



Ashford Leisure Trust Talented Athlete Programme Information Pack 2019

What is it?

The Ashford Leisure Trust Talented Athlete Programme is a bursary programme for talented athletes living within the borough of Ashford. The Talented Athlete Programme uses the inspiration of the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games helping local athletes living in Ashford to achieve their goals and ambitions.

Ashford Leisure Trust is a non-profit charity that manages the Stour Centre, Julie Rose Stadium and Conningbrook Lakes on behalf of Ashford Borough Council.

Applicants must live within the borough of Ashford in order to apply for a bursary.

How is it funded?

The Ashford Leisure Trust Talented Athlete Programme is funded solely by Ashford Leisure Trust. As a not for profit company Ashford Leisure Trust is re-investing money by supporting local talented athletes.

The Benefits:

You could benefit from:

- Up to £250 of financial support for one year (to cover travel, training costs and more).
- One full years' gym membership which includes use of the fitness suites at both of our sites, the pools and health spa at the Stour Centre and use of the Julie Rose Stadium athletics track.
- Ashford Leisure Trust branded training kit.
- Assistance with promotion of your achievements through the Ashford Leisure Trust website, social media accounts and the local media.
- Discounts at Podplus Ltd and Nike Outlet Store

Who can apply?

- Applications are open to anyone who is:
- A resident in the borough of Ashford and;
- A member of a sports club and must be competing at County, Regional, National or International level in their chosen sport.

In addition to the key criteria above for applicants, the selection panel will also use a number of further criteria against which they will assess applications, these include the following:

Criteria	Comments
Age	Applicants must be a minimum of 10 years old, by the closing date of the application.
Standard	Applicants have been selected within the last 18 months to compete as a minimum at age group international, age group county level or above in line with the competitive structure of your chosen sport.
Cross Sport Comparisons	It is always difficult to assess applications across a range of different sports as each sport has its own development pathway. However, where applicants in a number of sports appear to have achieved the same level of representation, the panel will consider how difficult it is to achieve that level of representation in each sport. The panel will look at a range of factors to help define this including national or international rankings, competition results for individuals or team selections. Applicants must be competing in the highest grade of competition for their age group.
Same Sport Comparisons	Where a number of applications are received from applicants from the same sport, external advice from the National Governing Body may be sought to support prioritisation of funding.
World Class Funding	Athletes who are already receiving funding through the World Class programme will not be offered additional funding through this programme. However can still be awarded the status of an ALT Talented Athlete.
Other External Funding	Athletes who apply for the ALT Talented Athlete Programme who are already receiving funding from another external body must be aware that this will be taken into account when the selection panel meet.
Athletes currently on the ALT Talented Athlete Programme	All athletes currently supported by ALT should reapply to the scheme outlining achievements in the past 12 months.

How to apply:

To receive an application form please email us on info@ashfordleisuretrust.co.uk or call us on 01233 667127.

- There will be ONE opportunity for athletes to apply to Ashford Leisure Trust Talented Athlete Programme per year. Application forms are available from **Monday 25th February 2019**.
- All completed applications must be received by **Friday 29th March 2019**.
- Anticipated awards ceremony in July 2019.
- The completed form should be returned by post to Ashford Leisure Trust at the address shown on the application form.

Selection Process:

- Once application forms have been collated, an eligibility panel will meet to short-list applications; following which all applicants will be informed of the outcome.
- Notification of the panel's decision will be sent in writing to all applicants and an agreement form/contract will be sent to successful applicants. The panel's decision is final.
- Ashford Leisure Trust cannot be held responsible for the non-delivery of applications. If confirmation of delivery is required, we advise using recorded delivery. Please also keep a copy of your submitted application.
- Successful applicants will be notified as to when the funding assistance will commence with payments being made on the Trust receiving receipts for purchases relating to your sport.
- In the event of a change in circumstance that may result in the applicant becoming ineligible, Ashford Leisure Trust will have the right to withdraw all financial assistance and all agreements will be null and void.
- Ashford Leisure Trust requires notification of any current contracts with clubs or sponsors. This is to ensure that involvement in Ashford Leisure Trust does not jeopardise other agreements.
- If an applicant is found to have given false information leading them to be a successful applicant, Ashford Leisure Trust reserves the right to withdraw all financial assistance and request all monies paid to be refunded.
- Ashford Leisure Trust reserves the right to withdraw financial assistance at any time.

Requirements stipulated by Ashford Leisure Trust in return of bursarial support:

- We ask that you provide help in promoting the sporting profile of Ashford Leisure Trust including appearing in photographs, information for media articles and press releases, appearances at events and other appropriate promotional activities as agreed.
- We ask that you allow Ashford Leisure Trust to use information of your success as an applicant including when/ if you are not on the programme anymore.
- We ask that you regularly update Ashford Leisure Trust of your progress in training and competition, plus complete an evaluation at the end of the year and attend the Ashford Leisure Trust Talented Athlete Programme launch event.