

# Olympic Legacy Fund (2025/26)

## Information and Guidance



Department for  
Communities



# Introduction

## WHAT IS THE OLYMPIC LEGACY FUND?

The Olympic Legacy Fund is a £1million pound investment programme, delivered by Sport NI in partnership with Crowdfunder UK. The fund aims to improve the quality of equipment and/or modernise facilities at community sports organisations, encouraging people to engage in sport and physical activity. Supported projects will leave a lasting community legacy from the success of Northern Ireland athletes at the Paris 2024 Olympic/Paralympic Games.

## WHAT IS CROWDFUNDING & WHO IS CROWDFUNDER UK?

Crowdfunding is an alternative way of raising money for great ideas or projects from the people around you. It seeks financial contributions from individuals within a community (or “a crowd”), typically via an online platform. Funders are now using crowdfunding as a mechanism for securing partnership funding for project proposals, and it also ensures that the project proposal has genuine support from within a community.

Crowdfunder UK are the number one rewards-based platform in the UK. Their role is to provide an online crowdfunding platform for hosting crowdfunding campaigns, and to provide support to organisations to create highly effective and successful crowdfunding campaigns.

# Information

## WHO CAN APPLY?

You can apply to the Olympic Legacy Fund if:

- You are a sports club affiliated to a Governing Body recognised by Sport NI.
- You are a community group or charity primarily delivering activity affiliated to a sport recognised by Sport NI.
- Your sports club, community group or charity is based in Northern Ireland, and benefits people living in Northern Ireland.
- *(If applying for a facility modernisation project, you will also need to demonstrate security of tenure (i.e. freehold or lease with minimum 10 years remaining))*

See full eligibility details on [Crowdfunder UK](#).

## HOW MUCH FUNDING CAN I APPLY FOR?

Sports clubs and community groups can propose a project between £1,000 (minimum) and £50,000 (maximum) in value. Sport NI will make a 65% contribution to your crowdfunding campaign, while the remaining 35% must be crowdfunded from your 'crowd'. If your club/community group is in an area of high social need, you may be eligible for an enhanced 75% contribution from Sport NI.

# What will we fund?

## Equipment

- ✓ Large items of sports equipment.  
(boats, trailers, gym equipment, bikes etc)
- ✓ Items of non-sporting equipment.  
(scoreboards, video equipment, storage racks etc)

## Facility Modernisation

- ✓ Renovating clubhouses.
- ✓ Upgrading changing rooms, toilets, or showers.
- ✓ Repurposing existing indoor or outdoor spaces.
- ✓ Creating new indoor or outdoor spaces for sport.
- ✓ Improving social spaces (front of house).
- ✓ Floodlight upgrades and other energy saving installations.
- ✓ Adding storage spaces.

## Facility Enhancement

- ✓ Upgrade facility fences or facility boundaries.
- ✓ Upgrade spectator accommodation.
- ✓ Enhancement of facility security.
- ✓ Sports surface enhancement works or surface maintenance equipment.

# What won't we fund?

## Equipment

- ✗ Single items under £1k in value.
- ✗ Equipment not related to the applicants primary activity/s.
- ✗ Second hand equipment

## Facility Modernisation

- ✗ The applicant does not own or lease their facility.  
(Minimum 10 years remaining on a lease required)
- ✗ The project has not been granted planning approval prior to application.
- ✗ The project includes professional fees.
- ✗ The project requires an unrealistic procurement method.
- ✗ The applicant fails to raise 35% of the project value.
- ✗ Specifically, the fund will not support:
  - Repairs to or resurfacing of carparks and driveways.
  - Bar Facility (i.e. back of house – keg systems, refrigeration, drinks storage, sales systems etc).

## General

- ✗ Retrospective capital costs or costs for projects that have already started.
- ✗ Crowdfunding campaigns that have already 'gone live'.

# Funding Process



## What must we do to receive a pledge from Sport NI?

To receive a pledge from Sport NI, you will need to do two things:

- Raise a minimum of 18% towards your funding target, and
- Receive pledges from a minimum of 30/60/90 (unique) supporters.

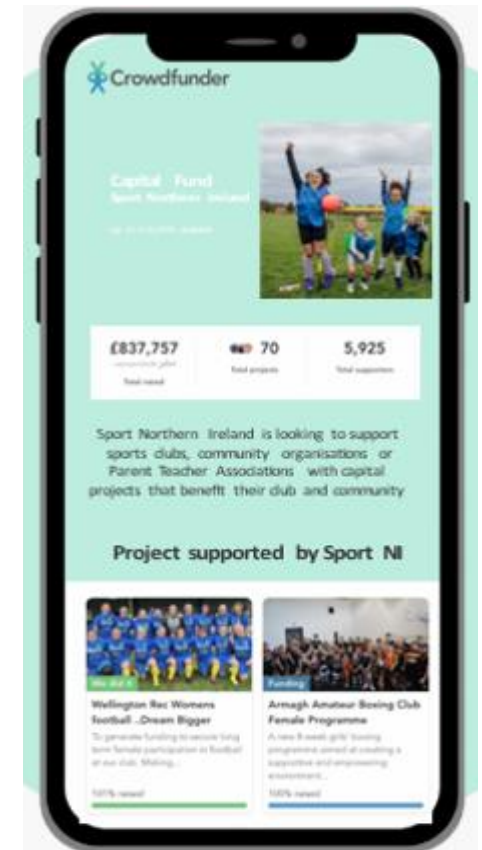
The number of unique supporters is determined by the value of your project proposal.

## How many unique supporters is our campaign required to have?

£1k to £15k = 30 unique supporters (min)  
£16k to £30k = 60 unique supporters (min)  
Over £31k = 90 unique supporters (min)

## How much time do we have to reach our funding target?

Each applicant will be given six weeks to reach their funding target. If a target is not reached within six weeks, Sport NI's contribution will be withdrawn.



# Examples

## Example 1

Applicant: ABC Sports Club

Area of High Social Need: No

Project: Internal refurbishment & gym fitout

- Project Value: £50,000
- Sport NI Contribution: £32,500 (65%)
- Project Crowdfunding: £17,500
- No of Unique Contributors: 90
- Time to Raise Funds: Six Weeks

## Example 2

Applicant: ABC Charity

Area of High Social Need: No

Project: Adapted sailing boats

- Project Value: £29,000
- Sport NI Contribution: £18,850 (65%)
- Project Crowdfunding: £10,150
- No of Unique Contributors: 60
- Time to Raise Funds: Six Weeks

## Example 3

Applicant: ABC Community Group

Area of High Social Need: Yes

Project: Storage containers

- Project Value: £41,000
- Sport NI Contribution: £30,750 (75%)
- Project Crowdfunding: £19,250
- No of Unique Contributors: 90
- Time to Raise Funds: Six Weeks

## Example 4

Applicant: 123 Sports Club

Area of High Social Need: Yes

Project: Solar PV installation

- Project Value: £10,000
- Sport NI Contribution: £7,500 (75%)
- Project Crowdfunding: £2,500
- No of Unique Contributors: 30
- Time to Raise Funds: Six Weeks



# How Does It Work

## 10 STEPS TO FUNDING SUCCESS

1. Once approved and instructed to do so by Sport NI, your crowdfunding campaign can 'go live'.
2. You will have **six weeks** from your 'go live' date to raise 100% of your project costs.
3. You should embrace the power of social media to tell people about your project.
4. The first financial pledges to your project will be made by your 'crowd'.
5. To receive a pledge from Sport NI, you will need to do two things:
  - 5a. Raise a minimum of 18% towards your funding target, and
  - 5b. Receive pledges from a minimum of 30/60/90 qualifying (unique) supporters.
6. Once the conditions above have been met, Sport NI will make a 65% or 75% contribution.
7. You then have whatever time remains of your six weeks to raise the final 17%.
8. The final financial pledges to your project will be made by your 'crowd'.
9. When you reach 100% of your funding target (and unique supporters), Crowdfunder UK will automatically release all funds to a bank account nominated by you.
10. Your project can begin (closely monitored by Sport NI).

More information available at:

[Olympic Legacy Fund | Sport NI](#)

[Sport Northern Ireland: Olympic Legacy Fund](#)

