



Ireland Water Polo Athlete Financial Assistance Programme

Overview

Swim Ireland is the Governing Body for all Aquatic Disciplines on the island of Ireland and currently oversee the running of our sport at an operational and strategic level. Ireland Water Polo is a sub-committee of the Swim Ireland Board, and they oversee the day to day running of water polo in Ireland as well as setting the annual and strategic objectives for the sport at Club, Regional and National level in collaboration with Swim Ireland.

Ireland Water Polo in conjunction with Swim Ireland believe that no athlete/member of the governing body should be denied the opportunity to take part in their sport based on their financial situation. It is widely recognised that individuals and their families within our sport make significant sacrifices and financial contributions to participate at Club, Regional, or National level.

Swim Ireland support Ireland Water Polo on an annual basis through funding and additional supports systems which help to run the sport and the national programme. There are substantial costs associated with international travel across all age groups annually and it is therefore necessary for a player to contribute to assist in covering the balance of costs incurred. The athlete/player contribution is dictated by the overall level of costs per trip as well as the annual budget of Ireland Water Polo.

To offer additional support to our athletes and their families, Swim Ireland and Ireland Water Polo are introducing a number of opportunities to avail of financial assistance for those who have been selected to travel with an Irish Team on an International Trip. The purpose of this is to help individuals and their families who may be going through a period of financial difficulty or whose personal circumstances mean they are at a disadvantage relative to their peers. Swim Ireland and Ireland Water Polo do not believe that this should be a barrier for them to compete at national level.

Areas of assistance:

1. Hardship Assistance
2. Sibling and/or Multiple trip discount
3. GoFundMe

1. Hardship Assistance

To be eligible to apply for financial assistance the athlete must be a current member of a National Squad that has been selected to travel on an upcoming trip. Applicants are invited to complete the hardship fund application form (appendix A) detailing why they feel they would be eligible for this fund to help assist the panel in evaluating the application.

Grants are discretionary and therefore there is no guarantee that an application will be successful. Applications will be decided on a case-by-case basis and no decision of the Awarding Panel will create a precedent for future cases. The details within the application will be treated as highly sensitive and confidential and will not be shared beyond the members of the Awarding Panel.

The amount of assistance given will also depend on Ireland Water Polos budget/funding for the year.

Ireland Water Polo Athlete Financial Assistance Programme

2. Sibling and/or Multiple Trip Discount

Where there are families within water polo that have one or more children involved in the sport at a national team level and may be required to pay for multiple international trips in a season they can apply for a sibling and/or multi trip discount.

To help support these families we have created a sibling discount to reduce the financial burden these trips may incur. This will consist of a 20% discount for the second and subsequent child for each trip within the same water polo season.

For athletes that will have multiple trips in a season a further 20% can be applied to the second and subsequent trip. Discounts are only applicable to multiple international trips within the same water polo season.

3. GoFundMe

From time to time, Ireland Water Polo may set up a GoFundMe page to help raise funds for assistance with international travel costs.

- The monies in the fund will only be used for international teams either travelling to a training camp abroad or a competition at home or abroad.
- No discounts to player contribution will be given based on the amount of their family/friend's contribution to the GoFundMe page.

The Financial Assistance Awarding Panel will consist of the following Members;

- Swim Ireland Finance Director
- WP Treasurer and/or WP Chairperson
- Swim Ireland Water Polo Staff Member

Consultation may be sought from the National Coach(s) and the athletes Club Coach/Committee to gain a better understanding of the athlete's background and circumstances.

Terms and Conditions

- Applications for financial assistance (Hardship/Sibling/Multi Trip) must be submitted within 14 days of the contribution for the trip being communicated to the athlete/family.
- Any financial assistance is at the discretion of Ireland Water Polo and the availability of funds.
- Funds cannot be applied for retrospectively.
- Successful applications are on trip-by-trip basis and cannot be carried forward. Re-application must be made for each trip.
- All applicants must have no outstanding contributions from previous trips and be a fully paid-up member of their Club, Swim Ireland & Ireland Water Polo.
- Any funds awarded may not be equal to 100% of the required player contribution, with the remaining balance to be paid by the Athlete.
- The assistance will be in the form of a reduction of the required player contribution. No athlete/family will receive money if successful.

Ireland Water Polo Athlete Financial Assistance Programme

- The continued use of the Hardship/Sibling discounts should not be viewed as a regular source of income and is dependent on resources available.

HARDSHIP ASSISTANCE APPLICATION FORM (Appendix A)

Name	
Swim Ireland Number	
Club	
National Squad	
Athlete Contribution	€
Summary on why you feel you might be eligible for a hardship assistance	
Financial need of parent/guardian / athlete	
<p><u>Dedication to the Team</u> Outline the club training sessions and additional training sessions currently undertaken in preparation for the upcoming international trip</p> <p>*Note attendance at Irish Training sessions will be confirmed by the relevant Irish Team Coach</p>	
<p><u>Fundraising</u> List any fundraising activities that will be undertaken by yourself or your club to assist with your costs.</p> <p>*Note dates and times of events</p>	

Supplementary Information – Feel free to submit any supplementary information such as:

- Letter of support from your school
- Letter of support from your club
- Letter of support from your club coach

Document History

Document Location

The most current version of this policy is available on the Ireland Water Polo site at <https://irelandwaterpolo.ie/policies-and-documents/>

Revision History

This document will be reviewed every two years and more frequently if necessary.

Date of this Revision: December 2023	Date of next Revision: December 2025
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Revision Number	Revision Date	Summary of Changes
1.0	December 2023	Policy written and approved by NWPC