



WINCHESTER
COLLEGE

SPORTS AWARDS

INFORMATION FOR 13+ CANDIDATES

For September 2026 start

GENERAL GUIDANCE FOR 13+ APPLICANTS

1. Sports Awards (Scholarships or Exhibitions) are available for entry at 13 and 16+.

A Sports Scholarship comes with a guaranteed place at the school, subject to a satisfactory performance at the Winchester Election or Entrance exams.

Please note that a Sports Exhibition does not come with a guaranteed place at the school.

2. Consistent with the school's commitment to the proper use of its charitable funds, sports awards carry no automatic remission of school fees. However, in case of financial need, eligible parents may apply for means-tested financial support with the payment of school fees in the form of bursaries. Please see page 6 of this document for further details.
3. Parents of candidates for Sports Awards should also read the information regarding admission to the school on the school website. In brief, applications for entry at 13+ are made to boarding houses before the end of Year 5 (9+ to 10+), and interested parents are strongly advised to register before this date. Candidates for Sports Awards will be considered even if they have not registered and do not have a place in a House.
4. *Notable ability in either of the major sports of **football** and/or **cricket** is highly desirable, although talent in other sports such those listed below will also be considered. If the sport is not listed below we may well consider making an award but there will be a limit as to how much additional support we can offer.*

Golf	Tennis	Squash/Rackets	Rowing	Hockey	Athletics/Cross Country
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If parents are unsure whether their son's sporting profile would make him a worthwhile candidate for a Sports Award at Winchester College, please contact the Director of Sport Mark Burley (msb@wincoll.ac.uk) to discuss. The school reserves the right to reject an application without assessment, based on information supplied by parents and teachers.

5. In making awards we look at a candidate's sporting potential and commitment as much as at his achievement. However, by rule of thumb, successful candidates should be of county, academy or regional standard in their preferred sport(s). In deciding whether to make a sports award we will consider:
6. the talent of the candidate in his preferred sport(s)
7. the demand for talent in a candidate's preferred sport(s) the ability of the candidate to contribute to the sports programme at the school.

If on consideration of the above it is felt that a candidate does not quite meet the criteria to be a Sports Scholar but deserves recognition for their sporting talent then a Sports Exhibition may be awarded.

8. Candidates for 13+ entry must be under fourteen years of age on 31 August following the assessment. They will need to be at Winchester College for a sport assessment which will be held in November of Year 8. The dates of the assessment will be published on the school website.

9. The successful candidates will normally enter the school in the September of the year in which the examinations take place, though 13+ awards are open to boys already in the school providing that they are under fourteen on 1 September. It is not possible to reapply in order to enhance the value/status of an award already given. The Headmaster reserves the right to allocate holders of Sports Awards to any boarding house in the school, but will of course take parental preference into account.
10. Successful candidates, on entering the school, will be given the opportunity to pursue sport to such an extent as the Headmaster (in consultation with the Director of Sport) may think desirable, and they will be expected to play a full and positive part in the sporting life of the school. The continuation of awards is subject to satisfactory progress and commitment. Parents and successful applicants will be required to sign an agreement which commits Sports Award holders to fulfilling their obligations.
11. Forms of entry may be obtained from the Sports Administrator (sportsadmin@wincoll.ac.uk) and should be returned, accompanied by references and a photocopy of the candidate's birth certificate, by the closing date given on the school website.

THE ASSESSMENT

The assessment process is designed to give an all-round view of the sporting ability of the candidate, and in order that they can give their best, we try to make them as relaxed as possible.

The Assessment Day will be split into three parts and will seek to assess the physical, technical, tactical and mental abilities of the candidates:

- **An athletic assessment**
- **a sport specific assessment** based on the candidates preferred sport(s)

Most candidates will undergo only one sport specific assessment. If, however, they feel that they genuinely have two sports of equal or near-equal potential we will do our best to enable assessments in both.

- **An informal interview** with a member or members of the Sports Department.

CONDITIONS OF SPORTS AWARDS

In addition to the general terms and conditions applicable to all pupils set out in the Parent Contract, all Sports Award holders are required to:

- involve themselves fully in the sporting life of the school, prioritising their sporting commitments ahead of other extra-curricular activities. Award holders should represent the school in at least three sports in the first two years and at least two sports during the final three year.
- set an example to others through their positive intent, commitment and demeanour both on and off the sports field. Award holders will be expected to promote the highest level of sportsmanship amongst their peers and fellow Wykehamists, upholding the standards of fair play and respect.
- apply the life-skills and attributes learnt as a Sports Scholar to maximise their potential both on and off the sports field.
- use their experience and knowledge to support and encourage others.
- set and achieve the agreed physical, technical, tactical and mental targets.
- understand that their award will be subject to annual review.

The school will provide all award holders with:

- *1-2 additional specialist coaching sessions per week (depending on time of year), paid for by the college, focusing on the award holder and his core sport(s). **We cannot guarantee provision of additional specialist sessions for those sports where we do not possess the coaching expertise within the sports department.***
- *1-2 Strength & Conditioning sessions per week depending on age and time of the year with an individualized programme.*
- *A Mental Skills Programme when the pupils reach year 11 or 12 addressing themes such as identity, fear of failure, goal setting, mind-set.*
- a selection of lectures, workshops and presentations based on various aspects of sport (e.g. nutrition, sports injury, rehabilitation, sports psychology etc.)
- a mentor from the Sports Department to help an award holder achieve his sporting goals while maintaining a sensible and sustainable routine in the school.
- permission to attend external county level (or equivalent) training sessions, with the proviso that these do not have a detrimental effect upon his academic studies or overall contribution to the sports programme.
- bursarial support in line with current school policy. Sports Awards do not themselves result in any fee remission.

BURSARIES

Bursaries are available on entry to the school and can be for up to 100% of the fees. The full boarding fee for the year can be found on the school website. Fees are payable in advance of each term.

Parents/guardians of applicants for a Scholarship, who are already holding House or General Places at the School for September 2025 entry, will have already applied for a bursary. The last day for application was 31st January 2023 as part of the offer of a House or General Place. New applications will not be accepted.

Parents/guardians of applicants who are applying solely for a Sports Award place, and who will need bursary assistance with fees, must indicate that they wish to apply for support before – or at the same time as – the application for a Sports Award, the closing date for which can be found on the school website. It is the School's expectation that parents who do not apply for a bursary at this time will not require financial support throughout the time that their child attends the School, and the School will not entertain subsequent bursary applications. Applications for bursary awards for 2026 entry will be made online, and only families who have expressed an interest in applying will receive a link to the application portal. The bursary application itself should be completed by each parent/guardian with parental responsibility.

More information and guidance about bursaries can be found on the School's website at: <http://www.winchestercollege.org/bursaries>.

Should you wish to apply, please indicate your interest by emailing the Bursaries team on bursaries@wincoll.ac.uk

HOW TO APPLY

If your child already has a place for 2026 and/or has applied for a Bursary at Winchester please contact Mrs Drinkwater who will send you the 13+ Sports Award 2026 Application Form to be completed by the date below.

If you do not have a place and have missed the usual year 5 registration, you will need to contact Mr Burley with full details of the sport(s) your child particularly excels in, and also give an indication at the level he competes at, giving examples and including any relevant PB's for his consideration.

For a Sports Scholarship, we would be looking for someone who competes at county or regional level in team sports or is ranked nationally in an individual sport, not someone who is the best within their school.

If your child meets the criteria, you would then be directed to contact the Admissions Department for a link to the general registration form to start the process of a late application procedure for securing a place at Winchester and Samantha Drinkwater will forward you the Sport's Application Form.

- Completed **13+** application forms including references must be received by the Sports Department before **Wednesday 15th October 2025**.
- Successful candidates will be notified by **Friday 7th November 2025** that they will be invited to the Assessment Day.
- The Assessment Day will be held on **Wednesday 19th November 2025**.
- Offers of Sports Awards will be sent out on **Wednesday 3rd December 2025**.
- Offers must be accepted in writing within three days of the award being made.

Enquiries about Sport Awards

Director of Sport:

Mr Mark Burley

Tel: +44 (0)1962 621 126

E-mail: msb@wincoll.ac.uk

Application Form requests

Sports Administrator:

Mrs Sam Drinkwater

Tel: +44 (0)1962 621 250

E-mail: sportsadmin@wincoll.ac.uk

Enquiries about Bursaries

The Bursary Team

Tel: +44 (0)1962 621 271

E-mail: bursaries@wincoll.ac.uk