

# Volunteer recognition

## What?

Recognising volunteers' contributions to your club can help build a positive culture, encourage ongoing participation, and inspire others to volunteer too. Recognition can be simple, easy to do and will go a long way.

## Why?

- Appreciating and recognising the time your volunteers put in to supporting your club can make a lasting impact and can maintain their interest in your club.
- Expressing appreciation to your volunteers and to the work they do to support your club may inspire others to get involved.
- It can create a sense of belonging, motivation and satisfaction amongst your volunteers.
- Building a positive experience for both new and current volunteers helps maintain enthusiasm and motivation to continue their involvement with your club year after year.

## How?

- **Vary recognition.** From an informal thank you after a session to more formal recognition at a bigger club event or social. Consider your volunteer pool and host fun activities that your volunteers will really enjoy.
- **Volunteer of the month** is a great way to recognise the efforts of your volunteers, and also to inspire others. This could run quarterly, annually, or highlight a volunteering moment of the month if more applicable.
- **Hold an event** to celebrate your volunteers and the support they provide to your club. This could be meeting at a café for a drink or an annual event dedicated to recognising individual volunteers with awards and certificates.
- **Small acts of appreciation**, like offering a drink, buying a thank you card or creating a recognition board. Simple gestures encourage volunteers to continue doing what they do and show that their efforts are seen and valued.

## Where?

- **Club communications.** Highlight volunteer contributions through stories, photos, or articles in any of your club communications.
- **After sessions** is a great, easy and regular opportunity to say thank you and will make your volunteers feel appreciated.
- **Social media.** Recognising your volunteers on social media can help widen the reach of your club and enable more people to understand the importance of your volunteers and the impact your club has in your local community.
- **Club meetings or events**, such as annual celebrations or meals.

## Top Tips

- Keep communication regular, meaningful, and positive.
- Share positive feedback with your volunteers, boosting confidence and enthusiasm.
- If possible, determine a budget for volunteer recognition which can allow you to plan effectively, even if the budget only covers hot drinks.

