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UNITED STATES LUGE ASSOCIATION

THE AMATEUR ATHLETE TRAINING FUND (ATF)

USA LUGE MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the USLA, in the Spirit of the Olympic Movement, is to provide for the Achievement of Athletic Excellence in the Sport of Luge, with the Highest Degrees of Sportsmanship, Honor, Dedication and Victory as the Standard.



If you would like to be an "Official Supplier" of USA Luge, contact our Marketing Department at ext. 104.

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Member, United States Olympic Committee



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de Luge de Course





Amateur Athlete Training Fund

Q: What is the Athlete Training Fund?

A: The Athlete Training Fund (ATF) is a bank account owned by the United States Luge Association (USLA) to which athletes may direct sponsorship money or gifts received for training and living expenses related to the sport. The money will then be dispersed by the USLA for such use. While athletes do not have to use this fund for money they might raise, we have found that the availability of the fund often adds credibility to an athlete's effort.

Q: How can money be deposited into an ATF?

A: A sponsor may issue a check payable to USLA, accompanied by a letter stating the name of the individual athlete whose training is to be supported by the funds.

Q: What does the USLA do with the funds?

A: The money is deposited into an account and held in trust for the athlete. Further, athletes who have a closing balance of \$2,000 or more at the end of the month will receive interest for the days during the month that the balance is \$2,000 or higher. (A complete up-to-date accounting is available at all times.) Upon receipt of the funds, the USLA will send a thank you note to the sponsor with a copy to the athlete.

Q: Are there any fees involved?

A: Yes, the USLA charges a 5% fee upon receipt of the funds for the administration of the individual account. (Generally, in-kind donations are not assessed the 5% fee).

Q: Can a sponsor donate anything other than cash?

A: Yes, a sponsor can make "in-kind" donations (made payable to USLA, to support the training of a specific athlete). In this case a dollar value for the donation will be agreed upon and the amount will be acknowledged to the sponsor. (i.e.: a health center membership)

Q: Who keeps track of the ATF?

A: The USLA will track each transaction for the athlete. Athletes can always contact the USLA to check on the current balance, activity etc. of their account.

Q: What can ATF money be spent on?

A: Below is current list of maximum allowable expenses (per season maximum - \$54,350):

1. Singles Competition Sled	\$ 1,500
2. Modifications	500
3. Doubles Competition Sled	1,750
4. Modifications	550
5. Helmet	325
6. Face Shield (2)	100
7. Racing Gloves	50
8. Kidney Belt	50
9. Protective Pads	50
10. Racing Suits (3)	675
11. Racing Shoes (2)	200
12. Training Clothes	500
13. Weight Vest	150
14. Sled Maintenance	750
15. Per Diem (\$20/day) - 180 days max)	3,600
16. Transportation to various training sites	3,000
17. Additional Singles Racing Steels (2)	800
18. Additional Doubles Racing Steels (2)	800
19. Health Care (misc)	1,000
20. Room & Board (\$50 per day - 180 days max)	9,000
21. Track Fees (\$30 per run X 6 runs/day X 150 days max)	27,000
22. Dues and Other Misc. Training Fees	2,000

Q: How does an athlete start an ATF?

A: An athlete doesn't actually open the account but begins by requesting gifts from friends, family members, businesses or other organizations. A letter of introduction from both the athlete and the sport of luge is a good idea. It is also good to enclose a pre-stamped envelope for the gift to be sent directly to the USLA office in Lake Placid. The athlete should be creative with their requests for contributions.

Any gifts are to be sent directly to the USLA and, once received, the USLA will open the account as well as send a thank you letter to each donor. The athlete will also receive a copy of this letter so that he/she may send a personal thank you to the donor.

Q: Are donations made in this manner tax deductible to the donor?

A: We know that every entity's financial situation is different and we are not tax advisors. Our general advice is that if this is important to the potential donor, they contact their own personal financial advisor. However, in general, accordance with IRS publications, contributions made to a qualified organization where the benefit is earmarked for a specific individual, are not deductible for income tax purposes.

More questions about the ATF?

Contact Beverly at
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