

British Fencing World Class Programme – Athlete Performance Award Matrix

Background

The Athlete Performance Award (APA) is a Lottery-funded grant awarded in support of an athlete's progression towards the podium at the Olympic Games. The prerequisite condition for receiving an APA is that an athlete is a member of British Fencing's World Class Programme (WCP) and has signed an Athlete Agreement. Irrespective of previous performances, athletes will only be nominated for funding if they are on an upward performance trajectory and considered to be progressing towards, or continuing to achieve, World Championship or Olympic medal-level performances.

Podium Performance Standards

The UK Sport definitions of performance standards at Podium level are as follows:

'A' level athletes must be medalists at an Olympic Games or Senior World Championships (Olympic disciplines only), who by continuing to be a member of the WCP, are by definition striving to repeat this level of performance in Rio. Substitution of championship finish places for world rankings is not appropriate for determining 'A' level status.

'B' level athletes must have achieved a minimum of a top 8 finish at the Olympic Games or Senior World Championships (Olympic disciplines only). The athletes nominated for funding at this level must have a rising performance profile that indicates they could be a future Olympic medalist.

'C' level grants will apply to athletes / teams who have an evidenced-based performance profile and international results which demonstrate the capacity to achieve a medal result at World or Olympic level within four years.

Podium APA Matrix

Level	PODIUM Qualification Criteria	Living Cost Award	Sporting Cost Award	Total Funding Award 2015/2016
A	Top 3 Olympic Games or World Championships	£12,242	£15,858	£28,000
B	Top 8 Olympic Games or World Championships	£9,323	£12,177	£21,500
C	Top 10 World Ranking (Individual) Top 8 World Ranking (Team)	£6,504	£8,496	£15,000

British Fencing Podium Potential Performance Standards

The British Fencing WCP has three levels of Podium Potential funding:

'D' level athletes must be nominated 'Rio Squad' athletes (top 50 of the senior world rankings at an individual level or part of a senior team which is ranked in the top 10 of the senior world rankings in a weapon identified for support). Athletes at this level, should be training as a full time athlete in a centralised programme at the national elite training centre.

'E' level athletes are senior athletes who have transitioned based on objective performance progression from F level OR who have been identified as a 'Tokyo Squad' athlete. Athletes at this level must be training full time in a centralised programme at the national elite training centre and be following a training and competition programme set by the National Coach.

'F' grants will apply to athletes who have an evidenced based performance profile and junior international results which demonstrate the capacity to qualify and / or medal in Tokyo. Athletes at this level will be expected to train in a centralised programme at the national elite training centre at designated times and be following a training and competition programme set by the Head Coach.

Podium Potential APA Matrix

Level	PODIUM POTENTIAL Qualification Criteria	Core Award	Top Up Award	Total Funding Award 2015/2016
D	Top 50 individual WR and / or Part of team in the top 10 WR	£3,500	£8,5000	£12,000
E	Performance progression from F level OR Junior European / World Medalist in individual or team in a nominated weapon OR L8 at Junior WC Event in that year	£3,500	£5,500	£9,000
F	Evidence based performance profile and / or significant cadet and junior results	£3,500	£1,500	£5,000

Breakdown of Podium Potential Awards

Podium Potential awards are to support the 'sporting costs' of an athlete. There is no 'living cost' element within podium potential awards. British Fencing can identify specific elements which must be supported by the athlete from their APA.

Core Award - All athletes nominated for a Podium Potential APA will be eligible to receive the core award for their identified level directly from UK Sport.

Top Up Award - The top up award is linked to the level of performance an athlete has been nominated for eg D, E or F.

Both elements of the award, will only be provided to athletes, subject to fulfilling certain identified criteria, which will be agreed with each athlete on an individual basis as part of their athlete agreement with the Programme. The criteria will include but not be limited to such things as commitment to all aspects of training, commitment to fulfilling the requirements of an individualised athlete planning and review programme and regular selection and performance to and at milestone events or other significant events.

Duration of an APA

APAs will normally be awarded for one year, subject to a satisfactory training and disciplinary record. In 2015, APAs will run from 1st April 2015 to 31st March 2016 but will be reviewed following the World Championships in July 2015.

Official Sparring Partners

Programme only athletes and / or training partners for athletes on the WCP are not eligible to receive APA funding from UK Sport but some agreed costs associated with training and team competition will be supported through Programme funding.

Athlete Medical Scheme (AMS)

All athletes nominated for an APA will also receive athlete medical insurance from UK Sport. Access to this support will be via the World Class Programme Doctor as and when appropriate / needed.

Short Term and Long Term Injuries impact on APAs

In the event of short term injury / illness as diagnosed by the WCP Doctor an athlete will continue to receive their full APA allowance for up to a maximum of three months from the point of injury.

To continue to receive funding during a performance limiting injury/illness, an athlete must adhere an agreed rehabilitation / training and (if appropriate) competition programme agreed in advance with the Performance Director. This will timetable and plot the return to a full competitive level and the ability to fully participate in the WCP as per the WCP Selection Criteria.

At the end of the three-month period of injury / illness, the Performance Director and WCP Doctor will undertake a review of the athlete to assess the commitment and progress against the agreed programme. If it is deemed that during this three-month

period an athlete has not shown either the commitment or progress against the agreed programme, they will be given a notice period before being removed from APA support.

Pregnancy impact on APAs

To continue to receive funding during pregnancy (and after childbirth), the athlete has to agree an appropriate training and competition programme with the Performance Director that will timetable and plot the return to full competitive level and to participate fully in the WCP as per the WCP Selection Criteria.

At the end of a three-month period after the childbirth, the Performance Director will undertake a review with the athlete to assess the commitment and progress against agreed performance targets. If this commitment is not demonstrated by the time of the three-month review, the athlete will be given a notice period (dependent on her time spent on the WCP) before being removed from APA support.

Transitional Funding

Athlete reviews will be undertaken following the World Championships in July 2015. Following the reviews, decisions will be made on which athletes will remain on the WCP for the remainder of the year (March 2016) and therefore eligible for an APA, and which athletes will be removed.

If an athlete is removed from the Programme following this review, athletes at Podium Potential level will be eligible for a one-month additional core award payment up to and including August 2015. Any top up award due will be based on adherence to the specific athlete conditions. No other payments will be made following this time.

If an athlete is removed from the Programme at any other time, they will be eligible to receive one-month core award. Any top up award due will be based on adherence to the specific athlete conditions. No other payments will be made following this time.

An athlete will not be eligible for any transitional funding if they remove themselves from the Programme or are removed from the Programme for disciplinary reasons.