

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to establish guidelines and procedures for individual members needing financial support to help ensure everyone can participate equally.

Background

Gloucestershire County Netball Association (GCNA) is responsible for the management and development of the sport of Netball in the county. GCNA understands that its members may suffer financial difficulty from time to time. Financial hardship can present challenges to meeting primary needs, much less discretionary activities. GCNA acknowledges the role of Netball in the personal, physical and emotional development of all members. GCNA believes that no member should be excluded from activity due to cost or affordability if measures can be taken to overcome this.

GCNA currently offers hardship financial support for the following:

1. Athletes in the Player Pathway
2. Volunteer coaches and officials
3. Members carrying out wider voluntary roles.

Legitimate expenses include, but are not limited to:

Travel to training and competition (not outside of England), course costs, assessment/qualification costs. The maximum payment to any individual is £200 per calendar year.

Funding Criteria

- All applicants must be current members of England Netball and GCNA.
- All applicants (or their parent/guardian if under 18) must demonstrate hardship (that may be receipt of government benefit(s) or by other means).
- All athletes must be part of either the GCNA Player Development Pathway or the England Netball Player Pathway (via the Severn Stars or Team Bath franchises).
- Applications will be considered on a season-by-season basis.
- Each application will be judged on its individual merits and GCNA's current financial position at the time.
- GCNA will not notify any other person of any funding awarded.
- All applications are strictly confidential & must not be discussed with any other person.
- Payment will only be paid to the applicant or the parent /guardian if under 18.
- Successful applicants must abide by the GCNA's terms & conditions (below).
- Any funding is a contribution towards the purpose detailed in the application and must be used solely for the purposes for which it was intended.

Process

- To be considered for assistance, the member (or parent if under 18 years of age) must apply via the form below. Completed forms must be emailed to the GCNA Chair in the first instance, who will forward each application to the relevant Working Group lead.
- Upon receipt, the Working lead will review the application with the Chair and Treasurer who will approve or counter the request.
- The Working Group lead in question will communicate the decision and payment plan by email to the applicant.
- If funding is awarded applicants should return a written acknowledgement to GCNA's offer.

Terms & Conditions

Monitoring, Review and Reporting

Successful applicants must comply with all reasonable requests made by GCNA for information and/or documentation in connection with, the funding. The information requested may be in relation but not limited to income and expenditure, and performance or results of the purpose.

Successful applicants agree to:

- inform GCNA immediately in writing of any changes in their personal circumstances during the term of the funding, which may directly or indirectly affect their application for the funding (e.g. withdrawal from the performance programme due to sickness, injury, any other incapacity)
- keep ENGage up to date with any change of their permanent residential address

Suspension, Termination and Amendment of Funding

GCNA reserves the right to reduce the amount of the funding, suspend payments due or otherwise amend payments of the funding or terminate it forthwith upon notice in the event that:

- the financial position of GCNA substantially changes for the worse; and/or
- should such funds allocated by GCNA be less than originally projected to the extent that GCNA cannot meet all its commitments

GCNA reserves the right to reduce, increase or otherwise amend the funding to reflect changes in the applicant's personal financial circumstances during the term of the funding.

GCNA may require part or all of the funding to be repaid to GCNA if:

- in the reasonable opinion of GCNA the applicant fails to apply the funding or any part of it for the purpose for which it was made;
- the applicant fails to comply with or otherwise breaches any of the terms and conditions of the agreement;
- in the reasonable opinion of GCNA, any of the assurances given to GCNA prior to the date of the funding were fraudulent, materially incorrect or misleading;
- the applicant engages in activities, behaviour or practices which, in the reasonable opinion GCNA, may bring GCNA into disrepute;
- the applicant ceases to be a full member of, or are suspended from GCNA;

Any decision made by GCNA would be based on individual circumstances and following consultation with the applicant and the GCNA Management Group.

Limitation of Liability

GCNA, its volunteers or sub-contractors will not at any time be liable to the applicant in relation to any matter arising in connection with the funding.

Financial

The applicant accepts sole responsibility for managing their personal financial and tax affairs, including the payment of national insurance and any tax which might arise in relation to the funding. The applicant accepts that GCNA will not make any deduction from amounts to be awarded in respect of income tax or national insurance contributions.

Data Protection

Applicants acknowledge that all personal information (including "sensitive" personal information relating to race or ethnic origin, physical or mental health, and other matters covered by data protection legislation) may, in addition to keeping hard copies, be stored electronically or otherwise, and processed by GCNA as set out in accordance with current data protection legislation, guidelines and practices.

GCNA shall keep your personal information for not longer than 6 years after the end of a funding award and will destroy personal information after this period.

Revision History

Policy/Version Date	Summary of Change	Contact	Implementation Date	Review Date
20 Nov 2023	Reference to Regional Pathway removed	L Thomas	Dec 2023	Sept 2024

GCNA Financial Support Fund Application

Name	
EN Membership No.	
Address (inc. Post Code)	
Tel No	
Email address	
Club	
School (where applicable)	
Franchise (where applicable)	

Have you requested or been granted funding, from any other source? (County, Club, School, Local Authority, Active Partnership - please give detail)

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How much funding, are you asking for?

The maximum available

Please provide a breakdown of what expenses you require the funding to cover

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Any other relevant information

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Please demonstrate hardship below, either by indicating that you or your parent/guardian is in receipt of one of the following (please mark which) or by providing further details:		
Job seekers allowance	Yes	No
Housing and/or council tax benefit	Yes	No
In work credits	Yes	No
Child tax credits	Yes	No
Working tax credits	Yes	No
Income support	Yes	No
An invalid care allowance	Yes	No
Disability care allowance	Yes	No
If you are experiencing financial hardship but are not in receipt of any of the above benefits, please provide detail below:		

I confirm that all the information I have provided on this application form is, to my knowledge, complete & correct.

I agree that I have read and, if successful, will abide by the terms and conditions in GCNA's Financial Support Policy

Signed by applicant (or parent/guardian if under 18):	
Please print name:	
Relationship to applicant if applicable:	
Date:	

GCNA Decision

Matter Discussed (date)

Amount Awarded

Date Paid