

MRC Aspiring Athlete Support Grant Policy - 02 2024



Background

The club set up an aspiring athlete fund to support junior and youth rowers who are on a performance pathway.

Every year the club aims to hold a summer regatta and an Autumn and winter Head, these events rely on a lot of member support and volunteer effort. These events traditionally make a profit for the club, while it was felt this was good for the club it was also considered that the club should support an annual charity and young rowers. It was proposed that a sum of money from the events should go towards the club's chosen charity and a separate fund set up to support young rowers. The young rower support is known as the Aspiring Athlete Fund (AAF)

The fund has grown over a number of years but not many athletes have benefitted from the fund. Some of this is due to a lack of awareness of the fund and partially because the application process has not been clear.

Fund Creation and Aims

The aim of the fund is to support younger rowers who are eligible to row for Wales and may be faced with significant costs to attend National squad training camps, championships or National team qualification.

Applications to receive money from the fund are open to any person.

Historically £1 from each seat entry has been split equally between the clubs annually chosen charity and the AAF.

The amount contributed for each seat entry is decided annually by the Events Chair, Club Chair and Treasurer.

The AAF is held as a reserved sum within the Monmouth Rowing Club bank accounts.

The size of the fund will be highlighted within the accounts presented by the Treasurer at each AGM.

Eligibility

The fund is available to any young aspiring rower or cox who boats regularly on the river at Monmouth. That young person should be below 25 years on the date of the last activity funds are requested for.

The grant award may be used for travel, accommodation, subsistence or other reasonable costs associated with achieving squad progress.

Application process

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Applications for a grant from the fund should be submitted using our online Aspiring Athlete Support Grant application form. The form is available via this link.

All applications will be considered by the grant award panel who shall meet to discuss applications on an as required basis.

In the process of making a decision, a panel member may approach a nominated person for a reference and validation of the request. A supporting letter at time of application would be preferred.

The grant award panel will consist of the following committee members. Chair, Treasurer, Event Chair, a club captain and at least one other. A quorum of 4 will be required for a decision to be ratified. In the case of any conflict of a panel member then the coach or another captain should be coopted on.

The panel will review the information provided in the application and award an appropriate grant from the AAF.

The decision of the award panel will be final and will not be subject to challenge from any member.

The applicant will be informed individually immediately after the panel decision. The club has the right to then publicly announce award winners thereafter.

The maximum amount to be awarded per application will be £1,500, there is no limit to the number of times an applicant can apply but only two applications per person per year will be considered.

Expectations of grant winner

The club expects an aspiring athlete who has been awarded a grant to acknowledge the support of Monmouth Rowing Club in any publicity.

If the athlete is not a member of Monmouth Rowing Club then they may be expected to attend a Rowing club committee meeting and introduce themselves. This will not be an interview but to assist club committee members with recognising the athlete when they are rowing on the water or around the club.

The athlete is expected to remain a role model for club members and assist in future activities of the Rowing club.

It is expected that a short report and photos of the event is provided to a Club Officer who will assist with publicity.

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Appendix 1 _ application form

Online application should be made by using the form available at

[Aspiring Athlete Grant Application form](#)