

UPDATE ON SUPPORT FOR THE SPORT SECTOR (5)

This is a follow on to our briefing notes "Guidance and Information on Support for the Sport Sector (1) to (4)" available [here](#).

SPORT SPECIFIC

Here are the latest sporting bodies to announce the provision of financial support for their sport during COVID-19:

UEFA

- UEFA has agreed to release €236.5 million to help its 55 member associations.
- Each member association will receive €4.3 million to be used as they see fit to rebuild the football community in their respective countries.
- Since 2004, a large proportion of European championship revenue has been reinvested back into football development through UEFA's HatTrick assistance programme.
- This HatTrick funding is usually distributed to member associations to cover running costs and help develop specific areas in three ways: investment, education and knowledge-sharing. Now, each member association can set its own priorities in a way that is appropriate for their specific circumstances.

Pitch Preparation Fund

- The Premier League, the FA and Sport England has launched the "Pitch Preparation Fund".
- The £9.56 million fund shall provide funding to prepare and maintain football pitches for when restrictions are lifted.
- The scheme is open to football clubs and voluntary organisations that maintain their own pitches and have at least 12 months' security of tenure.
- Grants of up to £5,000 will help eligible clubs with essential maintenance work (slitting, overseeding, fertilizing and weedkilling) as well as routine preparatory works (grass cutting and line marking).
- The application window is open now until 9pm on Monday 25 May 2020.
- Further detail including eligibility criteria can be found [here](#).

Tennis

Player Relief Programme

- The ATP, WTA, the ITF and the four Grand Slams (Australian Open, Roland-Garros, Wimbledon and US Open) are working together to establish a Player Relief Programme to support players affected by coronavirus.
- The programme is currently reported to be worth £4.8 million, with the governing bodies as well as players (including Andy Murray and Novak Djokovic) contributing personally. Further support is yet expected from auctions, player donations and virtual tennis matches.
- The programme targets 800 singles and doubles players from the ATP and WTA Tours in need of financial support.
- Eligibility criteria for the programme will be agreed by all stakeholders but will take into account a player's ranking as well as previous prize money earnings.
- The ATP and WTA will administer the financial distributions.

All England Tennis Club (AELTC)

- In addition to supporting the Player Relief Programme (referred to above), AELTC has announced a series of other contributions following the cancellation of Wimbledon 2020.
- One such package targets local, national and international communities through the creation of a £1.2 million fund by the Wimbledon Foundation, that charity of the AELTC and The Championships to provide donations to charities and the British Red Cross. More information can be found out [here](#).

Rugby League

- The UK Government has announced that it has provided a £16 million emergency loan to The Rugby Football League (RFL) to safeguard the immediate future of the sport and the local communities it serves.
- The RFL will administer the funding, in partnership with Sport England, the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport.
- All clubs within the sport's three professional divisions – Super League, Championship and League One are eligible to apply.

Swimming

- The Swimathon Foundation has launched a COVID-19 Relief Fund to help the swimming and aquatics community meet their obligations during the period from 1 March 2020 to 31 July 2020.
- The scheme is open to organisations (including National Governing Body Affiliated Swim Clubs, Aquatic Clubs and Swim Schools to Independent Swimming Organisations) experiencing short-term financial hardship from the effects of COVID-19.
- Grants of between £250 and £1,000 are available. The deadline for applications is 22 May 2020 using the online form available [here](#).

This note has been prepared on 13 May 2020. Given the live and rapidly evolving nature of events, we will provide further updates in due course, as further measures are announced and practical implications worked through.

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