Reno Air Racing Association
Flight Training Scholarship Program

The procedures herein will cover:

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I. Scholarship Description

The RARA FTS program is designed to use the legendary excitement and pageantry of the annual National Championship Air Races to inspire young men and women to become pilots. Scholarships are planned to be awarded in amounts of up to $10,000 each. Quantity and location of the awards will depend upon available funding and qualified application volume. Applicants for the RARA FTS will undergo a review process to confirm their eligibility and commitment to completing all requirements to earn a Private Pilot License (PPL). A Scholarship Coordinator will be assigned to oversee all applicants, recipients and their progress, and additional mentors will be available to help guide recipients to a successful completion. A Scholarship Committee made up of RARA Board of Directors members and/or appointees will maintain oversight of the program. While the scholarship is designed to benefit initial PPL applicants, applications for advanced ratings such as instrument, commercial and CFI/CFII may be considered at the discretion of the Scholarship Committee on a case-by-case basis.

The scholarship funding for PPL will be approved in two phases. The first phase will fund up to $5000 to the recipient to complete their first solo flight, then after an additional review the student will be awarded the remaining funds up to an additional $5000 to apply toward completing their PPL. *It should be noted that any student's flight training may exceed the award limit. In this case the student will need to fund any remaining training costs themselves.*

FTS Solo: Applicants will be evaluated on an initial application and interview process. Once awarded, recipients will have up to $5,000 available to complete the first solo flight and written exam. The Scholarship Coordinator will monitor progress, communicating regularly with students and their families to provide guidance. The Scholarship Coordinator will approve and distribute all funds to the chosen flight training facility directly. The student will have six months from the start of flight training to complete their first solo flight. Remaining funds from the initial $5,000 will remain in the student's account to be applied to the next phase.

FTS PPL: After soloing, the student will be eligible to apply for the remainder of the scholarship funds. Once a recipient has completed their PPL, any remaining funds may be applied toward additional flight training

upon approval. Again, RARA does not guarantee that the scholarship award will completely cover the total cost of the student's PPL. If the student's training costs exceed this amount, the student is responsible for funding those costs. Students not completing the solo within the six-month limit will be required to complete a review before scholarship funding can continue and may be subject to scholarship cancellation.

II. Applicant Eligibility

General: All applicants must be a US Citizen, be able to fluently read, write, speak, and understand the English language, and have reliable transportation.

Medical: All applicants must be able to pass a Class III Medical Examination per 14 CFR § 61.23 within 30 days of scholarship award notification. IT IS BETTER TO COMPLETE THE EXAM PRIOR TO THE AWARD DATE IF POSSIBLE.

Age: Applicants for the RARA FTS will be required to be at least 16 years of age and not older than 20 years of age at the time of application. All applicants under the age of 18 must have the written consent of a parent or legal guardian.

Education: Applicants must be enrolled in or recently graduated from an approved secondary educational program that fulfills all state requirements for a high school diploma. Proof of a grade point average of 3.0 (unweighted) or higher is required and must be maintained through the duration of the FTS process. GED recipients may be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Aviation Related: Applicants who have received prior flight training will be able to count their instructor-approved time toward completion of their PPL. **APPLICANTS MUST HAVE COMPLETED THE FAA PRIVATE PILOT WRITTEN EXAM WITH A SCORE OF 70%** or great to be considered. If approved, FTS funding may be used to reimburse the written exam expenses retroactively after the FTS is awarded. Candidates must complete a successful Discovery Flight at their own expense of at least 30 minutes in a small general aviation aircraft with a certified flight instructor prior to being considered for the scholarship.

III. Application Process

Submission

Applicants will be required to submit the PPL Flight Training application packet found on the RARA website at https://airrace.org/flight-training-scholarships/ . All applications must be sent via email to scholarships@airrace.org. In the case that applications are received incomplete or inaccurate, applicants will be notified electronically. Applicants will be told why their application was not acceptable and offered a chance to resubmit prior to the window closing if time allows.

Application Interviews

Applicants who meet the requirements will be invited in for a "face to face" interview with the Scholarship Coordinator. The Scholarship Coordinator will notify the applicant electronically and provide a date, time, and location for the "face to face" interview. Virtual interviews via Zoom or other methods may be utilized if face-to-face meetings are not practical.

Final Application Review and Notification

The RARA Board of Directors Scholarship Committee will review each applicant with notes provided by the Scholarship Coordinator taken during the interview process. This review will happen on the dates noted on the airrace.org website.

A minimum of three Board of Directors Scholarship Committee members must participate in the final selection of recipients. A majority of Yes votes will be required for an applicant to be approved for a scholarship. In the event of a tie, the Scholarship Coordinator will cast the deciding vote.

Applicants will be notified of their status as accepted or denied of the scholarship within 2 weeks of the application deadline. All finalists will be required to complete a successful Discovery Flight Certificate at their own expense in a small General Aviation aircraft with a Certified Flight Instructor prior to being awarded a scholarship. Finalists will also be required to successfully obtain a 3rd Class Medical within 30 days of scholarship award.

IV. Flight School Selection / Funds Administration

The decision on which flight school to use rests solely with the scholarship recipient. The Scholarship Coordinator may assist in finding a suitable school upon request by the FTS student. The selected training facility will be required to complete a qualification application and abide by its provisions. The Scholarship Coordinator will approve all payments for the FTS student directly from RARA to the flight school. No funds will be apportioned to the student directly. Flight training organizations wishing to become preferred providers can complete and submit an application found at www.airrace.org/flight-training-scholarships/ . RARA will keep a list of preferred providers and make this available to scholarship recipients for consideration upon request.

V. Scholarship Management

The Scholarship Coordinator will keep accurate records on both candidates who have applied for and those who have been granted scholarship funds from the RARA FTS Scholarship Program. Each scholarship recipient will have a file that will include:

- Name
- Method of Contact (including cell phone and email)
- Parental Consent Form (if under 18)
- Start of Flight Training
- Hours Completed to Date
- Flight School Attended including the Flight Instructor
- Scholarship Funds used to date
- Monthly progress reports from the student's flight instructor

VI. PPL Completion

Once a scholarship recipient has achieved soloing an aircraft and passed the FAA Private Pilot written examination, they become eligible to apply for the remaining funds to complete their PPL. Recipients are required to notify the Scholarship Coordinator within 7 days of completing the solo and written exam and schedule an interview. *Solo flight MUST be completed within 6 months of the beginning of the flight training under the scholarship funding. Exceptions can be considered for extenuating circumstances on a case-by-case basis.*

Once the interview is completed, the Scholarship Coordinator will review the results with the RARA Board of Directors Scholarship Committee and make a recommendation to either approve or deny the continuation of the scholarship. The results of this decision will be given to the applicant within 7 days of the interview. If denied, the applicant will be given the reasons for the denial, and at the discretion of the Board of Directors Scholarship Committee and the Scholarship Coordinator may be given an opportunity to remediate the issues that resulted in the denial.

If approved, the recipient will continue flight training within 30 days. The Scholarship Coordinator will continue to monitor, record, and manage the finances of the FTS PPL process until depleted. *The PPL must be completed within one year of the first lesson conducted under the scholarship funding. Exceptions can be considered for extenuating circumstances on a case-by-case basis.*

IMPORTANT NOTE: Scholarships may be suspended or revoked for failing to complete the required elements within the prescribed timelines. Communication is key; failing to communicate with the flight school or scholarship coordinator as required may result in suspension or revocation of the Flight Training scholarship.

VII. Remaining Funds Management

Any funds remaining in the recipient's account once the PPL is completed may be used for additional flight ratings or endorsements. The Scholarship Coordinator will work with the recipient to source and manage the remaining funds until depleted.