



THE ANN JARVIS HARDSHIP FUND

SUMMARY

The Ann Jarvis Hardship Fund, co-created by Volleyball England and Volleyball England Foundation is designed to support athletes and their families who face financial hardship as a direct result of participating in our talent programmes. We recognise that training, competition, and travel costs can present significant financial challenges, and this fund aims to ensure that no athlete is excluded from the pathway due to financial constraints.

The fund is named after Ann Jarvis who is England's most internationally capped Volleyball player. Throughout her long and successful playing career she represented England from an indoor volleyball perspective 186 times.

The fund provides discretionary financial assistance to English talent pathway athletes of all ages to help cover essential costs such as training fees, travel expenses, accommodation, and competition entry fees. By offering this support, we aim to promote inclusivity and ensure that talented athletes have equal opportunities to develop and progress within the sport, regardless of their financial background.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

To be considered for financial support, applicants must meet the following criteria:

- **Participation in the Talent Pathway** – The applicant must be a current or identified athlete within Volleyball England's Talent Pathway.
- **Demonstrated Financial Need** – Applicants must provide evidence of financial hardship that affects their ability to fully participate in the pathway. This may include:
 - Receipt of means-tested benefits (e.g., Universal Credit, Income Support).

- Gross household income less than £55,000 (regional variations will be taken into consideration).
- Significant financial burdens such as high travel costs or additional dependents. Any other urgent and demonstratable circumstances at the discretion of the Selection Panel.
- **Commitment to the Programme** – Athletes must demonstrate dedication to their development, including regular attendance at training sessions and competitions.
- **Previous Support Received** – Priority may be given to applicants who have not previously received hardship funding to ensure fair distribution of resources.

APPLICATION TIME WINDOWS

To align applications with the athlete development cycle, the hardship fund will operate in two windows each year:

- Volleyball Athletes: Applications will open in December when athletes typically begin a new cycle and selections into the pathway are confirmed. At this stage, we will also know who has been nominated for *Backing the Best*.
- Beach Athletes: Applications will open in April/May, coinciding with the start of the beach season.

These windows ensure that funding decisions are made within the appropriate athlete cycle, allowing support to be distributed fairly and in line with programme needs.

APPLICATION PROCESS

- Applicants must complete the [application form](#) outlining their financial situation and detailing the specific costs they need support with. Please note that this process and fund is dealt with under the strictest of confidence and information will not be shared with any internal or external body.
- Supporting documentation (e.g., proof of income, travel expenses, or relevant financial statements) may be required.
- Applications will be reviewed by a panel consisting of Volleyball England's Talent Strategic Manager, Volleyball England Foundation Chair & Accountable Trustee with funding allocated based on need and available resources.
- Successful applicants will be notified within a set timeframe, and funds will be distributed accordingly.
- Please note that there is no right of appeal for athletes who are not granted funding support.

ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS

- The fund is limited, and awards will be made based on available resources and demonstrated need.
- Athletes who are already in receipt of talent funding (DiSE, SportsAid, Backing the Best, UKSport) are still eligible to apply but prioritisation will be given to those that currently don't receive any support.
- Funding decisions are final, but unsuccessful applicants may reapply in subsequent application rounds if their circumstances change.
- Athletes receiving support may be asked to provide updates on their participation and progress within the Talent Pathway.
- Support will be provided on a camp/tournament basis and not through lump sum payments.

This initiative reflects Volleyball England & the Volleyball England Foundations commitment to supporting athletes and ensuring that financial barriers do not prevent talented individuals from reaching their potential in the sport.

OTHER AREAS OF SUPPORT

Please visit the [Volleyball England Foundation website](#) for the latest information and guidance in relation to alternative funding opportunities.