



England Athletics Club & Member Body Support Fund: Application and Process guidance document

2nd round: 1st March – 23rd April

England Athletics are delighted to be able to offer a support fund for affiliated clubs and member bodies to access as we look towards the start of the new outdoor season with greater excitement and considering the recent announcements that organised outdoor sport can return from 29th March onwards.

The over-arching aim of our Support Fund is to support clubs and, in this second round, other member bodies to provide safe, sustainable, and welcoming environments for their athletes and runners. We realise this is a very broad aim so to simplify the application process and make it more focussed we will distribute the fund across themed rounds.

We are opening this second round to other EA affiliated bodies including competition providers such as County Associations and Leagues as we realise that lots of planning work will be underway as we look to make a dynamic return to our domestic season and the delivery of high-quality local competition will be central to this aim.

The application window for the second round of funding will open on **1st March 2021** and close on **23rd April 2021**. We are committed to opening additional funding rounds in 2021 and will do this on a regular basis throughout 2021. The schedules are as follows:

- **Round 2: 1st March – 23rd April:** preparing for the outdoor season (training and competition) – innovation / enhancement / opportunities
- **Round 3: 25th July – 6th September:** improvements to the training environment
- **Round 4: 3rd Dec – 14th Jan:** member engagement, recruitment and retention

We have also released details of a facility grants programme for small scale track and field facility improvements – [click here for more details](#).

We want to encourage applications that focus on inclusion and diversity in all funding rounds!

How much funding can I apply for?

- In this funding round we will award small grants of up to £500
- Applicants can apply for funding in more than one round, but priority will be given to affiliated organisations who have not previously accessed funding.
- We will consider larger grant applications from groups of affiliated clubs and competition providers working together to deliver larger projects i.e. to cover competition related costs.
- Funding amounts in future rounds may increase and grant awards through the [facility grants programme](#) (mentioned above) range from £500-£5000.

Themed rounds

Each round will have a specific theme and these will be released before the start of each funding round. **The theme for this round is: preparing for the outdoor season (training and competition) – innovation / enhancement / opportunities.**

We are happy to support retrospective projects or costs associated with the day-to-day operational requirements of your club or member body and to support competition providers to prepare to put on a local event such as County Championships and local inter club competitions that traditionally take place in the spring and summer period.

We are also happy to support new projects that you are thinking of delivering or new operational processes that you want to set up.

To make the application process more straight forward we have indicated key areas where applications should be focussed:

- Adding capacity to your coach and leader team – we appreciate that COVID-19 may have resulted in coaches and leaders stepping down from their roles, or additional coaches and leaders being required to ensure you can deliver training sessions in a COVID secure environment where necessary. Subsidising access to coaching, leadership and officials education and training qualifications is also eligible.
- Volunteer recruitment and training – similarly to coaches and leaders some of your key volunteers may have decided to step aside due to the impact of COVID-19 or you simply may require more volunteers to make your club sessions COVID secure where necessary. Examples of support in this area could include the provision of team management training, event organisers training, first aid course provision or perhaps education and training in other areas that will help the club or membership body operate more effectively.
- Operational costs such as facility hire, and equipment costs for competition – compliance with government and EA guidelines to make your sessions COVID secure may be required as part of a licence condition and will result in additional costs for your club. Examples could be:
 - Operating more sessions or events to comply with social distancing measures if required.
 - Requiring more equipment to offset the need for members or participants to share or requiring more equipment to make events COVID secure where necessary.
 - Purchasing cleaning products and PPE to comply with enhanced hygiene measures.
 - Requiring additional facility time or space for events to be delivered in a COVID secure environment where necessary.
 - Additional support required for officials or volunteers to make training and competitive events safe.
- Marketing, communication, and administration costs for your activities and events – the way in which you communicate with your members/participants and engage with potential new members and participants may have had to change as a result of ongoing COVID-19 impacts. You may have had to introduce additional administration processes to deal with the impact of COVID-19 and create a COVID secure environment where required. As we look to “bounce back” from the impacts of the pandemic you may require support to help you promote and engage people during this coming period.
- Innovation – we are always really keen to support member clubs and member bodies such as competition providers to show innovation, and we are aware of many clubs and member bodies who have found innovative solutions to engaging with members and participants in delivering training sessions or providing competitive opportunities. We are keen to support you if you require assistance in this area to fulfil your creative ideas and plans!!!

Application Process and Criteria

We want the application process to be as straight forward as possible. We also want this fund to have as much impact on athletics and running as possible, and we want to be able to support you where we can to deliver the outcomes of your project. The key criteria you need to comply with are:

- The application needs to be made by an England Athletics affiliated club or member body such as a County Association.
- The application needs to demonstrate how the funding will enhance the club or competitive environment and have a positive impact on registered England Athletics members.
- The application needs to focus on sustaining or growing your membership/entry levels
- We need to see exactly how much funding is required and what it will be spent on
- For affiliated clubs you will need to already be complying with our Club Standards or show a commitment to working towards them; [click here to find out more](#).
- You will need to demonstrate how the funding will be spent within 6 months of any award being made.