



THE PLAYERS FOUNDATION  
COMPANY NUMBER: 08352024  
CHARITY NUMBER: 1150458

### Grant making policy

#### Why the Players Foundation has a policy.

The objects of The Players Foundation, under the terms of its Articles of Association, are;

For the benefit of the Beneficiaries:

- to advance the education of Beneficiaries. Without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing in particular by undertaking education by vocational training so as to equip them with the necessary skills and knowledge enabling them to gain employment once their careers as professional footballers have ceased, and for the avoidance of doubt this includes the education and training of young people wishing to become professional footballers;
- to promote good health amongst Beneficiaries;
- the relief of such Beneficiaries and their dependants who are in conditions of need, hardship and distress and find themselves in necessitous circumstances.

In respect of the objects listed above, “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 following purposes which are for the benefit of the public at large:

- to advance the education of the public in such ways as the Trustees shall think fit. Without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing to provide education in respect of history, the development and social impact upon English national life of the game of football, including activities such as the preservation and display of artefacts and memorabilia of educational and historic value;
- to support and promote community participation and healthy recreation (including the advancement of amateur sport) by providing facilities for the playing of football and other sports capable of improving physical health, including provision to address drug addiction or addiction of any kind;
- to provide and assist in providing facilities for sport, recreation and other leisure time occupation of such persons who have a need for such facilities by reason of their age,

youth, infirmity or disablement, poverty or social and economic circumstances or for the public at large in the interests of social welfare and with the object of improving their conditions of life;

- to promote social inclusion for the public benefit by preventing people from becoming socially excluded, relieving the needs of those people who are socially excluded and assisting them to integrate into society. For the purpose of this clause “socially excluded” means being excluded from society, or parts of society, as a result of one or more of the following factors:
  - Unemployment;
  - Financial hardship;
  - Youth or old age;
  - Ill health (physical or mental);
  - Substance use or dependency, including alcohol and drugs;
  - Discrimination on the grounds of sex, race, disability, ethnic origin, religion, belief, creed, sexual orientation or gender reassignment;
  - Poor education or skills attainment;
  - Relationship or family breakdown;
  - Poor housing (that is housing that does not meet basic habitable standards);
  - Crime (either as a victim or crime or as an offender rehabilitating into society); and
- 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.

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that the way in which The Players Foundation provides grants is monitored to ensure that:

- The Players Foundation’s reputation, money and other assets are protected;
- All applicable laws and regulations are complied with;
- Recognised standards of best practice are subscribed and adhered to; and
- The Players Foundation is open and accountable to any donors, supporters and the public in general.

The policy sets out the priorities for support, principles, criteria and processes that govern how The Players Foundation provides grants.

#### **Priorities for support**

The number of projects which can be supported is, of necessity, limited to the amount of funds available for distribution in any year.

However, the trustees have identified priorities in terms of the grants made by The Players Foundation will be governed in some respect by the identification of greatest need but will include relief of poverty and assistance within our policy for those with a neuro-degenerative disease. From funds available for its general charitable work, the Trustees will consult with others (as appropriate) and determine an order of priority from time to time.

The priorities of this policy will be reviewed by the trustees every year (or more often if deemed necessary by the trustees) and may be amended depending on circumstances and the perceived effectiveness of the application of funds.

#### Grant making principles.

Notwithstanding the priorities described in paragraph 2 of this policy, the trustees will more generally apply the following principles when making an application of funds:

- Applications from any geographical area within the UK and overseas will be considered.
- Applications from previous recipients of grants or from previously unsuccessful applicants will be considered on their own merits.
- The trustees will carry out sufficient due diligence to ensure that the application relates to The Players Foundation charitable purposes and any priorities for support determined by the trustees from time to time.
- The trustees are happy to work in partnership with other organisations to fund initiatives beyond the financial scope of a single organisation.

#### Grant making process.

Future applications for grants should be made in the first instance to The Players Foundation in writing (including e-mail). All applications are made via the appropriate form on our website, and if possible, should be made online. Applications for assistance of up to £5,000 will be determined by the team within the policy provided to that team. Any application over £5,000 will be referred to The Clerk to the Trustees or a Trustee and in the unlikely or rare event of an application over £25,000, that will be referred to the Board of Trustees for a decision.

All applications will be subject to due diligence being carried out. For organisational grants this will include a review of previous accounts and an appropriate business plan being reviewed. For individual it may involve proof of finances or debts or other proof of need. Proof of identification will also be required. You will be advised what is required, and any information provided will be retained to assist the trustees in grant making matters only.

Some further details concerning eligibility for grants is contained within the on-line process.

All applications go through a two stage process as follows:

- **Allocation:** applications will be allocated to available funds according to their availability and criteria.
- **Decision:** within the policy applications will then be considered by the team and a decision will be made. That decision will be reported to the Board at the earliest opportunity. Applications over £25k will be determined by the Board and then as necessary decisions implemented by the team.

The trustees will not be obliged to provide an explanation should any application be unsuccessful.

If there is any conflict of interest identified in this process at any stage, then the Trustee conflict of interest policy will provide a solution and will be strictly adhered to.

#### Monitoring and publication.

It is the policy of the trustees to monitor all grants made. To this end, before a grant can be confirmed, conditions will be stipulated appropriate to the work to be carried out and progress will be assessed against agreed targets and / or milestones.



If the grant is payable in instalments, then payment of subsequent grant instalments will be dependent on satisfactory progress having been demonstrated and the trustees reserve the right to withdraw the grant on receipt of unsatisfactory progress reports.

Failure to submit reports at the time specified by the trustees may also jeopardise the continuation of The Players Foundation support. In addition to reports detailing progress, the grant recipient will also be expected to provide:

- A statement of how their charity monies have been spent for the year; and
- Details (where appropriate) of any other funds applied to the same project.

Visits may be made by representatives of The Players Foundation to monitor a grant recipient's progress during the period of the grant.

In relation to grants being made overseas, the Trustees will ensure that there is a full audit trail for the movement of funds from The Players Foundation to the overseas organisation. There will also be adequate records to demonstrate that the funds have been spent on charitable activities.

Any grant awarded which is not applied for the stated purposes, or a failure to adhere to our policy may result in grants be being clawed back in whole or part at the trustees discretion.

**Date: 18 April 2019**

**Updated Amended 9<sup>th</sup> February 2021**

**Updated Amended: 02 May 2023**

**Date of next review: 02 May 2025**