

FAQ'S ON THE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE from SPF

How do I apply to SPF for financial help?

The first step is usually to contact the local Borough Development Officer or Trustee. These key people are the front line of our organisation and represent a variety of sporting interests and related expertise. They will have a range of proficiencies that may or may not be relevant to your project. If they do not have experience in the aspect you are seeking they will probably know someone who does. There is a list of these Officers on the contact page on our website.

What level of funding is available?

Grants are for amounts up to £1,000 and are not repayable. Grants are there to enable projects to start or perhaps to enable or increase activity and participation. They are designed to make a contribution towards the costs of purchasing a specific item of capital expenditure, e.g. kit or equipment. We would expect the club to match the grant contribution made by SPF, i.e we would fund up to 50% of the cost with the club providing the remainder, either from its own resources or from other funding. SPF would expect to be provided with documentary evidence of the relevant purchase (s) – i.e. an invoice – for its records.

Loans are for larger projects and can be for up to £50,000 with repayments over a maximum of 10 years. The declared rate of interest payable on a loan is 5%, with the first repayment due a year after drawdown, and with the amount of interest owing reducing as the capital decreases, the actual rate is below 3%. This compares very favourably with all other commercial loans that may otherwise be available. Clubs have the option of repaying loans early, should their financial circumstances change. The loans must be guaranteed by suitable people identified by the borrower. Apart from in exceptional circumstances, no individual guarantor would be expected to guarantee more than £5,000, therefore for example a loan of £20,000 would require a maximum of 4 guarantors, if the maximum loan of £50,000 was sought a minimum of 10 guarantors would be needed.

It is the interest received from these loans that pays for the grants.

Who can apply?

We only fund member organisations but any club or sports/play/health organisation can apply for a grant or loan, and if successful it would be a condition of us providing the funding that the club becomes and affiliate members of SPF, at an annual subscription of £15.

We restrict our activities to within the Surrey County Boundary.

Although the Loans may appear irrelevant for the larger projects, e.g, an artificial grass pitch or a clubhouse, they can be invaluable in easing the path towards the support from others as the process is quite straightforward and can be done fairly quickly.

This can make conversations with other prospective funders easier as they are not being asked to be the first funders, with all that means as a risk, but just adding to the financial pot.

What kind of project would be considered for financial help?

We prefer projects that try to increase active participation, especially if aimed at the wider population, under-represented groups or the very old or young. Equipment or physical accommodation, both new or refurbishments (especially if access is improved) will all be considered. The cost of attendance at some coaching courses may be considered eligible for a grant where they demonstrate improved capacity.

What would not be considered for financial help?

It is policy not to consider revenue funding or any kind of running or maintenance costs. We do not fund retrospectively so any potential funding must be offered before any spending on the project is undertaken. It is sport and activity that SPF is mainly interested in promoting. Some complementary facilities may be nice but may not be supported if they don't increase activity.

When can I apply?

Clubs can apply at any time but the schedule of meetings to consider requests normally occurs every other month on the "odd" months of Jan, March, May, July, September and November. The paperwork for each meeting must arrive before the Trustees meet in the first two weeks and is usually sent in by the BDO who is invited to attend that meeting. This gives the Trustees time for proper consideration and to chase any further questions before making a recommendation to the Executive Meeting that takes place during the last two weeks of that month and which formally makes the decision. Anything that misses the first meeting is unlikely to be considered for a further two months.

What happens then?

The BDO will keep the club/applicant informed as to progress and any need for further information. Once approved by the Executive Committee and on receipt of a relevant order or invoice that at least covers the costs of the grant, the Treasurer will make the agreed payment.

Do Bursary applications follow the same pattern?

No. These are intended for young people (10-23yrs old) to encourage them to get involved in Sports Coaching (Coaching Bursaries) or assist their Sporting achievements (Sports Bursaries).

For the Coaching Bursaries 50% of the costs of a relevant Coaching Course is available up to £250 providing there is also at least equivalent support from the Club. Up to £250 is also available to help with costs for youngsters at County standard, or above. SPF will support a maximum of 3 Bursaries per club per year. The club of which the applicant is a member will need to formally support and recommend the

application. These applications do not have to go through the formal Grants and Loans system so are usually handled far quicker.

Applications should be sent to Mike Hughes, Treasurer, they can be scanned to mikehhughes60@gmail.com..