



## **SPORTS, RECREATION AND CULTURAL POLICY**

### **INTRODUCTION**

The Bear River Band desires to encourage sportsmanlike, responsible participation of recreational activities for Tribal Members to promote general health and wellness, character building, and cultural wellness. The Bear River Band believes that everyone has the right to healthy living and embracing, reviving, and preserving our culture.

### **GOALS**

#### **Sports and Recreation**

To equally and fairly assist Tribal Members in their quest to actively participate in athletic sports and forms of recreation and ensure that Bear River Tribal Members have the same opportunities to succeed in these realms as their peers.

#### **Cultural Fund**

To equally and fairly assist Bear River Band Tribal Members in their desire to participate, learn, study and share in the creation and collection of regalia, basketry, jewelry, ceremonial objects and recreational fishing, and recordings of our teachings so that future generations of the Bear River Band will continue our indigenous customs and culture.

### **DEFINITIONS**

**Recreational** – For the purposes of this policy, this shall be defined as equipment and gear that is not stationary in its entirety and promotes active participation which benefits the physical health of a tribal member.

**Out-Of-Area Travel** – Any travel taking three (3) hours or more roundtrip, according to an internet web mapping service (e.g. MapQuest, Google Maps, etc.)

### **COVERED ACTIVITIES**

#### **SPORTS**

- a) Sports Clinics, Classes, Camps and Lessons. Proof of participation is required.
- b) Individual registration fees including all-star team and elite team participation fees. Proof of participation is required.
- c) Sports equipment, including athletic gear, equipment necessary to safely participate in a sport activity.

## **RECREATION**

- a) National Parks Annual Pass, California State Parks Annual Pass, USDA Annual Forest pass, and campground registration fees.
- b) Amusement/ Theme Parks-day/annual passes
- c) Hunting and Fishing licenses
- d) Charter trips fees.
- e) Day and overnight Summer Camps (Tribal Youth under 18 only)
- f) Membership Fees (ex. Golf, Gym, Health Club Memberships)
- g) General workout gear for hiking, swimming, biking and running Proof of participation in the activity is required.
- h) Recreational equipment including recreational gear necessary to safely participate in a recreational activity.
- i) Activity sets that help enrich learning skills, motor skills and overall the health and wellness of the child (Infants up to age 3 years old only)

## **CULTURAL**

- a) Materials for ceremonial regalia (hides, leather, carving tools)
- b) Gathering materials for basket making
- c) Beading materials (beads, shells, sinew, etc.)
- d) Language and preservation (educational dance classes)

**Disclaimer:** Selling items made with funds from this benefit will be prohibited. Repayment will be required if unauthorized use of these materials is determined.

## **ELIGIBILITY**

1. In order to receive the full amount awarded for this policy, the beneficiary **MUST** be an enrolled member of the Bear River Band of the Rohnerville Rancheria (full or adopted).
2. Please reference “Available Award Amounts” below for biological, adopted, step children and grandchildren.
3. Non-member Parents/Guardians applying for benefits should have legal custody of the Tribal Beneficiary in order to receive benefits.
4. If there are no legal custody documents on file or any formal agreement in place, the Tribal Member Benefits Coordinator will verify the beneficiary’s domicile/residence with reasonable best efforts and diligence and has the authority and discretion to approve or deny benefits being sought when applicant is a non-Member parent applying on behalf of a Tribal Member beneficiary or when applicant is a Tribal Member applying on behalf of a non-Member child living in the household.
5. Applicant must submit a completed benefit request application 7-14 days in advance.
6. Photos of the cultural piece being made is required to follow up on the cultural expenditures.

## **AVAILABLE AWARD AMOUNTS**

Tribal Members may receive up to \$1,500 per calendar year for items covered under this policy. Unused funds do not carry over to the next year.

Non-enrolled children of Bear River Tribal Members residing in the tribal household are eligible for \$250. This includes adopted children, step children and grandchildren.

Funding for this policy is subject to the availability of tribal resources and annual allocation and budget authorization by the Tribal Council.

## **LIMITATIONS FOR PAYMENTS**

1. Athletic Gear is defined as gear that is specific to a particular sport and required for participation in a particular sport.
2. Payments will be reimbursed with a receipt or made directly to the vendor or program.
3. Out-of-Area Travel (e.g. gas, toll fees, vehicle rental, ticket fares, and airfare), food, hotel rooms and overnight lodging are allowed as a reimbursement only (not to exceed \$500 per year). Events covered;
  - a. Sport Tournament, Game, Camps, and Lessons. Proof of attendance is required.
  - b. Cultural Events; Bear River Events, Annual Tribal Picnic, California Indian Days, Brush Dance, Salmon Ceremony, Flower Dance, HSU Big Time and Indigenous rally
4. Gear, equipment, clothing items or any other accessories are reimbursable.
5. Reimbursement to the parent or legal guardian may be approved if an application is submitted within thirty (30) days from the date of the expense for the eligible activity.
6. Notification in advance of an expense for an eligible activity to the Benefits Department is advised.
7. In a situation where reimbursement is not possible due to financial hardship (Applicant must meet LIHEAP income guidelines and provide income verification for the past 30 days). The applicant will need to work with the Tribal Member Benefits Coordinator and set up an appointment for further assistance to order in advance. Must allow 7-15 days for appointment. Payments will be made directly to the vendor or program only.
8. Firearms, ammunition, blades or knives, bows, are not covered by this policy. (Includes: bb guns, air guns, pellets gun, and paint ball guns).
9. Items that could be considered a weapon and can hurt a person are not covered.
10. Pool and motorsport, maintenance parts or supplies are not covered by this policy.
11. Sport Games (entertainment) and Concert Tickets are not covered by this policy.

## **APPLICATION**

The Benefits Department will process applications within two weeks of submission if the application is complete. All receipts must be submitted within 30 days of purchase or completion of the event or class. Once the application is received, the Tribal Member

Benefits Coordinator will determine if the application is complete, and in alignment with the goals and criteria described in the Sports, Recreation and Cultural Policy. If the application is accepted, the Tribal Member Benefits Coordinator will scan the application to the Benefits database, and coordinate with the Finance Department to issue reimbursement or payment.

**PAYMENT**

Approved applications will be forwarded to the Finance Department. Purchases can be made directly on an as-needed basis if financial hardship precludes or preferred reimbursement mode. All reimbursements require receipts and proof of attendance, where applicable. Handwritten receipts will not be accepted from a vendor. All applications must be submitted within 30 days of purchase. If the cost of classes or similar enrichment is requested, all receipts must be returned within 30 days of completion of activity.

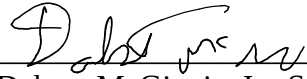
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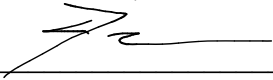
This is to certify that the Bear River Band of the Rohnerville Rancheria Tribal Council duly assembled in Loleta, CA and adopted the foregoing policy on August 29, 2023 by a vote of **7** For, **0** Against, **0** Abstentions and **0** Absent.

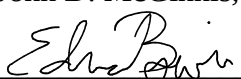
  
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Josefina Frank, Chairperson

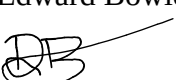
  
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Aileen Meyer, Vice-Chairperson

  
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Dakota McGinnis, Jr., Secretary

  
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Earl Moon, Treasurer

  
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John D. McGinnis, Member-at-Large 1

  
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Edward Bowie, Member-at-Large 2

  
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Derek Bowman, Member at Large