



ESSEX TENNIS

“ADVANTAGE ESSEX” GRANT FUNDING INFORMATION PACK

Introduction

This fund has been set up to assist “Advantage Essex” (AE) clubs in the County. It is a grant scheme designed to encourage tennis development in Essex. The categories available under this scheme include tournament support, facility enhancement, mini tennis, tennis education, club development and promotion, technical advice costs and assistance with the purchase of defibrillators.

It should be noted that this fund is not intended to be used for general club maintenance, for example court and floodlight renewal costs are not applicable nor are any items that are vital to playing the game of tennis i.e. nets, posts, perimeter fencing. These types of expenditure however may be suitable under the AE Loan Scheme, for loan scheme information please email funding@essextennis.org.uk.

These categories are continually monitored and adapted according to changing priorities and the needs of club tennis in Essex. With the exception of “tournament support” which is paid as per the conditions below, Clubs (not individuals) will need to make an application for funding on a simple Application Form. In categories 2-8 the principle of a Club making a significant contribution will apply to all applications. The amount available to clubs for the current financial year ending 30 September will be £40,000.

Procedure

All applications must be made electronically on the standardised form, and emailed to Lynn O’Brien lynn@essextennis.org.uk who will be able to assist any club prior to submission of an application if required. The Essex Tennis Funding Committee will consider all applications on a quarterly basis. The deadlines for inclusion of an application will be 31 March, 30 June, 30 September and 31 December each year. Wherever possible clubs will be notified as to the outcome of their applications within one calendar month of the deadline date, and if successful the payment will be made within the same time frame.

Conditions

1. The Club must be a fully paid up member of “Advantage Essex,” and commit to remain a member for three years from date of the grant.
2. The Club will consider making every effort to have 100% of their senior and junior members signed up to the British Tennis Membership Scheme [BTM], and encourage members to Opt-In to the Wimbledon Ballot.
3. The Club, unless they already do, will consider employing an LTA Accredited/+ Coach for an appropriate number of hours each month to enhance any development work at the Club.
4. Payment of grants will be made by BACS directly to the Clubs account, unless specifically directed otherwise in writing by either the Club Secretary or Treasurer.
5. Grant categories 2-7 are limited to **two applications per financial year which runs from 1st October-30th September and** with the exception of category 5 should be in a different category. Two applications may be submitted in one quarter providing they are for different categories (with the exception of category 5). An application in category 8 will not be considered as part of the two applications as stated above and will be available as an additional grant.
6. If demand for these grants exceeds funds allocated, the Funding Committee have discretion to cap applications, by club and/or area of support. Budgets for each category will be monitored by the Funding Committee and amounts allocated for each grant area may be subject to change.

1. Grants for Tournament Support

AE Clubs hosting Essex Tennis sanctioned **external** tournaments with ONLINE ENTRY will be able (upon successfully uploading the event TTP file) to apply quarterly for tournament grants as outlined below.

The club will need to **complete a claim form** at the end of each quarter (March, June, September, December) subject to confirmation with the LTA Competition site relevant payments will be made into the clubs account by BACS in April, July, October and January where appropriate.

Grade/type	Amount per day /event
Mini Red/Orange/Green/Grade 5/6	£30 (per event)
Grade 4	£60 (per day)
Grade 3	£75 (per day)

2. Grants for Tournament Enhancement and Enhancing Club Facilities

The objective of this category is to encourage clubs, especially those hosting tournaments to enhance the “experience” for members and competitors. Examples include the provision of a TV, Wi-Fi, table tennis/pool table, singles sticks, umpires chairs, scoreboards, and enhancement of clubhouse facilities, club security, and practise walls. **MAINTENANCE AND UPKEEP OF CURRENT FACILITIES IS NOT INCLUDED.**

For Clubs hosting an external LTA sanctioned tournament within the past year there will be a maximum grant of 50% of the project cost, or £1,500, (Whichever is the lower). For other Clubs there will be a maximum grant of 33% of the project cost, or maximum of £1,000 (Whichever is the lower).

3. Grants for Mini Tennis (equipment/courts/lines) Cardio Tennis/Miss Hits/Tennis Express/Tennis Tuesdays

The objective of this category is to assist clubs to increase and enhance mini tennis, cardio tennis, Miss Hits, Tennis Express, Tennis Tuesday’s programmes by providing funding for equipment (**THIS CATEGORY IS NOT INTENDED FOR THE REPLACEMENT OF OLD EQUIPMENT**).

This could include mini tennis rackets, balls, nets, court line markings, cardio heart rate monitors, low compression balls, Miss Hits or #sheralies equipment, rackets and balls for Tennis Tuesday’s/Express etc.

In this category there is a maximum grant of 50% of the project cost, or a maximum of £500 (Whichever is the lower). Funds towards the construction of a new Mini Tennis Court will also be considered; under this category a grant of up to £1,000 will be available. This can be in conjunction with an AE Loan application.

4. Club Promotion, Marketing and Administration

The objective of this category is to assist clubs to increase their self-promotion and to look at new ways of marketing and targeting new members. It also includes systems to assist general club administration and membership fee collection. Examples include creation of a club website, use of court booking and clubhouse management systems, marketing costs for open days and general club promotions and improving venue signage.

There will be a maximum grant of 50% of the project cost, or a maximum of £300 (Whichever is the lower).

5. Grants for Tennis Education

The objective of this category is as follows

- To assist those wishing to embark on a career in coaching or upgrade their coaching skills.
- To enable volunteers to undertake refereeing, tournament organisers, welfare courses etc.
- To enable volunteers to attend courses to improve their skills/knowledge.

(This category does not cover coach or referee costs associated with accreditation renewal, and all courses will need to be approved by the LTA/Essex Tennis). The application must be supported and applied for by the club. There will be a maximum grant per participant, of 50% of the appropriate Course

cost, or a maximum of £600. (Whichever is the lower), subject to a maximum of 2 candidates per application.

6. Grants for Club Development Programmes (not equipment)

The objective of this category is to “kick start” activities in schools, parks and community sites linked to the host club, this will usually be for one term of activity, and it is suggested a charge for the activity is set. Grants are available for reasonable venue costs (if external to club premises), coach, equipment and marketing costs. The application must be supported and applied for by a club.

There will be a maximum grant of 50% of the **Net Programme costs**, or a maximum of £500 (Whichever is the lower).

7. Grants for Court Related Technical Advice

The objective of this category is to assist with costs involved in engaging the services of professional court specialists. Specialists who can advise the club on court related issues such as cleaning, restoration, resurfacing or new surfaces and new courts, or advice with design and/or planning, or condition surveys. The category can also be used for floodlighting issues or facility projects such as clubhouse renovation or new building projects. The application must be supported and applied for by the club.

There will be a maximum grant of 50% of the net cost of the advice obtained or a maximum of £200 (Whichever is the lower). The work will need to be carried out by a SAPCA registered company and a copy of the invoice for the work undertaken will be required.

8. Grants for purchase of a Defibrillator

The objective of this category is to assist with costs towards the purchase of an IPAD AED machine through the LTA's agreement with Wel Medical. See Link below. The order will need to be processed via the portal on the link, on completion of the order the grant funds can be claimed on the Essex AE grant form and forwarded to lynn@essextennis.org.uk for processing.

There will be a maximum grant of 50% of the total cost subject to a maximum of £500 (this can include the purchase of a housing unit for the machine).

<https://www.tennisdefibs.org/>