
2020 SPORTS CAPITAL & EQUIPMENT PROGRAMME

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

DOES MY ORGANISATION NEED TO REGISTER?

Any organisation that wishes to make an application must first be registered at www.sportscapitalprogramme.ie. The organisation will need a tax registration number to register.

If you have previously registered then your organisation does not need to register again. If you are unsure if your organisation is registered a list of all registered organisations is available here <https://www.gov.ie/en/service/d13385-sports-capital-programme/#online-system-for-sports-capital-programme>

A guide to the registration process is available at <https://www.gov.ie/pdf/?file=https://assets.gov.ie/22797/f06644c4005443e9885aad54e1b185c4.pdf#page=1>. The Department has also created a “how-to register” video at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LDI-L2I5JXQ&t=8s>

The deadline for registration is 5pm on Monday 15th February

HOW DO I APPLY FOR FUNDING?

All applications must be made online on www.sportscapitalprogramme.ie

WHAT IS A DEADLINE FOR MAKING AN APPLICATION?

The deadline for registration is 5pm on Monday 15th February 2021

The deadline for applications is 5pm on Monday 1st March 2021

WHO CAN APPLY FOR FUNDING?

Grants are available to voluntary, not-for profit sports clubs, community groups, National Governing Bodies (NGB's) of sport and local authorities. Third level colleges, Education and Training Boards (ETBs) and schools may only apply for funding jointly with sports clubs or organisations

HOW MUCH FUNDING CAN AN ORGANISATION APPLY FOR?

The maximum grant available for local club/organisation projects is €150,000. It is envisaged that this amount will only be allocated in exceptional circumstances.

Maintenance equipment grants will be capped at €30,000 and equipment grants of over €50,000 will only be awarded in exceptional circumstances (such as to NGBs).

The maximum grant available for regional projects is €300,000 (see guide to making an application for details of what are considered regional projects)

WHAT IS THE TOTAL FUNDING AVAILABLE?

A minimum of €40,000,000 will be allocated during 2021 to successful applicants.

WHEN WILL APPLICANTS KNOW IF THEY HAVE BEEN SUCCESSFUL?

Allocations will be made in stages during 2021 with equipment only applications allocated funding first. The exact timing of allocations will depend on the number of applications submitted.

WHAT SORT OF THING DOES THE PROGRAMME FUND?

The programme will only fund projects that are sporting in nature. To help determine if a project is sporting in nature the Council of Europe definition of sport is used:

“All forms of physical activity which, through casual or organised participation, aims at expressing or improving physical fitness and mental well-being and at forming social relationships.”

Examples of things that the programme funds:

- Natural grass sports pitches, tracks and courts (including pitch drainage)
- Artificial sports pitches, tracks, courts and multi-use games areas
- LED Floodlighting
- Fitness studios
- Security fencing, CCTV systems and pitch side fencing (where these are deemed essential)
- Ball stop netting and goal posts
- Hurling walls / handball alleys
- Walking/jogging tracks
- Building or refurbishment of dressing rooms, showers and toilets
- Building or refurbishment of sports halls, gyms or fitness studios
- Modifications to sports facilities to improve access for people with disabilities.
- Modifications to sports facilities to reduce energy consumption
- Non-personal sports equipment such as gym equipment, lawn mowers, other maintenance equipment and defibrillators. Note; a limit of €30,000 applies in respect of maintenance equipment. Equipment grants of over €50,000 will only be awarded in exceptional circumstances (such as to NGB's).
- Portable storage containers/sheds up to 25 m² are considered equipment but larger modular buildings that require planning permission and/or foundations are considered capital works and require proof of title (see page 5 of application form)
- Any other capital projects that are clearly sporting in nature and that will increase participation in sport or improve performance (see definition above)
- Covid-19 related works or equipment deemed essential to allow facilities to continue in use.

Examples of things that the programme does not fund:

- Running or Operational costs

- Non-LED floodlighting
- Viewing stands
- Car parks, roads or landscaping
- Children's Playgrounds
- Bars, kitchens, sleeping accommodation, offices or other parts of a project that have little or no sporting content
- Projects (or elements of projects) where work has already commenced.
- The building or renovating of swimming pools
- Routine maintenance (including the resurfacing of artificial pitches funded by the SCEP in the last 10 years)
- Applications from schools, ETBs and 3rd level colleges that are not made jointly with at least one sports club (see separate section on schools, ETB and 3rd level colleges applications on page 5 of this guide)
- Hunting
- Luxury equipment or facilities such as spa facilities or pleasure craft
- The repayment of loans (a separate tax relief scheme for donations to sports clubs can be used to fund the repayment of loans see www.revenue.ie)
- The purchase of land or buildings (a separate tax relief scheme for donations to sports clubs can be used to fund the purchase of land see www.revenue.ie)

WHAT SPORTS EQUIPMENT DOES THE PROGRAMME FUND?

The programme considers anything that is not set into the ground as equipment. Examples of equipment funded include:

- Exercise equipment
- Weights
- Boats and trailers
- Portable goals and dugouts
- Boxing rings and punch bags
- Lawn mowers
- Storage containers (less than 25m²)
- Training aids like cones, ladders, bibs, balls

If an application includes sports equipment and capital works they will be assessed as a capital application.

WHERE CAN I GET MORE INFORMATION?

Everything you need to know to make an application can be found at <https://www.sportscapitalprogramme.ie/>

HOW ARE APPLICATIONS ASSESSED?

The scoring system will be finalised and published prior to assessment work commencing but it is not expected to change significantly from the most recent round. Previous applications were assessed against 6 criteria:

1. Likelihood of increasing participation/improving performance
2. Sharing of facilities
3. Level of socio-economic disadvantage in the area
4. Technical merits of the project
5. Level of own funding available
6. Level of SCEPT funding received in the past 10 years

The scoring system which applied to the last round of the SCP can be found at <https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/d31d21-2018-sports-capital-programme-scoring-system-and-assessment-procedure/>

Applicants must note that funding is limited and that this is a competitive process. Simply meeting the minimum criteria under the headings above does not guarantee funding.

HOW ARE GRANTS ALLOCATED?

In making allocations, the Department will aim for a good spread of funding between different areas and a wide range of sports. The assessment score is a key factor in making allocations.

MY ORGANISATION HAS AN OUTSTANDING GRANT CAN WE APPLY FOR MORE MONEY?

Yes, organisations can apply for further funding before their previous grants have been paid. Applicants can even apply for additional money towards a project if they did not receive enough funding previously BUT only if they have not started work. If contracts have been signed or works commenced you cannot apply to finish a project.

We recommend that organisations plan their work in phases and make each application for a separate phase. Phase one could be to build a sports gym and phase two could be to purchase the gym equipment.

HOW MUCH OWN-FUNDING DO APPLICANTS NEED?

Applicants must have at least 5% of the total project costs in either savings or a loan when they are making their applications and they must provide evidence of this in the form of a bank statement or a loan offer – which must be on the template provided in the guide. For local authorities the minimum own funding is 30%.

When assessing applications, the Department gives higher marks to organisations that show they can provide a higher percentage of own funding.

MY CLUB WISHES TO APPLY JOINTLY WITH ANOTHER CLUB – WHO SUBMITS THE APPLICATION?

The organisation that owns the land should make the application. Remember only one application per organisation is permitted so if you are making an application jointly with a local school you cannot also make your own application.

WHAT DOCUMENTS DO I NEED TO MAKE AN APPLICATION?

If an organisation is applying for sports equipment the only documents required are a bank statement showing their own funding and a quotation for the equipment.

The table below sets out the documents required to make an application.

Document	Compulsory?
Letter from your national governing body of sport confirming regional status of project	Compulsory for all regional applications
Quotation/estimate of the cost of your project	Compulsory for all applications
Proof of own funding	Compulsory for all applications. Loan offers must be filled in on the template at appendix 1 of the guide to making an application.
Evidence of planning permission/ planning application or evidence that planning permission is not required	Optional but extra marks are awarded at assessment stage (see section in the Guide to Making an Application on planning permission for details).
Licence agreements between groups as evidence of sharing of facilities	Compulsory for all schools, Diocesan Trusts, Education and Training Boards and 3 rd level college applications. Optional for others but extra marks awarded for the sharing of facilities.
Evidence of ownership of site	Compulsory for all applications for capital works where the organisations have chargeable title to their land. Applicants solicitor must complete the template at appendix 5 of the guide to making an application.
Evidence of access to Site	Compulsory for all applications for capital works where the organisation does not have chargeable title to their land. In such cases the organisation can apply for a maximum of €50,000 for capital works.

Owner/landlord must complete the template at appendix 4 of the guide to making an application.

WHAT ARE COMMON MISTAKES MADE BY APPLICANTS?

1. **Title/Access to the land where the project is being developed** – title/access templates (appendix 4 and 5 of the guide) have not been provided, amended, not signed, not dated or not fully completed
2. **Own Funding** – loan offer or bank statements not provided, provided without the applicant's name or not dated within 3 months of the application deadline
3. **Wrong documents uploaded** – or the same document uploaded multiple times
4. **Application not started on time** – organisations that do not start their application early run the risk of encountering technical or other difficulties that cannot be resolved before the deadline.

WE DO NOT OWN OUR OWN PITCH OR BUILDING CAN WE APPLY FOR FUNDING?

Yes, you can apply for sports equipment or you can apply for up to €50,000 towards capital works but the owner/landlord must complete the template at appendix 4 of the guide to making an application.

I RUN A SPORTS BUSINESS CAN I APPLY FOR A GRANT?

No, the programme only funds organisations where all the income of the organisation is used to fund the activities of the organisation and is not paid to the owner – the Department may seek proof of not-for-profit status.

CAN I APPLY FOR COVID RELATED CAPITAL WORK OR EQUIPMENT?

Yes, organisations can apply for Covid-19 related works or equipment deemed essential to allow facilities to continue in use.