



SportsAid, previously known as SportsAid Foundation (SAF), was founded in 1976. Its principle function was to raise funds from the private sector to provide financial assistance to Britain's amateur sportsmen and women. The aim was to help them prepare for competitions against better-funded, overseas athletes.

From 1983 until 1997, SAF was a major source of funding for most of Britain's leading athletes, both able-bodied and disabled. 1997 brought the Lottery funding and a change to SportsAid's role. As SportsAid was no longer the sole provider it could not continue in the same area, but there were still funding gaps which the Lottery funds could not fill.

Since 1997, SportsAid has focused on giving grants to youngsters aged 12 to 18, from 50 able-bodied and 25 disability sports. These athletes compete in national squads and these grants, generally worth £500, help with costs such as travel, training, accommodation, competition fees and equipment.

By working closely with the National Governing Bodies (NGB's), SportsAid has a well established and proven process ensuring that young sportsmen and women that require help, get it when they need it most.

On average each athlete spends nearly £5,000 per year on equipment, training, travelling and all of the other essentials that are required to compete at the top level.

Once each nomination is agreed a SportsAid grant is presented to each individual athlete directly, not to their NGB. Intervention at such a crucial time is often the difference between a young sports person continuing in their chosen sport or quitting.

Generally speaking, the criteria asks for national and international results, and although regional results can be helpful, they are not normally sufficient to gain an award.

British Swimming is offered an annual national allocation from SportsAid National Office, (this coming year 68), which we allocate, proportionately to swimming, diving, water polo and synchronised swimming.

Disability athletes are also helped for which we have are given an allocation. These grants are normally for £500. Our athletes are therefore selected by British swimming and invited to apply, rather than initiate the application themselves: the British Swimming window for applications were Oct-Nov 08 for 2008-09.

How do we allocate?

Swimming -

The first two places from the "bagcat" results at National Age Group Championships

Youth swimmers recommended by ASA Talent & Development Manager

Diving -

Recommended by National Performance Director

Water Polo -

Recommended by National Performance Director

Synchronised Swimming –

Recommended by National Performance Director

Disability Swimming -

Recommended by National Performance Director