

## Pay half, play hard Q&A

### **What is 'Pay Half, Play Hard'?**

The 'Pay Half, Play Hard' is a Sport Gisborne Tairāwhiti (SGT) initiative will see the fees/registrations for high participation winter team sports reduced to 50% for the 2023 year. This is with the aim of ensuring that cost isn't a barrier to participation post Cyclone Gabrielle.

Critically however, local codes and clubs won't miss out on that 50% revenue, as it will be topped up by Sport Gisborne Tairāwhiti through external funding received by the New Zealand Community Trust, along with some contributions from National Sporting Organisations.

### **Why is my sport not covered?**

We would have loved to have included all sports in this initiative. However, the funding received is limited, so we focused on winter team sports that have a high participation – and in particular, a high youth participation. This will ensure many in our community get immediate benefit. We will re-assess with time whether further support can be offered to year-round sports and/or our summer codes, but once again, we will be constrained given overall funding.

### **Is there a maximum amount any one player can have?/Is there a limit on how many participants receive the discount. E.g. one person plays three different types of sport, do they qualify for a discount for all?**

There is no maximum amount. It would be problematic trying to cross-reference players across codes, and if some people play multiple sports, it means that each year they pay a significant cost. So they will receive a discount for each sport that they play that is covered by Pay Half, Play Hard.

### **Does this cover representative teams?**

This will not cover the cost of representative teams, attending tournaments, going to one-off events etc. There are too many variables with those additional costs, and the funding we have received won't stretch that far. We recognise events, tournaments etc. can be a significant cost for participants, but hopefully this reduction in general fees will soften the blow and free up some funding for those other areas.

### **I'm a regional body, looking after multiple clubs within the code – we charge fees, the club may charge fees, how do I manage it?**

The most critical element is to ensure that all participants for your code get 50% off their cost of playing. This is about directly helping the financial burden for players and their whānau.

We recognise for some codes there are more complex governance structures that will need to be worked through, and we appreciate this may take time and effort.

Sport Gisborne Tairāwhiti (SGT) can allocate a team member to help work through/test these options, and we can help communicate them as well.

### **Do we need to keep track of the discounts/transactions for insights/data collection? Like does NZCT/SGT want some kind of data return?**

What we need from each code is a record of how many players registered for your leagues in 2023. If you have different leagues spread throughout the year then you can provide us with those

numbers for each separate league, or a total sum at the end of the year. We can then be invoiced to make up the 50% difference that was not received through player fees. We want to make sure that codes and clubs don't have any cash-flow problems, so we are open to being invoiced on multiple occasions if that works better for the code/club.

### **Is there a cut-off date?**

If you are part of 'Pay Half, Play Hard' then you can invoice us at any stage in 2023 to cover the 50% cost of the registration money that you didn't receive. As we are starting with the winter team sports, we imagine most player registration numbers will be confirmed over the first half of 2023. We would love you to keep in touch with us about how your registration numbers are tracking.

### **When will funds be put into our account? Before or after? How will SGT know how much to cover?**

Once a code/club has confirmed registration numbers, they can invoice SGT to cover the 50% of fees that they didn't receive from those players. For example, if a sport had 100 players register for their winter season, and those players only paid \$100 each instead of the normal \$200, then that code would invoice SGT for \$10,000 to cover the fees they didn't receive.

### **Who's funding it?**

Although SGT is leading this initiative, the New Zealand Community Trust is the principal funder, as they recognise the benefit 'Pay Half, Play Hard' can bring, and sport is one of the key areas they fund. Some National Sporting organisations have also made contributions to this initiative, and we will ensure that they are appropriately acknowledged.

### **Who is eligible?**

Everyone that participates in winter sport in a club/code that is covered, not just those directly affected by the cyclone.

### **Is it half the subs or a percentage of subs?**

Half of the subs/registration costs. For example, if it costs \$250 per year to play football, then the player will instead be charged \$125 for the season. This can vary depending on the club/code payment structure.

### **Why is there not a hardship component/means testing built in? This won't target the areas of greatest need with that.**

We recognise this is a broad-brush approach, however, we think it will provide significant benefit to the community, and by default, it will support many who are struggling financially.

Building in means-testing would have made this initiative extremely complex to run, and may have prevented some from applying for the scheme, as they would have to share information about their financial situation. We are also looking at other funding support mechanisms regarding hardship that are separate to 'Pay Half, Play Hard'.