

Policy Update

April 2007

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1. REGULATION AFFECTING SPORT AND RECREATION

1.1 Proposed Alcohol Disorder Zones

The Home Office plans to introduce ADZs as a tool of last resort to help local authorities tackle alcohol-related disorder. The new power will enable local authorities to levy a charge on licensed premises within a given area in order to pay for action to tackle alcohol-related disorder eg extra policing.

The authority will also be able to exempt premises whose primary purpose is not the sale of alcohol, and whose clients do not attend primarily to drink alcohol. Further to this a 100% discount may be offered to premises that are not opened during the period at which the ADZ is operational. CCPR is concerned that these exemptions and discounts may not currently encompass sports clubs, despite there being no evidence that clubs contribute to alcohol-related disorder.

CCPR objective

To ensure that sports clubs can clearly demonstrate that they do not contribute to alcohol-related disorder and therefore qualify for exemption or discount.

How you can help

To make an effective case CCPR needs evidence of the potential impact on sports clubs. Please inform your clubs of these proposals and ask any clubs situated in areas where alcohol-related disorders occur to contact Richard Tacon at CCPR (rtacon@ccpr.org.uk).

1.2 Consultation on non-commercial gaming and lotteries

Many sports organisations hold race nights and lotteries to raise funds. DCMS is proposing that:

- lottery prizes should not exceed £500
- the total prize pot for other games should be raised from £400 to £600
- the combined cost of entry fees and stakes for such games should be raised from £4 to £6

The consultation documents are available at: http://www.culture.gov.uk/Reference_library/Consultations/2007_current_consultations/gambling_noncom_events.htm and the closing date for responses is 22 June 2007.

How you can help

CCPR needs to know if the proposed limits meet the needs of sports clubs. Please make your clubs aware of these proposals and ask them to send their views to Richard Tacon (rtacon@ccpr.org.uk).

1.3 Charities Act 2006

The Office of the Third Sector and the Charity Commission are jointly running a series of events to inform organisations of the timeline for the Act's implementation and to help them prepare for the changes that the Act will bring. Further information is available at <http://www.coievents.co.uk/charitiesact/>.

All organisations wishing to register as charities will need to meet the Charity Commission's public benefit test, and the Commission is also consulting on its guidance with regard to this. The consultation documents are available at:

<http://www.charity-commission.gov.uk/news/pbnewsindex.asp> and the deadline for responses is 6 June 2007.

Next Steps

CCPR will be responding to the consultation and would welcome members' views on how sports organisations can meet the 'public benefit' test. (Whilst the Act prevents CASCs from registering as charities, other sports organisations may wish to register). Please send your thoughts to Andrew Hanson (ahanson@ccpr.org.uk).

1.4 Sport and immigration

1.4.1 The Government has unveiled the timetable for introducing the new points-based system for migration. The new system, which will be phased in from early 2008, will allow migrants to come to the UK under one of five tiers replacing more than 80 existing routes of entry. CCPR attends meetings of the sport and immigration stakeholder group ensuring that the relevant officials are aware of the needs and concerns of sport. For further information please visit:

<http://www.ind.homeoffice.gov.uk/aboutus/newsarchive/newpointsbasedsystem>.

1.4.2 The Home Office has published guidance notes for work permit applications specific to the sport and entertainment sectors. The notes can be accessed at:

http://www.workingintheuk.gov.uk/working_in_the_uk/en/documents/all_forms.html#WP.

1.4.3 The Home Office has published a new borders and visas strategy paper. The paper includes information on the visa waiver test, different categories of visa (including different lengths of stay) and a time-limited 'Olympic visa'. An international strategy paper will be published in the summer. For further information please visit:

http://www.ind.homeoffice.gov.uk/6353/aboutus/Securing_the_UK_Border_final.pdf.

2. COUNTRYSIDE AND WATER

2.1 Off-road (Vehicles) Registration Bill

This Bill has been introduced by Graham Stringer MP and aims to tackle illegal use of 'mini-motos' and is shortly to enter committee stage. As it stands the Bill has grave implications for competitive motor-cycling as it would require competition machines to be modified in order to qualify for registration. The police also believe they have sufficient powers to tackle the issue of illegal motor cycle use without further legislation. The CCPR supports the Auto-Cycle Union's parliamentary campaign against this unnecessary and potentially damaging Bill.

3. FISCAL

3.1 Community amateur sports clubs

Figures provided by Deloitte show there are now 4,267 clubs registered as CASCs with an estimated total cash benefit of at least £18.5 million in rate relief, corporation tax savings and Gift Aid repayments. The sports of cricket, bowls, lawn tennis, rugby union and football continue to grow in CASC terms and make up 71% of the total registrations.

Recent research by Deloitte showed that many local authorities were not aware of the benefits of the CASC scheme. CCPR staff attended the LGA cultural services conference in Sheffield in order to counter this lack of knowledge and highlight the fact that encouraging clubs to register for the scheme can save both the club and local authority money. For more information visit <http://www.cascinfo.co.uk/localauthorities>.

DCMS have produced a new leaflet, designed in conjunction with CCPR, highlighting the benefits of the scheme and how to apply. If you would like to help distribute these leaflets at your events or in a mail-out, please contact Christine Barnes at DCMS to arrange delivery of them. Christine's email address is Christine.Barnes@Culture.gsi.gov.uk.

Scope

UK

CCPR objective

CCPR will campaign for additional benefits to be added to the CASC scheme.

How can you help

There are a number of ways to help promote the CASC scheme. For example:

- Link to www.cascinfo.co.uk from your own website.
- Distribute the new CASC leaflet at your events and in your mail-outs.
- Include articles about the scheme in your publications.

For more information about how you can help promote the scheme please contact Ben Andersen-Tuffnell (bat@ccpr.org.uk).

3.2 Unclaimed assets consultation

The Government has published a consultation on whether to introduce an unclaimed assets scheme in the UK, in order to allow money in dormant bank and building society accounts to be reinvested in the community, with a focus on youth services that are responsive to the needs of young people. The deadline for responses is 12 June 2007 and further information is available at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/consultations_and_legislation/unclaimed_assets/consult_unclaimedasset_index.cfm.

3.3 Proposed community assets fund

The recent local government White Paper sought to increase the opportunities for community groups to own and manage facilities. To support this aspiration the Cabinet Office is proposing to make £30 million available to community partnerships for capital expenditure on refurbishing facilities. CCPR believes that if appropriate properties are identified and strong partnerships are built this fund could benefit sport and recreation.

The consultation document closes on 23 June 2007 and is available at http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/third_sector/documents/catf/catf.pdf.

Scope

England

How you can help

CCPR would welcome input from member organisations with experience of refurbishing facilities in partnership with other organisations. Please send any comments to Andrew Hanson (ahanson@ccpr.org.uk).

3.4 Opportunities Fund

The Mayor of London, Ken Livingstone, has announced an Opportunities Fund ('Engaging in London 2012') to boost skills in London's most disadvantaged communities. Employment, training and skills projects across London are set to benefit from £11 million funding. The grants will fund a range of skills training, work placements and employment advice involving organisations including the Prince's Trust and Sports Coach UK. The projects include sports and leisure training for young people.

For more information please visit: <http://www.lda.gov.uk/server/show/ConWebDoc.1876>.

4. HEALTH

4.1 Lightening the Load: Tackling Overweight and Obesity

The National Heart Forum, in association with the Faculty of Public Health and the Department of Health, has published an updated toolkit, designed to provide a starting point for developing a local strategy to tackle overweight and obesity. It includes useful statistics, practical initiatives, evidence of effectiveness, checklists, frameworks and examples of good practice. It also incorporates all the latest guidance from NICE (National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence) and other relevant organisations. The toolkit can be accessed here:

http://www.heartforum.org.uk/Publications_NHFreports_Overweightandobesitytool.aspx.

4.2 Smoking ban

The Welsh smoking ban covering enclosed public places and workplaces came into force on Monday 2 April. See <http://www.smokingbanwales.co.uk> for further information.

Meanwhile employment advisory body Acas has updated its 'Smoking at work' booklet to keep pace with the introduction of smoking bans across Britain. This is available at <http://www.acas.org.uk/index.aspx?articleid=696> along with a 'Q and A' covering some of the likely awkward questions from staff, at <http://www.acas.org.uk/index.aspx?articleid=1262>.

Employing organisations in England that are registered with Companies House should receive a guidance pack by post this month (April).

5. SAFEGUARDING & WELFARE

5.1 Strategy for safeguarding skills knowledge

The Child Protection in Sport Unit is consulting on guidance it has prepared to help sports organisations identify the correct levels of safeguarding (child protection) skills that its workers should have. The consultation documents are available at www.ccpr.org.uk (click on policy) and responses should be returned to cpsu@nspcc.org.uk by Friday 11 May 2007.

5.2 Disclosures for trustees of charities working with vulnerable groups

If your organisation is a charity and is working with vulnerable groups (eg those with learning disabilities or at risk of social exclusion) then you will be interested in the Charity Commission's review of its policy with regard to Criminal Record Bureau checks for trustees. The consultation closes on 11 May, and the documents are available at: <http://www.charitycommission.gov.uk/enhancingcharities/crbindex.asp>.

6. RESEARCH ROUND-UP

6.1 Economic importance of sport

Research recently published by Sport England estimates that in 2003 almost £14 billion was spent on sport-related goods and services, which equates to 2.4% of total expenditure in England. Sport-related economic activity added more than £13.5 billion to the economy in 2003, an increase of 38% on 2000 and 1.7% of total Gross Value Added. In addition, more than 421,000 people were employed in sport in 2003, which represents 1.8% of total employment.

The report assesses the economic value of sport for England as a whole and separately for each region, based on a methodology of national income accounting. It includes trend data for England going back as far as 1985, building on previous research. This report is crucial in demonstrating the economic importance of sport and adds to a growing evidence base in this area.

The reports can be accessed here: http://www.sportengland.org/index/get_resources/research/mapping_the_landscape/sport_and_the_economy.htm.

6.2 Complete CCPR survey for the chance to win £500 of kit for your club!

CCPR is undertaking research which aims to understand the impact of Government legislation on sports clubs. This will enable CCPR to argue more effectively on behalf of sport and recreation. All clubs completing the survey will be entered into a prize draw to win £500 of sports equipment, courtesy of Decathlon. The survey can be found at: <http://www.sportinginsights.com/ccpr/survey.htm>.

How you can help

CCPR would ask all members to distribute the link to the survey to their member clubs via email, newsletters and websites. If you are involved in a club, please also complete the survey yourself. Should you have any queries or require further information please contact Richard Tacon at rtacon@ccpr.org.uk or on 020 7976 3922.

7. ONGOING CONSULTATIONS

7.1 Commission for the Future of Volunteering review – make sport heard!

The Commission for the Future of Volunteering continues to seek input from sport as it seeks to establish a long-term vision for volunteering. For further information visit: <http://www.volcomm.org.uk/getinvolved/> and submit your responses by 25 May 2007.

8. COMPLETED CONSULTATIONS

CCPR has responded to the consultations below, and will take further action on these issues as the opportunity arises. To view CCPR's responses visit www.ccpr.org.uk and click on policy on the left hand menu.

8.1 Review of sports ground safety legislation

Feedback from members suggested that the existing legislation was operating satisfactorily, but that there was no room for complacency.

8.2 Proposed exemption from OFSTED registration for activity providers

CCPR supported DCMS's intention to exempt activity-based provision from the requirement to register. However CCPR expressed concern that the wording of the proposal might not achieve this.

8.3 World class skills

CCPR's response to this consultation highlighted the need for Government to recognise the importance of the training and qualifications provided by CCPR members, with appropriate financial support.

If you do not wish to receive this service, please inform info@ccpr.org.uk.