

## **Travel Funding Support 2021/22**

Further to the announcements in the Community Game updates on 15<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> June, we are pleased to provide more information on travel funding support available for season 2021/22.

### **1) Mainland clubs travelling to the Isle of Man, Guernsey and Jersey – Women and Men**

A fixed grant of £2,000.00 will be provided to each mainland team for the purpose of travel (flight or otherwise) to Guernsey, Jersey or IoM.

This is applicable to all mainland XV's teams, Adult Men and Women playing RFU league matches at L3 to L12, and L2 to L6 respectively. Clubs unable to fulfil matches for reasons deemed to be in their control must return the allocated funding. Any unspent monies from this offshore fund will be transferred into the needs based travel fund (see Section 3).

For clubs travelling to **Guernsey** in the men's or women's leagues it is proposed that, as in season 2019/20, Guernsey RFC can book and manage the flights for all clubs coming to the Island. Travelling clubs will be responsible for all other costs. A Memorandum of Understanding will need to be signed with Guernsey (as per 2019/20) and the agreement of other teams within National 2 South will need to be sought out. In this case the £2k grant for each club would be paid direct to Guernsey RFC, however further details will be communicated to those clubs impacted later this week and the arrangement will be subject to all clubs agreement.

For clubs travelling to **Jersey** and the **IoM**, mainland clubs will have the grant paid direct by the end of July and will need to arrange their own travel (which can be through England Rugby Travel or any other means). Please note clubs will need to use their own resources to fund additional costs for their offshore journey, if a club does not have financial capacity for this, they may apply for the "**Needs based travel fund**" – please see section 3 below for further information.

### **2) Mainland clubs travelling to the Isle of Wight – Men**

Hampshire RFU will receive a fixed grant of £10850 (31 x £350) to distribute to clubs travelling to IOW in accordance with HRFU policy in supporting rugby on the island.

### **3) Needs Based Travel Fund**

Clubs competing in RFU Leagues will be responsible for covering the costs for away travel.

The **Needs Based Travel Fund** is a limited fund that has been created for circumstances where a club may struggle to fulfil an away fixture without financial support from the RFU.

Applications will be assessed and the decision on whether the club is eligible for grant will be based on the established criteria (see below). A panel, formed of Council Members and staff, will make these decisions.

Grants may be provided on a pro-rata basis in case the total application exceeds the total funding amount available.

## **Criteria and process to apply for the “Needs based travel fund”**

### **FUND CRITERIA**

#### **Who can apply?**

Adult Men and Women clubs participating in RFU league matches L3 to L12, and L2 to L6 respectively (including offshore and mainland teams) that do not have funds to travel to fulfil away fixtures. The application must be made by one authorised officer of the club.

#### **Can Lower XVs apply for this Fund?**

Yes. As long as they are part of RFU Leagues.

#### **Can a club apply for funding for more than one team?**

Yes. Clubs can apply for funding for several of their teams, as long as they are part of RFU Leagues.

For example, a club could apply for funding for the Men’s 1<sup>st</sup> XV, Men’s 2<sup>nd</sup> XV and Women’s 1<sup>st</sup> XV.

#### **Can clubs residing in Isle of Wight, Jersey, Guernsey and Isle of Man apply?**

Yes, adult teams competing in RFU Leagues, as described above, can.

#### **How much may the club be awarded?**

We anticipate the fund will provide financial support to clubs in hardship that need support to be able to fulfil away fixtures. Applications will be considered on a case-by-case basis and priority will be given to clubs that have clearly evidenced a higher level of financial need. Successful applications will receive a grant offer which is specific to a club's circumstances and based on financial need. It may not be for the full amount requested.

### **APPLICATION PROCESS**

#### **When can we apply?**

Applications open on 29 June and close on 23 July. Only complete applications will be considered. If any information is missing after the closing deadline, the application will be rejected.

#### **How do we apply?**

Eligible clubs should apply by using the online application form available via the link at the bottom of this page.

#### **What information do we need to provide now?**

Clubs will need to complete/supply:

- Online application form
- Number of return journeys over 150 miles.
- Cost estimate for those journeys.
- Value of the club's unrestricted reserves as at 1 July 2021.

#### **What do you mean by ‘unrestricted’ reserves?**

Unrestricted reserves refers to cash that is not tied to a particular use. It can be used freely for any purpose as it is not earmarked for a specific use.

#### **How will we know if we have been successful?**

Teams will be notified if their application has been successful by mid-August.

Funds will be released shortly afterwards.

**Where should I go if I need help completing the application form?**

Please send any questions to [competitionfunding@rfu.com](mailto:competitionfunding@rfu.com)

**Will we definitely receive the grant if we apply?**

No. Grants will only be awarded if the grant criteria is met. Grants may be provided on a pro-rata basis in case the total applications exceeds the total funding amount available.

Please remember there are no guarantees that you will receive funding - clubs will be required to clearly demonstrate their financial need for funding to ensure completion of away fixtures – the funding will only be available on this basis and subject to due process.

**Link for funding applications**

The link for the application form for the “Needs Based Travel Fund” is [here](#).

Please note, as mentioned, **applications close on 23 July**.