



Sports Hardship Fund

Guidance Note

About the fund

We know this is an incredibly difficult time and the impact on our sporting partners has been immeasurable. As every part of our community adjusts to the impacts of coronavirus (Covid-19), we know sport and physical recreation organisations are facing a hugely difficult period of time.

In partnership with the Department for Communities, our **Sports Hardship Fund** aims to deliver immediate funding to those most in need. It's specifically targeted at sports clubs, and other organisations delivering sporting activities, who are experiencing immediate financial hardship.

This Guidance Note provides information on those organisations eligible for the Sports Hardship Fund and on eligible costs.

We are aware that there are a number of other larger funding sources available and we would encourage you to check those sources before applying to the Sports Hardship Fund, as in many cases they may have larger grants available that may be of more value to your organisation. We recognise that demand for these grants may outstrip supply and we want to assure you that we are doing everything we can to secure additional resources and continue to support the sporting sector. Please click on the links below to see the funding support that the government and other agencies has available **before** you consider applying to this fund:

<http://www.sportni.net/funding-and-support/>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/covid-19-guidance-information-for-ni-businesses-employers>



Who and what we'll fund

Who we can support

Organisations delivering sport and physical recreation can apply to our fund if experiencing short term financial hardship; and do not qualify for financial help elsewhere.

These organisations include:

- Governing Body of Sport (with an office base in NI)
- Constituted local sports clubs affiliated to a Governing Body of Sport recognised by Sport NI
- Community & Voluntary sector organisations that deliver or enable sport and/or physical recreation as their primary activity
- Registered NI charities that deliver or enable sport and/or physical recreation as their primary activity

Who we can't support

This fund is designed to help grassroots sport and physical recreation providers. This means we're not able to help the following organisations with this fund.

- Local authorities
- Schools, colleges and universities
- Commercial sport and physical recreation providers, e.g. private gyms
- Leisure operators
- Individuals who are either employed or self-employed within the sport and physical recreation sector.

Organisation or individuals who can access support through the government's financial packages should do so in the first instance. We'll review the availability of these packages on an ongoing basis.

What we'll fund

The fund has been developed to help sport and physical recreation organisations meet their obligations, and in particular fixed costs, which are no longer supported with revenue as a result of coronavirus. This might cover expenditure on:

- Rent/lease payments
- Heat
- Light
- Utilities
- Water Rates



- Essential grounds/facility maintenance (to maintain a state of readiness)
- Some Insurance (essential building/contents insurance, public liability, pro-rata)

What our funding can't be used for

Funding cannot be used for:

- Activities or costs which are already covered by other government funding, including rates
- Hire of facilities
- New activities or events
- New or completing existing Capital works
- Event Insurance

How much we'll fund

Each successful applicant will receive **£2,000 towards eligible costs incurred from 1st April 2020.**

We recognise the ever-changing situation that we're all in, so we'll continue to review whether organisations might need to make a second application depending on the period of disruption.

Organisations requesting additional funding will be required to submit evidence of expenditure from their previous award.

Key things to note before applying

We expect that applicants will have exhausted all other funding sources before applying to this fund. Given the enormity of the current crisis, we're likely to get more applications than we can fund so we'll direct funds to where they're most needed.

This fund will operate on a 'rolling' basis with no current specified closing date.

Payment

Sport Northern Ireland will endeavour to pay funding within 10 working days of an eligible application.

All payments will be made by BACs to the nominated bank account that is provided on the application form.

All clubs/organisations will be required to upload the most recent bank statement to assist with payment process.

Do not pay approved supplier / provider in cash.



Sport Northern Ireland will carry out a random sample check on a minimum 10% of all grant recipients. Please ensure all relevant paperwork has been retained.

Standard Terms and Conditions of Funding

Please click **the icon below** to read the programme Standard Terms and Conditions. When you type your name on the application form (**section 7**) you are confirming that your organisation accepts the terms and conditions of award.



Help and Advice

If you need help or if you have any questions please contact:

Email: sportshardshipfund@sportni.net

Telephone:

Angharad Bunt **078 1018 3023**

Conleth Donnelly **079 6724 0549**