



General Meeting – July 2024 - Board Motion

Background

Between April 2023 and March 2025, Hoci Cymru is facing a significant reduction in central funding from Sport Wales, amounting to nearly £120,000. Furthermore, an additional reduction of £200,000 is planned for the 2025/26 season.

This £200k reduction represents a 61% reduction in development and participation funding and a 12% reduction in performance funding.

Sport Wales has reallocated these funds to support other sports deemed to have greater latent demand than hockey. This reduction in grant funding is specifically targeted at the development and participation aspects of our sport, directly impacting the resources available to support clubs, schools, and wider community groups.

Proposed Objectives

To address the funding gap, Hoci Cymru is proposing the implementation of five main objectives:

1. **Reduce Operating Budgets and Resources:** Align operating budgets and resources with the new grant allocation. In 2024 this relates to £70k.
2. **Diversify Income-Generating Opportunities:** Continuously identify and explore new avenues for generating income.
3. **Adjust Membership Fees:** Reduce the subsidy on membership fees, leading to an increase in fees as outlined below.
4. **Challenge the UK Sport & GB Hockey Funding Model:** Advocate for equitable funding, as Wales currently receives no support.
5. **Develop Shared Services:** Collaborate with other National Governing Bodies to develop shared services and collaborative income-generating opportunities.

Hardship Fund

Recognising the potential financial strain on our members, Hoci Cymru is committed to working with stakeholders to establish a hardship fund. This fund will provide assistance to club members who face genuine financial difficulties in affiliating to the new fee structure.

Hoci Cymru | Hockey Wales

Sport Wales National Centre
Sophia Close, Cardiff
CF11 9SW



Tel: 0300 300 3126

Email: info@hockeywales.org.uk

Website: www.hockeywales.org.uk

Proposed Motion

Considering the current economic situation, rising costs, and the additional £200,000 reduction in funding anticipated in 2025, Hoci Cymru proposes the following motion:

Motion: To raise all membership fees at the start of the 2025/26 season to accommodate the reduction in grant funding from Sport Wales. This price increase will apply across all membership categories. The new membership prices are detailed in the table below.

Fee Increase Proposals (Membership Categories)	24/25 Fee	Proposed Increase	New Fee 25/26
Coaches/Umpires	£15.00	£5.00	£20.00
Initiatives	£5.00	£15.00	£20.00
Hockey Family	£0.00	£10.00	£10.00
Players Age 13 and Under	£18.00	£7.00	£25.00
Players Age 14 to 17	£18.00	£17.00	£35.00
Adult Players (18 and Over)	£39.00	£20.00	£59.00
University Club Player	£33.00	£17.00	£50.00
Clubs (Members)			
Small (0-50)	£50.00	£50.00	£100.00
Medium (51-100)	£50.00	£150.00	£200.00
Large (100+)	£50.00	£250.00	£300.00
Adult Teams	£21.00	£100.00	£121.00
Youth Teams	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Uni Club Teams	£21.00	£50.00	£71.00

Implementation: If approved, this motion will take effect in August 2025 and reviewed in 3 years.

Should members decide not to pass this motion then it leaves Hoci Cymru with some very tough decisions and very little option other than the following:

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- **Reduction in staff** - With only 10 staff at the organisation. This will have serious impact on the support for clubs and the development of the sport across Wales which in turn will inevitably lead to further funding cuts
- **Development and Promotion** – The implementation of various programmes and initiatives to increase participation, develop talent, and foster a lifelong passion for their sport, will be significantly reduced.
- **Grassroots Competitions** - Currently Hoci Cymru delivers 27 competitions for schools, clubs and master's hockey. The number and level of competition will be drastically reduced from 2025 and beyond.
- **Governance and welfare of the sport** – Key governance matters such as safeguarding, finance, rules and regulations and stakeholder engagement will all be significantly affected and consequently risk jeopardising all future Sport Wales funding.

The reduction in staffing and the organisation's ability to deliver key programmes and engagement will no doubt place extra pressure on clubs to increase the delivery activity to attract young people to the sport.

Hoci Cymru appreciates the understanding and support of our members during this challenging period. We are committed to ensuring the continued growth and development of hockey in Wales, and your support is crucial in achieving this goal.