



Athletics Essendon / Athlete and Coach Support Policy – 4th April 2024

Introduction

Athletics Essendon (Club) is committed to supporting coaches and athletes to be able to excel at their chosen events, with finance not being a barrier to participation. As part of this commitment the Club offers a number of financial support packages to both the coach and athletes.

This Athlete and Coach Support Policy describes the level of support and scope of the various options.

Athletic Support Options

Athletics Essendon is keen to support athletes achieve their potential and offer the following support and recognition packages.

i. Athlete Success Award

Any athlete who achieves a gold medal in an individual event at State Championships or Podium finish (1st, 2nd, or 3rd) at the National Championships (Junior and open, when representing the Club), will be eligible on application to the Treasurer to receive Club registration fees and Athletics Victoria registration re-imbusement for the following year/season. Athletes will still have to pay their own competition package (e.g. Track & field or XCR) They will still need to register for Athletics Victoria membership to compete.

In addition athletes who win the following Championships may receive the following:

- Victorian Open Championships title - \$100
- Australian Open Championships title - \$250

ii. Competition Assistance

Athletes who compete in National or International Championships outside of Victoria are eligible to receive expenses towards travel/accommodation, if assistance is requested prior to the event and subject to Committee approval. It will be paid after the successful competition unless special circumstances are to be considered. The actual support package will be at the Committees discretion and dependent upon the support that the athlete has provided to the Club during the previous 12 months.

- Global championships – Olympics, Paralympics, World Championships - upto \$1,000
- International competitions – International matches and competitions, World University Games etc – upto \$500

iii. Financial Hardship Award

The Club will consider other requests of support for athletes as a once off award to assist athletes who need financial support to either continue in the sport (e.g. Club membership) or compete at a key event (International sanctioned event). This is considered on a case-by-case basis.

iv. Australian Sports Foundation (ASF) support

The Club has a hosted ASF charitable deduction page that athletes can use for raising funds to support key competitions (e.g. Olympic / World Championships). The Club will make this available to appropriate athlete requests.



Coach Support

The Club recognises that the success of coaches is the backbone to the Clubs success and has therefore developed a range of support packages allowing them to both develop their experience and skills and to support their athletes at major events. Support will be provided primarily to the Coaches that have demonstrated support to the Club and the broader athletes over the previous 12 months.

The following Coach Support packages are available:

i. National / International Competition Support

To support Club coaches, travel and to coach Club athletes at Athletics Australia or World Athletics sanctioned national, championship, representable or elite events across Australia (not Victoria) or Internationally, the Club will consider support within the following guidelines:

- National / Representable competitions within Australia with a minimum of 1 Club athlete, upto \$500 (or 50% of travel/accommodation costs) whichever is the lesser.
- International / Elite competitions overseas with a single or group of athletes upto \$500 (or 50% of travel/accommodation costs) whichever is the lesser.
- A.A sanctioned elite competitions within Australia and outside of Victoria (e.g. Olympic / World Championship qualifier events / World Athletics sanctioned events) whether that be from Track/Field, Walking, Cross Country or other A.A approved format)

This support is only available to Club coaches who offer coaching to Club athletes on an equitable basis and is agreed prior to the event.

ii. Coach Education Support

The Club is keen to encourage all coaches to continually improve their skills and knowledge and offer support to encourage this, including:

- AA/ World Athletics endorsed coaches courses
Each coach can apply for the Club to cover the cost of upgrading their AA coaching qualification registration fee and upto \$500 to cover the cost of transport and accommodation (upto 50%) whatever is the lesser. This support is only available to Registered Coaches who have been members for at least two years and offer coaching to the whole Club.
- Coaches Athletics Victoria Membership
Club coaches that offer coaching to Club athletes can claim their AV membership back from the Club, via the Treasurer or proof of payment.

The support packages are not accumulative and at the discretion of the Committee and so any coaches and athletes that are interested should apply to the committee prior to the events.

Review

This Policy will be reviewed on behalf of the Committee annually by the Treasurer and Secretary, making recommendations to the Committee for any enhancements.