

BADMINTON England Funding

BADMINTON England has a small amount of capital funding which is available to capital projects which will directly contribute to achieving our key objective of increasing the number of people playing badminton at least once a week.

For more details please read our guidance notes available on our website.

OTHER FUNDING

There is very little funding available for sport at the moment, but the best places to look are as follows:

SPORT ENGLAND FUNDING

Sport England is responsible for distributing National Lottery funding to sports projects in England. They run a variety of programmes which target different sectors and sizes of project. Clubs, community and voluntary sector groups and local councils can apply for grants for the development of the capital infrastructure. This can include contributions to the costs of new build, modernisation and major fixed equipment where it is an integral part of a project. There are the usual exclusions including applications for minor works, repairs and maintenance, retrospective applications, and applications from individuals. Full details of current programmes can be found on their website <http://www.sportengland.org/funding/>

Obviously, every applicant project has to help Sport England achieve its targets. The other key features Sport England will be looking for in projects are:

- How Sport England funding will facilitate genuinely sustainable community sports facilities
- How the project will deliver new, leading edge solutions by way of design, delivery or management
- How the project is setting best practice standards that can be replicated elsewhere
- Evidence that the project will benefit all sections of the local community
- Evidence of strong partnership working
- Sport at the heart of community hubs with the co-location of local services, particularly the further coming together of sport, education, health and community service sectors
- Joined-up planning across boundaries both within and across local authority areas
- A sustainable business plan combining capital & revenue, public & private resources to support the facility, including sports development initiatives and life-cycle costs

The programmes are usually heavily oversubscribed so Sport England has a number of ways to prioritise the applications:

- Projects with high levels of partnership funding already obtained, or with evidence of commitment by relevant parties
- Revenue funding in place which demonstrates the long-term sustainability of the project
- Involvement of public and voluntary sectors through new management structures, for example social enterprise (community ownership) and public private hybrids
- Strategic partnerships with national and regional agencies

Landfill Communities Funds

A lot of waste collection, treatment and disposal firms set up charitable trusts in 1997 under the Landfill Communities Fund (formerly the Landfill Tax Credit Scheme), because this gave them tax relief. Companies like Cemex, SITA, Veolia and Biffa all have grant schemes, but you have to be within a certain distance (usually 5 or 10 miles) of one of their sites. The schemes broadly aim to benefit local communities in the vicinity of a landfill site, supporting community and environmental projects which protect, preserve and improve the environment. As a consequence, they tend to focus on outdoor areas like play areas and skate parks, footpaths and green spaces, but they can also fund improvements to community halls.

Preference is given to projects that can demonstrate that:

- They are sustainable
- Economic, social and environmental issues have been taken into account
- The project involves the socially disadvantaged
- Recycled products and energy saving devices are used where possible
- Good use is made of volunteers
- The project aids 'skills transfer

Most schemes will not accept applications for projects costing more than £500,000 in total. Applicants can obtain funding of up to £150,000 in very exceptional circumstances, although any grants over £100,000 are extremely rare and the average award is between £25,000 and £40,000. Applicants are expected to show what other sources of funding have been sought and secured. Match funding may be local authority or government funding, or the applicant's own resources.

The schemes usually fund projects under the following five categories, of which D is your best chance:

Category A - Projects that involve reclaiming land, the use of which has been prevented by some previous activity.

Category B - Projects that reduce or prevent pollution to land.

Category D - Projects that provide or maintain public amenities or parks (including community halls - new, conversion and refurbishment).

Category DA - Projects that help deliver biodiversity conservation for UK species habitats.

Category E - Projects to restore or repair buildings for religious worship, or of architectural interest.

General exclusions include projects with a total estimated cost of £500,000 or more; the purchase or lease of land or buildings; preliminary feasibility studies. Unfortunately, projects within schools (buildings and grounds) and other educational establishments are often excluded, and applications for sports facilities or improvements will not be accepted from Sports Clubs or Associations. However, fully 'public' facilities such as a multi-use games area or tennis courts in a public park, not managed by a club or association, will be considered. Category D also often specifically excludes projects within or connected to schools and educational establishments.

Other criteria are common to most grant schemes e.g. Projects must be operated on a non-profit making basis; large projects must provide business plans with their applications; the combination of professional fees and management fees must not exceed 15% of the total cost, planning permission must have already been obtained (if required).

Company Foundations

Several companies like ASDA, Co-Op, Halifax etc. operate charitable foundations which either invite direct application or support projects nominated by staff. If you have a big company in your area it is always worth enquiring.

As an example, the ASDA Foundation was set up to assist charities, people and projects within the UK that require financial assistance and which have the direct support and involvement from ASDA. No minimum or maximum amount is stipulated. ASDA staff have supported a wide variety of local charities, community groups, schools, playgroups, community centres and football teams in recent years, but you need to be a registered charity to apply.

Charitable Trusts

These can be set up by individuals or organisations and can have very obscure and specific criteria, e.g. research into asthma in the ancient parish of Upper Snodgrass, so it is just luck as to whether you happen to be in the right place, with the right project.

One of the more general ones is the Garfield Weston Foundation, which was established in 1958 by Willard Garfield Weston, a Canadian businessman who created Associated British Foods. The Foundation has no specific priorities for funding and aims to support a wide range of charitable activity in the UK. Recent funding has included projects in the fields of community, education, and health. Applicants must be registered UK charities. Again, there is no limit to the size of grant available and every application is considered on its own merits. In general, the Trust looks for organisations to have raised the majority of funding through local or statutory sources before an application is made.

In assessing applications, the Foundation takes the following criteria into consideration:

- Financial viability of the organisation.
- Degree of need for the project requiring funding.
- Ability to raise sufficient funding to meet the appeal target.
- Whether the aims of the organisation meet the Trustees' aspirations.
- Whether the organisation has the right priorities.
- The ability of the organisation to achieve the goals of the project.

As with all applications, the trick is to show how your project will contribute to much broader social objectives.

Sport-Specific Funds

There are funds which offer support to specific sports. Unfortunately we have not found one which supports badminton yet, but there are funds for canoeing, rowing, cricket and hockey, and the biggest sport-specific fund is the Football Foundation. If you can develop a project which involves a partnership with another NGB it not only gives you access to their equivalent of the capital funding we administer at BADMINTON England, but may also give you access to a sport-specific fund that would otherwise be closed to you.