



Frequently Asked Questions

The Discontinuation of the Wisconsin Grand Prix Scholarship Program

On behalf of the Bowling Centers Association of Wisconsin (BCAW), thank you one and all for participating in the Wisconsin Grand Prix Program!

Bowling is a great family activity and we're happy your youth bowler is participating in a bowling program at a BCAW member center.

Since the program's humble beginnings with just \$815 in scholarships in 1992, BCAW has paid out nearly \$800,000 in scholarships . . . with over \$600,000 still on account for kids graduating through the year 2031!

Unfortunately, participation has been waning in recent years and in spite of the efforts of many, this program has not received the level of support to keep it sustainable for the future. We know how much effort everyone has invested to make this program strong for youth bowlers throughout the state. For their efforts, BCAW is deeply appreciative.

This "Frequently Asked Questions" flier is being offered to help address questions or concerns you may have regarding your child's Wisconsin Grand Prix Scholarship funds currently on account at the Bowling Centers Association of Wisconsin (BCAW).

Will my child's money still be available for college after they graduate high school?

Yes. All bowlers' Wisconsin Grand Prix accounts will be placed on a "HOLD" status for use up to four years after they graduate from high school.

What if my child quits bowling, will their money still be available after they graduate from high school?

Yes. While this program was initially created to encourage bowling through high school, this requirement will no longer be in place.

What if they decide to enlist in the military and do not immediately continue their education after high school?

As is our current policy, a "request to freeze" funds form thereby providing an extension beyond four years is available to those students who enter military service after high school. The form may be found at: bowlwi.com/scholarships/grand-prix-scholarship/.

My student bowler will be playing competitive sports in college. Can we still have funds administered by SMART to protect their college athletic eligibility?

Yes. BCAW will continue to utilize the services of our national governing body (USBC) to protect eligibility, regardless of the sport the athlete competes in.

May we have our child's account balance forward to SMART immediately?

Each participating BCAW member center will have a choice in 2019 as to whether or not to have scholarship funds for all of their bowlers moved to SMART or to be retained by BCAW for administration.

How do we know how much money our kids have in their Grand Prix scholarship account?

BCAW will be mailing a letter to the family of every youth bowler who has scholarship funds on account with us as of 12/31/18. Please be sure your bowling center's Grand Prix Coordinator has your correct mailing address as well as your bowler's date of birth and anticipated graduation year.

May the scholarship funds be used for education other than college?

Yes, as has been the policy in the past, scholarship funds may be used not only for college, but also technical or trade schools after their completion of high school.

What happens if my bowler doesn't continue their education after high school?

After four years from their graduation date, they will forfeit their right to the money and the funds will be returned to the last Grand Prix bowling center where they participated in the program. The bowling center will then redistribute the money in the form of scholarships to other youth bowlers participating in their center's youth bowling program.

If my bowling center chooses to keep all of their accounts with BCAW, how do we get money sent to the school?

On BCAW's website bowlwi.com/scholarships/grand-prix-scholarship/ there is an area dedicated to the Wisconsin Grand Prix Program. We will continue to maintain this page as a tool to communicate and provide access to important documents, including the "Request for Funds" form to be used to have money paid to your student's college/school.

If my bowling center chooses to move all of their accounts to SMART next summer, who will we communicate with regarding my child's scholarship money?

SMART is administered by the United States Bowling Congress (USBC). They have a paid staff who works directly with scholarship providers (like your bowling center) and families. You may contact them at SMART@bowl.com, call 800-514-BOWL (2695) or visit bowl.com/smart/.

How will we know if our child's scholarship money is moved to SMART?

BCAW will advise the families of all bowlers who have money sent to SMART for administration by mail. Again, it is very important we have the current mailing address for all bowlers.

May we just have a check issued directly to us for post high school educational expenses?

No, unfortunately that is not allowed.

What do I need to do now?

Please be sure your bowling center's Grand Prix Coordinator has your correct mailing address as well as your bowler's date of birth and anticipated graduation year.

If we have additional questions, who do we contact?

Contact BCAW Executive Director Yvonne Bennett at Yvonne.Bennett@bowlwi.com or Grand Prix Program Administrator Sandy Jeske at Sandy.Jeske@bowlwi.com or call the BCAW office at 262-783-4292.

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