

**2020/21 GO GOLD Funding Programme**

**Eligibility Criteria**

**Before beginning the application process, please consider carefully all the points below as applications which don’t fully meet these criteria will not be considered:**

* **Athletes should be 14-23 years by 31 December 2019.**
* Athletes who are 11-13 years may apply if competing at National/International Level.
* Athletes must live in Leicestershire, Leicester or Rutland (i.e. **pay council tax**) and attend the local education system. If athletes are currently studying away at College/University, their parent’s/non term time address should be in Leicestershire, Leicester or Rutland. We will **not fund** athletes studying at any Further Education or Higher Education establishment if they are not from Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland
* All applicants must be in **full time education**
* Athletes must be competing at **County, Regional, National or International Level**
* Athletes must be competing in an **Olympic, Paralympic, Commonwealth or World Championships discipline**

* Go Gold now operates a **means testing system** and is only able to financially support those athletes who can demonstrate a **financial need** for the funding. Athletes will be asked to list how they intend to spend the funding, and how the financial support provided by GO GOLD will be valuable to their progression. **Household income will be considered but will not be the only measure considered**.
* Go Gold is now working in partnership with ‘Everyone Active Sporting Champions’. As a result, those athletes who are unsuccessful with financial support from Go Gold may be eligible to receive financial support and/or free leisure centre access from Everyone Active. Relevant applications will be forwarded on for consideration. Similarly, applications may be forwarded on to the athlete’s local authority for local grant consideration.

**In addition to the main Funding criteria listed above, applicants must also adhere to the following;**

* Athletes should be **recognised** by their **National Governing Body** as being on their Talent Pathway.
* Athletes who already receive direct funding through the Lottery or TASS will need to demonstrate a **financial need** to receive further funding from this scheme
* Athletes who are financially supported through contracts with professional sports clubs are **ineligible**
* Repeat recipients must clearly demonstrate improvements in their performance over the past twelve months. If no improvement is demonstrated, a grant may not be awarded, unless circumstances are detailed within the application
* Successful recipients of funding will be asked to undertake supportive roles and responsibilities for Leicester-Shire & Rutland Sport (LRS). These may include (but are not limited to); attending sporting & celebration events and having your image/blogs on the LRS website, social media sites, including YouTube, and relevant publications. Failure to support LRS in these roles will result in funding being withdrawn
* Appropriate recognition must be given to LRS in any media and social media coverage involving the individual
* LRS will request details of how funding has been used to support athlete development – e.g. equipment, competition expenses, etc. LRS reserve the right to reclaim any grant that is deemed not to have been used against costs and/or expenses identified in the agreement
* Financial support will be assessed on results from regular competitions. To receive funding athletes must have taken part in at least 1 qualifying competition per year in their sport’s season. **If athletes become injured or unable to compete, they must evidence that they are undertaking rehabilitation to recover and get back to full fitness as soon as possible, or funding will be withdrawn**

**The panel will prioritise applications based on the following criteria;**

* National Governing Bodies of Sport (NGBs) will be asked to advise LRS on **prioritisation** of applicants from the same sport and any further information required to make informed decisions
* An athlete’s **financial need**, including (but not limited to) household income, nature and cost of the sport.
* Funding provided in previous years may be considered, along with engagement in Go Gold Ambassador duties as outlined in the criteria
* Priority may be given to individuals who have not received funding previously

Please note, athletes who have received Go Gold funding previously are not guaranteed repeat funding, even if performance improvements are demonstrated.

Successful applicants will receive funding in two instalments (April & October) following the completion of an online blog at least once per month. Failure to submit blogs will result in funding being withdrawn.

**GO GOLD no longer features a tiered funding system. Funding will be allocated at the panel’s discretion, based on factors including financial need and athletic performance.**