



Policy: Fred Matheson "Play Ball Fund" Bursary Program

The Fred Matheson "Play Ball Fund" is a bursary program designed to assist families in the Thorold community who need financial support to cover the costs of baseball registration, equipment and associated costs. The bursary program is named in honour of Fred Matheson, a long-time President and supporter of Thorold Minor Baseball. Thorold Minor Baseball will budget a minimum of \$500 each season to support the "Play Ball Fund" and seek external community funding to build, grow and sustain the fund.

Eligibility:

1. To be eligible for the bursary, the applicant must play Thorold Minor Baseball and be a resident of Thorold.
2. The applicant must be in financial need, and the cost of participating in baseball must present a significant financial hardship for the family.
3. Applicants/families can only receive one bursary per year. In the event that the bursary has more funds available, families may be able to submit an application for additional family members playing Thorold Minor Baseball; however, this is subject to Thorold Minor Baseball discretion.

Application Process:

1. Applications must be submitted by the end of April 1 each year (*April 30 in the first year of the fund - 2023*)
2. Applications must be submitted on the official "Play Ball Fund" online application form, which can be obtained from the Thorold Minor Baseball website.
3. Applicants must provide an explanation of why they require financial assistance.
4. Applicants must indicate how much financial assistance they require (maximum \$300).
5. Applicants must provide what the financial assistance will be used for (partial registration, full registration, equipment and/or uniform.) Applicants are asked to request appropriate financial assistance based on what the funds will support.
6. Applicants must disclose if they are applying for or receiving any other local, provincial, federal, or other forms of subsidy/bursary.
7. Applicants must agree to allow the review committee to verify their income and eligibility for the bursary.

Review Committee:

1. The review committee for the Fred Matheson "Play Ball Fund" bursary program shall be the President, Vice-President and Treasurer of Thorold Minor Baseball.

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2. The review committee will evaluate all applications based on financial need, the family's level of participation in Thorold Minor Baseball, the applicant's explanation of why they require financial assistance and the available funds in the bursary fund.
3. The review committee will make a decision on all applications by the end of April each year.

Bursary Award:

1. The maximum bursary award is \$300 per person.
2. Bursaries awarded for partial or full registration will be credited to the recipient's Thorold Minor Baseball registration fees.
3. Any remaining funds or funds approved for equipment will be provided to the recipient. The recipient will be required to provide proof of purchase dated no more than 45 days after receiving the funds of the equipment, uniform or other. Thorold Minor Baseball may award equipment-related bursaries as a gift card to a local sports retailer.
4. The bursary award will be non-transferable and non-refundable.

Confidentiality:

1. All information provided by applicants will be kept confidential.
2. The review committee will only share information with authorized Thorold Minor Baseball members who need to know the information to carry out their duties related to the "Play Ball Fund" bursary program.
3. Thorold Minor Baseball may be asked by other funding programs to verify if an applicant in their program is receiving funding from Thorold Minor Baseball. In this event, Thorold Minor Baseball will provide this information.

(Created & Approved March 15, 2023)

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