

Ability Club Support Scheme Guidance Document

May 2015



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Introduction

We are delighted to offer the Ability club support scheme to help our clubs attract new disabled people to play table tennis. It is estimated that around 9.4 million people in England have an impairment (Census 2011). Reports carried out by the English Federation of Disability Sport (EFDS) show that six in ten disabled people claim that a lack of available activities is what prevents them from taking part in physical activity.

As an organisation Table Tennis England are committed to creating more opportunities for disabled people to partake in physical activity. In an effort to provide more opportunities to disabled people we are piloting the Ability club support scheme.

The scheme will be open exclusively to affiliated PremierClub Ability clubs. As well as applying for support Ability clubs are also able to apply for grants of £300 up to £1,000 to enable them to attract and retain new disabled players. The funding can be used for a variety of different activities, some examples are displayed in the diagram 1 (page, 3). However please note that we are unable to fund capital development, consultancy work or multi-sport.

This guidance booklet aims to provide clubs with useful information on how best to develop new disability focused projects. Along with providing them with ideas on how to effectively use any monetary grant they may be awarded.

The 10 principles

As published in the English Federation of Disability Sport “Talk to me” report (October 2014), there were 10 key principles identified as important considerations to think about when delivering disability focused sport opportunities.

The 10 principles

The English Federation of Disability Sport has developed these 10 principles to support providers to deliver more appealing opportunities for disabled people. During research published in our ‘Talk to me’ report, disabled people told us:

- 1 My channels**

Use communication channels that I already trust e.g. social media, local media.
- 2 My locality**

Travelling to get to activities can be a significant barrier for disabled people. I would much prefer opportunities to be closer to home.
- 3 Me, not my impairment**

Many people do not identify with being disabled and are put off by advertising that focuses on disability.
- 4 My values**

Everyone has values. Understanding what my values are and linking an activity to these can make taking part more appealing.
- 5 My life story**

As people grow older our values change. Keep me interested over time through new ideas.
- 6 Reassure me**

Some disabled people fear standing out and need to be reassured that any activity we attend will be welcoming and suitable for our needs.
- 7 Include me**

Some disabled people need to know we are good enough to take part. Providers should make sure that people with varying ability levels feel included in sessions.
- 8 Listen to me**

Disabled people can be limited by our impairment and should be able to discuss our needs in a safe and private environment before starting an activity.
- 9 Welcome me**

An unpleasant first experience can prevent anyone from taking part again. Ensure that my first experience is enjoyable so I’m likely to return.
- 10 Show me**

Engage disabled people who are already involved in your activity to promote it to others.

How can I use my Ability club support scheme funding?

Diagram 1



Diagram 1 aims to provide you with a selection of possible areas which the funding can be used for. The topic areas will now be explained in further detail.

Additional Disability Focused Sessions

You may not want to market your sessions as disability only sessions however you may want to market the sessions outside your club network. Some specific disability groups you may wish to market to could be;

- Special Educational Needs Networks (SEN)
- Age UK
- Local disability groups / charities

Coach Hire

You may wish to use your grant to fund additional coaching. For example you could;

- Bring in additional experienced coaches for one off sessions
- Employ an extra coach to run additional inclusive / disability focused sessions

Equipment Adaptions

You can adapt table tennis pretty easily to suit different people's ability levels;

- If the player is finding it hard to hit the ball you may wish to use larger mammoth balls as they are bigger and slow the game down.
- If you have any visually impaired players you may wish to use coloured or audible table tennis balls.
- Use chairs for sit down table tennis, this will enable non-disabled players to play inclusively with players who have a disability.
- Bat grips can be used for players who are finding it hard to hold the bat.
- Polybat sets are aimed at players who have coordination or balance difficulties as it enables them hit the ball over the opponent's end of the table.

Marketing and Promotion

An important aspect of reaching a new group of participants is to communicate outside your regular table tennis network. You could contact the following groups and locations;

- Local disability groups / charities
- Carers centres
- Special Educational Needs schools
- County Sports Partnership

When creating promotional materials you should use easy to read text and font. Along with limiting the number of different colours you use.

It is important that new players are given a warm welcome to the club / activity. You may wish to provide a specific contact number for participants to find out more about the venue and to check if the session is suitable for them. Appointing a specific individual to give participants a warm welcome and check they have everything they need to take part in the session is also a great way of making them feel at ease.

Open Day / Event

An open day is a great way to get new participants to try your sport in a social non intimidating environment. You may wish to host a family fun community day where you invite local residents and disabled groups, this will also give you the opportunity to talk to potential new participants face to face and reassure them that table tennis is a great sport for all ability levels.

Training

You may wish to train up some of your disabled members so that they are able to assist players in future sessions. A UKCC Level 1 course provides learners with the necessary skills to be able to plan and deliver basic table tennis coaching activities, under the direct supervision of a more qualified coach. If you have any new staff who you feel would benefit from Table Tennis England's disability awareness training please let us know.

Venue Hire

Your new project does not have to be in your club. People with disabilities may feel more comfortable outside a traditional club setting as it may be easier for them to get to. Why not try hiring a local venue such as a community centre?

If you feel that you need guidance and support in areas which have not been mentioned please identify them in your application form.

How do I apply?

If you would like your Ability club to be part of this amazing opportunity you will need to complete an application form.

In order to provide a fair assessment process Table Tennis England have developed an assessment criteria. The criteria has been broken down into the three sections which reflect those which are in the application form.

Each section has its own set of criteria points clearly outline below. When completing your application form we advise that you check your project against the criteria to ensure that it is meeting the aims and objectives of the Ability club support scheme.

Assessment criteria

Section 1 – Your Club

- Have lead contact details been included for monitoring and evaluation purposes?
- Does the club have a fully licensed table tennis coach?

Section 2 – Your Project

- Is this project achievable?
- Is this a new session that is in addition to the current activity at your club?
- Has the project outlined how it will be sustainable?
- Has the project created promotional plans that will reach wider audiences?
- Is the project aiming to attract disabled participants? *(Please provide evidence to support where this audience will come from)*
- Is the project attracting any specific target groups? *(If yes, why have these specific groups been chosen?)*
- Is the project going to work with any local organisations / charities? *(If yes please provide letters of support)*
- Has the project been driven by particular research? *(Has the research been provided and is it current?)*
- Is there evidence to show a demand for this type of project locally? *(If yes please provide evidence)*

Section 3 – Finance

- Has the application clearly identified which areas the funding will be used for?
- Has an appropriate funding amount been requested?
- Is there evidence that the project is financially sustainable post funding?
- Will the club be receiving further financial support from another organisation / contributor?

Please return the completed application form to;

Michaela Clark – Project Support Officer

development@tabletennisengland.co.uk

Table Tennis England

Norfolk House

88 Saxon Gate West

Milton Keynes

MK9 2DL

Should Michaela Clark be unavailable please contact Steve McFadyen (Clubs and Disability Officer)
steve.mcfadyen@tabletennisengland.co.uk

The initial application deadline is **5pm Friday 12th June 2015**. However, if you are not able to get your application in by this deadline we will have another application round closing at **5pm 10th August 2015**.

Applications will be assessed against the funding criteria and the ability of projects to meet and exceed the requirements outlined in the guidance. Due to the expected high demand of quality projects likely to be received in June, approximately two thirds of the annual budget of £12,000 available will be distributed during the first funding round.

Those who are not successful in the first round will be provided with feedback and will be eligible to resubmit an improved application in the following round. It should be noted that this will not guarantee your application being successful.