

MASC Hardship Fund Policy September 2023

MASC has established a hardship fund to assist members encountering severe financial difficulties. The Hardship Fund can be accessed by written application to the Treasurer for assistance with Training, competition and Membership fees in exceptional circumstances.

MASC aims to be a positive, family oriented, community based club which supports the development of all of its members to reach their full potential. In this fun, friendly and healthy environment you will be encouraged, motivated and challenged by our enthusiastic, experienced and qualified coaching team to develop your stroke technique and swimming potential to a competitive level. Whether you simply wish to be active and keep fit or aspire to becoming an olympian our ethos at MASC is that everyone can swim and should enjoy swimming, developing your swimming skills and having fun meeting your friends at training. MASC is an all inclusive swimming club which very much welcomes swimmers with disabilities to train with us.

Any requests for support from the Hardship Fund will be treated with the strictest confidence and shared only with the Executive Committee (President, Treasurer and Secretary post holders). Support requirements will be assessed based on the circumstances of the individual and the financial position of the club at the time. The decision to support individuals will be made on a case by case basis and agreed by the Executive Committee. During full committee meetings the decision of the executive committee will be noted but names and other personal information will not be shared with the wider committee.

If support is deemed necessary, an initial period of up to 6 months will be granted. After which time the Executive Committee will further review the needs of the family and extensions granted only in exceptional circumstances. Factors such as attendance and participation will be taken into account if an extension is requested.

Applicants who receive support from the Hardship Fund will be asked to ensure that all information surrounding the application and any award made is kept confidential between the applicant and MASC. If the applicant fails to keep the information confidential, the Executive committee has the right to withdraw support at any time.

MASC shall have the right to withdraw any contributions or awards made under this Hardship Policy if the applicant's (or the applicant's swimmer's) membership is terminated or where the Team considers that such withdrawal is appropriate in terms of the Team's policies.

The decision of the Hardship Committee shall be final and there shall be no right of appeal.

Musselburgh Amateur Swimming Club, home of the
Musselburgh Marlins



The East District have been working on a policy to support East District clubs who have given help to swimmers to ensure that they can continue training where families are struggling due to the financial constraints we are facing at present. The financial support that can be requested, subject to meeting the criteria laid down below, will be for entry fees to any of the SASA East District swimming events that we hold. Events covered are East District Age Group Championships, the East District Chilli Challenge and the East District Summer Sizzler.

The financial help can be requested by completing the hardship application form that can be requested from the East District Secretary at sasaeastdistrictsecretary@gmail.com. The process has been kept simple and requested information to a minimum to ensure we are not being invasive in a subject that is sensitive and a private matter. Currently, this support is not available for other aquatic disciplines but the District will keep this under review. The information we are requesting complies with the East District GDPR policy.

CRITERIA FOR REQUEST APPLICATION

The club is financially supporting the swimmer through the waiving of training fees whether fully or on a percentage basis.

Any request should intimate to us if the training fees are fully supported or on a percentage basis, and if the latter, what percentage. This can be added in using the additional information box on the form.

All payments for East District swimming events (not club events) entries should be paid as normal and the application, should it be accepted, will see these be refunded, thus keeping the amount of people aware of support provided to a minimum.

The request will be dealt with by the District Secretary and the Meet Manager of the events.

The name of the club / swimmer who is to receive the waiver shall be intimated to the District Treasurer when any refund is required.

For this year (2022/23) any requests will be retrospectively implemented from round 1 of the EDAG (November 2022) and will run until the end of June 2023. Thereafter this will run from October – June of any given season.

Applications require to be made on an annual basis.

Where the District has agreed to provide support, if there are any changes in circumstances where the club either withdraws or materially changes the level of financial support provided to the swimmer, the club must inform the East District of the change.