

Overseas Team Fund

Terms of Reference for Grants

Approved by Council on 16 October 2021

1. Background

- 1.1 The Overseas Team Fund (“OTF”) is a restricted fund of the National Rifle Association (the “NRA”) and is not a separate legal entity. The OTF was established in 1938. The NRA does not have the original documentation establishing the OTF, but the 1939 Bisley Handbook describes the OTF as being used “only to help finance NRA Teams visiting the Dominions and Colonies”.
- 1.2 In more recent times, the Trustees have taken the historic reference to “Dominions and Colonies” as referring to “any country outside the United Kingdom”.
- 1.3 The OTF has been increased over the years by donations from members of the shooting community particularly members of GB overseas touring teams as well as contributions from some competitions held during the Imperial Meeting. The OTF accounts track the donations by reference to shooting discipline i.e. Target Rifle, Match Rifle and Gallery Rifle.
- 1.4 Funds in the OTF may be applied only towards a purpose that:
 - 1.4.1 advances the restricted purpose of the OTF; and
 - 1.4.2 advances a charitable purpose of the NRA.
- 1.5 NRA touring teams no longer benefit from financial support from the Sports Council or any other governmental body.
- 1.6 Grants are made from the OTF at the discretion of the Trustees, having taken into account the recommendations of the Team Finance Committee. No persons or group of persons has any right to receive any money from the OTF.
- 1.7 This document sets out the principles the Trustees will apply in considering requests for grants from the OTF.

2. Charitable Purpose of OTF Grants

- 2.1 Grants from the OTF have historically been made on the basis that the improvement of civilian competitive marksmanship through international competition contributes to the Defence of the Realm¹. There is significant historical evidence of participation in competition having this effect including the important role played by members of the NRA and users of its facilities in the Home Guard in the 1940s. In 1994, the

¹ s.3(1)(m)(i) Charities Act 2011

Ministry of Defence wrote to the NRA setting out the significant contribution that civilian marksmanship makes to the Armed Forces and the Defence of the Realm.

- 2.2 The Trustees are aware that the Charity Commission believes that the connection between civilian marksmanship and Defence of the Realm is tenuous. That is not a view shared by the NRA, but at this stage the NRA has not sought to challenge that view while information is collected on the participation levels of military, emergency services and cadet personnel in events organised by the NRA. Despite the huge advances in military technology during the period since the founding of the NRA, expertise with small arms remains an essential skill within our defence and security services and marksmanship is a key element of that expertise. In what continues to be a troubled world, the maintenance of efficient and skilled defence and security services is of immense benefit to the public of the United Kingdom.
- 2.3 Competitive marksmanship is recognised as promoting the Efficiency of the Armed Forces² by providing an opportunity for present and former members of the Armed Forces, present and former members of the police and other emergency services and present cadets (“**Relevant People**”) to compete against a wider pool of competitors. The wider range of competitors increases the standard of competition and thus improves the skills of Relevant People participating in those competitions.
- 2.4 Promoting civilian youth shooting both competitive and non-competitive is also recognised as advancing education, which is a charitable purpose³. The charitable purposes of the NRA currently only relate to defence of the realm and promotion of the efficiency of the armed forces. However, the Trustees are of the view that sending young people abroad to improve their shooting abilities advances that purpose.
- 2.5 The Charity Commission does not recognise adult civilian competitive marksmanship as an “amateur sport”⁴ and the charitable objects of the NRA do not include promotion of amateur sport. As a result, the NRA cannot make a grant from the OTF purely on the basis of supporting marksmanship as a sport.
- 2.6 The Trustees must make grants from the OTF to advance the charitable purposes of promoting the Efficiency of the Armed Forces and emergency services and for the education of youth shooters to promote the charitable purposes of the NRA.

3. Touring Team Structure

- 3.1 A touring team is formed for each international event. In some cases, an invitation to that event has been made to, and accepted by, the NRA and it is up to the Trustees whether to accept any invitation after due consideration of the charity’s objects. In other cases, the event is part of a standing fixture list such as events organised by the International Gallery Rifle Federation. A team captain is appointed

² s.3(1)(l) Charities Act 2011

³ s.3(1)(b) Charities Act 2011

⁴ s. 3(1)(g) Charities Act 2011

using a process that involves the Shooting Committee (a Principal Committee of the NRA formed under the Second Schedule) and the Trustees.

- 3.2 For most competitions, the team captain then selects a group of people (the “Squad”) from which the final team will be selected. The Squad then trains in competitive marksmanship. The training period will depend on the length of time before the competition is to be held. In the later stages of the training period, the team captain will select the members of the Squad who will attend the competition (the “Team”). Some smaller teams do not use the Squad process and for those teams the team captain selects the team members and reserves who will train together and then attend the competition.
- 3.3 Squads train using range facilities provided by National Shooting Centre Limited, the commercial subsidiary of the NRA, and provide their own rifles and ammunition.

4. Qualification for Grants

- 4.1 In order to qualify for a grant from the OTF, a Team must contribute to promoting the Efficiency of the Armed Forces and emergency services or the advancement of youth shooting (as defined above). One way it can demonstrate this is by there being a sufficient number of Relevant People in the Relevant Group. The “Relevant Group” is:
 - 4.1.1 the Squad from which a Team is selected; or
 - 4.1.2 the Team (including reserves), if no Squad was used to select that Team.
- 4.2 Participation in the Relevant Group will enhance the marksmanship skills of those Relevant People included in it as a result of the training activities of the Relevant Group. The possibility of inclusion in a touring team by competing with other Squad members will provide additional encouragement for Relevant People to enhance their skills.
- 4.3 The Charity Commission has not specified what percentage of Relevant People will be sufficient to demonstrate a contribution to promoting the Efficiency of the Armed Forces and emergency services: and has affirmed that this is a matter for the Trustees (acting with due care) to determine. However, the Charity Commission has stated that:

“The trustees must monitor the figures and measure whether their activities further the charity’s purpose. If the results show little involvement of the military, emergency services or members of the cadet forces, the Commission expects the trustees to take appropriate action.”⁵
- 4.4 The number of Relevant People to be included in a Relevant Group in order for the Team to qualify for a grant will depend on various factors including:

⁵ Final Outcomes Report published by the Charity Commission on 7 February 2020

- 4.4.1 the importance of the discipline or disciplines represented in the competitions to the Defence of the Realm (and any representations from relevant service es to that effect);
 - 4.4.2 the likely impact on Relevant People resulting from their participation in either training or competition as part of a Relevant Group;
 - 4.4.3 the location of the competition⁶;
 - 4.4.4 the percentage of Relevant People who participate in domestic competitions of the relevant type;
 - 4.4.5 the minimum size of a Team required to compete;
 - 4.4.6 the regularity of the competition and thus the opportunity for Relevant People to compete at the level; and
 - 4.4.7 the likely impact of success in the relevant competition on Relevant People at large and those that might be inspired to join their ranks in service to their country.
- 4.5 The minimum percentage of Relevant People required in a Relevant Group in order for a Team to qualify for a grant will be:
- 4.5.1 the percentage specifically determined by the Trustees for that competition; or
 - 4.5.2 if no percentage has been determined by the Trustees for that competition, ten per cent (10%) (the “Standard Percentage”).
- 4.6 The Trustees consider the Standard Percentage to be appropriate because:
- 4.6.1 the percentage must be not insignificant and must be sufficient for at least one relevant person to compete even in a small team. The Standard Percentage must be sufficient to be confident that there is a genuine contribution to the charitable purposes of the NRA, although some other percentage may be appropriate to a particular competition in light of the special circumstances of that competition; and
 - 4.6.2 the Standard Percentage demonstrates that the involvement of Relevant People is more than the “little involvement” (applying the natural meaning of those words) as referred to in the Outcomes Report published by the Charity Commission.
- 4.7 Therefore, if the Relevant Group consists of 14 or fewer people there must be at least one Relevant Person. Above that, the result of applying the minimum percentage to the size of the Relevant Group will be rounded downwards (for less than .5) and rounded upwards (for .5 or more).
- 4.8 Grants from the OTF will be made to the Team rather than to specific individuals in that Team as the charitable outcome is only achievable if a team can be sent to compete. Each member of the Team will receive the same amount and grants are

⁶ a competition a long way from the United Kingdom may restrict the ability of Relevant People to participate if they need to be available to return to service at short notice

not means-tested. The grant will not meet all the costs associated with attending the competition and typically should:

- 4.8.1 represent less than 20% of the total costs of each team member; and
- 4.8.2 not exceed to a significant degree the proportion of the total cost of training and participation reasonably attributable to Relevant People.

5. Grants

- 5.1 An application for a grant from the OTF must be made to the Chairman of the Team Finance Committee and include a draft budget, a draft training programme that indicates the intended Squad size and number of training days and details of the Relevant People in the Squad (or in the Team, if there is no Squad). An application should be made no less than 6 months after the team captain has been appointed and at least 9 months prior to the time the funding is required to allow time for the Team Finance Committee and the Trustees to consider it.

6. Further matters

- 6.1 The Trustees have considered whether sending teams to compete in overseas competitions contributes to the improvement of marksmanship skills in other (possibly hostile) countries. The Trustees consider that the potential detriment to the public benefit that could arise from improvements in the marksmanship skills of foreign nationals is outweighed by the benefit of the activity to Relevant People in the United Kingdom. The Trustees reached this conclusion on the basis that:
 - 6.1.1 the vast majority of the countries whose teams participate in the relevant matches are Commonwealth countries whose team members are much more likely to be allies rather than opponents in any conflict; and
 - 6.1.2 there is no evidence of this being a matter of concern over the last century in which teams have been sent abroad to compete.