

Washington, D.C. | Est. 2010

Team Sponsorship Policy Frequently Asked Questions

Q1: Why is the Team Sponsorship Policy being implemented now?

A1: The Team Sponsorship Policy is being implemented now because SSI has directed us to do so. Current practices, where individuals accept separate sponsorships for specific teams, put the entire national organization at risk. Failure to comply with the new policy could have consequences for the entire chapter, including potential risks to the continuation of our operations and events.

Q2: Who is authorized to seek sponsorships for a team?

A2: Only teams officially registered with Stonewall Sports are eligible to seek sponsorships. Team captains or their designated representatives that are registered league members are authorized to solicit and secure sponsorships on behalf of their respective teams.

Q3: When my team has a sponsor agreeing to donate funds, what do we do next?

A3: Once you have a business agreeing to sponsor your team, you should go to the SKDC website and download a copy of the Team Sponsorship Agreement. Fill out the form with the details of the sponsorship, sign it for your team and then send it to the business for their signature. Once your team and the sponsor have signed, send the form to the Director, Sponsorships for review and approval. Once approved, the Director, Sponsorships will sign and send the final copy back to the team along with an invoice and W-9 that the team must provide to the sponsor. You can then ask your sponsor to submit payment via one of the methods provided on the invoice.

Q4: Can individuals accept funds on behalf of a team directly?

A4: No, individuals may not accept funds on behalf of a team directly. All sponsorships, including monetary donations and in-kind contributions, must be directed to Stonewall Sports, Inc.

Q5: What are in-kind donations?

A5: An in-kind donation is when an entity donates a service or product to your team. For example, let's say a business agreed to pay for your team's jerseys. The business then buys the jerseys from the company that makes them and gives them to the team. This would be an in-kind donation since the sponsoring business bought the jerseys and gave them to your team.

Q6: The business I found to sponsor our team wants to give to our team through an in-kind donation. Can we accept it and how do we abide by league policy?

A6: In-kind donations are permitted under the team sponsorship policy. Once your team has come to an agreement with the sponsor, you should go to skdc.info, download a copy of the team sponsorship agreement and fill it out. Once your team captain and the business have signed it, send it to the Director, Sponsorships for approval. Once you receive this approval and the league's W-9, you can let the sponsor know it is okay to take the next steps you've agreed to.

Q7: Are team sponsorships tax deductible?

A7: Yes, under this new system, team sponsorships, both monetary and in-kind, will now be tax deductible for the sponsoring business since the money is going directly to a 501(c)3. This is one of the benefits of the new sponsorship policy.

Q8: How can teams access their collected funds?

A8: Teams seeking to utilize their collected funds must submit invoices to the Director, Sponsorships who will review submitted invoices and, if aligned with the chapter's mission and values, approve them for prompt processing.

Q9: What happens to unspent funds at the end of the season?

A9: Any remaining funds at the end of the season will be donated to a charity of the team's choosing. There will be no rollover funds from one season to another.

Q10: What happens if an individual violates the policy?

A10: Individuals found in violation of this policy may face suspension from participating in Stonewall Sports, Inc. events and leagues. The severity of the penalty will depend on the nature and persistence of the violation.

Q11: Are there consequences for teams violating the policy?

A11: Yes, teams that violate this policy may be subject to forfeits in scheduled games or events. Persistent violations may lead to team disbandment.

Q12: How does this policy protect players from tax law violations?

A12: This policy serves to protect players from inadvertently violating federal and state tax laws related to individual fundraising activities. It ensures that all fundraising activities align with applicable tax regulations to safeguard the financial well-being of both individuals and the organization.

Q13: What are some best practices for teams seeking sponsors?

A13: Before reaching out to any businesses, teams should have a good idea about what they want to do with the funds. Teams are encouraged to get quotes for desired purchases before asking for funds. Teams seeking sponsorships should then approach desired businesses and speak about their team and the league at large to share how the organization makes a difference in the community. When asking for funds, teams should be very clear about what the funds will be used for. When filling out the Team Sponsorship Agreement, be sure to provide clear details on what was agreed to between the team and the sponsor.