



HENLEY ROWING CLUB

Policy Statement on Membership Support Fund

Henley Rowing Club, as a charitable incorporated organisation, is able to support people in need from the community we serve to row at the club.

Grant subsidies may be made from the Membership Support Fund or as an agreed exceptional cost in the overall club annual budget.

Fairness and consistency in dealing with applications is critical. The duty is on the decision panel to explain to the Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) committee and other stakeholders why one case is valid to support and another may not be. Therefore, an objective criteria based process is essential.

An applicant claiming financial hardship has their case heard by a panel of 3 members of the CIO committee, who assess the following:

A. How much subsidy is requested as a proportion of total annual cost? Factors to consider include membership subscription, rack fees, entry fees, kit costs.

And

B. How does the applicant rate against the following questions? 1. Member of the community (suitable to join HRC, i.e. living within approximately 10 miles where HRC can be considered the local club); 2. No reliable income or restricted/limited finances*; 3. Will fit into an existing squad (will use already available resources).

Where the answers to 1,2, 3 above are Yes, an applicant would be eligible.

Some cases may simply not fit these guidelines and need further consideration.

The panel makes application approval or non approval recommendations to the CIO committee to endorse applications with clarity of rationale, subsidy amount and voluntary services if appropriate. All cases will be treated with as much confidentiality as possible.

Applications must be in writing (by email to Chairman@henleyrowing.club) and will be heard and the outcome fed back to the applicant within a month of date of application.

The agreed subsidy is valid for one rowing calendar year, after which a further application is be needed for the next year.

This policy was agreed by the CIO committee on 4th December 2018. It was further reviewed in June 2020 with no changes required. Editorial changes were made in August 2022 (policy re-named)

* Guidance – <https://www.jrf.org.uk/income-benefits/living-wage>