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SPORTS ACCESS FUND TERM 1 UPDATE

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STUDENT SPORT ACCESS FUND

MICHAELMAS TERM REVIEW

What is the purpose of the Sports Access Fund?

- To ease the financial burden to participate in sport and physical activity at Lancaster and provide support to those who wouldn't otherwise be able join and a sport programme.

What areas does it fund?

- Club Membership fees ('subs')
- Student Sport Pass fee (Red, Purple, or Teal Student Sport Passes)
- Sport kit essential for playing
- Akuma Club teamwear/merchandise essential to gaining club identity

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Priority Groups



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6. The Student Sport Access Fund is open to all students, however, it may be necessary to prioritise limited resources. If this is the case, priority will be given to the following groups of students when deciding how to allocate the funding. Please check any that apply to you: *

- ☐ I am from a low income household.
- ☐ I am eligible for the Disabled Students' Allowance (DSA).
- ☐ I am a care experienced student or have care giving responsibilities.
- ☐ I am an estranged student.
- ☐ I am in receipt of a means tested Lancaster bursary.
- ☐ I have either refugee immigration status or can evidence that I am claiming asylum in the UK.
- ☐ I am subject to additional costs to participate in sport at Lancaster due to a protected characteristic.

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2024/25

Background:

- £2,000 was secured from external sources for the access fund last year.

Applications in 2024/25:

- 153 applications: total request for £18,097.87
- 64 applications were successful: total funded £1,740.00

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Funding recieved:

- £15,000

Applications in 2025/26:

- £8150 in funds given out during Michaelmas Term.
- **94** successful applications.
- **296** applications in total - totalling a maximum of £44,400.
- The majority of unsuccessful applications were incomplete, even with further prompts.

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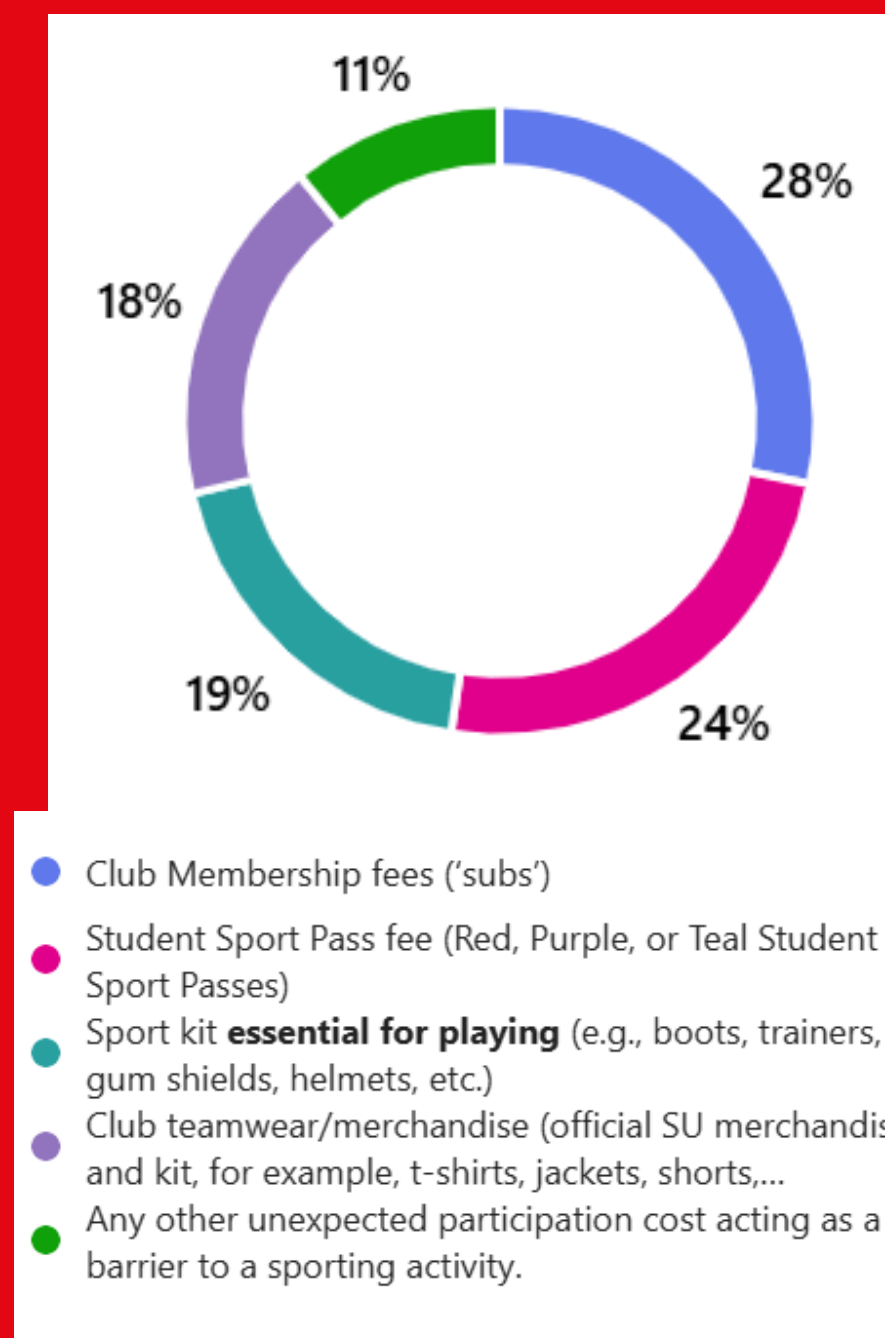
Over 50% of students prioritised base entry fees (e.g. Membership + Sport Passes).

- Suggests a primary obstacle to participation - th mandatory costs are unable to be met.

Over a quarter of applicants requested the fund for Sport Passes.

- Necessary to look at if this is creating a barrier to participation from our own institution.
- More flexible payment options needed.

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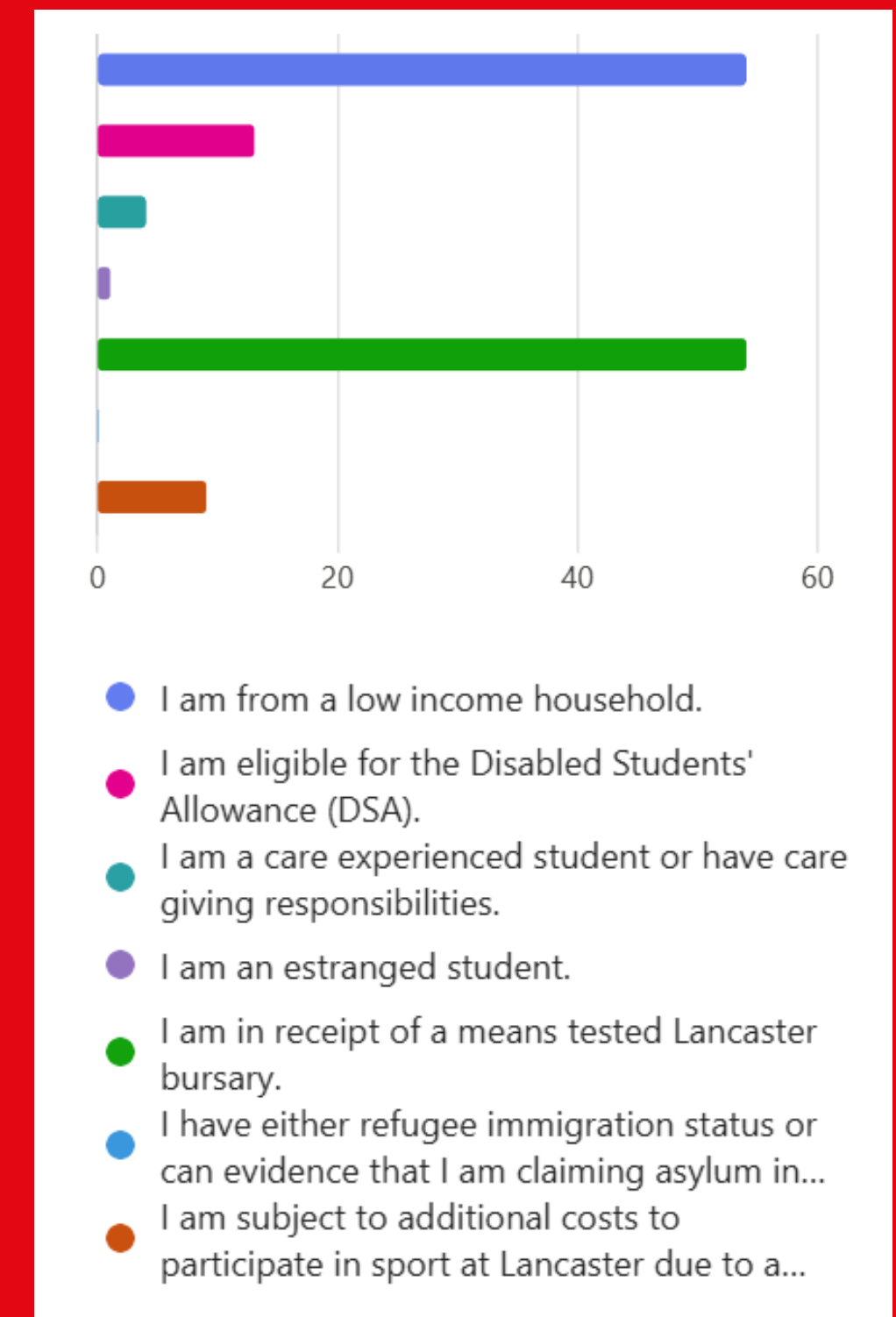
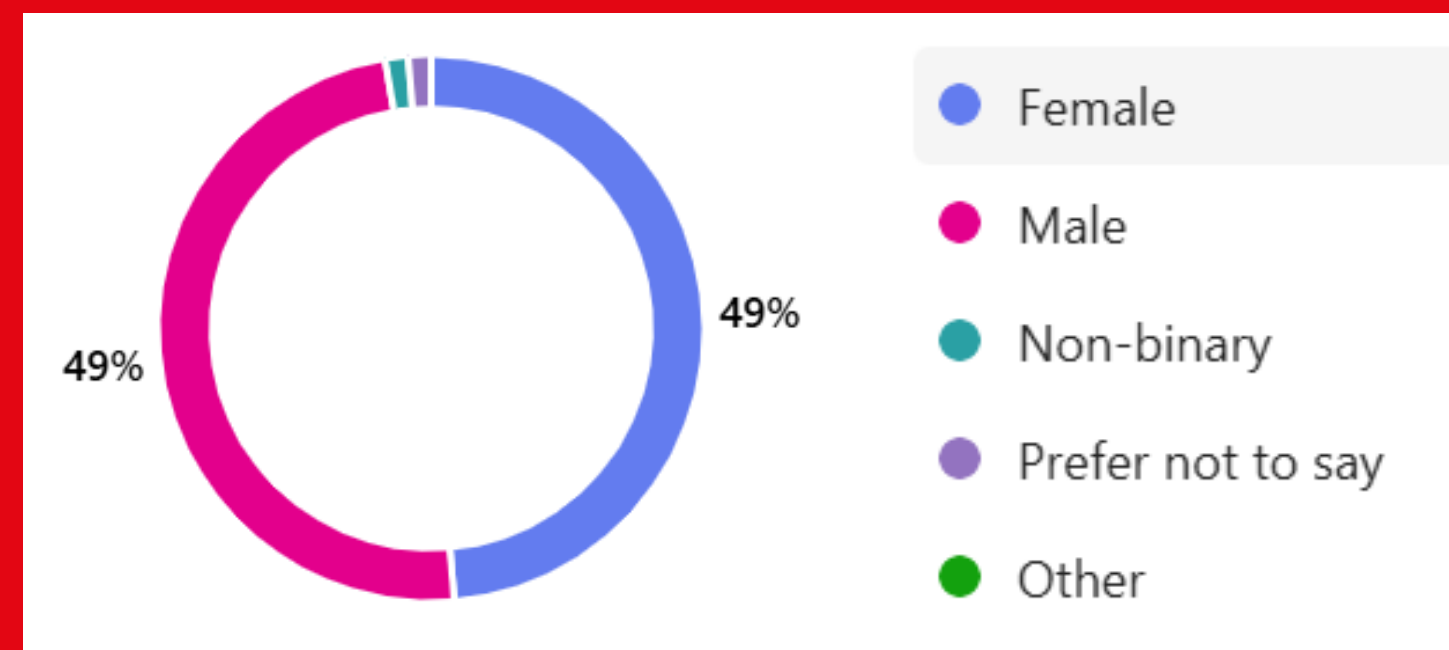
Disability & Inclusion

- A significant portion of the applicants (approx. 20%) are students with disabilities or additional needs.
- This underscores the fund's role in making sports inclusive and accessible beyond just financial "low income" metrics.

Financial Need

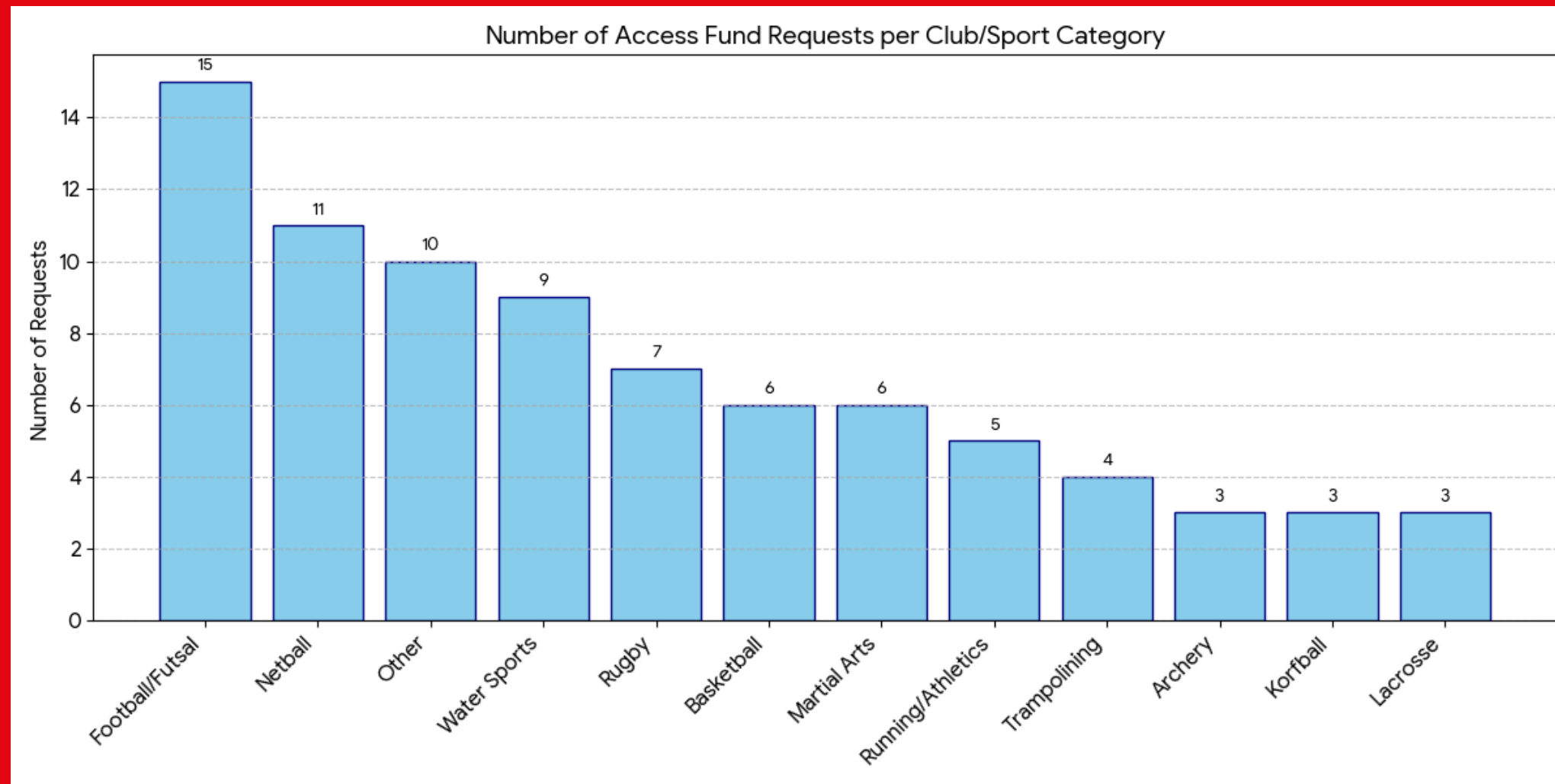
- The largest demographic of applicants consists of students from low-income households and those in receipt of a means-tested Lancaster bursary.

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*applications are not filtered by club, but by sport. For example, 'Netball' does not relate to the Lancaster University Netball Club, but all clubs who participate in Netball activity.

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Intervarsity vs College/Intramural Split

- About 30% of the requests are specifically for College-level sport.
- This demonstrates that the Access Fund is just as vital for grassroots campus participation as it is for high-performance BUCS teams.

Multi-Sport Requests

- Several students (approx. 10%) requested funds for two or more unrelated sports (e.g., American Football and Women's Rugby, or Hiking and Football).
- This suggests these students are highly engaged in the campus community but face compounded financial barriers.

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Going Forward

- **£5,000** of the allocated money was kept for after Christmas, applications will then be opened again.
- The University has kindly ringfenced **£146,000** for Student Access to Sport for the upcoming years - securing the future of the Access Fund.
- Collaboration with the University on how best to deliver this money will continue.
- Discussion with the University to include Societies into the fund.

Final Comments

This is an excellent step forward for access and participation of sport at Lancaster. Being able to assist students into actively partaking in parts of student life that they might not have been able to beforehand is something I am very proud to have achieved.

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The Students' Union and the University will keep all information relating to applications strictly confidential and restricted to the persons involved in facilitating the decision making process. We may cross check applications made with other records held by the University and/or the Students' Union.

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