Schools Water Polo Project

Funding available for State Schools to start to play water polo

The Swimming Trust is offering funding to help state secondary schools introduce pupils to the exciting sport of water polo.

Delivered in partnership with Swim England, the project aims to support Swim England’s Water Polo 2020-2025 strategy and its key aim to double the number of registered players in the next five years.

Schools are a vital part of this strategy, so the project will support 10 schools from across England, who do not currently offer water polo as an activity, with £500 funding each. The funding is flexible and may be used to offset any aspect of the costs of setting up a water polo group/activity – this could include pool time, balls, hats, goals, coach’s expenses, or some combination of these and other expenses.

Swim England can provide advice and support on setting up a water polo team, as well as ideas of other schools or club teams to play against in your local area, and clubs for the children to join if they wish to take water polo further. Advice can also be given on sources of equipment, coaches etc.

Water polo is included in the GCSE and A-Level PE syllabus, so now could be the perfect time for your school to introduce water polo to a new group of young people.

Eligibility

We would welcome applications from schools meeting the following criteria:

* State secondary school in England.
* No current water polo offering at the school.
* Access to pool time (school pool, public pool or elsewhere).
* Access to a teacher/coach confident and competent to deliver the water polo sessions.

Application process

Funding will be allocated following an open application process. Any state secondary school in England that does not currently include water polo on the curriculum or as an extra-curricular activity, is eligible to apply.

Applications will be judged on the schools’ ability to best use the funding to encourage more young people to start playing water polo, to help contribute towards the Swim England Water Polo strategic goal of doubling the number of registered players in the next five years.

To apply for this funding please complete the below application form and return to [clubdevelpment@swimming.org](mailto:clubdevelpment@swimming.org) by **Monday 31May 2021**.

Selection process

Following applications closing on 31 May, all applications will be reviewed by a selection panel and the following criteria will be considered:

* Impact of funding – the number of children engaged through the project in the school.
* Workforce development – the number of new coaches upskilled.
* Sustainability of the project – how the sessions will be maintained after the first funding cycle.
* Partnership engagement – the links to be created with local teams/clubs to provide an ongoing progression pathway for the players.

Successful schools will be notified by the beginning July 2021.

Reporting

Each successful school will be given 12 months from the start date of the project to utilise the funding, and at the end of this period will be required to complete a short report form demonstrating how the funding has been spent and the impact of the project. Swim England will also encourage schools to keep in regular communication with us about the progress of their project.

What is the Swimming Trust?

The Swimming Trust is an independent charity established in 1996 and dedicated to getting more people swimming more often in safe and supportive environments.

We know that swimming in all its forms, whether for leisure or for sport, provides the ideal environment to develop skills that will benefit individuals throughout their lives. It provides a foundation of a healthy lifestyle, good teamwork, focus and a spirit of fair play.

There are groups and individuals who are likely to miss these opportunities without intervention from the Swimming Trust. The Trust aims to identify barriers to participation, whether they are physical, cultural or financial, so that more people can enjoy the wide ranging benefits of swimming.

Find out more about the work of the Swimming Trust at [swimmingtrust.com](https://www.swimmingtrust.com/).

Schools Water Polo Funding application form

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| Name of school: |  |
| Address of school: |  |
| Local Authority: |  |
| Name and role of person completing form: |  |
| Email of person completing form: |  |

1. **Action plan**

*Please outline how you will utilise the funding you have requested to deliver your sessions. Please include a list of actions you will take including timescales, and any costs associated with these.*

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1. **Impact**

*Please outline how you think your activity will contribute to widening participation in water polo.*

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Please return your completed form to [clubdevelopment@swimming.org](mailto:clubdevelopment@swimming.org) by 31 May 2021.