

Club:	Bexley Tigers Basketball Club
Governing Body:	Basketball England
Policy Version:	2.0
Date Adopted:	April 2026
Review Date:	April 2027
Approved by:	Club Committee
Contact:	hardship@bexleytigers.co.uk

1. Purpose

Bexley Tigers Basketball Club is committed to ensuring that no individual is excluded from participating in its programmes due to financial constraints. This Hardship Policy aims to provide appropriate support to members experiencing genuine financial difficulty, ensuring that all participants have the opportunity to engage with the Club.

This policy aligns with the Club's Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Policy and its commitment to making basketball accessible to all.

2. Scope

This policy applies to all current and prospective members of the Club, including players, coaching volunteers, and their families. It covers the full range of Club fees, including membership fees, session fees, kit, and travel costs.

3. Eligibility

To be eligible for support under this policy, applicants should be able to demonstrate:

- Financial hardship due to low income, unemployment, sudden loss of income, or other substantial financial burden
- A commitment to active participation in Club activities
- UK residency (or equivalent eligibility for funded programmes)

Receipt of any of the following benefits may be taken as evidence of financial hardship: Universal Credit, Income Support, Housing Benefit, Child Tax Credit, Free School Meals entitlement (for junior members), or Employment and Support Allowance.

4. Application Process

Applications for hardship support should be made as follows:

- Contact the Club Treasurer or Chair by email at hardship@bexleytigers.co.uk to request an application form
- Complete the Hardship Application Form and return it with supporting documentation
- Supporting evidence may include: recent bank statements, benefit award letters, payslips, or a letter from a recognised financial or social service agency

- Applications will be treated in strict confidence and shared only with those involved in assessing the application

5. Assistance Available

Support available under this policy may include:

- Full or partial waiver of membership fees
- Subsidised session fees
- Assistance with kit or uniform costs
- Support with travel costs to training or competitions
- Payment plans for ongoing fees

The level of support will be determined based on individual circumstances and the Club's available resources at the time of application.

6. Confidentiality

All applications and related information will be treated with strict confidentiality. Information will be accessed only by the Hardship Committee for the purpose of assessing applications and will be stored in accordance with the Club's Data Protection Policy. Individuals will not be identified in any Club communications as being in receipt of hardship support.

7. Review Process

Applications will be reviewed by a Hardship Committee consisting of the Club Treasurer and at least one other Committee member. Decisions will be communicated to the applicant within 14 days of receipt of a complete application. The Committee will consider both the individual's circumstances and the Club's available resources.

8. Appeals

If an applicant is dissatisfied with a decision, they may appeal in writing to the Club Chair within 10 working days of receiving the decision. Appeals should be submitted to complaint@bexleytigers.co.uk. The Club Chair will consider the appeal and communicate a decision within 14 days.

9. Review of Policy

This policy will be reviewed annually by the Club Committee to ensure it remains effective and relevant. Any changes will be communicated to members.