



BNSC Hardship Fund

Swimming is an expensive sport. Our Hardship Fund is based on the principle that we want to make sure that we remain inclusive, including:

1. Members of our local community who would not otherwise be able to participate in Competitive Swimming
2. Existing members of Bristol North Swimming Club (BNSC) who experience temporary financial hardship

Selection for assistance by the Hardship Fund will be made by a panel acting on behalf of BNSC Committee. It will consist of: Club chairman, welfare, treasurer and membership secretaries, of which 3 out of 4 need to be present when cases discussed. A majority decision is required for an award to be approved.

1 Offer to Local Community

BNSC may offer one individual per annum, subject to club finances and committee approval, a place with the club if they can demonstrate that they would not otherwise be able to pay their fees. This would be a fully sponsored place with the club paying 100% of that individual's annual membership and training fees.

Notes

- "Local Community" is not formally defined and is subject to the discretion of the committee at the time of application. As a general guide, however, the applicant would normally be expected to be a resident of or have an existing relationship with the area where we swim, namely North Bristol.
- The award would be for one year, subject to reapplication at the end of that period if further support is requested.
- The award is dependent upon the individual's regular attendance in training and galas (if selected) without which the sponsored place may be suspended.
- The individual concerned, or their parent/guardian(s) if under 18yrs old, would be expected to volunteer their time and assistance where possible to support club activities
- If more than one person applies in any given year, the decision will be made by the selection panel acting on behalf of the committee
- This award is not open to existing or past members of Bristol North Swimming Club.

2 Offer to Existing Members

BNSC will seek to offer temporary financial assistance to existing club members subject to club finances, an assessment of need, and record of past contribution to the club

There are two levels of assistance available:

- a) Up to 100% assistance for up to 3 months of club fees including annual membership where the member can demonstrate a longstanding commitment to the club and past record of volunteering. This could then be followed by up to 50% assistance for a further 3 months if necessary (total duration of support- 6 months)
- b) Up to 50% assistance for all other members for up to 3 months based on need

Notes

- Each case to be assessed on an individual basis and subject to regular review
- "Longstanding commitment" is not strictly defined but as a guide is taken to mean continuous membership of Bristol North Swimming Club for at least 2 years including at least 50% attendance in training and record of participation in galas (where applicable)
- Consideration will be given to past timely payment of fees
- More than one member of a household can apply at any one time but individual swimmers can only receive support once (up to 6 months as stated above) during any 12 month period
- All members, or their parent/guardian(s), who seek assistance would be expected to contribute their time and assistance in helping to support the club, and would be asked to state how they are able to contribute at the time of application. Examples could include volunteering to coach/teach or assist with the running of club events eg galas, or planned activity eg social events.