**Sports Hardship Fund**

**Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council**

This fund has been set up to assist sports clubs and organisations based in the Borough with the additional costs incurred in complying with COVID -19 guidance in the current financial year

**Eligibility – who can apply?**

1. Sports clubs or sporting organisations must be based within the Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough
2. Community and voluntary groups which are based in the Borough and which deliver or enable sport and/or physical recreation as their primary activity
3. Only voluntary constituted groups, (no commercial entities are eligible to apply)
4. Constituted clubs and organisations (a copy of the club or organisation’s constitution must be submitted with the application) with a certified bank account relating to the club or organisation

The following general principles apply the Fund:

1. The Sports Hardship fund will only award **one application per Sports Club**
2. Applications will be accepted for up to £1,000
3. All applications must be completed in full, accompanied with supporting documentation.
4. Applications which are not complete, do not provide relevant information, or do not have all necessary supporting documentation will not be considered
5. Applications received following the closing date/time will not be considered
6. Applications will only be accepted online
7. Applicants must demonstrate how they meet the eligibility criteria
8. Funds will be released successful applicants on receipt of satisfactory invoices/receipts and bank statements
9. Projects funding in the future must evidence three quotations when purchasing goods

**Eligible items covered within the Fund**

The Fund is specifically designed to help eligible clubs and organisations to meet additional costs required to comply with COVID-19 restrictions and eligible items include:

* Facility Hire e.g. applications are acceptable for facility hire if additional sessions are required by the club to meet Covid-19 guidelines
* Purchasing additional equipment, such as sports kits, balls, etc.
* Sanitising products
* Any other costs that can be reasonably demonstrated to have been incurred due to the impact of COVID -19

**How much funding is available?**

Each successful applicant can receive up to £1,000 on eligible items purchased since 1st April 2020 relating Covid - 19 compliance. 100% funding is available.

Priority will be given to those applicants not previously in receipt of the Sport Northern Ireland Sports Hardship Fund award.

Organisations **should not apply** if they have:

* Received grant funding through the Department for Economy Retail Hospitality, Tourism and Leisure Grant
* Clubs who have received Council’s previous Sports Hardship funding are ineligible in this round.

**How to apply:**

Applications can be completed online via <https://antrimandnewtownabbey.gov.uk/sportshardshipfund/>

**What happens next:**

If a sports club is successful in receiving a Sports Hardship grant, the club will be sent a letter of offer which will detail the award amount and what to do next.

Successful applicants will be required to:

1. Sign and return an acceptance form within 10 days of receiving the letter of offer
2. Complete and return a supplier details form (bank account details) to enable grant payments via BACs
3. Complete and return claim form along with evidence of spend, i.e., copies of original banks statements, invoices and receipts
4. Complete and return monitoring form

**Vouching:**

Successful applicants must demonstrate evidence of spend by submitting invoices or receipts. Invoices and receipts must be accompanied with a bank statement to show transactions from Sports Club’s nominated bank account to the supplier.

Purchases paid for in cash will not be accepted.

Sports Hardship Fund **Timeline:**

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| Applications open 12 noon | Thursday 1 April 2021 |
| Applications submitted by 12 noon | Friday 23 April 2021 |
| Applications assessed/ scored  | w/c 26 April 2021 |
| Letter of Offer issued | w/c 3 May 2021 |