

Financial Assistance FAQ

I've paid my membership fees. Doesn't that entitle me to financial support?

No. Nowra Athletics Club is a not-for-profit organisation with very limited resources. Any funds distributed to athletes come from membership fees and club fundraising. If financial assistance were guaranteed for all members, we would quickly exhaust our available funds. The Club Committee has determined that available support should be prioritised for athletes who are representing the club at major national or international competitions.

Why does the Club have a set application period for financial assistance?

To ensure fairness and responsible budgeting, Nowra Athletics Club operates with a designated application window each year.

This application period allows us to:

- Assess all applications fairly, with everyone given the same opportunity and timeframe to apply.
- Plan and allocate our budget responsibly, ensuring funds are distributed in the most equitable and transparent way possible.
- Streamline the process, so our volunteer committee can review and respond to applications with care and consistency.

I applied for support for multiple events, but the Committee only approved one. Why?

Due to limited resources, athletes may only receive financial assistance once per year. While we value the efforts of all our athletes, the Club must ensure funding is used wisely and shared fairly across those who meet the criteria.

Why do I need to volunteer to be eligible for support?

Nowra Athletics Club is entirely volunteer-run. In return for financial support, we ask that athletes (or their families) contribute back to the club through volunteering. This helps sustain the programs and community spirit that make our club thrive.

Why is it important to compete in Club uniform when receiving funding?

Wearing the Nowra Athletics Club uniform at events where financial assistance has been provided is a way to represent and acknowledge the club's support. It fosters a sense of pride, promotes club visibility, encourages new memberships, and inspires our younger athletes.

I received funding in the past, but my recent application was declined. Why?

Club funding is limited and may vary from year to year. Even if a request was approved previously, it may not be possible to support the same request in future due to budget constraints or a higher number of applications. Each application is reviewed on its own merit within the current context.

Can I apply for financial assistance if I'm competing through school events (e.g. CHS, CCC, or All Schools)?

No, financial assistance is not available for school-based competitions, including Australian All Schools, CHS, CCC, or primary and high school representative events.

This is because these events are part of the education system, and not run under the direct umbrella of Nowra Athletics Club or Athletics NSW. The Club's limited funds are raised specifically to support athletes who are competing in events where they are formally representing the club, such as national championships or international events hosted by Athletics Australia, or related governing bodies.

While we absolutely celebrate and commend our athletes' achievements through school pathways, our financial support must remain focused on events where athletes are registered as Nowra Athletics Club competitors, wearing the club uniform, and directly contributing to the club's presence at sanctioned athletics competitions.

What kind of costs can the financial assistance cover?

Financial assistance is generally considered for expenses such as entry fees, travel, accommodation, and in some cases, uniforms. The level and type of support provided is at the discretion of the Committee and depends on the available funds at the time of assessment.

Please note: We do not stipulate how the applicant spends the money provided. Once assistance is granted, it is up to the athlete (and their family) to allocate the funds in the way that best supports their participation in the approved event.

How do I know if my event qualifies for support?

In general, events at the national, or international level are eligible for support. Local or regional events do not qualify. If you're unsure, you're welcome to contact the committee before applying.

Can I apply if I'm a Little Athletics member only?

To be eligible for financial assistance from Nowra Athletics Club, applicants must be registered members of the club through Athletics NSW. Little Athletics-only members are not eligible unless they also hold ANSW membership.

What happens if I miss the application deadline?

Unfortunately, late applications cannot be accepted. The set application period is necessary for fair assessment and budget planning. We encourage all athletes to plan ahead and submit within the time frame.

If you have any questions or require support with the process, please don't hesitate to contact the committee.