

Youth Engagement Fund – Eligibility & Application Criteria

Why a Youth Engagement Fund for Clubs?

The Kent FA is launching the Youth Engagement Fund to encourage clubs within the county to explore new ways to give and listen to the voices of young people and to allow them to consider how they may provide a platform for young players within their community to have a say in how their club is run. That is where this fund comes in, as the Kent FA is giving clubs the chance to apply for funding of up to £300 for a project that allows clubs to listen and engage their young players on and off the pitch in different ways, letting them have a say in key decisions.

What kind of applications are encouraged?

We want clubs to be creative as possible with their applications, so all ideas and initiatives will be welcomed! Whether that be setting up an in-house club youth council, purchasing player suggestion boxes, launching a campaign within the club based on an issue players feel passionately about, putting in place a young person's liaison officer or upskilling volunteers on how to engage better with their players and young people or something totally different, it is up to you. We will look most favourably on ideas, projects and initiatives that can be sustained and developed by the club once the funding provided, should the club be successful, runs out. Projects will also be looked favourably upon should they consult with young people in putting together their application.

Which clubs are eligible to apply?

To be eligible to apply, clubs must be affiliated to the Kent FA for the 2023/2024 season, be England Football Accredited (or a Licensed Football Provider) and have at least 1 youth team within the club.

How do I apply and what does the application involve?

To apply for the Youth Engagement Fund, you will need to fill in an online application form, which can be found here: <https://form.jotform.com/230594375879978>. You must include details about the club, as well as provide information on the proposed project or initiative, the timelines involved in getting it started, the impact you hope it will have, the sustainability of the project or initiative once the initial funding has been used and how you propose to break down the funding. Applications are open from Tuesday 1st August through to 5pm on Friday 18th August. Any applications received after this may not be considered.

If we are awarded funding, is there anything else we need to do?

Yes, successful applicants will have a 12-month window from the point of the funding being awarded to implement their idea. As part of the application process, successful applications will have to provide feedback and progress updates on how their project or initiative implementation is going which will be collected via questionnaire or feedback forms at the 3-month, 6-month and 12-month marks.

If you are looking to put in a funding application but still have questions, please contact Toby Elgar, Football Development Officer for Youth & Mini Soccer via email - toby.elgar@kentfa.com.