

Regional Club Development Grant Funding

For 2026 the Swim England East Midland Region is introducing grant funding to support club development within the region.

Our regional board will consider applications on a quarterly basis. We welcome any projects or plans with the aim of improving athlete experience, developing coaches and/or volunteers, growing membership or introducing new sections or sports to your club. Your project should show the potential for long-term, sustainable development or growth. Applications for £200 up to £2000 will be considered.

Before you submit an application, we would ask you to contact your regional club development officer, Helen Bickerstaff – helen.bickerstaff@swimming.org – for support and guidance.

Example projects:

Splash Swimming Club would like to introduce a water polo section to their club comprising of a junior beginners section and a masters social section. The club request funds to support the training of a coach and assistant coach as well as the startup equipment (goals and balls) to facilitate this.

Aqua Artistic Swimming Club would like to extend their CPD offer for Coaches and Teachers and develop their coaches through external mentoring. They have requested funds to send their coaches on training courses, and to get a coach mentor to support for a 6-month period.

Exclusions:

The grant funding will not cover:

- The replacement of existing equipment such as lane ropes, diving blocks etc.
- Money to cover existing running costs (pool hire, coach fees etc.) with no development or growth plan.
- Competition entry fees
- Equipment, fixtures or fittings not used solely by the club.

Requirements

- Your club personnel report must show all relevant safeguarding and DBS checks to be in place.
- The club must complete the application form, along with a development plan
- The club must commit to contributing at least 25% of the costs incurred, this can be from additional external funding, existing pool hire, resources etc.
- One application can be submitted per year.
- The club must maintain communication with the region and provide an update/updates on progress.

Process:

1. Contact your club development officer, Helen Bickerstaff to discuss your thought and plans.
2. Submit an application and development plan to the regional board.
3. The regional board will meet on a published date, and a decision will be made. Your application may be approved for the full amount requested, approved in part, or rejected. The decision will be communicated to you within one week of the meeting, unless the panel require more information, or time to deliberate.

4. If successful, you will receive 50% of your funding on submission of an invoice to the region.
5. You will receive the remaining 50% of your funding following submission of a progress report and second invoice, no less than 3 months after the initial payment.

Notes:

The region has the right to withdraw their financial support if they feel the club are not progressing with the submitted plan, are not communicating with the region, or are not complying with Swim England policies and standards.

The Regional Board decision on funding is final and cannot be challenged.