

FUNDRAISING GUIDE



Introduction

As of August 2026, British Dodgeball has fundraised approximately £200,000 to develop dodgeball in the UK. We have directly led, co-led or supported 75 different projects to get more people active through playing dodgeball (setting up new clubs, new club sections, supporting new groups to be able to offer the sport).

This guide explains the usual process for applying for funding with British Dodgeball's support.

1. Organisation Checks

Check that your organisation is set up to receive funding. To have the best chance of a successful bid (And often, check that you're eligible in the first place), you should make sure that you have the following in place:

- **Organisation Setup:** Eligible organisations include unincorporated groups; companies limited by guarantee (as long as they state they are not for profit in their governing document); charities; CICs; CASCs; and statutory bodies such as schools.
- **Governance:** Make sure you have at least three non-related and non-cohabiting committee members or directors; meet at least four times per year; have a conflict of interest policy (or statement in your governing document); and some form of asset lock, which outlines what happens to your group's assets if you cease operations.
- **Finances:** Have some form of record of last year's annual accounts; make sure you have a group bank account and can access recent bank statements from this account.
- **Safeguarding:** Have a safeguarding policy and adhere to it.

2. Project Idea

Although some funds cover your group's core operating expenses, most funds will require you to outline a clear project with aims and objectives which their funding will be put towards. Consider the following:

- **Target Audience:** Are you looking to target a certain demographic, e.g. people of a certain age or ethnicity, or people from a certain area?
- **Benefit to Wider Community:** How might the wider community benefit from this project? Would they receive access to a new opportunity to get active and receive the physical, mental & social benefits that come from playing dodgeball? Would members of the community receive the opportunity to train in new roles and become more employable?
- **Benefit to your Club/Organisation:** How would this project link in with your organisation's long-term goals, e.g. setting up a new junior section or women's section, growing a club session in a new area etc.

3. Get in Touch

One of the ways we can support fundraising is by helping you to design a project and support you to answer the trickier questions in a funding application.

- **Email:** Simply email hello@britishdodgeball.com with an outline of who you are and your project idea
- **Meet:** We'll arrange a meeting where we can talk through your idea and what the next steps could look like.
- **Follow-Up:** After this initial meeting, we'll communicate via email or follow up in subsequent meetings to discuss updates.

4. Finalise Project Details

We will work with you to make sure your organisation and your project is as fundable as possible, as well as ensuring it will have a sustainable long-term benefit to both you and your wider community:

- **Budget:** We can help with costing out your project idea so you have a detailed budget sheet.
- **Funding Priorities:** Every fund has different priorities. We will help match you with funds that share similar priorities to your project, which you can then apply to.

Example: The [Sport England movement fund](#) prioritises areas with a [PNC score of 1](#), or [high-priority groups](#). Other funds prioritise local areas or areas showing deprivation according to the [IMD](#).

- **People:** You'll need to identify potential colleagues, club mates or new individuals who can help you with the project in coaching, marketing or volunteer roles.
- **Facilities:** You'll need to identify potential facilities where you can run the project and check availability and costs.
- **Partners:** We can put you in touch with other organisations in our network who can support you. These may include active partnerships; local leisure trusts; local schools, colleges, and universities; and established community dodgeball clubs.

5. Evidence Need & Demand

Many failed applications are not successful because they do not properly outline the need and demand:

- **Evidence Need:** We'll help you to explain how you're looking to work with a target audience that is aligned to the fund's priorities, and use data to show why your project will positively impact them.
- **Evidence Demand:** Successful projects often have an element of co-design. This is where your target audience have had an active role in the planning and design of your project, or lots of individual fitting your target group have shown that they are interested in getting involved if the project does take place. You could evidence demand through sharing surveys and consultations online.



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6. Bid Writing

At this point, we'll be ready to write and submit the funding bid.

- **Conditions:** Ensure you're happy with the stated terms and conditions of a funding bid, including how you need to monitor the project, report back on the project and evidence your expenditure.
- **Submission:** At this point, you'll usually be asked to submit your governing document, annual accounts, and bank statement alongside your application.

Bid Submitted | Funding Decision

7. Bid Outcome

Once you've received your decision:

- **Successful:** If you have been successful, congratulations - move on to step 8.
- **Unsuccessful:** If not, don't worry - we can look to resubmit using the feedback they give, or look to identify other funds which may be a better fit, in order to get your project off the ground.

8. Project Delivery

Now you can begin to deliver the project:

- **Project Management:** A project manager should deliver the project as stated in your application. This usually starts with notifying partners, confirming venues, training new coaches or volunteers and promoting the project.
- **Evidence Expenditure:** You must keep records of all expenditure related to your project in case you are required to submit these at the end of your project. To help with this, British Dodgeball will send one invoice which covers any products and services we are providing towards the project.



9. Project Evaluation & Reporting

Once your project has finished:

- **Project Reporting:** You'll usually need to send a report to the funders. They may require you to outline information such as the number of people you worked with, the impact on these individuals, and confirming your expenditure.
- **Project Evaluation:** An important step to help you improve your work for future projects. This is where you consider what went well, what you could do better next time, what hurdles came up along the way that you didn't necessarily expect and how you can adapt to this next time.