

Expression of Interest - System Partners Investment – NGB Program (2026–2031)

Overview

System Partners Investment – NGB Programme (2026–2031)

Issued by Sport Northern Ireland

Sport NI is finalising the new System Partners Investment – NGB Programme (2026–2031). This programme is designed to support recognised Governing Bodies of Sport in Northern Ireland through two strands:

1. **Participation** – focused on increasing and retaining participation across sport and physical activity, tackling inequalities, and strengthening pathways into sustained sport.
2. **Performance** – focused on strengthening performance pathways to support NI athletes and enable sustained success at the highest level.

The purpose of this Expression of Interest is to:

- Identify Governing Bodies interested in engaging with Sport NI under the new programme.
- Understand the level of readiness and interest across sports.
- Gather some basic information.
- Identify any new or emerging sports that may wish to be considered for investment.

The information provided may be used by Sport NI to determine a maximum level of award for organisations. Submitting this form does not guarantee investment or funding at any level.

Information collected will also help Sport NI refine future investment planning.

Organisation Details

1 Organisation Name:

(Required)

2 Organisation Type:

(Required)

3 Main Contact Name:

(Required)

4 Role/Title:

Role/Title: *(Required)*

5 Email Address:

(Required)

6 Phone Number:*(Required)***7 Alternate Contact Name:***(Required)***8 Alternate Email:***(Required)***9 Registered Address for Organisation:***(Required)***10 Postcode for Organisation:***(Required)*

Programme Outcomes

The System Partners Investment – NGB Programme (2026–2031) aims to deliver measurable outcomes across two key strands:

Participation Outcomes

- Increase the number of people taking part in sport and physical activity, to improve population health and reduce inactivity by encouraging new participants.
- Ensure there are sport and physical activities available in all communities, especially those with greatest need.
- Address inequalities participation across underrepresented groups such as women and girls and people with disabilities.
- Improve participation experiences across the sport sector to improve retention rates by creating inclusive, high-quality experiences that encourage lifelong involvement in sport.

Performance Outcomes

- Strengthen performance pathways to develop a stronger pipeline of future sporting talent, that can be picked up by national programmes.
- Increasing the number of NI athletes on UK and Ireland national programmes, by improving transition rates of NI athletes to national programmes
- This investment will still seek to contribute to medal winning performances at senior level, however the SNI contribution will be earlier in the athlete's/coach's development journey.

These outcomes will guide investment decisions and ensure that resources are targeted where they can have the greatest impact on participation growth and athlete performance.

Please indicate your interest in delivering our Programme Outcomes for Participation/Performance below:

1 Please indicate the Participation Areas you are interested in supporting (tick all that apply):*(Required)**Please select all that apply*

- ☐ Getting new people into sport/Addressing inactivity
- ☐ Areas of Greatest Need
- ☐ Under-represented groups (Women & Girls, Disability, Ethnic Diversity, Other)
- ☐ Improving Participant Experiences

2 Please indicate your current status for Performance:

(Required)

Please select only one item

- ☐ Currently have Pathway Programmes to support
- ☐ Aspire to have Pathway Programmes to support
- ☐ Have no interest at this time

Size and Reach of Your Sport

The sports and activities supported by Governing Bodies are undertaken by large sections of society, both as part of a sports club, and beyond whether formally or informally. Many Governing Bodies impact these activities beyond their own membership. Understanding the total footprint of your sport is helpful for Sport NI to assess the overall reach and impact of your sport and organisation. This data helps us measure participation trends, identify growth opportunities, and ensure investment is targeted where it can make the greatest difference.

(Please select Continue)

Club Membership - Active Playing vs Social Membership

Accurate membership figures allow Sport NI to monitor the relative size of sports and track trends over time. Club members are the group that Governing Bodies should have the most comprehensive data on. It is important to understand the demographic breakdown of sports participation.

Active Participants/Playing Member: An individual who regularly participates in the sport in a structured or competitive format (e.g., training sessions, matches, leagues, or organised events). This includes both adults and juniors who are actively engaged in playing the sport rather than just being affiliated.

1 Active playing Adult members (18+):

2 Active playing Junior members (under 18):

3 Total number of Active playing members:

4 If you are unsure of the breakdown, please tick the box below:

Please select only one item

- ☐ Unsure

If 'Unsure', please explain why:

- 5 If you are able to provide us with this breakdown, please outline the method of this data capture, in addition to any challenges faced in doing so:

- 6 If your sport has challenges in differentiating between active and social members within your membership data, please provide details here:

Club Membership - Social Members/Non-Active Participants

Social Member: Someone who is part of the club for social or non-playing purposes (e.g., volunteering, spectating, fundraising, or using club facilities) but does not take part in regular playing activity.

Please indicate the number of Social Members below.

This distinction helps Sport NI understand the true reach of your sport in terms of participation and performance pathways, as opposed to general community engagement.

1 Number of Social Members (if known):

The members in this total should not be included in the previous active participants section:

Club Affiliation

Understanding the number of affiliated clubs within your sport provides Sport NI with insight into the organisational footprint and capacity for delivering participation and performance outcomes. Affiliated clubs are those formally registered with your Governing Body and operating under its governance structures. This data helps us assess the strength of your sport's infrastructure and its ability to support growth and development.

1 Number of Affiliated Clubs:

(Required)

Organisation Delivery of Non-Affiliated Activity

What We Mean by Non-Affiliated Activity and Why It Matters:

Non-affiliated activity refers to sport or physical activity delivered by your organisation that is not linked to formal club membership or registration systems. This includes outreach programmes, community sessions, school initiatives, and informal opportunities where participants do not need to join a club to take part.

Collecting this information helps Sport NI understand the full reach of your sport beyond traditional club structures, identify opportunities to engage new participants, and assess how Governing Bodies contribute to tackling inequalities and increasing participation in underrepresented groups.

1 Please indicate which types of community or outreach activity your organisation delivers (tick all that apply):

(Required)

Please select all that apply

- ☐ Schools (PE)
- ☐ After-Schools
- ☐ Community & Outreach Partner Programmes (Including family days/events)
- ☐ Workplace and Corporate Engagement
- ☐ Higher and Further Education
- ☐ Events and Festivals
- ☐ Digital and Online participation
- ☐ Informal participation (e.g., casual games, park sessions, social sport not linked to club membership)
- ☐ Other

If 'Other', please specify:

Total Reach of Sport and Activity

In addition to the club members and activities identified above, Sport NI is aware that many sports have large and growing participation in sport and physical activity outside of traditional sports structures. Therefore, we would like sports to indicate the total reach of their sport where it is known and provide the corresponding data source.

Please submit this data source to Sport NI by **10am on Monday 24 November** via sportssystems@sportni.net

1 Total/Estimated number of participants of sport/activity within Northern Ireland:

(Required)

Data and Monitoring Readiness

Why we need this information:

Collecting accurate participation and demographic data is critical for Sport NI to measure the impact of investment and ensure accountability. It allows us to track progress against programme outcomes, identify trends in participation and retention, and understand how well sports are engaging underrepresented groups. Robust data systems also help Governing Bodies demonstrate reach beyond club membership and inform future planning, funding decisions, and equality strategies.

From the questions below, please outline any current or planned improvements to your data systems that would support the collection of participation data across demographics, retention, and the reach of your sport beyond club membership.

1 Membership /Registration Systems:

(Required)

Please select only one item

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ In development
- ☐ Don't know

If 'Yes', please provide name of system (Sport80, Comet, etc.):

2 Ability to collect Participation Demographics (e.g. gender, age):

(Required)

Please select only one item

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Partial

If 'Yes', please provide name of system for collection of Participation Demographics:

3 Insight or Survey Tools in use:

Please select only one item

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ In development

If 'Yes', please provide name of system for Insight/Survey use:

Financial Standing

In order to justify the allocation of public funds, it is necessary for Sport NI to calculate the 'financial need' demonstrated by applicants.

Please provide a signed set of your organisations most recent approved full accounts (including the income and expenditure/profit and loss account, the balance sheet, and notes to the accounts).

Please return your most recent accounts to Sport NI by **10am on Monday 24 November** via sportssystems@sportni.net

(Please select Continue)

Declaration

I am authorised to submit this Expression of Interest on behalf of my organisation.

The information provided in this form is accurate and complete to the best of our knowledge.

I understand that submission of this EOI does not commit Sport NI to any investment or partnership.

Data provided may be verified and used by Sport NI to inform future consultation, planning, and eligibility assessments.

Any false or misleading information may result in exclusion from further stages of engagement.

1 Name:

(Required)

2 Role in Organisation:

(Required)