

THE BUSINESS RATES BENEFITS TO LOCAL AUTHORITIES AND SPORTS CLUBS OF THE COMMUNITY AMATEUR SPORTS CLUB SCHEME

Background

Many local authorities currently grant discretionary business rates relief to local sports clubs within their area. However, through encouraging local sports clubs to register as Community Amateur Sports Clubs (CASC) under the HMRC administered scheme, local authorities can actually save money due to an increased level of central funding given to rates relief provided to these clubs.

Under the CASC scheme, local sports clubs automatically receive 80 per cent mandatory rate relief, all of which is centrally funded. In addition to this, local authorities may choose to provide a further 20 per cent discretionary rate relief, of which 25 per cent is centrally funded.

Therefore, a CASC receiving 100 per cent business rates relief, will only result in 15 per cent of this cost being funded by the local authority. Additionally, to register as a CASC a club must allow membership without discrimination, ensuring the club is open for all in the community.

The examples below, illustrate these benefits to both local authorities and sports clubs.

	Type of Relief	Amount of Relief	Central Contribution	Borne Locally
CASC registered club	Mandatory	80%	100%	-
	Discretionary	Up to 20%	25%	75%
Non-registered club	Discretionary	Up to 100%	75%	25%

With these figures in mind; below is a comparison of the potential savings made by a local authority and a local sports club with an annual business rates bill of £5,000 when provided with:

- a) 80 per cent business rates relief as a non-CASC; and
- b) 100 per cent (80 per cent mandatory and 20 per cent discretionary) rates relief as a CASC:

	Rates cost to:			
	Club	Local Authority	Total cost to Club & Local Authority	Central Contribution
a) Non-registered club (80% relief)	£1,000	£1,000	£2,000	£3,000
b) CASC registered club (100% relief)	£0	£750	£750	£4,250
Saving	£1,000	£250		

What your Local Authority can do to promote the CASC scheme:

- Provide a hyperlink on your website to the CASC dedicated website www.cascinfo.co.uk
- Provide an explanation of mandatory rates relief on your website
- Promote the scheme to your local authority sports development officers
- Run a series of **runningsports** seminars for clubs in your area on the CASC scheme
- Ensure all clubs in your area are aware of the scheme and have explored it as an option for their club.

For more information please visit www.cascinfo.co.uk or alternatively contact S+RA on 020 7976 3900.

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