



Hardship Grant Information and Application Process

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The British Gymnastics Foundation is very proud to be able to offer a Hardship Grants programme, which aims to alleviate significant financial hardship to support British Gymnastics members to continue their participation in gymnastics. Current individual members can apply for hardship funding including gymnasts, coaches and volunteers, with no preference given to those on performance pathways. The amount of grant awarded is assessed on a case-by-case basis and will not normally exceed £500. Please read the information below before applying.

IMPORTANT

- All applications for hardship grants **MUST** be made using the Application Form accessible from the British Gymnastics Foundation website.
- If you cannot access the form, please contact us at theteam@britishgymnasticsfoundation.org

APPLICANTS

Important Information for Applicants:

- Each Hardship Grant application round will open at 9am on a Monday and the deadline for completing and submitting the application will be Midnight on the following Sunday – you have 7 days to complete the application.
- The Application Form link will be on the British Gymnastics Foundation website when a round is open to receive applications.
- You must be a current member of British Gymnastics to apply for the Hardship Grant and have read the Criteria for Hardships Grants (below).
- All sections of the online application form must be completed for an application to be considered.
- Once your application has been completed and submitted, your endorser will be notified, they will be provided with a link to endorse your application, and they will be given a further 7 days to complete the endorsement for your application. Please note, British Gymnastics Foundation will not share the details which you have written in your application, other than your name and the amount of grant you have applied for. If you wish to share your full application details with your endorser, you will need to arrange this yourself.
- Your application will be complete once your endorser has submitted their part. We will notify you of this, then your application will then be sent to the hardship grant panel for review.
- You will be notified of the outcome of your application once the review process has completed. We try and make grant decisions within one calendar month from the date an application is completed. However, when there are large numbers of applications, keeping to this timescale may not always be possible.

Criteria for Hardship Grants

1 Aim of British Gymnastics Foundation Hardship Grants

- 1.1** To alleviate significant financial hardship (see definition below);
- 1.2** The Trustees of British Gymnastics Foundation may, at their discretion, also award funding for non-financial hardship.

2 BGF's definition of significant financial hardship

- 2.1** For the purpose of BGF's Hardship Grants scheme, British Gymnastics Foundation defines significant financial hardship as being a shortage of finances which has the effect of ending people's involvement in gymnastics or makes it unreasonably difficult for people to continue to be involved in gymnastics.

3 Who is eligible to apply for British Gymnastics Foundation Hardship grants?

- 3.1** Current members of British Gymnastics who are experiencing financial difficulty which is affecting their continued involvement in gymnastics (including gymnastics coaches, gymnasts, gymnastics volunteers, gymnastics administrators);
- 3.2** Current members of British Gymnastics who are in crisis.

4 Who is not eligible to apply for British Gymnastics Foundation Hardship grants?

- 4.1** Those who are deemed to be financially capable of/or have the means to fund their involvement in gymnastics (but see 1.2 above);
- 4.2** Any person who has made a false claim in the past;
- 4.3** Gymnasts in receipt of UK Sport Lottery funding;
- 4.4** British Gymnastics staff members.

5 Other notes

- 5.1** Applicants must agree to British Gymnastics Foundation obtaining a statement (endorsement) in support of their application from one of the following:
 - 5.1.1** Head Coach (of the gym attended by the Applicant);
 - 5.1.2** Club Manager (of the gym attended by the Applicant).
 - 5.1.3** Club Welfare Officer (of the gym attended by the Applicant).
- 5.2** The Awards Panel may also ask British Gymnastics staff members to verify Hardship Grant applications. However, British Gymnastics staff cannot act as endorsers to applications for Hardship Funding.
- 5.3** Hardship Grants cannot be used to pay British Gymnastics membership subscriptions.
- 5.4** Hardship grants cannot be awarded retrospectively.
- 5.5** Hardship grants can be awarded "in principle", subject to the applicant being selected for a particular event or competition.
- 5.6** Normally only one grant per person will be awarded in a 12-month period.
- 5.7** British Gymnastics Foundation reserves the right to recover grant monies which have not been spent on the costs for which they were intended.
- 5.8** British Gymnastics Foundation will normally only consider applications where the applicant has been participating at a club for more than 6 months
- 5.9** In case of injury (current/previous) which may have long-term effect on health, British Gymnastics Foundation will request a letter of medical fitness to participate
- 5.10** At the discretion of the Grants Panel, grants may be made directly to the applicant's club where there is evidence to suggest that the applicant has difficulty with money management
- 5.11** Applications will be rejected if the club waives the majority of the fees

- 5.12** Applications for grants for travel costs will be rejected if the panel feels that some travel costs are unnecessary
- 5.13** Grants will be subject to speaking to applicant's coach in cases where the gymnast's hours exceed the recommended maximum
- 5.14** Where applicants are at university and want to pay their own fees (rather than parents), they need to provide evidence that parents are not/cannot support them financially
- 5.15** British Gymnastics Foundation will normally only award 50% of the cost of coaching courses, subject to checking that there are no free places available via British Gymnastics and subject to confirmation of course registration. If the applicant is the club's next "up and coming coach" then the club needs to support the cost of the coaching course
- 5.16** Where there are other Trusts operating in a club, applicants are asked to approach these first for support.
- 5.17** Clubs should be raising money or charging sufficient fees to the gymnasts to enable them to pay expenses to their coaches
- 5.18** Disneyland competitions/events are not funded
- 5.19** If an applicant is in receipt of a Sports Aid grant, then the Awards Panel accepts that the gymnast has performance potential, but this does not mean that the gymnast has financial hardship
- 5.20** If the grant recipient does not confirm their acceptance of a grant award within the timescales specified in their correspondence from British Gymnastics Foundation, then the recipient will be advised that their grant offer has been withdrawn
- 5.21** If a grant recipient fails to respond to a request for feedback, then a second application for a grant will not be considered
- 5.22** Whilst it is not a requirement for a club to contribute, club financial support may add more weight to an application
- 5.23** Receipts will be obtained from a sample of grant recipients. If receipts are not submitted when requested, then future applications from the same applicant will not be considered
- 5.24** If the Head Coach, Club Manager or Club Welfare Officer is a family member, then an endorsement from another senior staff member at the club will be accepted

For information on how the data within your application will be used, please see the Hardship Grants section within The British Gymnastics Foundation Privacy Notice:

<https://britishgymnasticsfoundation.org/privacy-statement/>

British Gymnastics Foundation takes its responsibility to eliminate fraud and money laundering very seriously. If you would like to view our Counter Fraud and Money Laundering Policy, you can do so by visiting our policies page: www.britishgymnasticsfoundation.org/policies

Any queries regarding eligibility and other matters should be sent to the Managing Director of British Gymnastics Foundation at the following address: theteam@britishgymnasticsfoundation.org

ENDORSERS

Endorsing Head Coach, Club Manager or Club Welfare Officer

- Only British Gymnastics members can apply for the Hardship Grant.
- The applicants will have 7 days to complete and submit their application. Each Hardship Grant application round will open at 9am on a Monday and the deadline for completing and submitting the application will be Midnight on the following Sunday.
- You can only endorse an application if you are a Head Coach, Club Manager or Club Welfare Officer (of the gymnastics club attended by the applicant) and have read the Criteria for Hardships Grants on Pages 2-3 above. Endorsers should normally have known the applicant for at least 6 months.
- You will receive a personal invitation from British Gymnastics Foundation to be the endorser of the hardship grant applicant.
- You will not receive the specific details which the applicant has written in their Hardship Grant Application form, unless the Hardship Grant Applicant shares those details with you.
- All sections of the endorsement form must be completed.
- You will need to complete the endorsement within 7 days from receiving the request and link to the form.
- Once completed, click submit and the application will be sent to the hardship grant panel for review.
- If you have any queries relating to the Hardship Grant Application funding, please contact us via theteam@britishgymnasticsfoundation.org

Important Notice

British Gymnastics (including the Customer Support Team) are not involved with the processing of Hardship Grant Applications or the management of British Gymnastics Foundation and as such will be unable to answer any queries you have about your application.

Please direct all queries regarding a Hardship Grant application or for general queries about our Foundation, please contact theteam@britishgymnasticsfoundation.org