



SOUTH CAROLINA ATHLETIC ADMINISTRATOR'S ASSOCIATION

2026 ESSAY SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION

Purpose of Scholarship: In accordance with the National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association's (NIAAA) purpose to promote, facilitate, and increase the knowledge and understanding of the vital role of interscholastic athletics in the educational system, this scholarship program will foster and acknowledge the partnership between the NIAAA and secondary education. The scholarships will recognize the distinguished scholastic, leadership, and citizenship attributes of high school student athletes, and the importance of high school athletics in each student's life.

The annual NIAAA Student-Athlete Scholarships recognize the distinguished scholastic, leadership and sportsmanship attributes of high school student-athletes and the importance of high school athletics in each student's life.

Application

Effective September 1, 2024, and going forward, the application will be handled through the **NIAAA FinalForms award platform**. All NIAAA members working in a school setting will have access to nominate eligible student athletes from their school. On your member page of FinalForms, you will see an awards tab that will lead to this application. We encourage you to share this process with your school building counselor for seniors, and our hope is they will load this process into their school system for potential scholarship opportunities.

Scholarship Minimum Requirements

- Applicants must be a senior in high school.
- Applicant must have achieved at least one of the following: (a) minimum of B+ average; (b) ranked in the top 25% of class; (c) ACT score of 24 or an SAT score of 1100 (Math and Reading)
- Applicants must have participated in two sports for at least two years in each sport.
- Applicants must have earned at least one varsity letter in each of the two sports.
- Applicant must complete **[scholar/essay application](#)** [see application at conclusion of information].
- Applicants must have a letter of recommendation from the high school athletic administrator/director.
- Athletic administrator/director must be a NIAAA member and a member of their respective state athletic administrator association.
- The principal or athletic administrator/director must sign the application to ensure that the academic information submitted is accurate.
- All hard copy materials must be postmarked or electronic materials sent to the **[NIAAA Liaison in your respective state by your state's deadline](#)**. **SCAAA Awards Committee!**
- **SCAAA DEADLINE** for receipt of student's information/materials: **February 20, 2026!**

Scholarship Timeline

- Applications postmarked to **NIAAA Liaison in respective state by the state's deadline** –

All information must be submitted to SCAAA by February 20, 2026, deadline to verify student's information is complete!

All information must be submitted through NIAAA FinalForms Award Platform by March 31, 2026, deadline!

- Each state must select a male and female winner prior to its NIAAA Section meeting [Section 3 meeting is in May of each year].
- April–June: Each section selects its male and female winner [Section 3 meets in May].
- July: NIAAA Board selects the male and female national winner.
- August: National winners notified by NIAAA office.
- December: National winners and their parents are invited to attend the **National Conference (NADC)** to be recognized and present their essay.

SCAAA SCHOLARSHIPS:

- One female and one male senior athlete will each be awarded a \$500.00 scholarship by the South Carolina Athletic Administrators Association (SCAAA) for winning at the state level. Please include a photo and short write-up about your school and athletic activities with your application.
- State winners will be submitted at the sectional level (Section 3). Section winners will receive \$1,500.00. Winners at the sectional level will be submitted to the national level (NIAAA). National Winners will receive \$2,500.00.
- The student athlete's school athletic director **MUST** be a member of the SCAAA and NIAAA associations to be eligible for the scholarships.

Scholarship Awards:

- State Winners – one male and one female will each receive a plaque recognizing them as State Winners.
- NIAAA Section Winners – one male and one female will each receive \$1,500.00 scholarship and a plaque recognizing them as Section Winners.
- National Winners – one male and one female will each receive a \$2,500.00 scholarship and an award recognizing them as National Winners.

NOTE:

Your completed 2026 NIAAA Scholar/Essay Application is due to the SCAAA Awards Committee by **February 20, 2026**, Deadline. The completed application, other information and materials are required prior to submitting your nomination to the NIAAA (FinalForms Award Platform) by the SCAAA Scholarship Chair.

SAMPLE -- Scholarship Application Form:

2026 National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association Scholar/Essay Application

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Criteria:

1. Applicant must be a Senior
2. Applicant must have achieved at least one (1) of the following:
 - (A) minimum of B+ average.
 - (B) Ranked in the top 25% of class.
 - (C) ACT score of 24 or an SAT score of 1100 (Math and Reading)
3. Applicant must have participated in two sports for at least two years in each sport
4. Applicant must have earned at least one varsity letter in each of two sports
5. Applicant must complete attached scholar/essay application
6. Applicant must have a letter of recommendation from the high school athletic administrator/director
7. School athletic director must be an NIAAA member and a member of their respective state athletic administrators association
8. The principal or athletic director must sign the application to ensure that the academic information submitted is accurate
9. All hard copy materials must be postmarked or electronic materials sent to the NIAAA State Liaison in your respective state by your state's deadline. Select your state at the bottom of the website Scholarship Page to view your state's deadline and liaison information.

Scholarship Awards:

State Winners - one male and one female will each receive a plaque recognizing them as state winners.

NIAAA Section Winners - one male and one female will each receive a \$1,500 scholarship.

and a plaque recognizing them as section winners.

National Winners one male and one female will each receive a \$2,500 scholarship.

and a glass etching recognizing them as national winners.

BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION – (PLEASE TYPE or PRINT CLEARLY)

Legal Name _____ Home Phone _____ Male _____

Female _____

Home Address _____

Street Address

City

State

Zip

Email Address _____ Cell Phone _____

Father's Full Name _____ Living / Deceased _____

Email Address _____ Cell Phone _____

Home Address _____

(if not same as above) Street Address City State Zip

Mother's Full Name _____ Living / Deceased _____

Email Address _____ Cell Phone _____

Home Address _____

(if not same as above) Street Address City State Zip

High School _____

—

School Address _____

Street Address City State Zip

Principal or Athletic Director signature _____

Print Principal/Athletic Director Name _____

Athletic Director's NIAAA Member # _____

Local Media Contacts:

Name: _____

Name: _____

Email: _____

Email: _____

SCHOLASTIC PERFORMANCE:

Class Rank _____ out of students _____ in senior class (if schools ranks) GPA _____ on a _____ Scale.

ACT/SAT Score _____ Graduation Date _____

Briefly describe scholastic distinctions or honors received during high school:

ATHLETIC PARTICIPATION: High School Sports Grades 9-12

Sport	Years	Letters	Honors

LEADERSHIP: (10 points)

School Organization Participation/Leadership Positions:

Community Organization Participation/Leadership Positions:

Community Service/Volunteer Service:

Citizenship: (15 points)

Please read the excerpt below “The Code for Living,” from the book, *Winning More Than the Game*, authorship attributed to “Athletes for a Better World.”

The Code – Life Principles Learned Through Sports

Because I am a role model and have the opportunity and responsibility to make a difference in the lives of others, I commit to this Code. I will take responsibility and appropriate actions when I fail to live up to it.

1) As an Individual:

- I will develop my skills to the best of my ability and give my best effort in practice and competition.
- I will compete within the spirit and letter of the rules of my sport.
- I will respect the dignity of every human being and will not be abusive or dehumanizing of anyone either as an athlete or as a fan.

2) As a Member of a Team

- I will place team goals ahead of personal goals.
- I will be a positive influence on the relationships on the team.
- I will follow the team rules established by the coach.

3) As a Member of Society:

- I will display caring and honorable behavior off the field and be a positive influence in my community and world.
- I will give of my time, skills, and money as I am able for the betterment of my community and world.

Briefly detail a unique personal reflection that focuses on one of the three parts of the above code. Your response may involve yourself, another individual(s), or an experience during your high school career.

ESSAY: (30 points)

On one 8.5"x11" single spaced 12 point Tahoma or Geneva style font please address the following statement:

"HOW HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETICS HAS IMPACTED MY LIFE."

Please forward all materials to the NIAAA Liaison in your respective state (see Scholarship Deadline & NIAAA Liaison Information. Send to: **SCAAA Awards Committee – Scholarship Chair**

at <https://members.niaaa.org/page/StudentScholarship>). Hard copy application and essay must be postmarked or electronic copy received by the liaison (**SCAAA Awards Committee – Scholarship Chair**) no later than your states deadline date – **February 20, 2026**.