

DISCRETIONARY RATE RELIEF (D.R.R) SPORTS CLUBS AND ORGANISATIONS

A. INTRODUCTION

1. The Discretionary Rate Relief Policy exists to assist Sefton's sporting community, with the benefits being significant to clubs in terms of reducing operating costs. The percentage of D.R.R. awarded to your club/organisation will be based on your ability to comply with the conditions set out in Section D of these guidance notes and you will be required to self-assess your club's percentage request under one of the categories outlined in Section C.
2. The principle behind the D.R.R. policy is that a greater percentage of relief will be allocated to clubs/organisations who are making more of an impact within the community in which they are based.
3. This policy became effective on 22 February 1996, and the current review will cover the financial years 2010-2015 (financial years of the authority being April 1st - March 31st). Any new percentages awarded will therefore not come into effect until April 1st 2010.
4. If your club/organisation do not reapply, your current D.R.R. will cease as of March 31st 2010.
5. If your club has Community Amateur Sports Club Status (CASC) you will automatically receive 80% relief and therefore do not need to apply. For more information on CASC and how your club can register, please go to www.hmrc.gov.uk

B. APPLICATION GUIDANCE NOTES

1. Sefton M.B.C. Leisure Services Department and Sefton Sports Council are working in partnership to provide a better service for sports clubs and organisations within the Borough. As part of this D.R.R. process, Officers from both agencies will assess your application prior to it being presented to Sefton Council for consideration.
2. Applications can only be made by completing the attached form which should be accompanied by any supporting material which may assist the assessing panel in determining whether a percentage discount is to be awarded.
3. Please read the guidance notes and conditions of eligibility closely before completing and returning your form.
4. The policy of Rate Relief is discretionary and the decision of Sefton M.B.C. is final.
5. Please return your application and supporting information by Friday 12th December, to:
Tina Pilkington (Senior Development Manager)
Leisure Services Department
2nd Floor Magdalen House
30 Trinity Road
Bootle
L20 3NJ

6. Telephone enquiries:- Mrs Tina Pilkington (Senior Development Manager)
0151 934 2353 or

Mr Paul Wilkinson (Chairman of Sefton Sports Council)
07944 941057

C. HOW TO ASSESS THE % YOU REQUIRE

- (a) **25%** Available to clubs who are; non profit making, voluntary in nature and make a limited contribution to sport in their local community.
- (b) **50%** Available to clubs who are; non profit making, voluntary in nature, who make a significant contribution to the community and can comply with the majority of the conditions of eligibility, as set out in section C of these guidance notes.

- (c) **75% EITHER**

Available to clubs who are; non profit making, voluntary in nature, making a very significant contribution to the local community, have consistently supported the Leisure Services Department, local schools and Sefton Sports Council and can meet all of the conditions of eligibility as set out in Section C.

OR

Available to clubs who are; non profit making, voluntary in nature and who have severe financial constraints because of socio economic factors associated with the club's location and/or its membership.

Please note - You must demonstrate clearly on your application form which % you feel your club is entitled to receive and justify your selection.

D. CONDITIONS OF ELIGIBILITY

ESSENTIAL CONDITIONS FOR ALL % OF RATE RELIEF (25% MINIMUM)

1. Be non-profit making.
2. Have open membership available to all sections of the community.
3. Have affordable levels of subscription.
4. Encourage membership from all groups in the community.
5. Make their facilities available, from time to time, for use by other individuals/organisations.
6. Provide education and training for its members.
7. Demonstrate an ability to raise funds themselves.
8. Have a membership which is drawn predominantly from the Sefton area.
9. Be affiliated to Sefton Sports Council.

DESIRABLE CONDITIONS FOR AWARDS OF 50% and ESSENTIAL CONDITIONS FOR AWARDS OF 75%

1. A proven commitment to supporting the aims and objectives of Sefton Sports Council, including attendance at meetings and participating in their initiatives.
2. A commitment to coach education and the existence of an established coaching structure within the club (i.e. to facilitate the development of players).
3. Encourage the development of youth sections in line with the recommendations of the governing body of their sport, and the programmes promoted by the Local Authority.
4. Encourage the involvement of people with special needs, where practicably possible, in all aspects of the club activities and promote the principles of sports equity.
5. Have established links with local primary and secondary schools to enable the progression of young people into the club.
6. Actively support the Leisure Services Department and Sefton Sports Council with its aims and objectives and, from time to time, make the club's facilities available for hire/use for both the Local Authority and Sports Council programmes.
7. Be of significant benefit to the local community.
8. Be working towards or achieved Club Accreditation (either NGB or Active Club Mark).