

Questions from SASP Club Support Webinar – 7th April 2020

Question: Our older members who rely on the social involvement with watching and talking to players are also important more for their mental stability than physical how do we include them?

Answer: The funding is for financial loss, so you can't include your older members mental stability within this. However, you should make reference to these members when completing the section about staying in touch with your participants and detail how you are doing so if you are e.g. newsletters or setting up a system so that the younger adults of the club are assigned an older member to call maybe once or twice a week etc.

Question: Can we include claims for coaching costs for retained (self-employed) coaches who we continue to pay (to retain them) during the shutdown and who are unable to claim through the Govt. scheme for the self-employed as this is only a small proportion of their income?

Answer: This will depend upon what sort of contract they are on and what their duties outside playing are. Sport England guidance is clear that they will not pay players wages. More detail on this would be needed, please email directly to discuss if you wish.

Question: Can academies apply?

Answer: No, educational establishments cannot apply. Clubs using their facilities can.

Question can schools apply for innovation funding?

Answer: Criteria hasn't come out yet but will be shared when available.

Question: What is the success rate of claims and what are the time scales from claim to payment?

Answer: There is meant to be a 10 day turn around because of cash flow issues. We do not have any information on success rates as yet as the scheme has only just opened. We are assuming that there will be less admin for lower claims, so these should go through quicker.

Question: The Rugby Force scheme has gone quite well, will there be any facility available to assist with this?

Answer: NatWest RugbyForce is a nationwide programme that helps grassroots rugby clubs up and down the country attracts new members and become stronger and more sustainable for the future. In 2020 the focus for the grant support is around your social space, however big or small your project is your club should register. It takes place on 27th & 28th June 2020, although not sure if the RFU are planning to still go ahead with this. The Sport England Emergency Fund cannot be used to help support RugbyForce, only the losses associated with Coronavirus.

Question: To what does the expense period of 1st March to 31st July relate. Is it expenses actually to be paid in that period or a proportion of the annual expenses. Our club pays expenses throughout the year in return for a membership fee paid once in April. There will be no membership fee collected this year but expenses for the whole year will have to be paid

Answer: This is about losses you will experience not what income you will not receive. It is about actual or projected losses in this period. Therefore the utilities that you pay in this period (which might be a proportion of the whole), insurances as a proportion and any other expenses that are fixed. Yes you can show losses for the period until 31st July even though you have an annual membership. You may wish to extend your membership for the number of months your club is closed for or freeze membership but that is a committee decision.

Question: Claims must not pre-date 1st March but 70% of our income (outdoor bowling club) comes in the April/ September period so in effect it could be said that a claim would partly relate to overheads incurred during the winter.

Answer: No, you will have to show the losses between March and July. They want to know what the costs are not the income you have not received.

Question: Is the small business grant repayable.

Answer: It's a grant so no it's not repayable

Question: We had a new employee start on 23/03 are they eligible for furlough?

Answer: No. You can only furlough those employees that were employed on 28th Feb2020 or before.

Question: Can you confirm if LTA is refunding the LTA registration fee for this year and if that is automatic?

Answer: Our understanding is that the 2019/2020 will be refunded for LTA registered venues, it may not be automatically done but you will be getting that back. The LTA should provide guidance on their website.

Question: Is there specific software to help move committees online, and carry out virtual AGMs. Is there any further guidance on your website on how to get the most from the volunteer committee members while we are in lockdown?

Answer: There is excellent guidance from Club Matters which is a Sport England resource hub for clubs and organisations. They have set up a dedicated coronavirus support page which has a number of useful guidance documents, including how to move meetings and AGMs online. This document in particular is really useful and on page 6 it gives you some ideas of different platforms you can use. It suggests you have a go at using the different platforms to see what works for you. WhatsApp and Zoom are certainly the easiest to get other people involved with although Microsoft Teams works well if everyone has access. With regards to getting the most out of volunteer committee members, this can be a tricky one for a lot of people at the moment. However, this document gives some good advice, particularly the part around communication.

Question: Our main expense is maintenance of our outdoor area, this has to continue during the period we are unable to play or we will lose the surface. We have an annual contract with a Green Maintenance company, we pay them in 12 monthly instalments so that the cost is evened out over the year, the contractors do the technical work, we then have a team of volunteers who do the rest E.G. cutting. Please clarify how many monthly payments we can put on the grant application.

Answer: The scheme will cover losses in the 1st March to July 2020 so please project your expenses in this time period and claim for the 5 months. Don't forget to include any insurances that you have and any utilities that will be used.

Question: Before the lock down we ordered and received a consignment of fertiliser/feed products for the green to be used pre-season, the timing is essential. We are not going to be able to utilise this before the 31st July. Can the cost of this be added to our attempt for compensation?

Answer: We think that you should try and claim for this from Sport England and see what they say, also because the guidance from Bowls England says that you should not be putting yourselves at risk as volunteers to deal with green maintenance. You will need to include purchase receipts of the products.