



THE PLAYERS FOUNDATION
Company Number: 08352024
Charity Number: 1150458

Grant Making Policy

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to provide a clear framework for how The Players Foundation considers, awards, and monitors grants in furtherance of its charitable purposes and current strategic objectives.

This policy is intended to ensure that grant making is carried out:

- fairly, consistently, and transparently;
- in accordance with applicable laws and regulations;
- in line with recognised standards of good governance and best practice;
- with appropriate stewardship of the charity's funds and assets; and
- in a manner that protects and enhances the reputation of The Players Foundation.

This policy sets out the principles, priorities, eligibility criteria, and processes that guide the charity's grant making activity.

All grants are awarded at the discretion of the Trustees and are subject to available resources.

Submission of an application does not guarantee funding.

Scope and Beneficiaries

The Players Foundation exists to support its beneficiaries in accordance with the charitable objects set out in its Articles of Association and the charity's current strategic priorities.

"Beneficiaries" has the following meaning:

- trainee professional footballers;
- young persons registered with professional football academies associated with a club or centres of excellence associated with a club wishing to pursue a career as a professional footballer;
- former trainee professional footballers;
- professional footballers; and
- former professional footballers.

In all cases in this definition persons shall play or have played or trained with a club in the English Premier League and or Football League or any successor competition.

The objects of The Players Foundation also extend to :

- the furtherance of such charitable purpose or purposes as the directors of the charity (known as the trustees) shall from time to time think fit.

This enables the charity, at the Trustees' discretion, to apply funds for the wider public benefit where Trustees consider initiatives align with the charity's objectives and strategic priorities.



Priorities for Support

The number and value of grants that can be awarded in any year is dependent upon the funds available to the charity and the strategic priorities determined by the Trustees.

In determining priorities for support, Trustees will consider:

- assessed need;
- charitable impact;
- alignment with the charity's objects and strategic priorities;
- available resources; and
- the potential for sustainable and meaningful outcomes.

Trustees may consult with relevant stakeholders, advisers, or subject matter experts when determining priorities and assessing applications.

All applications are considered at the trustees' discretion.

The priorities set out within this policy will be reviewed by the Trustees at least every two years, or sooner if considered necessary.

Grant Making Principles

When considering applications for support, the Trustees will apply the following principles:

- Grants must further the charitable purposes of The Players Foundation.
- All applications will be considered on their individual merits.
- Previous receipt of funding does not guarantee future support.
- Applications from anywhere within the UK or overseas may be considered, subject to appropriate due diligence and governance requirements.
- Trustees will undertake proportionate due diligence appropriate to the nature, size, and risk of the application.
- The charity is open to working collaboratively with other organisations where this supports charitable impact and aligns with the charity's objectives.
- Trustees reserve the right to request additional information, impose conditions on grants, or decline applications at their discretion.

Individual Beneficiary Applications

Application Process

Applications for individual support should be made via the appropriate application form available on The Players Foundation website. Applications should, wherever possible, be submitted online. Applications may also be submitted in writing or by e-mail where appropriate.

Due Diligence

All applications will be subject to appropriate due diligence. Depending on the nature of the application, this may include:

- proof of identity;
- financial information;
- evidence of income, debts, or expenditure;
- evidence of hardship or need; and
- any other information reasonably required to assess the application.



Applicants will be advised of the information required.

All personal data will be processed and retained in accordance with applicable data protection legislation and the charity's privacy and data protection policies.

Further eligibility information is available within the online application process.

Organisational Applications

Application Requirements

Applications from organisations should be submitted in writing and supported by appropriate documentation, including where relevant:

- organisational information;
- a detailed project proposal;
- a detailed budget and breakdown of costs;
- evidence of need;
- intended outcomes and impact;
- governance and financial information; and
- sustainability or future plans.

Due Diligence

Applications are subject to an appropriate due diligence process, which may include review of:

- governing documents;
- previous accounts and financial information;
- safeguarding arrangements;
- policies and procedures;
- business or delivery plans;
- previous project delivery and impact; and
- any other information considered necessary by the Trustees.

All data provided will be processed and retained in accordance with applicable data protection legislation and the charity's privacy and data protection policies.

Exclusions

Trustees do not generally support:

- organisational set-up costs;
- ongoing unrestricted core running costs;
- retrospective funding;
- activities that primarily benefit private individuals or commercial organisations; or
- expenditure that, in the Trustees' discretion, does not sufficiently align with the charity's objectives, strategic priorities, or public benefit requirements.

These examples are not exhaustive, and all applications remain subject to Trustee discretion.

Decision Making Process

All applications go through a two stage process as follows:

Allocation

Applications will first be assessed against:

- eligibility criteria;



- available funds;
- strategic priorities; and
- any applicable restricted funding criteria.

Decision

Applications will be considered by the appropriate decision making body in accordance with delegated authority limits.

Delegated Authority

Applications for assistance of up to £5,000 may be determined by the executive team within delegated authority limits and in accordance with approved policies and procedures. Applications exceeding £5,000 will be referred to the CEO or an appropriate Trustee. Applications exceeding £25,000 will be referred to the Board of Trustees for determination.

All decisions made under delegated authority will be reported to the Board of Trustees periodically as part of the charity's usual reporting processes.

Conflicts of Interest

Any actual or potential conflict of interest identified during the application or decision making process must be declared and managed in accordance with the charity's Conflict of Interest Policy.

Trustees or staff members with a conflict of interest will not participate in discussions or decisions relating to the relevant application unless expressly permitted under the charity's governing documents and policies.

Monitoring and Reporting

It is the policy of The Players Foundation to monitor grants awarded to ensure funds are applied appropriately and in accordance with agreed purposes.

Grants to or on Behalf of an Individual Beneficiary

Where possible, grant payments will be made directly to creditors or third parties. Where grants are payable in instalments, future payments may be conditional upon agreed actions or requirements being fulfilled. Trustees reserve the right to withhold or withdraw further funding where agreed conditions are not met.

Approved grants must be fulfilled within a 3-month period, after which a new application will need to be completed.

Grants to Organisations

Before a grant is confirmed, appropriate terms and conditions will be agreed, including where relevant:

- reporting requirements;
- agreed outputs or outcomes;
- project milestones;
- payment schedules; and
- monitoring arrangements.

Where grants are paid in instalments, continuation of funding may be dependent upon satisfactory progress having been demonstrated.



Grant recipients may be required to provide:

- progress reports;
- evidence of expenditure;
- copies of relevant invoices or accounts;
- information regarding other funding received for the same project; and
- any other information reasonably requested by the charity.

Failure to provide required reports or information within defined timeframes may affect continuation of funding.

Representatives of The Players Foundation may visit funded projects or activities where appropriate.

Approved grants must be fulfilled within the agreed timeframes, after which a new application will need to be completed.

Governance, Compliance and Audit

The Trustees are committed to ensuring appropriate governance, oversight, and accountability in all grant-making activity.

In relation to grants made overseas, Trustees will ensure:

- there is an appropriate audit trail for the movement of funds;
- adequate records are maintained;
- funds are applied solely for charitable purposes; and
- proportionate due diligence and monitoring arrangements are in place.

The charity may require additional reporting, safeguards, or contractual arrangements for higher risk or overseas grants.

Misuse of Funds

The Players Foundation reserves the right to suspend, withdraw, or seek repayment of grants, in whole or in part, where:

- funds have not been used for the agreed purposes;
- false or misleading information has been provided;
- grant conditions have not been complied with; or
- Trustees reasonably believe there has been misuse of charitable funds.

Any decision regarding recovery of funds will be made at the discretion of the Trustees.

Approved at the Trustee Board meeting on 28th July 2026

Next review: July 2028