

## Manalapan Soccer Club Scholarship Descriptions

### Senior Scholarships

Academic/Athletic

*Presidential Scholarship - \$1,500*

The Presidential Scholarship is awarded to a player who represents what the Manalapan Soccer Club embodies – a love of the sport and giving back to the community. This player has the most fundamental values – natural leader on the field, respected, focused on the impact of what they can do and demonstrates a good balance between school, soccer, and community service. Finally, this player loves Manalapan and this program. This player is a constant, visible volunteer at Club sponsored events, brings enthusiasm and positively represents the Manalapan Soccer Club brand. They believe in the Club's mission and go above and beyond to support the Club in its initiatives. They want to see the programs succeed and they spend time doing what they can to support them.

*Rich Spector Scholarship, Established 2021- \$1,500*

The Rich Spector Scholarship is in honor of a founding member of the Manalapan Soccer Club, Richard Spector, who passed away in 2019. Rich dedicated his life to his family and his love of sports. In 1987, Rich saw a need in our community to formalize a club for children to play soccer. He helped create the Manalapan Soccer Club which gave the children of our community an organization that focused on teaching, developing, and playing soccer. During his time, he coached, was on the Board of Directors and volunteers at the Memorial Day Tournament. He loved our Club and program so much that he continued to volunteer at the Tournament, long after his children grew up and graduated from the program. When he passed in 2019, the Club lost not only a founding member, but a friend. The Rich Spector Scholarship is dedicated to a player who considers the Club as family, is the ultimate team player and actively participates in Club sponsored events.

Athletic/Academic

*Tim Hanlon Scholarship, Established 1993 - \$1,000*

The Tim Hanlon Scholarship is the first ever awarded scholarship by the Manalapan Soccer Club. It is in honor of Tim Hanlon, a former travel player and varsity high school player. Tim grew up playing soccer in Manalapan and tragically lost his life in a car accident the summer after his high school graduation in

1992. While playing for the Club, Tim was coached by Rich Spector, another long-standing member of the Club. The Tim Hanlon Scholarship is awarded to a player who is dedicated to the sport of soccer and excels in the community.

*Morgan Ball Scholarship, Established 2009 - \$1,000*

The Morgan Ball Scholarship is dedicated to a former Manalapan player who passed away in 2008. She played 12 years for the Club on the Manalapan United and 4 years on the Manalapan High School varsity team, serving as captain for 2 years. Her passion for soccer was the driving force behind the success Morgan's high school team had during her career, winning 3 conference championships. She had a love for life, loved her teammates and especially loved her family. Her passing was a significant loss for her family and for the soccer community. To remember Morgan, the Ball family started the 14 Chair Project and the Manalapan Soccer Club established this scholarship in her name. For 10+ years, Mr. Ball continued to volunteer his time each year in support of the Club and in Morgan's memory.

To honor Morgan and her family's contributions to the Club, the Morgan Ball Scholarship is awarded to a player who demonstrates a love for the sport, is a leader on the field, has a dynamic energy and is an all-around team player.

*Volunteer /Athletic/ Academic*

*Mike Confessore Memorial Scholarship, Established 2014 - \$1,000*

The Mike Confessore Scholarship is in honor of Mike Confessore, who sadly lost his life while helping a friend in 2013. Mike started off as a parent on the sidelines, but when asked if he could help coach one of his children's recreational soccer teams, Mike eagerly took on the role. He was a huge supporter of town sports for over 20 years. Mike worked countless hours at every Memorial Day Tournament and kept asking "what else do you need me to do?" The Mike Confessore Scholarship is awarded to a player who values and supports town-based community volunteering, plays in our program and is always willing to help.

*General Senior Scholarships - \$500 (up to \$3,000 in total distributed awards)*

A Senior Scholarship is awarded to players who find the balance between school, soccer and volunteering. They understand that each of these is important. They have taken the time to develop the skills – like time management, planning and proactiveness - which makes the players better in them

everyday lives. In addition, these players demonstrate determination, patience, and respect, leaving a positive influence on their community. Finally, they are ideal teammates, coachable players and are well rounded.

*Michael Collins 3M Scholarship Established 2023 - winners can be awarded between \$500-\$750*

The Michael Collins Scholarship is in memory of a Manalapan Soccer Club family member and strong supporter, Michael Collins, who passed away in 2022. Michael was the uncle and godfather of a Manalapan Fury player, Madelyn McPadden. Michael was a lifelong fan of soccer and loved attending both the recreation and travel games, and cheering Maddie and her teammates from the sidelines. Michael was the epitome of a team player in life and found great joy in giving his time and energy to benefit others. The Michael Collins Scholarship is awarded to a player who is an extraordinary teammate on and off the field.

*Referee Scholarship(s) - 1-2 winners can be awarded between \$500-\$1,000*

The Referee Scholarship is awarded to a referee who demonstrates the skills and leadership attributes that are required to be an outstanding referee. These include knows and enforces the rules of the game, demonstrates a command of the field, maintains a high level of professionalism, has the respect of the players and coaches while promoting and positively reinforcing sportsmanship on the field.

## **Underclassmen**

*Chris Thorsheim Training Scholarships, Established 2021 - \$250, up to 10 awards, \$2,500 in total -*

*\*Recipients can only win once*

These Scholarships are given in loving memory of Christopher Thorsheim who passed away suddenly and unexpectedly on March 31st, 2021. The families of the Red Tribe Soccer team have been deeply saddened by his passing and miss him tremendously. The Red Tribe was a boys U7 team that began in 2001. The bonds and friendships formed on that team have spanned two decades and the credit goes to Coach Chris. Most of the boys played through high school and many beyond. The team itself came together at the annual Manalapan Soccer Tournament one last time during their last year of eligibility – a tournaments they will never forget! He treated each player as he would his own children. He taught them the fundamentals about soccer while instilling life lessons. He was serious but knew how to have fun. He coached in practice and let the boys “learn by doing” during games. He taught patience,

determination, fairness, and confidence. The recipient should be a player that embodies the above characteristics and has a deep love for soccer. May his teachings live on, and his memory be a blessing to all.

The Training Scholarship is awarded to players who are dedicated to learning the sport and trying to improve and master their skills. Their dedication to learning the sport helped them grow into the person they are today – on and off the field. These players are self-motivated, are receptive to their trainer's feedback, apply what they learn at games, and encourage and support development with their teammates. These players enjoy learning the sport and they bring that enjoyment to practices and games.