



# RFU FUNDING

**Dorset & Wilts Rugby Football Union Limited**

**Working Together to Grow Rugby in Dorset and Wiltshire**

# Finance & Funding For Community Rugby Clubs

Funding is critical in the development of all rugby clubs. All aspects of a club's operations, from developing facilities to providing kit or from complying with health and safety regulations to securing equipment for the junior teams, are determined by their funding.

Funding is important for community rugby clubs, both in terms of long term planning and revenue for day-to-day costs incurred by running the team and community facilities.

# Clubhouses and Changing Rooms

To help clubs make legally sound and effective decisions, the RFU has a number of guidance notes and advice documents issues surrounding facilities design, compliance and construction.

In conjunction with the Rugby Football Foundation, The RFU has produced a Design Guide to Changing Rooms and Clubhouse providing a checklist of standards and minimum criteria, advice on project steering groups, appointing consultants, and applications for funding.

Planning permission is something that new developments must bear in mind, especially if you are considering changing the use of some of your buildings. Also important is ensuring any new builds or refurbishments are compliant with Disability Discrimination Act legislation.

# Natural Turf Pitches

Developing and maintaining well designed and constructed grass pitches for rugby union is very important to the RFU.

The demand and expectation for good quality grass pitches is ever growing and clubs are keenly aware of the importance of pitches in ensuring a strong and sustainable community game.

Advice and guidance on the construction of new natural turf pitches is covered in a set of [guidance notes](#) developed in partnership with Sport England.

Also for reference purposes, World Rugby has [information on how to comply with pitch size regulations](#).

All support to rugby groundsmen is delivered via the RFU Rugby Groundsmen Connected network. [Find out more including details on how to register here](#)

# Light up your rugby club

Floodlighting can make a real difference to a rugby club, increasing the opportunities for training and aiding the preparation of the your club's teams on the pitch.

However, installing floodlights is a major project for a community club to undertake. There are technical specifications to consider and important issues surrounding planning permission.

The RFU has produced some useful guidance documents on floodlights:

- [Essential Guide to Floodlights](#)
- [Floodlight Guidance Document](#)

# Helping Hand Grants

Helping Hand Grants provide a mechanism for clubs to apply for a small grant of between £500.00 - £1,500.00 with the club matching the grant on a £ for £ basis.

Typical projects include goalposts, changing room redecoration and pitch maintenance equipment.

The grant is available to RFU accredited clubs that play at level 5 or below in the RFU league structure.

How to Apply

A. Download the [Helping Hand Application Form](#).

B. Complete all sections and ensure that you have all the supporting documents available.

C. Either print a copy of the completed form, sign it and send it together with the necessary supporting documents to: The RFF Administrator, Rugby Football Foundation, Rugby House, Twickenham Stadium, 200 Whitton Road, Twickenham, TW2 7BA or email to [foundation@therfu.com](mailto:foundation@therfu.com).

The RFF aspires to turnaround Helping Hand Grants in six weeks from receipt of a completed application.

If you have any queries, please contact the RFF Administrator on 020 8831 7985 or email [foundation@therfu.com](mailto:foundation@therfu.com).

Please note that the Rugby Football Foundation operates a series of minimum standards and best practice guides in the planning, development and construction of club facilities. Clubs should consult the [Technical Advice](#) section and download the relevant guide to their project before submitting an application.

# Groundmatch Grants

The Groundmatch Scheme provides easy-to-access grant funding for capital projects which contribute to the recruitment and retention of community rugby players. A list of projects which qualify for a grant is given in the Grants FAQ but the list is not exhaustive. RFU accredited clubs at level 5 and below can apply for between £1,500.00 and £5,000.00 and will need to match the grant on a £ for £ basis.

Completed applications are considered on a rolling basis throughout the year. In order for an application to be considered the application form must be fully completed and submitted with all the required paperwork to the RFF Administrator. Clubs may only apply for one grant per project and are eligible for only £5,000.00 in a 24 month period. The 24 months are calculated from the date of the last payment of any previous award.

The RFF aspires to turnaround Groundmatch Grants in eight weeks from receipt of a complete application.

## **How to Apply**

[Download a Groundmatch Grant Application Form](#) or alternatively contact the RFF Administrator on 020 8831 7985 and ask for one to be sent to you.

Before completing the application form:

- Refer to the checklist to ensure you are eligible and ready to apply for a grant. You should be confident that your application will focus on the aims of the Foundation and that you understand the desire of the Foundation to promote good quality club development.
- Contact your local RFU Rugby Development Officer and Constituent Body Facility Coordinator to discuss the project, as they will need to sign off the application.
- Ensure that you have completed all sections, obtained the required signatures and included all documents as shown in the checklist at the rear of the form. Failure to follow this instruction will result in the application being unsuccessful.

For more detailed technical advice on completing the application form contact your RFU Regional Funding and Facilities Manager.

On completion of the application form:

Either email your application to [foundation@therfu.com](mailto:foundation@therfu.com) or post your application and supporting information to:

**Foundation Administrator,  
Rugby Football Foundation, Rugby House, Twickenham Stadium,  
200 Whitton Road, Twickenham, TW2 7BA**

The application will then be reviewed by the Trustees and the club will be informed of the decision within eight weeks.

Please note that the Rugby union Foundation operates a series of minimum standards and best practice guides in the planning, development and construction of club facilities. Clubs should consult the [Technical Advice](#) section and download the relevant guide to their project before submitting an application.

# Interest Free Loans

The Interest Free Loan scheme provides loans up to £100,000.00 for capital works which contribute to the retention and recruitment of community rugby players. This scheme is available to RFU Accredited clubs at level 3 and below.

The maximum loan period is 15 years. Loans are available on a stand alone-basis, but projects are considered stronger if they include additional funding (internally or externally generated).

Please address queries to The RFF Administrator, Rugby Football Foundation, Rugby House, Twickenham Stadium, 200 Whitton Road Twickenham, TW2 7BA, by email: [foundation@therfu.com](mailto:foundation@therfu.com) or by telephone on 020 8831 7985.

# How to apply

The RFF operates a two stage application process:

Pre-application - The RFF will not consider any loan applications for projects that have not been identified as a priority within local Constituent Body Facility Plans.

## Stage 1

Stage 1 of the application process comprises:

- A fully completed [Stage 1 Application Form](#)
- Submission of three years' accounts and fully completed cashflow forecast
- Submission of any architectural plans in 1:100 scale
- For loans in excess of £75,000.00 a Certificate of Title will also be required

The completed application needs to be logged with the RFF.

A Certificate of Title template, lease requirements and guidance notes are available for download using the links on the right of this page.

Once the accounts and architectural plans have been approved and, where necessary the Certificate of Title has been received by the RFF solicitors, the RFF case officer will liaise with the club about moving to Stage 2.

## **Stage 2**

The club may be required to provide further supporting evidence to enable the RFF Case Officer to submit the application to the Awards Panel Sub-Committee for their consideration. Within six weeks, the club will be informed in writing by the RFF Administrator of the Trustees decision.

# Green Deal Loan

RFF Green Deal loans up to the value of £20,000.00 are available to RFU Accredited clubs at level 3 and below to support them in the installation of facility solutions that reduce utility costs. Green Deal Loan repayments are structured to be the equivalent of the projected savings over the agreed 'payback' period. Applications must be underpinned by independent, accredited energy surveys and clubs must evidence the no cost/low cost improvements that they have already implemented and the impact of those improvements.

## **How to Apply**

The RFF Green Deal Loan operates a two stage application process:

Pre-application - The RFF will not consider any loan applications for projects that have not been identified as a priority within local Constituent Body Facility Plans.

# Stage 1

The club obtains an independent energy survey and completes any recommended no cost/low cost improvements. The club should then complete the [RFF Green Deal Loan application](#) template and submit it along with evidence of the [no cost/low cost](#) and a copy of the energy survey. At this stage the club should ensure that the form is fully completed along with all key pieces of information. The complete application needs to be logged with the RFF. The RFF will then write to the club informing them whether they can proceed to a Stage 2 application or advise them that the application does not meet the RFF Green Deal Stage 1 application criteria. A general philosophy of 'energy efficiency before energy generation' is adopted in the assessment of RFF Green Deal Loan Stage 1 applications

## **Stage 2**

The club will be required to provide further supporting evidence including specialist quotes that demonstrate a detailed energy and cost saving projection.

# Contacts

Chris Burton (Dorset RDO)

Email: [chrisburton@rfu.com](mailto:chrisburton@rfu.com) – Telephone: 07739 583536

Alan Low (Wiltshire RDO)

Email [alanlow@rfu.com](mailto:alanlow@rfu.com) – Telephone: 07568 127789

Jon Bendle (RFU Area Facilities Manager)

Email: [jonbendle@rfu.com](mailto:jonbendle@rfu.com) – Telephone: 07753 881272

# Or contact your Club Representatives for help

James Cook (Dorset East) 07949 574155 [jamescook148@hotmail.com](mailto:jamescook148@hotmail.com)

Donovan Lynaghan (Dorset East) 07854 039880 [Donovan.lynaghan@hotmail.com](mailto:Donovan.lynaghan@hotmail.com)

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