



SPORTS, RECREATION AND CULTURAL POLICY

I. MISSION STATEMENT

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.

II. 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.

III. 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.)

IV. 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

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- 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/tickets
- c) Hunting and Fishing licenses
- d) Charter trips fees
- e) Day and overnight Summer Camps (Tribal Youth under 18 only)
- f) Membership Fees (e.g. Golf, Gym, Health Club Memberships)
- g) General workout gear for hiking, swimming, biking and running.(Tribal Youth under 18 only)
- h) Recreational equipment including recreational gear necessary to safely participate in a recreational activity. (Tribal Youth under 18 only)
- 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, etc.)
- b) Gathering/harvesting of plant, herb, and vegetation materials for cultural use
- c) Beading materials (beads, shells, sinew, etc.)
- d) Language and preservation (educational dance classes)
- e) Ceremonial Regalia
- f) Items made by cultural methods or with cultural intent (beadwork, woodwork, paintings)

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

V. 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 the biological children.
3. Non-member parents/guardians applying for the 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 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.

DISABILITY WAIVER PROVISION

Minor Tribal Members with a documented disability shall be eligible for a waiver of specific qualifications or participation requirements otherwise required under this policy, when such qualifications or requirements would create an undue hardship or barrier to participation in Sports/Rec activities through either specific items purchased or activities allowed.

The waiver may include, but is not limited to, alternate verification of participation, alternate activities or alternate items for purchase. All waivers must be reviewed and approved by the Tribal Resources Coordinator in consultation with the Office of the Tribal Administrator to ensure equal access to benefits and consistency with the intent of this provision of this policy.

VI. AVAILABLE AWARD AMOUNTS

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

Adult Tribal Members may receive up to \$1,500, with a maximum \$250 of the \$1,500 being allowed for purchasing eligible equipment/items/gear under Sports and Rec. There is no maximum amount of the \$1,500 for any other eligible activity or Cultural use. Unused funds do not carry over to the next year.

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

VII. LIMITATIONS FOR PAYMENT

- a) Athletic Gear is defined as gear that is specific to a particular sport and required for participation in a particular sport.
- b) Payments will be reimbursed with a receipt or made directly to the vendor or program. Handwritten receipts are acceptable for benefit applications. Receipts must have a description of the item(s) purchased, the sellers name and phone number.
- c) 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;
 1. Sport Tournament, Game, Camps, and Lessons. Proof of attendance is required.
 2. Cultural Events; Bear River Events, Annual Tribal Picnic, California Indian Days, Brush Dance, Salmon Ceremony, Flower Dance, HSU Big Time, Indigenous rally, etc.

- d) Gear, equipment, clothing items, cultural items or any other accessories are reimbursable.
- e) 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.
- f) Notification in advance of an expense for an eligible activity to the Benefits Department is advised.
- g) 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.
- h) Firearms and ammunition are not covered by this policy. (Includes: bb guns, air guns, pellets guns, and paint ball guns).
- i) Swimming pool, motorsport and Recreational Vehicle maintenance parts or supplies are not covered by this policy.
- j) Sport Games (entertainment) and Concert Tickets are not covered by this policy.

VIII. APPLICATION

The Benefits Department will process applications within two weeks of submission if the application is complete. 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 directly from the vendor. It is recognized that this policy cannot reasonably list all of the items or activities that should be covered. If a cultural benefit request for an item or activity is not clearly covered by the policy, the Culture Committee shall review the application and approve or deny it within 7 days of receiving it.

IX. PAYMENT

Approved applications will be forwarded to the Finance Department. If the application is not a direct vendor payment, receipts are required for reimbursement.

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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 document on December 9, 2025 by a vote of **5** For, **0** Against, **0** Abstentions and **2** Absent.

Josefina Frank, Chairperson

Aileen Meyer, Vice-Chairperson

Dakota McGinnis, Jr., Secretary

Maggie Wortmon, Treasurer

John D. McGinnis, Member-at-Large 1

Edward Bowie, Member-at-Large 2

Derek Bowman, Member at Large 3