



Covid 19 Funding - Case Study – Sapphire Gymnastics Club

Funding Background

Glasgow Sport was eager to help organisations to sustain themselves and be *Ready to Go Again* when the Scottish Government route map allowed. This fund offering clubs up to £2,000 was specifically targeted at organisations in the sport and physical activity sector who have a role in enabling and supporting the communities of Glasgow to get and stay active. Sapphire Gymnastics Club were successfully awarded a total of £1900 to support the club through the challenging months they faced as a result of the Pandemic.



Welcoming back Sapphire Members

Preschool Sessions

Social Media Campaign – Free Session

What did you expect to do?

Our plan at Sapphire Gymnastics Club was to apply to the Covid fund to ensure our club could meet the Government & Scottish Gymnastics protocols and guidelines and welcome as many members back to our gymnastics club safely. To enable us to restart activity we required funds to purchase a range of PPE equipment and cleaning materials and this would include items such as Hand Sanitising Stations, Signage, Thermometers as well as tape to replenish regularly after each session. We also operated out of two venues, Maryhill and Mount Vernon and with regular cleaning before during and after each session required, inevitably we would require large quantities PPE and cleaning products, which would allow us to reopen and stay open and ensure our members, coaches, parents were confident our club was a Covid safe activity to be enjoyed.



What we did?

- Purchased cleaning, hygiene & PPE products and installed Sanitising Stations including Signage to ensure safe environment for members, coaches and parents
- Designed new club online booking app
- Recruited 2 Covid Officers
- Implemented new updated process and procedures around hygiene measures and social distancing adhering to Government Guidelines
- Delivered social media campaign offering free sessions attracting new members to the club lost due to Pandemic
- Introduced 2 new Preschool Gymnastics classes to cope with demand and trebled Preschool membership
- Continued to engage with members during Lockdown offering 5 online Zoom sessions for on a weekly basis.
- Amended and restructured class schedule and managed to resume all club classes to Pre-Lockdown level



Socially Distanced Gymnastics



Hand Sanitising Station



Gymnastics Sessions



Zoom Session

What difference we made?

The funding helped our club massively when we returned from lockdown. We didn't have any of the PPE equipment, only basic cleaning items. With the club being forced to close for 6 months due to the Pandemic we had no ability to generate income through loss of membership fees and therefore the grant helped us to re-open safely without the financial pressure of trying to source funds to purchase these essential items.

We recruited 2 Covid Co-ordinators to oversee and our updated processes and procedures around hygiene, social distancing, increased coach to gymnastics ratios and online booking. Through this new of way of working we were able to welcome back a large number of our members and demonstrate to parents it was a safe environment for their children to return to gymnastics and gave them confidence and peace of mind that we were a professional club following strict government guidelines and the safety of all our children, coaches and parents was our priority. Our extensive social media campaign offering free session was a great success in attracting new members and we have seen a huge surge in interest in our 3-5-year age category and recreational classes, which have resulting in us organising additional sessions to cope with demand. For the first time at the club we have a waiting list for Pre 5's. All our hard work is paying off and we are seeing our club membership is beginning to return to where we were pre -Covid.



Challenge and Changes or Learning for the future?

When we first reopened after Lockdown it was very difficult for gymnasts and coaches to adapt to the new processes, procedures and one-way systems we had implemented. It was a challenge adapting to the time and resources required for registration, taking gymnast temperatures, strict cleaning regimes and ensuring hand sanitising procedures were followed whilst managing the queuing system. We were faced with a role that would usually be the responsibility of one member of coaching staff, which was now a role that required three coaches on weekday session and with as many as five on Saturdays. Now we have changed our system we feel the classes are now running smoothly and number of members who were hesitant about re-joining have returned to the club. Although the members we have lost have not fully been replaced, we have had a great start to recouping new members and look forward to welcoming even more in the coming months.

"We would like to thank Glasgow life for the grant that helped our club return to the "new normal", without it we may not have been able to have re-opened due to finances. We have had to follow strict Government and Governing Body guidelines to re-open and the PPE was a big part of it and essential to keeping our members, volunteers, staff, coaches, gymnast and parents all safe."
Sapphire Gymnastics Club

"Due to the funding and the new way we now operate it has also brought our coaches and members a lot closer and helped getting to know them a bit better. Although 2020 has been one of the worse years in our clubs' history and also missing out on our 10th year anniversary, it has also brought us closer as a club. I hope 2021 will be a better year for all sport clubs"
Sapphire Gymnastics Club