



Arizona Breaking Barriers Student Athlete Scholarship Guidelines

The Arizona Breaking Barriers Student Athlete Scholarship recognizes graduating Arizona high school seniors who are breaking barriers on and off the field. Barriers may include personal, financial, academic, family, health-related, social, cultural, or other challenges that require resilience and determination to overcome.

Scholarship Requirements

- Graduating high school senior (spring of 2027)
- Current athlete in an organized sporting team (ex: with a high school, local public or private club, recreational league, or other formal organizations)
- 3.00 or higher cumulative weighted GPA
- Plan to attend an Arizona college or university in the fall
- Provide current unofficial high school transcript
- Membership with Desert Financial Credit Union is not required
- Show a demonstrated financial need using information from the FAFSA, including the Student Aid Index (SAI), and other financial information requested in the application

Scholarships Awarded

A total of 15 scholarships will be awarded as decided by the Scholarship Review Committee. Out of the 15 recipients:

- Two recipients will be chosen by Krysten as Krysten Muir Scholars presented by the Arizona Cardinals.
- One recipient will be chosen as the Girls Flag Football Scholar* presented by the Arizona Cardinals.

Nomination Process

Eligible high school seniors may apply on behalf of themselves or may be nominated by a parent, guardian, coach, teacher, counselor, mentor or community member.

Please be prepared to describe in detail why this student athlete is qualified and how they have demonstrated resiliency in the face of barriers.

Prior to starting the nomination process, please review the checklist below and note that:

- The nomination process does not allow you to save your progress and come back later to complete. You will need to have all of the student athlete's information ready prior to starting to ensure completion of the entire process in one sitting.
- If the student athlete is selected to move forward in the selection process, the student will receive an email from foundation@desertfinancial.com requesting additional information, including a copy of their current unofficial transcripts. Depending on their nomination status, they may also be asked to confirm that they would like to be considered for the scholarship.

Nomination Checklist

*The following is a list of items to gather or know **prior to starting the nomination process.***

If You Are Nominating a Student Athlete	If You Are Applying for Yourself
Student contact information	Your email, phone number, residential zip code and city
	Demographic information (i.e., age, gender, race/ethnicity etc.)
High school name	High school name
Cumulative weighted GPA	Cumulative weighted GPA and unofficial high school transcript
	Combined household income
Sport(s) and related organization(s) that the student athlete plays with	Sport(s) and related organization(s) that you play with
Intended Arizona college(s) or university of the student athlete and whether they intend to continue to play sports in college	Name of the Arizona college(s) or university you plan to attend and whether you intend to continue to play sports in college
Short answer essays about the student athlete with reasons supporting your decision to nominate the student athlete, highlighting their resilience and ability to break barriers both on and off the field	Short answer essays highlighting your resilience and ability to break barriers both on and off the field
	Financial need information

Important Reminders

Please gather all the information needed before starting the online nomination process – partial applications cannot be saved.

Applications must be submitted by **November 6, 2026**.

WAIVER OF LIABILITY/PUBLICITY RELEASE: *By submitting your information for the award, you grant Desert Financial the right to use your name, image, voice, statements and/or other likenesses and information for advertising, promotional, trade and/or any other purpose in any media or format now known or hereafter devised, throughout the world, in perpetuity, without limitation and without further compensation, consideration, permission or notification, unless prohibited by law.*

**If at least one of the top fifteen (15) scoring applicants is a girls' flag football player, the highest-scoring individual among them will be named the Arizona Cardinals Flag Football Scholar. If none of the top fifteen scoring applicants participate in girls flag football, the final candidate identified through the initial selection process will be replaced as a finalist by the highest-scoring girls flag football player applicant, who will then be recognized with this honor. This ensures the scholarship reflects our shared commitment to supporting and uplifting athletes in emerging sports like girls' flag football across Arizona.*