**Further updates will be issued as we receive clarity from Government on the outstanding matters referred to below.**

This information relates to the financial position in England.

Our current understanding is that the Government’s financial package which is stated to apply to the retail, hospitality and leisure sectors extends to sports clubs. However we are seeking confirmation of this crucial point.

Government’s latest financial package (which can be accessed via this link - <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-employers-and-businesses-about-covid-19/covid-19-support-for-businesses>) announced 18th March 2020 in a move to assist businesses suffering from the effects of Covid-19 includes:

* A statutory sick pay relief package for SMEs
* The Coronavirus Business Interruption Loan Scheme to support long-term viable businesses who may need to respond to cash-flow pressures by seeking additional finance
* The HMRC Time To Pay Scheme
* Business Rates package

**Business Rates Package:**

* Clubs will be entitled to business rata relief for the tax year 2020/2021 irrespective of their rateable value.
* Clubs eligible for Small Business Rate Relief or Rural Rate Relief will receive a one off grant of £10,000. If your club is eligible for SBRR or RRR, your local authority will contact you direct. Funding for the scheme will be provided to local authorities by government in early April. Government is due to provide guidance for local authorities on the scheme on 20 March
* Clubs with a rateable value of between £15,000 and £51,000 will be entitled to one off grant of £25,000. Enquiries in relation to eligibility for, or provision of, the reliefs should be directed to the relevant local authority. Guidance for local authorities on the business rates holiday will be published by 20 March.

**Insurance:**

In his speech on 17th March 2020, the chancellor announced that for those businesses that have pandemic insurance the government’s *action* is sufficient to enable them to claim on their policies. However, we are seeking clarification from Government that this has been agreed with the insurance industry regardless of policy terms, as many policies are likely to limit an indemnity based on an interruption to ‘the business’ is as a consequence of a *direct order* from a ‘competent local authority’.

There are a number of aspects of the package that require clarification and we are working with the Sport and Recreation Alliance on an approach to Government to ascertain the position and, where necessary, challenge/influence its decision making on the following elements:

* Whether CASCs/charities are eligible for full 100% relief and make the case that they should be

*The initial response from the Treasury is that organisations eligible for the current discount will be eligible for the rates holiday. Guidance on the additional property types will be published shortly, and this will include those involved in providing sport, leisure and facilities to visiting members of the public.*

That being the case it appears that CASCs will be included but we still await confirmation that charities will also benefit from the additional relief. We are seeking explicit confirmation that the relief extends to both charities and CASCs.

* Whether small clubs with no rateable value are eligible for the £10,000 grant
* How clubs/organisations with multiple properties will be treated, given they are not eligible for SBRR
* Whether the government will be issuing clarity to insurers that the government’s actions are sufficient to trigger business interruption insurance
* Whether the mortgage holidays announced for individuals will also apply to businesses/organisations

**Business Interruption Loan Scheme**

This is a temporary scheme. The government will not charge businesses or banks for this guarantee, and the Scheme will support loans of up to £5 million in value. Businesses can access the first 6 months of that finance interest free, as government will cover the first 6 months of interest payments.

The Treasury has provided the following information on the scheme:

*In the first instance, clubs facing short-term cash flow difficulties should engage with their existing finance providers to see what assistance they might be able to provide.*

*Government will be providing an 80% guarantee on finance facilities up to £5 million. Government will not charge clubs or banks for the guarantee, and will cover the first 6 months of interest payments for clubs. Clubs will remain responsible for repaying any facility they may take out.*

*Facilities supported by the guarantee will be provided by participating commercial lenders in the usual way. Full eligibility criteria will be published shortly, and clubs interested in applying for a finance facility (such as a loan), supported by the scheme should speak to their lenders.*

*The new scheme is up and running. The British Business Bank has published the list of lenders that provide Coronavirus Interruption Business Loan Scheme loans. More information on the scheme will be on the British Business Bank website at* [*www.british-business-bank.co.uk/CBILS*](https://url6.mailanyone.net/v1/?m=1jEd1A-0009Fm-47&i=57e1b682&c=RXm8TWukRGhCKqyCvuf5NwFFE5yVqOtvCAHBenzEvf2pbgmOZbaAjH1yYZH1uJu0wsmgdsKlR9ExzKNkZyJbI_K_d87CWUwiiuA1sIyz96i7isoA7gl6-cTmuvATgxnBd18n9TEcGvU1I7ILIamP0fGvNtvBVMa0nPQLS3h5rVnidfk4QCTYa9K9N5rWBJ-tZ_zTYoQVcxEWEwxZ_o1jadTCteYE6J3E0Pj6_jfshCN-B6fj10WaISKuMnBHylq5)