



COVID-19 TENNIS CLUB SUPPORT
Republic of Ireland

7 April 2020

COVID-19 – Related Club Support - ROI

The following information relates to support available to Tennis Clubs based in the Republic of Ireland.

Temporary COVID-19 Wage Subsidy Scheme

The Irish Government is offering a Temporary COVID-19 Wage Subsidy Scheme whereby an eligible employer will be supported up to 70% of an employee's take home income up to a maximum weekly tax free payment of €410 (that is, 70% of take home weekly income of €38,000 per annum). Provincial Unions will assist clubs to avail of this scheme if applicable.

COVID-19 Pandemic Unemployment Payment

Any Player, Administrator or Coach (including those self-employed) who is unemployed as a result of the ongoing situation may be entitled to the COVID-19 Pandemic Unemployment Payment of €350 per week. Applications can be made through the online portal www.MyWelfare.ie.

Short Time Work Support

Short Time Work Support is a form of Jobseeker's Benefit and is an income support payment if you have been temporarily placed on a shorter working week.

The payment is made in respect of your regular salary for the days that you are no longer working. For example, if your working week has been reduced from a 5 day work pattern to a 3 day work pattern, you can receive support for the other 2 days. Short Time Work Support is paid for a maximum of 234 days. Your entitlement will depend on the number of social insurance contributions you have. To qualify for Short Time Work Support, you must satisfy the two main PRSI Conditions for Jobseeker's Benefit. Employees must work 3 days per week or less to qualify, having previously been employed on a full time basis. The quickest way to apply for Jobseeker's Benefit is through www.MyWelfare.ie.

Enterprise Ireland Business Continuity Voucher

The new Business Continuity Voucher, available through Local Enterprise Offices, is designed for businesses across every sector that employ up to 50 people.

The voucher is worth up to €2,500 in third party consultancy costs and can be used by companies and sole traders to develop short-term and long-term strategies to respond to the Covid-19 pandemic.

The goal is to help companies make informed decisions about what immediate measures and remedial actions should be taken to protect staff and sales.

If your application is successful, a qualified expert will be selected by your Local Enterprise Office to work with you on your business continuity plans. The value of this service is up to a maximum of €2,500.

<https://www.localenterprise.ie/Portal/response/Business-Continuity-Voucher/Business-Continuity-Voucher.html>

Commercial Rates Deferral

The Government has agreed with local authorities that they should agree to defer rates payments due from the most immediately impacted businesses - primarily in the retail, hospitality, leisure and childcare sectors, for three months, until end-May. This measure will be implemented by each local authority in its own area.

Employment Permit Applications

The Department, given the uncertainty that addressing the COVID-19 pandemic has presented for employers, recognises that this may impact on the ability of new employees to take up employment and therefore will facilitate changes to employment permit applications already submitted. The Department can hold applications in their processing queue until the situation becomes clearer, allow changes to start dates where a permit application has not yet been processed, and at any stage up until the processing of an application has taken place, an applicant may request that their application be cancelled, in which case a 100% refund will issue if the withdrawal is as a result of the crisis.

Sports Capital Grants

Tennis Ireland, via the Federation of Irish Sport, made a representation to the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport for forbearance with clubs which would inevitably struggle to avail of their Sports Capital Grants within the documented timeframes for drawing down the funding.

The response from the Department is broadly favourable as follows:

'Please reassure your members that the Sports Capital Division is continuing to advance all grants and we are prioritising grant drawdown requests. Clubs / NGB's should not notice any additional delays in these payment requests.'

Revenue

Revenue has provided the following updates:

- Repayments / Refunds – They will continue to prioritise the approval and processing of repayments and refunds, primarily VAT repayments and PSWT refunds, to taxpayers
- Payments for Employer Income Tax/PRSI/USC/LPT are debited on the third last working day of each month for both Fixed Direct Debit and Variable Direct Debit payments. However, where a variable direct debit fails due to insufficient funds, Revenue has suspended the process of issuing a further request for the payments until further notice
- All debt enforcement activity is suspended until further notice. The application of interest on late payments is suspended for all SME businesses in respect of January/February VAT and both February and March PAYE (Employers) liabilities.

Bank Loan Repayment Break Options

Most banks are offering Repayment Breaks to businesses affected by Covid-19.

Clubs are recommended to contact their bank for details. Concessions on Bank Fees are also available in limited circumstances.

NSAI COVID-19 Workplace Protection and Improvement Guide

NSAI has issued a series of documents aimed at providing information on requirements to implement, maintain and improve an organisation's ability to protect against, prepare for, respond to and recover from COVID-19 related disruptions when they arise. This document covers identification and defence against COVID-19 by addressing:

- a. Business Continuity Risk Identification and mitigation,
- b. Management of the risks,
- c. Site recovery.

The document is available here:

[https://www.nsai.ie/images/uploads/general/Covid-19 Workplace Protection and Improvement Guide.pdf](https://www.nsai.ie/images/uploads/general/Covid-19_Workplace_Protection_and_Improvement_Guide.pdf)

Posters & Signage

Posters & Signage for use in workplaces and other public areas are available here:

<https://www.gov.ie/en/collection/ee0781-covid-19-posters-for-public-use/>

<https://www.gov.ie/en/collection/428743-covid-19-coronavirus-physical-distancing-graphics/>

Measures in place for people struggling with utility bills

The Commission for Regulation of Utilities (CRU) has issued a moratorium on disconnections of customers for non-payment to the gas and electricity suppliers.

The suppliers have arrangements in place for any customers in arrears which are overseen by CRU and have a number of emergency provisions to assist Pay As You Go customers.

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.