

Start a club – Facilities

If you are thinking about starting a club you will need to consider where your club will undertake its activities. You may already use a facility for your activity, or have one in mind.

1

When looking for a new facility, think about what is essential or desirable to have for your club. Try to be as flexible as possible while thinking about the following:

- * What facilities are required- Indoor/outdoor, markings, equipment, and size of space
- * Location
- * How often you will want to hire and availability
- * The costs involved

4

Get an idea of the cost of the facility and any discounts that are offered for concessionary groups. Many local councils can offer a VAT reduction on block bookings of 10 weeks or more; speak to your leisure centre to see if this applies.

5

Once you start to use a venue, ensure that you develop a positive relationship with the manager/ operator; looking to the future, if you wish to expand or change the time of your booking, their co-operation will be vital.

For clubs that manage and operate their own venue and facilities, it is essential to do this effectively. Club Leaders has developed the 'Effective Facilities Management' online module designed to help keep facilities fit, functional and affordable to run. It focuses on assisting clubs to reduce the costs of running facilities and outlines common legal and regulatory areas with which clubs with facilities need to comply.

2

Plenty of venues may have appropriate space and equipment for your club. Don't just limit yourself to leisure centres; think wider. For example, can schools, community centres, others sports clubs or private leisure operators offer you a space to play?

3

Use the BBC's Be Inspired Activity Finder to find activities taking place near you - other clubs or organisations may have facilities available that you can use.

DISCLAIMER:

Information is for guidance only and does not constitute formal professional advice. As such, no reliance should be placed on the information contained in this toolkit. Where specific issues arise in your organisation advice should be sought from the relevant expert(s) as necessary.