



## COVID-19 Relief Guidelines: FGC Coronavirus Relief Grant #SupportOurClubs

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Prepared By: The Florida Gold Coast Board of Directors  
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The 2020 Coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak has sparked an unprecedented worldwide pandemic. Local, State, and National government agencies urged a nationwide halt to normal business operations and group gatherings. In the sport of swimming, this includes cancellation of swim events worldwide. In Florida, every locality is experiencing suspension of team training and practices. Widespread government-mandated pool facility closures and beach closures have occurred to the Florida Gold Coast teams throughout Broward, Martin, Miami-Dade, Monroe, and Palm Beach Counties. This caused significant disruption to club business operations within our Florida Gold Coast LSC.

The immediate financial impact on our US economy, especially small businesses, is dramatic. **Clubs/teams are experiencing an urgent need for support through this abrupt and unforeseen cessation of training fee revenue.** The impact on coaches is immediate as employers and business owners are forced to make difficult staffing and facility decisions. However, to lose even one club to COVID-19's immediate aftermath would be a tragic loss for the LSC. **The FGC LSC Board of Directors offers the opportunity to apply for a one-time relief grant** to allow for continued operations in the globally disrupted revenue period of Feb 15-June 30, 2020 currently declared as a disaster. This expenditure is approved up to an amount of \$85,000 and will come from the budgeted reserve.

### FGC COVID-19 RELIEF GRANT GUIDELINES:

The FGC's mission is to promote growth and development of a diverse swimming community through education, innovation, and a commitment to excellence. This aligns with our vision to create a healthy community in south Florida which cultivates safety, fitness and competitive excellence through swimming. This grant aims to support the FGC youth swimming community and sports industry by providing fiscal relief so clubs can continue their work as charged in our mission. This immediate relief is intended to help club leaders and coaches find time to react and adapt to the changed landscape of local youth sports during the COVID-19 pandemic. Grant relief is intended to "bridge the gap" between the time this major catastrophe hit and when a club/team has secured longer term recovery resources, such as sufficient profits from a revived business, receipt of payments on insurance claims or larger federal disaster assistance. This is not intended as long-term support, business loan, or is in any way indicative of future support.

### FGC COVID-19 RELIEF GRANT TIMELINE:

- April 3, 2020 - Grant applications open at 5pm EST
- April 13, 2020 - Grant applications due at 5pm EST
- April 17-20, 2020 - Grant recipients announced. Funds disbursed by April 30, pending receipt of Letter of Agreement from recipient

### FGC COVID-19 RELIEF GRANT ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS:

#### Eligible Applicants

- Eligible applicants may be for-profit or not-for-profit USA Swimming clubs or teams providing competitive aquatic training services as a part of the Florida Gold Coast Local Swimming Committee (LSC). Eligible applicants must be members of USA Swimming in good standing, members of the FGC LSC in good standing, and qualified to conduct business in the State of Florida under Florida Statutes, for the remainder of 2020.
- The FGC Coronavirus Relief Grant Committee will accept only one (1) application per program. Applicants should be Head Coaches, currently designated (on behalf of their teams) to conduct business in the State of Florida under Florida Statutes.

- Applicants must exhibit disruption of operational revenue and/or coach compensation to apply. Programs that have not been financially impacted i.e. operational expenses (such as employee compensation) continue from parent/umbrella organization, operational costs fixed, no financial impact can be proven) are ineligible for funding.

**The FGC Grant Committee will NOT accept:**

- Applications which are late or incomplete, for any reason
- Applications submitted through any other format than electronic/online format (Google Forms)
- Applications requesting funds which would duplicate benefits (funding from other sources)
- More than one application per LSC registered club/team
- Applications requesting funds from anyone other than the club or team
- This grant will not fund equipment, apparel, marketing or promotional materials, construction, renovation, or the like
- This grant will not fund budget relief or cover something other than operational costs (i.e. personal use, re-granting/gifting purposes, replace lost sales, etc.)

**FGC COVID-19 RELIEF GRANT APPLICATION FORM/INSTRUCTIONS**

Please refer to the following guidelines as you complete the grant application.

You may click here to apply:

[FGC Coronavirus Relief Grant #SupportOurClubs](#)

If you have any questions about these requirements, please contact Kathleen Prindle, Chair of the FGC Covid-19 Relief Grant Committee, at 561-212-7175 or Liz Kershaw, Committee Member, at 214-695-0109.

**FGC COVID-19 RELIEF GRANT VALIDATION**

**Application Validation Process** is designed to confirm qualified applicants in an open and fair manner.

This includes the following steps:

- Confirm eligibility – as outlined above
- Confirm fiscal need - may assess current liabilities as a percentage of total operational expenses as an indicator of an applicant's ability to meet operational financial obligations
- Confirm compliance with funding requirements – Applicants agree to take actions to benefit the FGC LSC

**Final Approval Process**

- Each application is independently reviewed and validated by the FGC Grant Committee and confirmation is determined by majority vote
- Committee reviewers come to consensus on applications using a standardized rating rubric as per best practices for non-profit organizations in the aquatics industry and in south Florida
- Committee submits final funding recommendations to the FGC Board of Directors for its consideration
- Final grant validation and recommendations for funding awards will be approved by the FGC Board of Directors in a formal "virtual" meeting (due to government restrictions on in-person gatherings)
- Board meetings both in-person and "virtual," are open to the public and applicants are encouraged to attend

**Payment Information**

- Any monies granted are for club operation expenses
- Funds will be distributed to Head Coaches, via checks written to clubs
- Amount of grant funding will be awarded based on the number of eligible applicants validated
- Funded applicants will be paid in accordance with this approved budget expenditure.
- The Grant Committee reserves the right to refuse to fund an application that is unable to demonstrate minimum standards

## **FGC COVID-19 RELIEF GRANT FUNDING REQUIREMENTS**

### **Core Contract**

- Recipients will be required to reciprocate to the FGC LSC through their choice of multiple channels. Funded programs are expected to serve as gateways to remain connected within the Local Swim Committee/Community with regards to existing programs, initiatives, and means to innovate and improve the sport in the area.
- The Grant Committee reserves the right to withdraw any funding award from programs unable to demonstrate minimum funding requirement standards.

### **Standards include 3 of the following (not limited to)**

- Achievement of Safe Sport Recognition within Registration year 2020
- Professional Development in line with FGC's mission of innovation
  - Donation of time/facilities/resources toward innovative coach education
  - Donation of time/facilities/resources toward innovative athlete education
- Encourage two or more team members to attend online swim official's training. Host a virtual training
- In line with FGC's mission, an intrinsic value is placed on collaboration among local organizations to create a community in support of athletes and families, coaches and clubs
  - Active program (club/team) participation in Swimposium
- Collaborative strategies are also intended to expand established relationships and create new relationships with neighboring organizations that support athletes and families, coaches, and clubs
  - Active program (club/team) participation in other LSC events such as House of Delegates, etc.

### **Letter of Agreement**

- Applicant must complete a Letter of Agreement before receiving actual funding dollars
  - This will be signed by the Head Coach and the FGC Treasurer
  - This will include signature and contact information for a secondary point of contact (name, email, job title)
- Funded applicants are expected to participate fully in all LSC-sponsored program and professional development supports
  - Funded applicants are expected to participate specifically in their 3 chosen commitments
- Funded applicants are asked to create and submit a Crisis Management Plan. Samples can be viewed at fgcs swim.org
- Recipient must provide proof of funds (redacted receipts) which clearly show use of relief funds for expenses incurred on/before July 31, 2020
- Applicants failing to provide the information in the designated timeframe will not be allowed to register in the FGC LSC for 2021 (until all obligations are met)

## **FGC COVID-19 RELIEF GRANT APPLICATION FORM**

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[FGC Coronavirus Relief Grant #SupportOurClubs](#)

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