



COVID-19 CLUB SUPPORT
NORTHERN IRELAND

7 April 2020

COVID-19 – Related Club Support – NI

The following information relates to support available to Tennis Clubs based in Northern Ireland.

Rates holiday for businesses

There will be a three-month rates holiday for all business ratepayers.

- No rates will be charged for April, May and June 2020.
- Shown as a 25 per cent discount on the annual rate bill for business ratepayers.
- Applied automatically and clubs do not have to apply for this relief

Small Business Grants

The NI Executive is providing a one-off grant of £10,000 to businesses that are currently in receipt of Small Business Rate Relief (SBRR). Key points to note are:

- SBRR is automatically applied to business properties with a rateable value below £15,000, though some exclusions to SBRR apply.
- Automatic payments will be made to those eligible businesses whose bank account details are held for the purposes of paying rates by Direct Debit. The first payment in the Small Business Support Grant Scheme will be made on 31 March if not before.
- Eligible businesses that don't currently pay business rates by Direct Debit can register for the scheme and provide their bank details by completing the following online registration form:
<https://www.covid-19smallbusinessgrants.economy-ni.gov.uk/>
- Please note this grant is only available to clubs that currently pay business rates
- We are currently working with Sport NI, Department for Communities and Department of Economy to determine what other business grants may become available for sports clubs

Hospitality Grants

The NI Executive is providing a one-off grant of £25,000 to ratepayers in the hospitality, tourism and retail sectors. Key points to note are:

- Open to qualifying sectors who pay rates on a property with a rateable value between £15,000 and £51,000.
- Further details about how to access this grant will be announced as soon as this is possible by the NI Executive

VAT Deferral for clubs

The government will be automatically deferring business payments for VAT:

- The deferral will apply from 20 March 2020 until 30 June 2020.
- All UK VAT registered businesses are eligible.
- This is an automatic offer with no applications required. You do not need to tell HMRC that you are deferring your VAT payment.
- Businesses will not need to make a VAT payment during this period.
- Taxpayers will be given until the end of the 2020 to 2021 tax year to pay any liabilities that have accumulated during the deferral period.
- VAT refunds and reclaims will be paid by the government as normal.
- If you normally pay by Direct Debit you should contact your bank to **cancel your Direct Debit as soon as you can**, or you can cancel online if you're registered for online banking.

Further guidance available:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/deferral-of-vat-payments-due-to-coronavirus-covid-19>

Support for clubs paying tax: Time to Pay service

All businesses and self-employed people in financial distress, and with outstanding tax liabilities, may be eligible to receive support with their tax affairs through HMRC's Time To Pay service.

- These arrangements are agreed on a case-by-case basis and are tailored to individual circumstances and liabilities.
- You are eligible if your business pays tax to the UK government and has outstanding tax liabilities
- If you have missed a tax payment or you might miss your next payment due to COVID-19, please call HMRC's dedicated helpline: 0800 0159 559.

Job Retention Scheme for clubs

A number of clubs have employees such as bar staff, players or coaches. Government support is available to retain these employees.

- Under the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme, all UK employers will be able to access support to continue paying part of their employees' salary for those employees that would otherwise have been laid off during this crisis.
- Designate affected employees as 'furloughed workers' (i.e. employees are kept on your payroll, rather than being laid off) and notify your employees of this change - changing the status of employees remains subject to existing employment law and, depending on the employment contract, may be subject to negotiation
- Submit information to HMRC about the employees that have been furloughed and their earnings through a new online portal (HMRC will set out further details on the information required)
- HMRC will reimburse 80% of furloughed workers wage costs, up to a cap of £2,500 per month. HMRC are working to set up a system for reimbursement. Existing systems are not set up to facilitate payments to employers.

Further guidance available:

HMRC: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/claim-for-wage-costs-through-the-coronavirus-job-retention-scheme>

Labour Relations Agency: <https://www.lra.org.uk/resources/covid-19-practical-guidance-coronavirus-job-retention-scheme-cjrs>

Self-Employed Coaches

The Self-employment Income Support Scheme (SEISS) will support self-employed individuals who have lost income due to coronavirus (COVID-19).

This scheme will allow you to claim a taxable grant worth 80% of your trading profits up to a maximum of £2,500 per month for the next 3 months.

Further guidance:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/claim-a-grant-through-the-coronavirus-covid-19-self-employment-income-support-scheme>

Cashflow problems

We recommend that clubs follow advice from NI Business Support:

<https://www.nibusinessinfo.co.uk/content/coronavirus-advice-if-youre-experiencing-cashflow-pressures>

Commercial insurance

Most commercial insurance policies are unlikely to cover pandemics or unspecified notifiable diseases, such as COVID-19.

However, those businesses which have an insurance policy that covers government ordered closure and pandemics or government ordered closure and unspecified notifiable disease should be able to make a claim (subject to the terms and conditions of their policy).

Insurance policies differ significantly, so businesses are encouraged to check the terms and conditions of their specific policy and contact their providers.

Other Funding and Grants Available

Charities Aid Foundation Coronavirus Emergency Fund

In this time of national crisis, CAF has launched this rapid response Fund to help smaller charitable organisations affected by the impact of Covid-19. Grants of up to £10,000 will help them to continue to deliver much needed support to our communities across the UK.

This is intended as a rapid response fund, and we aim to make payments to selected organisations within 14 days of application.

We anticipate high numbers of applicants and unfortunately it is likely that we will not be able to offer a grant to all eligible applicants

<https://www.cafonline.org/charities/grantmaking/caf-coronavirus-emergency-fund>

Halifax Grant Programmes

The Halifax small and medium grant programmes are open for applications – any COVID-19 related applications designed to support the community at this time of crisis will be prioritised and turned around as quickly as possible.

<https://www.halifaxfoundationni.org/funding-opportunities>

Coronavirus Community Fund

Now up to £10K available & widened from over 50s to include those at increased risk, (poor mental health & wellbeing) & vulnerable, isolated people & families, particularly in rural areas.

Open to constituted organisations based in Northern Ireland. We want to support community groups working together, particularly in smaller geographical communities. We will therefore encourage a partnership approach, and one application from one lead organisation, rather than a number of separate applications.

<https://communityfoundationni.org/grants/coronavirus-community-fund/>

The Bank of Ireland Begin Together Fund 2020

The Begin Together Fund will support new project-based activities with grants of up to €5,000 (or the sterling equivalent) for local, not for profit groups working to improve the physical and/or mental and/ or financial wellbeing of the communities they serve across all counties on the island of Ireland.

Closing Date: 9th April

<https://www.communityfoundation.ie/grants/types-of-grants/bank-of-ireland-begin-together-fund-2020>

Local Council grant aid

We would advise clubs to keep an eye on Council grant aid programmes:

<https://antrimandnewtownabbey.gov.uk/grants/>

<https://www.ardsandnorthdown.gov.uk/resident/grants>

<https://www.armaghbanbridgecraigavon.gov.uk/>

<https://www.belfastcity-grants.com/>

<https://www.fermanaghomagham.com/services/funding-and-grants/grant-aid-arts-community-sports/>

<https://www.lisburncastlereagh.gov.uk/>

<https://www.midandeantrim.gov.uk/resident/grants/grants>

<https://www.newrymouredown.org/residents-grants-and-funding>

The National Lottery Community Fund

Empowering Young People is a grants programme designed to support projects in Northern Ireland that give young people aged 8 to 25 the ability to overcome the challenges they face.

Area: Northern Ireland. Suitable for: Voluntary or community organisations. Funding size: £10,000 to £500,000. Application deadline: 31 March 2021.

<https://www.tnlcommunityfund.org.uk/funding/programmes/empowering-young-people#section-1>

Boost

Small grants are available to charities and non-profit making organisations with a focus on helping disabled and disadvantaged individuals in the UK to participate in sport. About 40% has been awarded to disability programmes. The trust will only support charities or non-profit making organisations with a focus on sport.

More information: <https://www.boostct.org>