

## SPORT NI EQUALITY ACTION PLAN 2025-2026

The Action Plan will be monitored annually and is embedded within Sport NI's annual operational business plan.

Responsibility for monitoring and review of the Action Plan will rest with the Executive Leadership Team in association with business areas.

Strategic Objective	Inequalities Identified	S75 Categories Affected	Indicators	Action Measure with timescale	Monitoring mechanism
People in NI adopting and sustaining participation in sport & physical activity.	Lower participation rates in sport by women, older people, disabled people, those from culturally diverse groups, LBGTQI+ communities and people living in areas of high social need, and rural areas.	This will positively impact on : 1. Gender 2. Disability 3. Age 4. Religious Belief/ Political Opinion 5. Race/Ethnic Origin 6. Sexual Orientation 7. Marital status. 8. Dependants. 9. Sexual orientation.	Sport NI Corporate Plan commits to measure the following indicators: "% of adults participating in sport and physical activity, particularly those from under-represented groups (women/girls, disabled people and those living in areas of high social need. % of adults that belong to a sports club. % of adults who have volunteered in the last twelve months. % of adults who have coached in the last twelve months. Within each of these indicators, Sport NI will look at the story behind the headline, with a particular emphasis on what data tells us about the experience of those groups of people who have been	Sport NI Corporate Plan ( <a href="#">Corporate Plans   Sport NI</a> ) commits to mainstream equality through our work, which is developed into annual actions through our business plan outlined in the narrative below, and through: <a href="#">Disability in Sport</a> , <a href="#">Women in Sport</a> , <a href="#">Racial Inclusion in Sport</a> action plans.  <b>Connected Communities:</b> Support our health and local government partners to get people active in our communities and deliver strategic partnerships with education, tourism, economy and infrastructure to demonstrate the benefits and tell the compelling story of the value of sport in the context of a healthy, prosperous society. By 31 March 2026, to have an agreed monitoring and evaluation framework for Active Living Strategy, in line with DfC expectations.	Monitoring returns from programmes and projects.

			<p>traditionally excluded or under-represented in, sport and physical activity.”</p> <p>Other indicators, including some S75 granularity, are captured through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Continuous Household Survey</li><li>• Young People’s Behaviour and Attitudes Survey- sport</li><li>• Kids Life and Times and Young People Life and Times- sport</li><li>• Children’s Sport and Physical Activity Survey</li><li>• Outdoor Motivations Survey</li><li>• UK Coaching Survey</li><li>• Programme performance measures</li></ul>	<p><b>Connected Communities:</b> Meet local need and maximise local sports impacts by enabling, supporting and leveraging regional partnerships, through community planning. By 31 March 2026, to have delivered community programmes targeting wider community engagement and inclusivity.</p> <p><b>Quality Clubs and Effective Governing Bodies:</b> Support governing bodies of sport to identify and close development gaps in their sport. By 31 March 2026, to plan, develop, consult and launch the new Sport System Partner Investment programme to support NGBs and other sport and physical activity partners.</p> <p><b>Accessible Quality infrastructure and safety:</b> Work in partnership with education, DAERA and district council partners to continue leveraging a range of investment opportunities for sports facilities and spaces for all. By 31 March 2026, to have delivered programmes to enhance sporting and physical activity infrastructure.</p>	
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				<p>supporting athletes and enabling governing bodies and clubs to nurture talent and access a range of resources to strengthen pathways. By 31 March 2026 to develop and deliver people development programmes to enhance the sector.</p> <p><b>Connected Communities:</b> Support our health and local government partners to get people active and deliver strategic partnerships with education, tourism, economy and infrastructure to demonstrate the benefits and tell the Compelling story of the value of sport in the context of a healthy, prosperous society. By 31 March 2026, to have explored the opportunities for increased support to sporting events within Northern Ireland.</p> <p><b>Accessible, Quality Infrastructure and Safety:</b> Work with our partners in tourism, infrastructure, local councils, governing bodies and others to maximise the power of our sports infrastructure and build consensus on the best use of spaces for sport and physical activity. By 31 March 2026, develop an Olympic Legacy Programme.</p>	
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				<b>Communications:</b> Raise the profile of Sport NI and highlight the Power of Sport and its impact on people, sport and communities. By 31 March 2026, develop and implement a communications and engagement plan to illustrate the power of sport to change lives.	
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Strategic Objective	Inequalities Identified	S75 Categories Affected	Indicators	Action Measure with timescale <sup>1</sup>	Monitoring mechanism
<b><i>Northern Ireland athletes among the best in the world.</i></b>	Lower representation of xxxxx In GB/Irish teams.	This will positively impact on : 1. Gender 2. Disability 3. Age 4. Religious Belief/Political Opinion 5. Race/Ethnic Origin 6. Sexual Orientation 7. Marital status. 8. Dependants. 9. Sexual orientation.	Number of Medals won by NI athletes at major games and relative ranking and mapping of high performance athletes, according to S75 categories.  S75 monitoring of athletes receiving SISNI services.	International Sport: Develop and implement a highperformance sports framework aligned to GB and Ireland systems that seeks to leverage benefits, through investment in key strategic partners, to impact on the performance of NI athletes By 31 March 2026 to develop a Performance Framework for Sport Northern Ireland.  International Sport: Provide focused athletes services that maximise the training gains needed to enhance performance and minimise days lost from training and competition. By 31 December 2025, to have	Monitoring returns from programmes and projects.

<sup>1</sup> All policies and programmes are subject to appropriate levels of support being secured through the budget process.

				<p>reviewed High Performance athlete support over the 2025 season and plans in place for 2026 season.</p> <p>International Sport Support performance directors, coaches and athletes to improve performance by finding solutions to their identified performance limiting problems. By 31 March 2026 to have implemented a shared learning performance network to address performance limiting issues.</p>	
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