



Hardship Request

To ensure fair consideration and consistency in Association placement decisions, hardship requests must meet specific criteria. A request will only be considered valid if it is based on significant, well-documented reasons demonstrating why a specific school is essential for the child's education, physical well-being, or emotional health. Requests that are based solely on convenience or personal preferences, such as proximity to family members or a sibling's enrollment at the school, will not be considered valid hardships.

Valid Hardship Reasons:

1. Medical, Physical, or Psychological Needs

A child may require a school with specialized services or programs due to medical conditions, disabilities, or psychological needs that cannot be adequately met at their current school. In such cases, the hardship request must demonstrate:

- A documented medical or psychological diagnosis that necessitates specialized care or accommodation.
- A clear link between the requested school's programs or resources and the child's ability to thrive academically and socially.
- Examples include schools with dedicated special education programs, physical therapy services, mental health support, or schools equipped to address specific medical conditions like chronic illness or sensory processing disorders.

Required Documentation: Medical records, psychological assessments, IEPs (Individualized Education Plans), or other relevant professional evaluations.

2. Educational Requirements or Specialized Programs

If the child has specific educational needs that can only be addressed at a particular school, this could be considered a legitimate hardship. For example, a school may offer a specialized curriculum, extracurricular opportunities, or teaching methods that better align with the child's learning style, abilities, or talents.

- The request must demonstrate why the child's educational needs can only be met at the requested school.
- The school may offer unique programs such as gifted education, bilingual education, STEM-focused curricula, or support for children with specific learning disabilities.

Required Documentation: Academic records, assessments from educational specialists, letters from teachers or school counselors, or any other documentation that outlines the child's unique learning needs.

3. Safety and Emotional Well-Being

A request may be considered if the child's safety, emotional health, or overall well-being is at risk in their current school setting. This could be the case in situations such as:

- Documented instances of bullying or harassment that have not been effectively addressed by the current school.
- A history of trauma or other emotional distress that requires a more supportive or specialized school environment.
- Concerns about physical safety due to environmental factors, such as proximity to unsafe areas or unresolved disciplinary issues.
- Police reports, School reporting, Documents that can be proven in the transfer

Required Documentation: Reports or statements from counselors, school administrators, or other professionals; police reports, if applicable; or written documentation of incidents that have impacted the child's safety or emotional health.

Requests Based on Convenience (Not Valid Hardships):

Requests that are based solely on convenience will **not** be considered valid. These include, but are not limited to:

- The presence of a sibling attending the school.
- Proximity to a grandparent, guardian, or other family members.
- Preference for a school due to its social reputation or convenience of location, without any direct impact on the child's educational or emotional

needs.

Required Documentation for All Hardship Requests:

Each hardship request must be accompanied by **comprehensive documentation** supporting the claim. This includes, but is not limited to:

- Medical records, evaluations, or treatment plans from healthcare professionals.
- Educational assessments or reports from teachers, school counselors, or psychologists.
- Any relevant records, including previous school reports, incident reports, or safety records.
- A written statement from the parent or guardian detailing the specific hardship and why the requested school is necessary.
- Any other Information or Documents that may be asked to provide

Review Process:

- **Submission Deadline:** Hardship requests must be submitted by the specified deadline for the school year in question. Requests submitted after the deadline may not be considered unless there are extenuating circumstances.
- **Evaluation:** Requests will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis, and the league reserves the right to request additional documentation or information as needed. The executive board will make the final decision.
- **Outcome:** The Association will notify the parent or guardian of the decision in writing. If the request is denied, the reasons will be communicated, and alternative options for school placement will be provided if applicable.

ATHLETE INFORMATION:

Athlete Name:

Current Residence Address:

School Attended (Spring):

School Attending (Fall):

Grade Level (Fall):

Association athlete is requesting to play in under Hardship:

PARENT/GUARDIAN INFORMATION:

Parent/Guardian Name:

Phone #: Email:

By signing this request, you acknowledge that all information provided as part of this request is accurate and truthful. Omissions and/or dishonesty could lead to the athlete being deregistered for the current season and any played games becoming forfeits. League and association refund policies apply.

Parent/Guardian Signature:

