

A GUIDE TO THE GB AFFILIATION FEE

Each year, players selected to GB National Fastpitch Team squads are asked to pay a “GB Affiliation Fee”. The fee applies regardless of whether the player is based in the UK or overseas, and the fee is currently set at £50 per year for players who are selected to competition teams.

Players who are selected to play for two different national teams in the same year only pay one fee.

This money is currently the sole source of income for the GB Management Committee (GBMC), and is used to pay for costs incurred by the GB National Teams programme as a whole (as opposed to individual team or trip costs), and for unexpected expenditures that don't fall within individual team budgets.

But what does this mean in practice? How is this money used?

Here are some of the things that the GBMC has spent its money on over the past few years:

- Paying annual affiliation fees to the British Softball Federation for all GB National Teams so that each team is covered by BSF public liability insurance. This amounts to £25 per team per year. This insurance covers teams in the UK and abroad for public liability only.
- Paying expenses in the UK when requested (mainly travel and, where necessary, accommodation) for volunteer coaches and managers who work with our national teams. Most coaches and managers do not charge these expenses, but some cannot afford not to do so.
- Paying for some national team training venues in the UK.
- Helping to support the costs of hosting international fastpitch tournaments in the UK to give our players more competition experience.
- Buying a new massage table for GB National Team physios to use when touring overseas.
- Helping to buy a sophisticated Hack Attack pitching machine for national team training and use at the Academy and High Performance Academy.
- Subsidising some GB coaches to attend the BSUK Coach Summit.

- Helping with costs for Jana McCaskill and Bridget Cameron, both ISF-qualified umpires, to officiate at the Great Britain Fastpitch League.
- Buying and replacing equipment used by GB national teams, such as balls, helmets, catcher's gear, batting tees, nets etc.
- Helping national teams with some uniform and clothing costs.
- Providing additional bursary support (beyond the annual bursary fund provided by the BSF) for players or coaches who would otherwise struggle to afford the cost of national team or development team tours. This can include support for overseas-based players if necessary, since BSF bursaries can only be used for GB-based players.
- Helping national teams make up for small overspends on tour due to unexpected circumstances, to avoid teams having to ask players for additional money and to protect team managers or coaches from winding up out of pocket.
- Supporting travel costs for GBMC members (most don't claim) to one face-to-face GBMC meeting each year (all other meetings are by conference call, paid for by the BSF).
- Providing starting capital for GB merchandising and fundraising ventures.
- Paying for any other unusual or one-off costs that may crop up from time to time.

Unless the GBMC has money available for these kinds of expenses, it would be hard for our national teams to function. The alternative is that GB teams can wind up in the red, or individual coaches and team managers can wind up out of pocket – and that doesn't seem fair on top of all the voluntary effort they put in.

The GBMC Management Committee
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