

# Your School Your Club



## Project Register Guidance and Form

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## 1 Introduction to Your School Your Club

The “Your School Your Club” (YSYC) programme seeks to promote community use of school sports facilities outside of normal school hours. Sport NI and our partner organisations welcome expressions of interest for projects that seek to increase participation rates in sport and physical activity through accessing school facilities, with particular interest in supporting projects that meet the needs of local communities.

In 2025/26 a £3m capital budget was made available by Sport NI to support the provision of eight new and/or upgraded synthetic pitches to enable community use outside of the normal school day. The 2025/26 investment is added to forty previous investments, totalling £4.1m, bringing Sport NI’s combined investment in school sports facilities to £7.1m over 8 years.

The use of existing sports facilities within the school sports estate has a major impact on the provision of sports facilities for community and club use. YSYC develops partnerships to provide new or upgraded community access to school facilities, creating additional capacity for the sport and community sector.

There is a significant opportunity presented by opening school sports facilities to the community and addressing barriers to community access. None more significant, than cost savings associated with meeting community needs through existing provision, rather than investing in new build facilities.

## 2 What information does Sport NI need?

We want your school to tell us about a project you are developing which will open your school sports facilities to the local community. This information will be used to demonstrate need for further investment and will help identify future investment themes.

The **Project Register link** provided at Section 8, will take you to a Project Register Form, where you can provide the following information:

- About your school;
- The type of project you are developing;
- The current stage of project development;
- Indicative project costs; and
- Partnership funding.

You can also request support from Sport NI to help you develop your project. However, there are four mandatory requirements that you must be working towards prior to the opening of any YSYC funding opportunity. These are:

- Planning approval for your project (for all project elements);
- Evidence of security of tenure (of at least 10 years);
- Evidence of support from your Board of Governors; and
- Evidence of support from your Managing Authority.

### 3 What types of facilities are eligible?

We want to know about all types of capital projects that will create new or additional opportunities for community use of your school sports facilities. For example, projects could include (not exhaustive):

- New or upgraded synthetic pitch surfaces;
- Floodlights to existing synthetic surfaces;
- New or upgraded athletics tracks;
- New or upgraded changing pavilions;
- New or upgraded fitness suites;
- New or upgraded sports halls;
- New or upgraded racquet sport courts;
- New or upgraded outdoor courts or alleys;
- Upgraded swimming pools;
- New or improved access arrangements.

**Please note:** your proposed project must be able to accommodate adult participation and should be complemented by suitable adult changing and toilet facilities on the school site. This means we may consider dimensions and design recommendations of Governing Bodies, when considering eligibility of future projects.

### 4 What funding is available?

Sport NI anticipate opening a YSYC application opportunity on an annual basis (subject to budget availability). We will contribute to the construction costs of your project. Subject to budget availability, professional fees may or may not be included in Sport NI's award, and schools must consider this additional cost when developing project proposals.

Partnership funding may be required, and could be other grant funding, donations, Council contribution, or own fundraising. The Project Register will help us decide if partnership funding will be required (and to what extent). There will be a financial need assessment to ensure appropriate use of public money.

Exact partnership funding requirements and funding availability will be set out when applications are invited on an annual basis (subject to budget availability).

### 5 Who can complete the Project Register Form?

The Project Register can be completed by primary, post primary and special schools from across the education sector.

## 6 Applying to Your School Your Club

When Sport NI issues a call for applications, schools will be asked for further information on their proposed project. At Stage 1, schools will be required to evidence the following mandatory requirements:

- Board of Governors Support letter which provide the project details, partners involved, details on the management of the construction phase, and the expected outcomes as a result of the project.
- Managing Authority Support letter which outlines what guidance and support they are providing to the school for the delivery of the project, including any partnership funding.
- Security of Tenure with ten years unexpired remaining.
- Planning Approval for the full project.

Stage 1 applications will be assessed for eligibility and applicants invited to submit a Stage 2 application which will require information on the following areas:

1. Applicant Information
2. Community Use – Current Availability (Hours & User Numbers)
3. Community Use – Proposed Availability (Hours & User Numbers)
4. Community Use – Who Is Using Your Facilities
5. Project Finance
6. Financial Need (2 years Audited Accounts)

Detailed guidance on completing these stages will be provided when the programme opens for applications.

## 7 What assistance is available to schools?

Sport NI officers can provide advice and guidance on developing your community project.

Please contact Jayne Moore or Kyle Proctor by emailing: [yourschoolyourclub@sportni.net](mailto:yourschoolyourclub@sportni.net) to discuss your proposed project.

## 8 Project Register Form Submission

Please use the following link to complete the Project Register Form and click the 'Submit' button when you have completed it.

### [PROJECT REGISTER LINK](#)

Sport NI will then review the projects on the Project Register in January 2026 and issue guidance on eligible projects along with a Stage 1 Application Form for completion.