

Sport England: Return to Play Funding

Funding to support the return of your Table Tennis club

Getting back to the Table

Clubs have had to make major changes to how they deliver sessions: reducing the numbers that can attend for each session, increasing court sizes, booking extra time and finding coaches and volunteers who feel they are able to help with sessions. Return to Play funding is here to help.

Funding Options

In October 2020 Sport England launched a new £16.5m fund called the “Return to Play Fund”, to give help to clubs and sport organisations, made up of three parts:

Small Grants (£10m inc to £15m):
Providing grants of £300 to £10,000

Community Asset Fund (£5m): Grants from £10,000 to £50,000. This could include improving ventilation or converting existing space to meet social distancing guidelines.

Active Together (£1.5m): A crowdfunding initiative to help sports clubs and organisations set up their own campaigns, with matched Sport England funding up to £10,000 to help cover the loss of income.

Return to Play: Small Grants

The fund will remain open until 30th June. To date 23 clubs have so far received a share of over £100k from Sport England.

Programme Aims

- focused on returning to previously run activity
- enabling previous sessions to adapt to resume delivery – e.g. booking additional space
- activity to be within NGB Covid guidelines
- funding is to cover a six month period
- activity to resume within six weeks of national/local lockdown restrictions being lifted



Priority Groups

High priority

Projects located in areas of high deprivation (IMD1-3 decile), clubs based in or supporting areas of high deprivation. You can check your IMD area [here](#).

Other funding priorities

Organisations working with Black, Asian and minority ethnic communities, people on lower incomes, people with disabilities and those with long-term health conditions

Community based programmes
Organisations that don't have a significant level of reserve funding available

Funding could help cover

- contributing to the costs incurred by having to deliver activity in smaller groups e.g. hire of additional facility time.
- expansion of sessions into other venues to be able to cater for more members.
- increased coaching costs due to running additional sessions.
- having the correct PPE hygiene, safety equipment & signage.
- training for volunteers - are there members of your club who could help your club return to coaching sessions and take a coaching qualification.
- additional equipment e.g. barriers, bats, balls, net catchers, tables.
- Clubs based in and serving areas of multiple deprivation (1-5) can seek support for ongoing fixed running costs e.g. rent & utilities £3000 max.

Funding won't support

- New projects or start-up costs.
- Replacement equipment
- Fixed running costs and utility bills outside IMD areas (1-5)

Hints & Tips

- Check how the aims of the programme relate to your club
- 2 main questions (500 words max), draft in Word and cut & paste into the form

Describe your project:

- brief intro to the club: location, (IMD), membership numbers, gender, age range & BAME, disability
- impact of the Pandemic on your club activity, changes to delivery, loss of income
- impact on members: physical & mental health
- why you need this funding
- who will it benefit & what impact will it have

How you will deliver the project

- deliver more sessions to smaller groups
- introduce a shorter 2 a-side competition
- purchase more equipment to ensure a safe environment
- ensure the venue is Covid safe/clear guidance, club protocols in place
- upskill more coaches to help with sessions

Hints & Tips (cont.)

- Upload additional supporting information to paint a picture of your club; photos or videos of your sessions
- Link to your website showing sessions in action and where they can see committee details, safeguarding and other documents
- Contribute something towards your project; financial or in kind, it shows commitment to the project from the club
- Add a breakdown of your budget, helpful to be clear about where the funding will be spent
- Before submitting share your application with other committee members for input

“I’d definitely recommend clubs contact their Club Support Officer who can assist and help you with your application. The funding we received is going to make a massive difference to the club, it’s really good news”.

*Jen Fell
Scarborough Table Tennis Club*

Additional Funding Sources

Active Together

- matched crowdfunding [link](#)

Club Matters guide [link](#)

- Business Support Grants
- Additional Restrictions Grant
- Job Retention Scheme



Help with your application

- If a registered Premier Club contact your appointed Club Support Officer or email help@tabletennisengland.co.uk and we shall be in touch.
- Apply now while time permits.



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