

EMERGENCY LOAN SCHEME FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS FOR CLUBS

1. What are the changes to the Emergency Loan Scheme for Clubs?

- The amounts that clubs can apply for have increased to £50,000 for clubs with a junior section and £20,000 for clubs without a junior section.
- Eligible costs for the scheme now include adapting to comply with COVID-19 guidelines and pitch renovation costs.
- Any loan over £5,000 will require security in the form of personal guarantors or a legal charge plus a cashflow forecast and will be repaid over a term of five years rather than three years.

2. Which scheme should Clubs apply to?

ECB is operating two funding schemes during the COVID-19 crisis, the ECB Emergency Loan Scheme (ELS) and ECB Return to Cricket Grant Scheme.

We understand in normal situations a grant would be preferable for most Clubs, but these are the most difficult of times that require an unprecedented scale of response. The ECB Emergency Loan Scheme (ELS) gives the game the ability to offer support at scale and an ability to recycle the funds.

The ELS is the most sustainable solution for the long-term financial health of cricket. In addition, the ECB grant resource is limited, therefore, the Return to Cricket Grant Scheme will be prioritised for Clubs and Leagues with the most pressing challenges.

To assist Clubs with their cash-flow in the short term, loan repayments will not commence until August 2021, at the earliest, noting that this is a revenue support measure - not capital funding or for a project.

Neither scheme has been designed to cover a Club's costs in relation to paying coaches, players and other cricket related activities, or for loss of forecasted income or non-essential equipment.

3. How can Clubs get support if they cannot afford to pay back an Emergency Loan?

If clubs cannot afford to make repayments on an Emergency loan, they can apply to ECB's Return to Cricket grant scheme via their County Cricket Board. Your County Cricket Board will assess your club's eligibility and funding requirement before passing to your ECB Regional Facilities Planning Manager for a final decision.

4. How do Clubs apply to the Emergency Loan scheme?

The application process is through the new ECB Investment Management System (IMS), created to minimise administration and enable end-to-end online management at <https://ims.ecb.co.uk>

Please read the ELS Guidance Notes for Cricket Clubs for further details.

5. Will training guides be provided for the use of the ECB Investment Management System (IMS)?

Training materials will be provided at <https://facilitiesdepartment.zendesk.com/hc/en-us>

6. Will previously secured loans or grants by a Club affect an application to the ELS (i.e. if a Club has an ongoing EWCT Interest Free Loan?)

No, previous grants and or loans will not affect an application to the ELS. If a Club already has an ongoing EWCT Interest Free Loan, all repayments have been suspended until 24 May 2021.

7. How much can a Club apply for?

Clubs can apply for the following loan amounts:

- Club with a Junior Section¹ (including All Stars Cricket / Dynamos) between £1,000 and £50,000
- Club with an Adult players only between £1,000 and £20,000

¹A Cricket Club with a Junior Section is defined as a Club that offers appropriate coaching and competition to cricketers under 18 years of age. This includes Clubs which registered for All Stars in 2019 and / or showed intent by registering to run All Stars Cricket / Dynamos for the first time in 2020.

8. Is partnership funding required?

No.

9. If an application is successful, how quickly will the Emergency Loan be paid to Clubs?

Once an application has been received, ECB will aim to issue a Loan Offer Letter within 10 working days. To accept the offer, Clubs will be required to complete and return the Acceptance and Direct Debit forms. ECB will aim to arrange payment of the loan direct to the Club's bank account, by BACS transfer, within 10 working days of receipt of the forms.

10. How will Clubs afford to make repayments?

The earliest a Club will start to repay the loan will be from 29 August 2021. Based on a £5,000 loan, quarterly repayments would be £417 (£1,668 pa), payable over three years. If your club cannot make proposed repayments, we can arrange flexible terms and/or a five-year repayment period (five-year repayment period standard on loans over £5,000), or you can consider applying for a Return to Cricket grant.

11. When will Clubs need to start repaying the loan?

Clubs will be issued with a repayment schedule and will repay the loan in equal quarterly instalments over a three-year period (loans up to £5,000) or five-year period (loans over £5,001), commencing 29 August 2021, at the earliest.

12. Clubs have other costs that are not specifically mentioned within the Guidance Notes, can Clubs claim for these within an application?

Such costs will be considered on a case-by-case basis; however, the ECB reserves the right to decline other specific costs which are not suitable for this scheme. The scheme will not cover a Club's costs in relation to paying coaches, players or other cricket related activities. Forecasted income is not eligible, e.g. projected income from cancelled events.

13. Where should Clubs direct queries or request additional support?

Please contact the ECB Facilities Help Desk by emailing loans@ecb.co.uk and the team will endeavour to respond to you within 7 working days (or sooner based on the need).

14. What other guidance is available to Clubs?

Government Support

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-employers-and-businesses-about-covid-19/covid-19-support-for-businesses>

Sports & Recreation Alliance FAQ Guidance on Business Support

<https://www.sportandrecreation.org.uk/news/politics/covid-19-business-support-measures-faqs>

Grants Online – Coronavirus Funds

<https://www.grantsonline.org.uk/coronavirus.html>

Sport England Club Matters – Support Resources

<https://learn.sportenglandclubmatters.com/course/view.php?id=71>

Sport Wales Club Solutions – Support Resources

<https://www.sport.wales/content-vault/club-solutions/>