

TennisNRG Charitable Grant Guidelines and Procedures Manual for 2025

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1. Introduction

TennisNRG Charitable is a non-profit organization dedicated to supporting the development of young athletes who aspire to reach their full potential in tennis, while excelling academically and contributing to their communities. Our grants are designed to provide financial assistance to athletes who meet specific personal development criteria, rather than performance-based metrics. This manual outlines the guidelines, procedures, and selection criteria for TennisNRG Charitable's grant program.

2. Mission Statement

The mission of TennisNRG Charitable is to provide a strong support system around aspiring tennis players that are committed to excellence on and off the court. We focus on nurturing well-rounded individuals who are dedicated to improving their tennis skills, maintaining high academic standards, and giving back to their communities. TennisNRG Charitable believes that the development of strong character and leadership qualities is more important than success on the court.

3. Selection Criteria

To be considered for a TennisNRG grant, applicants must meet the following criteria:

- **Minimum 3.2 GPA:** Academic excellence is a critical component, as we believe that a strong education supports both athletic and personal success.
- **Commitment to Community:** Applicants must demonstrate a commitment to charitable involvement, including participating in at least two community events each year. Action Teams that focus on Fundraising, Service activities, and Educational events will be routinely set up for players to participate in throughout the year. Players will have multiple opportunities to engage in their community.
- **Aspirational Tennis Goals:** Applicants must have clear goals in tennis, such as a desire to compete at the collegiate or professional level.
- **Personal Essay:** Each applicant must submit an essay outlining their goals in tennis, demonstrating their passion, dedication, and vision for the future.
- **Recommendation Letter:** A letter of recommendation from a non-family member is required to assess the applicant's character and work ethic.

Applicants who meet these criteria will be selected for financial support based on their alignment with TennisNRG Charitable's mission.

4. NCAA and NAIA Eligibility Compliance

TennisNRG Charitable strictly adheres to NCAA and NAIA eligibility rules regarding amateurism. The following guidelines ensure that grant recipients maintain their eligibility for college sports:

- **Amateur Status:** Players under 18 years old are eligible to receive grant funding for tennis-related expenses, such as travel, coaching, and equipment, without jeopardizing their NCAA or NAIA eligibility. These funds are considered financial assistance for participation, not rewards for performance.
 - **No Pay-for-Play:** The grants are designed to cover participation-related expenses, not performance-based rewards. Players do not receive funding based on their ranking or results in competitions.
 - **Grant Funding for College Players:** TennisNRG ensures that all funding provided to college athletes is approved by the NCAA and their institution's compliance office to avoid any conflict with eligibility rules. All funding will be reviewed and approved by the school's compliance office to ensure alignment with NCAA rules.
 - **No Signed Contracts:** We do not have signed contracts in place for any of the players we support. No professional endorsement or professional contract exists for the players we support.
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5. Program Funding for Player Development

TennisNRG Charitable is dedicated to supporting the development of young athletes in tennis by providing financial assistance to help cover necessary expenses related to tennis development, academic support, and overall personal growth. The program ensures that all funding aligns with NCAA rules and regulations, ensuring athletes' continued eligibility. Each selected player in the TennisNRG program is eligible for up to \$75,000 in grant funding. This amount is designed to assist with covering a portion of the following expenses, provided the expenses align with NCAA guidelines for permissible student-athlete support:

Eligible Areas for Funding:

- **Academic Support:** Funding is available for educational resources such as tutoring, academic counseling, or other services that support the player's academic success. These funds must be used strictly for academic support and may not be used for any non-educational purposes.
 - **Player-Selected Coaching:** Funding is available for coaching services that contribute to the athlete's tennis development.
 - **Travel Expenses:** Support is available for travel expenses (e.g., airfare, lodging) related to attending tennis-related events.
 - **Tennis Equipment:** Financial assistance is provided for necessary tennis equipment required for training and competition.
 - **Sport-Related Healthcare:** Funds are available for physical therapy, injury prevention, or medical treatments necessary for participation in tennis.
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Verification and Compliance with NCAA Rules

All funds distributed through the TennisNRG program must be used for the approved purposes as outlined above. Players must submit receipts and other documentation to verify that funding has been used in compliance with NCAA regulations. The program will closely monitor the use of funds to ensure they are being used in a way that aligns with the rules regarding student-athlete eligibility and amateurism.

TennisNRG will also ensure that any personal development programs, coaching, or other funded activities do not exceed the limits or guidelines set by NCAA rules regarding non-educational benefits or athlete compensation. Each player's school compliance office will review and approve the use of funds as needed to avoid any conflicts.

The TennisNRG program is committed to ensuring that all funding is allocated appropriately and in a manner that maintains the NCAA eligibility of participating athletes.

6. Grant Application and Submission Process

The process for applying for a TennisNRG Charitable grant is as follows:

1. **Eligibility Check:** Applicants must meet the selection criteria outlined in Section 3.
2. **Application Submission:** Complete the application form, including:
 - Personal information.
 - A personal essay outlining tennis goals.
 - A letter of recommendation from a non-family member.
3. **Review and Selection:** The TennisNRG Charitable board will review applications based on the selection criteria. Applicants will be notified of the board's decision within 60 days of the application deadline.

7. Financial Distribution for 2025

When individual donations or gifts are received:

- **Under \$10,000:** Funds are distributed directly to the players.
- **Over \$10,000:** The board of directors votes on whether to distribute the funds to players or invest for the future (e.g., endowment fund).

8. Player Monitoring and Termination Policy

TennisNRG Charitable expects players to maintain the standards outlined in the selection criteria throughout their involvement in the program. If a player fails to meet the criteria:

- **Initial Warning:** A warning and consultation will be issued, with a plan to address any areas of concern.
- **Follow-up:** If the player fails to improve after six months, they may be removed from the program.
- **Voluntary Withdrawal:** A player may choose to voluntarily withdraw from the program if they no longer wish to participate in tennis or if their goals change.

9. Future Considerations and Waiting List

TennisNRG Charitable is not accepting new applications at this time due to current funding limitations. However, individuals who are interested in the program can be placed on a waiting list for future consideration. Once additional funding is secured, the board will review the waiting list and select candidates based on the established criteria. TennisNRG Charitable is currently focused on ensuring that the players already in our program receive the full support they need. We are committed to providing them with the necessary resources to thrive in their academic, tennis, and community involvement goals. As a result, we are not accepting new players at this time. Once we've secured additional funding to support the current group, we will begin considering new applicants.

For inquiries about being added to the waiting list, please contact **Carlos Perez**, Executive Director, at 305-764-6396.