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Synergy Gymnastics London Foundation (SGLF) – Information for Applicants

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What is the Foundation?

- An organised approach to helping Synergy families that are struggling to pay for fees, events, uniform.
- Also to assist gymnasts that have increased costs due to reaching regional, national and international events or national squads.
- Allows the club to have a formal way of helping families instead of the ad-hoc basis we sometimes do now.

How Does It Work?

- A parent or carer completes a simple online form outlining what they need help with and any mitigating reasons eg a recent Job loss.
- The foundation panel decides on whether it can help financially or not.
- If it can, then it decides on how much (max award usually £250)
- If a parent / carer is unable to complete the online form we can assist with this for example by talking face to face and completing the form on their behalf.

Financial Support

- Support is given in the form of credit added to the family account in I class Pro.
- Money / cash is not transferred.
- This way we can be sure the support is 100% put towards gymnastics costs.

Further Information

- The Foundation will be open for applications twice a year. Dates will be posted online and emailed to current members.
- The Application Form link will be on the Foundation Page of www.synergygymnastics.co.uk when a round is open to receive applications.
- You must be a current member of SGL to apply to the Foundation and have read the Criteria for Grants (below).
- All sections of the online application form must be completed for an application to be considered. A member staff can assist you with this if you need it or cannot access the form online.

- All information is kept confidentially. We do not share publicly who has applied or the results of applications.
- Your application will be complete once the form has been submitted. We will notify you of this, then your application will then be sent to the foundation panel for review.
- You will be notified of the outcome of your application once the review process has completed. We try and make decisions within three weeks from the date an application is completed. However, when there are large numbers of applications, keeping to this timescale may not always be possible.

Criteria

Foundation Aims: To alleviate significant financial pressure (see definition below)

- SGLF's definition of significant financial pressure:
  SGLF defines significant financial pressure as being a financial situation which has the effect of ending people's involvement in gymnastics or makes it unreasonably difficult for people to continue to be involved in gymnastics.
- It also includes the need to cover large increased costs incurred due to being selected for Regional, National or International events or squads. Such costs may include travel, uniform, training camps and event entry (list not exclusive).
- The SGLF defines significant financial pressure when these increased costs have an effect of preventing a gymnast from taking part in a selection event, camp or squad.

Who is eligible to apply for Synergy Gymnastics London grants?

- Current members of Synergy Gymnastics London who are experiencing financial pressure which is affecting their continued involvement in gymnastics or events.
- Current members of Synergy Gymnastics London who are in crisis.

Who is not eligible to apply for Synergy Gymnastics London Foundation grants?

- Those who are deemed to be financially capable of/or have the means to fund their involvement in gymnastics.
- Any person who has made a false claim in the past.
- Gymnasts in receipt of UK Sport Lottery funding.
- Synergy Gymnastics London staff members.

Further Criteria

- Grants can be awarded “in principle”, subject to the applicant being selected for a particular event or competition.
- Only one grant per person will be awarded in a 12 month period.
- SGLF will normally only consider applications where the applicant has been participating at the club for more than 12 months.
- Applications for grants for travel costs will be rejected if the panel feels that some travel costs are unnecessary.

Supporting Evidence

As part of the online application form, applicants can share supporting evidence. This could include:

- Universal Credit Statement or Child Tax Credit to prove hardship
- Free School Meals Eligibility
- Selection letter or email from London Gymnastics or British Gymnastics with costs if possible
- Breakdown of external costs eg train fare, accommodation with screenshots if possible

This list is not exhaustive, and applicants are welcome to provide any evidence they feel is relevant. However, please do not share bank statements.