

HACKNEY AQUATICS CLUB ACCESS FUND

The Hackney Aquatics Club (HAC) is committed to the inclusion of the whole community, including those with financial hardships.

What Access Funds can help with

The HAC Access Fund can offer financial support to swimmers struggling with the cost of swimming through our concession scheme. The Access Fund Committee will look at your individual circumstances, and you may be able to receive concessions on your subscription.

Who can apply

You can apply if you are a registered Age Group Squad Swimmer or Masters Swimmer.

Eligibility for concessions

For example, if you are receiving:

- Universal credit/Housing Benefit
- Pension credit
- Carer's Allowance
- Income support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance – unemployed
- Income-related Employment & Support Allowance

The above criteria may not cover all swimmers/families who need support. We invite you to apply and provide a summary of your circumstances and why you may qualify for concessions.

Then the Access Funds will review your application and make a determination of whether you meet the criteria for support.

Concessions

A 50% concession will be applied towards the cost of the **monthly squad subscription fees** and the cost of **annual HAC membership fee** for those:

- Who meet eligibility criteria (as described above)
- Families of 3 or more swimmers, where the third (or more) swimmer will be eligible for the concessionary rate.
- The discount will be applied to the lowest squad rate

In exceptional circumstance, the Access Fund may be able to offer higher concession rates.

How to apply

An application for concessions can be made at any timepoint during the year. However, all existing recipients of concessions will be reviewed annually.

The Application process will involve you requesting a form by email from the [treasurer](#).

The form requests you to:

- Provide a summary of your financial situation (i.e., why do you need financial support?)
- Provide evidence of your financial situation, such as, unemployment letter or evidence of social security benefits (e.g., housing benefit or child & working tax credit letter)

The Access Fund Committee reserves the right to request and verify documents showing your financial situation and we may make further enquiries based on the information you provide in your application.

Failure to provide the evidence requested will delay your application and may not be prioritised when considered alongside other applications.

We have a fixed access fund so all applications will be pooled together, reviewed and prioritised.

All information provided will be held securely and viewed only by those on the Access Fund Committee. If your financial situation changes and you come off concessions, your data will be deleted.

Concession Recipients

- Swimmers receiving concessions are required to attend sessions regularly.
- Swimmers will also be required to volunteer for HAC throughout the year.
- Any concessions granted will be at the sole discretion of the Access Fund Committee and would be subject to review each year in July/August and reconfirmed for 1 September for the following 12 months.
- If your circumstances change and you are no longer eligible for concessions, you must inform the Access Fund immediately. HAC reserves the right to take steps to recover reduced fees if it determines that these have been claimed inappropriately.

The Access Fund relies on the generosity of our donors. Although we will endeavor to communicate any changes in advance, the Club reserves the right to change the level of concessions granted or to remove these completely with no notice.

Volunteer Payback

If you become an Access Fund recipient, swimmers/swimmer's family member are required to volunteer for HAC throughout the year.

The Club is run largely by all volunteers, and we all want to make a difference in building our community and have fun doing it! By volunteering, this gives you an opportunity to give back to our HAC community.

Here are some volunteer ideas to fulfill your volunteer commitment for the season:

- Volunteer support at 3 gala days per season
- Support Club Desk (i.e., 2 hours per month)
- Squad representative
- Organize Club Social / Gala
- Technical volunteer (e.g., timekeeper at home and/or away galas, minimum 4 per season)
- Other skills that the Club would benefit from (e.g., provide support for social media, manage kit supply, committee role etc.)

There are many other options that may not be listed but we will discuss and agree with you on how you can give back based on your circumstances.