

Focus Sports Policy

FAO: Union Council

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Union Notes:

- That UEA has a “sport for all” ethos, which is a point to be proud of;
- That a different kind of focus sports program previously existed at UEA, however it was less strategic, and did not fully focus on long term development;
- That the Union spent £338,000 on Clubs and Societies in the accounts for 2009/10 and has a budget of £359,400 in 2010/11;
- That within the accounts for 2009/10, the Union spent £16,888 on Clubs grants;
- This year (2010) the budget has capacity for £26,000 for Sports Clubs grants, which is a substantial increase year on year;
- That Sports Council has seen this policy, approved the concept and recommended it to Union Council.

Union Believes:

- Sport at UEA should remain in the ethos of sport for all, but that Clubs which work above and beyond their duties, in order to develop all their members, should be rewarded;
- That this concept should not negatively affect other activities of the Union;
- That sport at UEA benefits from the volunteer work of all its activists more than from any other source, and that they should see more tangible benefits and growth from their hard work.

Union Resolves:

- To put in place a focus sports policy as prepared by the Finance Officer and the Sports Clubs Co-ordinator. The policy will put stringent guidelines in place in order for clubs to be eligible for focus sport status, in terms of overall development, effort, volunteering work and benefit to the Union as a whole (attached)
- To provide £5000 (approx. half of the budget increase, which still allows for substantially increased funding for sports clubs compared to last year) from this year's Club grants budget to be reserved as Focus Sport funding, and to seek external funding for subsequent years through Sponsorship deals;
- To maintain the baseline of funding already provided by the Union to all clubs and societies.

Passed by Council 4 November 2010

UEA FOCUS SPORTS

All Clubs currently receive a good level of support and funding from the Union and the University. This creates an opportunity for the majority of students at the UEA to take part in their chosen sport. This is successful in creating a sport for all ethos. This is what we do this very well as a University and at the Union. However there is a desire from clubs to become the best they can and embrace the fundamentals of sport, competition and the desire to win. This in turn creates better clubs encouraging more experienced members to take a more active role in the club.

Currently clubs wishing to improve beyond the traditional levels at the UEA struggle to find funding for additional or improved coaching, gym time, travel and organising local events to raise the profile of the club.

Historically Focus Sports at the UEA have been University led. This is also the case in many other Universities. The idea being that the PE department of the University highlight possible clubs that can excel over a 5 year period. This would depend on such factors as local coaching facilities, leagues, National governing body investment; this would include finance, time and sport development. This may be the best approach in order to excel on a competitive level as you have members of staff in vital positions so they can manage the development of the club over 5 years, giving the club a certain amount of continuity.

This approach has previously not worked at the University of East Anglia. Mainly due to the level of commitment buy the chosen clubs. Our clubs are not staff led they are student led. Also the funding has been split between two parties the Union and the University therefore the benefits of being a focus sport were marginalised.

I am therefore proposing that Focus Sport at the UEA becomes student led and not staff led. This empowers the club members to take a more of an active role in the development of the club. This also would put all the responsibility on the club to meet the goals and targets that they have set.

Therefore in order to obtain FOCUS SPORT Support a club would need to commit 100%. It is expected to be hard work but hopefully the benefits and rewards will match this.

Criteria

- 100% effort and dedication
- A coach in place with great level of experience or is in a position to appoint one.
- A coaching plan produced by the coach that would cover 7 days a week, for the duration of the term or year. This must be SMART and semester results must be presented to the Sports Coordinator.
- The club must produce a development plan that would need to be approved by the Sports Club Coordinator. This must include the development of student coaches. This also must be SMART specific and results and evidence to be produced at the end of each semester. This must include a comprehensive coaching plan through all levels and coach development.
- The Club must work closely with their National governing Body in developing a development plan
- The club/squad would be required to seek external funding and evidence to be shown for this.
- The Club would be required to meet all deadlines for all Union administration
- The Club must be impeccable ambassadors for the Union and University.
- An Equality and Diversification officer must be appointed. The club must be open and inclusive, must

highlight barriers to participation and try to resolve these. A report from the EDO is required at the end of the year.

- A community liaison officer must be appointed and evidence of work in the community shown.
- A member feedback policy must be introduced
- Job specifications for each role in the committee
- Inventory of all kit and a three year purchasing plan

As a Focus sport you could expect to receive appropriate funding to increase, with the aim of increasing both overall membership participation quality and competitive ability.

Coaching hours/ training camps/ specialist coaching etc
Gym access
Extra Facility usage
Extra Equipment
Extra Transport and entry to high level competitions

I would expect this to be a joint project between the University and the Union as both parties have benefits they can offer. The University's being facilities; gym time has already been agreed in principal. The Union would provide finance and administration.

Benefits to the University and Union

Increased participation in Sport
Improved club management, performance and environment
Increased opportunities for high level Sports people
An increase in BUCS points
A better reputation for UEA sport in the local area
Improved community links

A closer working relationship between the University PE
department and the SU
Improved budgeting



UEA FOCUS SPORTS

The Aims of the UEA Focus Sport are;

1. Increase the level at which UEA Sports Clubs Compete.
2. Increase Participation from the Union's members
3. Improve the Quality of the membership's experience with UEA sports clubs
4. Improve links within the community and other Universities
5. Improve partnership working between the Union and the University

Direct benefits to the club;

1. A funding reserve held by the Union of UEA Students
2. Additional external facility hire
3. Additional Transport costs
4. Additional entry fees for high level competitions
5. Equipment
6. Extra facility time provided by the University
7. Increased membership
8. The opportunity to excel

What is required from the club?

1. 100% Dedication
2. A club development plan
<http://www.susport.org.uk/assets/good%20practice/sportdev–running–sport.pdf>

3. A coach must be appointed with a great level of experience
4. A comprehensive coaching programme to cover all levels, approved by the head coach. This must be SMART and semester results must be presented to the Sports Club Coordinator.
5. The development of student coaches
6. Role descriptions for committee members
7. A feedback policy implemented
8. The club must be open and inclusive to all students. Barriers to participation need to be highlighted and an action plan in place to help break down these barriers.
9. The Club must be impeccable ambassadors for the Union and University
10. A community liaison officer must be appointed and evidence of work in the community shown.
11. Exit routes need to be highlighted for members leaving
12. A working relationship with the relevant National Governing Body developed
http://www.sportsearch.org.uk/governing_bodies/index.html
13. Meet all administrative deadlines placed on it by the University and the Union
14. External funding to be sourced by the club and evidence to be shown for this.
15. Equipment Inventory

If it is felt that the any of the above requirements are not met at any time, funding and focus sport status can be withdrawn.

Benefits to the University and the Students Union;

1. Increased participation in Sport
2. Improved club management, performance and environment
3. Increased opportunities for high level Sports people
4. An increase in BUCS points

5. A better reputation for UEA sport in the local area and wider
6. Improved community links
7. A closer working relationship between the University PE department and the SU
8. Improved budgeting
9. Improved Equipment audits
10. The opportunity to utilise sport as a recruitment tool

Trial period for a maximum of 3 clubs in the first year

Decision process for Sports clubs focus status.

Clubs committees will have to nominate their club for focus status before the start of the academic year.

Upon receipt of all the necessary items and prerequisites a meeting will be held between the focus sports committee, comprised of the Union Sports Co-ordinator, The Sportspark Director, the Director of Student Sport. This is chaired by The Union Finance Officer.

The final decision about focus sport status will rest with the **Management Committee on the recommendation of the Focus Sports Committee.**

Failure to comply with proposed plans, as put forward by the Club or any of the prerequisites in the focus sports proposal, would lead to rescinding of focus sport status. This would remove all funding for the club above the baseline.

This can be at any time, after one written warning to the club committee, with a realistic and defined period of time set for remedial action.