

Anaconda Swimming Club Bursary Policy

Anaconda Swimming Club is keen to improve inclusion and to support all swimmers to succeed, removing barriers whenever possible.

This policy outlines the criteria, eligibility, and selection process for the Swimming Bursary Programme. The programme is designed to provide financial assistance to eligible swimmers who are facing financial barriers to help offset the costs associated with lessons, training, competition fees, equipment, travel expenses and to support their development as swimmers.

Although we are a not-for-profit organisation with limited funds, we offer bursary contributions for new swimmers to enter into the swim school as well as to support established school or squad swimmers whose families encounter financial hardship. To do this we rely on generous contributions made through individual donations, club fundraising and through public grant funding available to support such causes. We offer our thanks to all parties who have contributed.

If you are able to support our bursary programme with additional monthly contributions on top of the regular fees, please contact our fundraising leader, Rosa Di Gioia-Naydenov. Any support is greatly appreciated.

There are two types of bursaries:

Swim School entry bursaries:

- Aimed primarily at children aged 5-8 to join the swim school in the form of reduced, or fully funded lesson fees. These awards are reviewed and re-awarded every 6 month blocks subject to regular attendance and a positive attitude shown by the child.
- **Eligibility Criteria:**
 - Based on the Free School Meals eligibility criteria: [Free School Meals](#)
 - Interest to learn to swim and willingness to commit to a 6 month initial period
- **Number of swim school bursaries available:** During 2023 we expect to have four swim school bursaries available. This may grow in future years based on the success of the programme and availability of funds.

Swim Squad bursaries:

- For families with children established in the swim squads in the form of reduced squad fees and help with other expenses. The swimmer must
 - have demonstrated a strong commitment to the sport of swimming and a desire to improve their skills and performance.
 - be actively participating in club activities and competing in swimming meets.
 - be in good standing with their club or team, including adhering to the code of conduct, policies, and procedures of the club or team.
- These awards are reviewed annually and re-awarded based on regular attendance, in accordance with their squad guidance, and a positive attitude shown by the swimmer.

- Provide financial assistance to eligible to help offset the costs associated with competition fees, equipment, travel expenses and to support their development as swimmers.
- **Eligibility Criteria:**
 - Established squad swimmer meeting squad attendance criteria
 - Evidence of financial hardship
- **Number of swim school bursaries available:** Evaluated on a case by case basis based on individual case and financial position of Anaconda at time of application.

Notes to bursary applications:

- Anaconda reserves the right to seek any other documentary evidence in support of the income and asset figures submitted, and to make enquiries which it deems necessary. Bursary recipients are required to let the club know if their circumstances change.
- For both School and Squad Bursaries we are committed to provide equal opportunities to all eligible applicants and ensure transparency, fairness, and accountability in the selection process and will be subject to ongoing evaluation to ensure its effectiveness.
- Bursary recipients (or their coaches/teachers) will provide regular updates to the bursary committee on their progress in the sport, including attendance at training sessions and competitions, as well as any significant achievements.

Application Process

Swimmers who wish to apply for the bursary must complete an application form, which can be obtained from the club's website or by contacting the club administrator and will include the following where applicable:

1. Personal information, including name, age, and contact information.
2. A summary of the athlete's swimming experience and achievements to date.
3. A statement outlining the athlete's financial need and how the bursary will assist them in achieving their swimming goals.
4. A brief statement outlining the athlete's future swimming goals and aspirations.

Assessment Process

Applications for swimming bursaries will be assessed by a bursary committee consisting of members of the swimming club's board of directors and club's coaching staff .

The committee will review the applications and determine the amount of financial assistance to be awarded. The committee's decision will be final.

Evaluation

The board will evaluate the bursary program on an ongoing basis to ensure that it is meeting its objectives and to make any necessary adjustments to the program.

Conclusion

The Swimming Bursary Policy is intended to support swimmers who demonstrate a strong commitment to the sport (Squad Bursary) or a strong interest (School Bursary), but who may face financial barriers to achieving their goals. The bursary program is an important part of the club's commitment to promoting the values of sportsmanship, teamwork, and dedication. By providing financial assistance to deserving swimmers, the club hopes to help develop the next generation of talented athletes.

Contact

For questions and queries on the Bursary Policy or if you are interested in applying please contact Jonathan Calver (chair@anacondaswimmingclub.org.uk) and Rosa Di Gioia (rosadigioia@ymail.com).