

FINANCIAL HARDSHIP ASSISTANCE POLICY

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to establish guidelines and procedures for athletes experiencing financial hardship to help ensure every athlete can participate equally. This assistance is open to both Junior and Senior Club members.

Background

Yeovil Netball Club (YNC) is a community based non-profit organisation dedicated to fostering and promoting a safe, disciplined, respectful, team-oriented programme where players can learn the fundamentals of netball, develop skills to be competitive in the game, and build the essential characteristics of good sportsmanship and strong character.

YNC understands that our community, families, households and individuals may suffer financial difficulty from time to time. Financial hardship can present challenges to meeting primary needs, much less discretionary activities. YNC acknowledges the role of sports in the personal, physical and emotional development of a player. It is the philosophy of YNC that no player should be turned away from recreational sports activities due to cost or affordability.

YNC works hard to manage the expenses of the organisation in order to deliver a quality program at a reasonable cost. Although we manage our funds such that the collected programme fees largely fund our programmes, YNC will consider various forms of payment arrangements to ensure that all players can participate.

Process

To be considered for Financial Hardship Assistance, the athlete (or a member acting on behalf of the player if they are a Junior Player) must submit a request (by letter or email) to the Senior Club Chairperson. The financial hardship request will be kept confidential. Only the members of the YNC Executive will have knowledge of the request.

The letter should include the following:

1. Athlete's name
2. Address, phone number and email address
3. Reason for the request.
4. Support required (training fees, affiliation, kit cost, transportation)
5. Proposed payment plan, if any (i.e. % payment agreed to be paid and timeframe)

Upon receipt of the letter, the Chairperson will review with the sub-committee or pass onto the Junior Club Chairperson if relevant for a Junior Player. The sub-committee consisting of the Chairperson, Treasurer and Safeguarding Officer will vote to approve, counter or deny the request at the earliest convenience and take no longer than one month to make a decision. An official quorum of Executives must be present to decide a hardship request.

The Chairperson will communicate the decision and any related payment plan by letter or email to the Applicant. The Applicant shall make payment, if any, as stipulated in the decision letter, to YNC via cash, BACs or cheque.

Limitation on Financial Assistance

- All approved Financial Hardship Arrangements will expire at the end of each season unless agreed for a longer period.
- YNC may require the applicant to submit a request for a relevant participation grant e.g. Masonic Lodge, Town Council Young Person Grant, etc.
- The player must consistently attend practices and games.
- Payment arrangements **may** include non financial support. For example:
 - Participating in YNC supported fundraising events or volunteer opportunities.
 - Coaching, umpiring or similar assistance.
 - Other needs of YNC, to be determined by the Executive, as may arise.
- The decision to offer Financial Hardship Assistance is solely at the discretion of the Executive.