limited to \$500 per person per fiscal year which runs from September 1 to August 31.

### **Will applicants be asked to pay anything to participate in HRCA?**

Each person will be asked to pay the minimal membership fees for HRCA which are \$10 annually. In addition, families should consider what portion of the expenses they are able to pay and indicate that on the application. The HRCA Scholarship Committee encourages partial scholarships in order to be able to benefit more people in the program. Payment plans are offered for the portion of expenses paid by the family.

### **How does someone apply for a scholarship?**

A short and simple application is available upon request. Please contact Tina Schweiss at [cschweiss2@gmail.com](mailto:cschweiss2@gmail.com) if you have any questions or are interested in applying. More information about the scholarship can be found on the HRCA website at <https://www.hrchessclub.org/the-joan-h-schlich-memorial-scholarship/>. The completed application will be submitted to the HRCA Scholarship Committee who will make a timely decision on the request. Tina will communicate the committee's decision to the applicant.

**How often can applicants apply for a scholarship?**

Applicants may make multiple requests for scholarships as long as the total does not exceed the \$500 per year maximum. Once the maximum is reached, additional applications cannot be made until the new year which begins September 1.

**Is there a deadline for applying?**

Yes. All scholarship applications must be received no later than two weeks before the start of quarterly programs or camps. This allows the Scholarship Committee to make informed decisions on the best division of funds based on all applicants. Late applications will not be accepted.

**Does an applicant have to turn in tax forms or payment stubs to demonstrate need?**

The Hampton Roads Chess Association does not require financial documents when considering scholarship applications. We trust that our players will honor the spirit of the Joan H. Schlich Scholarship and only request funds when truly in need. The application will ask for an explanation of one's financial situation that precludes a player from pursuing chess opportunities. This information will be shared only with the HRCA Scholarship Committee for the sole purpose of awarding scholarships and will be kept in the strictest confidence. Any information shared with our donors will be anonymous.

**Can someone lose her or his scholarship?**

Once a scholarship has been awarded, it will not be revoked. However, every scholarship requires players to pledge their full participation in their enrolled program, including attending classes and doing the required work. If players do not participate in their chess activity, they may be declined a scholarship for the following session. Chess ratings, progress, and learning are not a factor in determining future scholarship. Players simply must put in the effort and show interest through full participation in their chess program.

In addition, if it becomes evident that an applicant has been dishonest in the scholarship process or has demonstrated they do not qualify for a need-based grant, he or she will not be considered for future scholarships.

These guidelines represent the overall policy of the Joan H. Schlich Memorial Scholarship. The HRCA Scholarship Committee makes the final decisions on who is awarded scholarships and for how much. They will take into consideration any extenuating circumstances that may arise and have the authority to extend outside these guidelines when deemed appropriate.

Approved by the HRCA Scholarship Committee and Board May 2021