



LOANED TEAM



PLAYER	OWNER
✓	✓
✓	✓
✓	✓

PLAY TO EARN

075 / 2021 / AXIE INFINITY / COMMON

THE BORROWED TEAM

In 2021, Axie Infinity carried crypto gaming into daily life. Sky Mavis reported growth from 38,000 daily active players in April to more than two million in October. Behind those numbers was a game whose collectible creatures connected battles on a screen with assets traded in online markets.

Players fielded teams of three Axies, each represented by a unique non-fungible token, or NFT. Battles could earn Smooth Love Potion, or SLP, a token that could be sold or used in breeding. Creating new Axies required SLP and AXS, tying demand for creatures to the game's reward economy.

Scholarships opened another route in. Asset owners lent teams to players, who shared the rewards instead of buying the creatures themselves. Guilds helped organise these arrangements: Yield Guild Games reported more than 10,000 Axie scholars by the end of 2021. Borrowing access did not transfer ownership of the team.

The opportunity came with dependence on changing rules and markets. In August, Axie reduced some SLP rewards amid an imbalance between token creation and consumption. September brought changes to breeding costs. Token values fluctuated, and time spent playing did not guarantee a stable income.

The fictional player brings that economic relationship into an ordinary home. Three glowing creatures gather near her feet; a LOANED TEAM roster and PLAYER/OWNER notebook reveal the agreement behind the game. THE BORROWED TEAM recalls both the new access scholarships offered and the limits of playing with somebody else's assets.

DETAILS IN THE ART

01 THE THREE CREATURES

The green, orange and blue creatures recall a team of three Axies. Their glowing, pixelated edges bring digital assets into the player's room as an artistic metaphor. They are not physical pets or real holograms.

02 THE LOANED ROSTER

The wall sheet reads LOANED TEAM above three creature portraits. It makes the scholarship arrangement visible: the player has access to someone else's Axies. This invented roster represents borrowed assets, rather than proof of ownership.

03 THE SHARED REWARDS

The notebook separates PLAYER and OWNER into two columns, recalling how scholarship rewards were shared. Its simple marks record no amounts or percentages. The illustrated split describes this arrangement without assigning every scholarship identical terms.

04 THE MOBILE SESSION

The player holds a phone sideways with both hands, its screen facing her. Axie's early application supported mobile play. Here the gesture emphasises attention and participation; no visible game interface, balance or earnings are claimed.

SOURCE & ART NOTE

Sources: Sky Mavis October 2021 growth; Axie Infinity Alpha gameplay guide; YGG July 2021 scholarship report; YGG 2021 year-end scholarship retrospective; Axie Season 18 reward changes; Axie September 2021 breeding economics. The player, home, roster and notebook are fictional editorial inventions. Glowing creatures symbolise digital assets entering everyday life. The scene illustrates borrowed access and shared rewards without depicting an identifiable scholar, a documented household, an actual payout, or a promise that play provided lasting income.