Financial Assistance Policy

1. Purpose:

To ensure that financial constraints do not prevent individuals from participating in club activities, while maintaining the club's financial sustainability.

2. Principles:

- As per the Club's Inclusion and Diversity Policy, the club is committed to inclusivity and supporting members facing genuine financial hardship.
- Assistance will be provided in a fair, confidential, and respectful manner according to a set of defined criteria.

3. Eligibility:

- Any current or prospective member experiencing financial difficulty may apply for support.
- Applications should outline the nature of the hardship and the type of assistance requested.

4. Types of Support:

- Discounted Membership Fees: Members may receive a reduction of between 20% and 50% of the standard membership fee.
- Flexible Payment Options: Members may spread payments over monthly without additional charges.
- Temporary Suspension: Membership may be paused for up to 3 months without penalty in cases of severe hardship.

5. Application Process:

- Requests should be submitted in writing to the Treasurer or Membership Secretary.
- Applications will be reviewed by a confidential subcommittee (Chair, Treasurer, and Membership Secretary).
- The subcommittee will aim to communicate a decision within 14 days of submission.

6. Confidentiality:

- All applications and decisions will be handled with strict confidentiality.
- Personal financial details will not be shared beyond the review subcommittee.

7. Funding and Limits:

- The club will allocate from the annual budget a fund to provide financial assistance (as per the Financial Governance Policy) to support these provisions.
- Assistance will be granted based on available funds and individual circumstances.

8. Review:

- The cases of financial assistance will be summarised annually at a committee meeting and the AGM to ensure that funding levels are appropriate.
- Each case will be reviewed annually (with written request for information relating to any changes in circumstances to members receiving support)
- This policy will be reviewed annually.