OLYMPIC LEGACY FUND

Frequently Asked Questions

ABOUT THE OLYMPIC LEGACY FUND

1. What type of investment programme is the Olympic Legacy Fund?
The Olympic Legacy Fund is a capital investment programme, designed to fund equipment or facility modernisation/improvement projects. The programme is being delivered in partnership with Crowdfunder UK, which means applicants are required to crowdfund to meet their funding targets. The primary purpose of the investment is to improve the quality of community sports facilities and equipment, leaving a lasting community legacy from the success of NI athletes.

2. What budget has been allocated to the Olympic Legacy Fund?
There is £2 million of exchequer funds allocated to the Olympic Legacy Fund for 2026/2027.

3. What funding is available from the Olympic Legacy Fund?
Funding is available for a wide range of capital projects from a minimum of £1,000, up to a maximum value of £50,000. Sport NI will contribute 65% to the total project cost, with the remaining 35% or being raised through an applicants' crowdfunding campaign. Three examples of funding are set out below:

Example 1:	**Example 2:**	**Example 3:**
Project Value: £50,000 Sport NI: £32,500 (65%) Applicant: £17,500 (35%)	Project Value: £20,000 Sport NI: £13,000 (65%) Applicant: £7,000 (35%)	Project Value: £10,000 Sport NI: £6,500 (65%) Applicant: £3,500 (35%)

4. What type of capital costs are ineligible?
Some capital costs are ineligible under the Olympic Legacy Fund. The include, but not limited to:

- The applicant does not own or lease their facility (minimum 5-years on lease).
- The project has not been granted planning approval prior to application.
- The project includes professional fees.
- The project does not represent value for money.
- The project will not be completed within 1 year.
- The applicant fails to raise 35% of the project value.
- Specifically, the fund will not support:
- Repairs or upgrades of carparks.
- Bar Facility (i.e. back of house – keg systems, refrigeration, drinks storage, sales systems etc).
- Transport Vehicles, including mini-buses & vans.
- Retrospective capital costs.
- Crowdfunding campaigns that are already 'live'.

APPLYING TO THE OLYMPIC LEGACY FUND

5. What type of organisations are eligible to apply to the Olympic Legacy Fund?
You can apply to the Olympic Legacy Fund if:

- You are a sports club, community group, or charity primarily delivering a recognised sport or activity.
- 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).*

6. What type of organisations cannot apply to the Olympic Legacy Fund?
The following organisations are ineligible to apply:

- If you have received funding in 25/26 under the Olympic Legacy Fund
- Connected / Associated group of the organisation funded in 25/26 based on the same site.
- Public Bodies or District Councils.
- Leisure operators including leisure trusts.
- Governing Bodies for Sport.
- Private Businesses, Sole Traders, or other Profit-Making Organisations.
- Commercial sport and physical activity providers, e.g. private gyms.
- Schools, colleges, or PTAs.

7. How do I apply to the Olympic Legacy Fund and where do I find information?
The Olympic Legacy Fund is being administered by Sport NI through the Crowdfunder UK website – you can apply for funding here. This programme requires applicants to establish a crowdfunding campaign and raise an amount of money, which will then be 'match-funded' by Sport NI if your application to Sport NI is successful. Information, including guidance material and advice on 'how to be successful' can be found at Olympic Legacy Fund | Sport NI

8. How much funding can I apply for?
Sports clubs and community groups can propose a project between £5,000 (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'. However, Sport NI will consider projects with a value higher than £50k. However, your crowdfunding campaign will be set at £50k and additional partnership funding must be evidenced at time of application (i.e. in your bank account). All projects need to be completed by 30th June 2027.

9. What must I do to receive a Sport NI Olympic Legacy Fund pledge?
To receive a pledge, you will need to do two things:

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

If either of these funding conditions are not met, Sport NI's pledge will be withheld until both have been met.

10. When should my Olympic Legacy Fund application be submitted?
Olympic Legacy Funding will be made available in two tranches – £1million released in September and another £1million released in November. Demand for the programme is likely to be high. Applications will be accepted up until the published closing date (which will be 3-weeks after each application window opens).

11. When should my project be completed?
Projects are to be completed as quickly as possible after you have achieved your funding target. However, all funds should be fully spent by 30th June 2027.

12. How does the Crowdfunder UK process work?
To receive a funding pledge from Sport NI, applicants must set up a project through the Crowdfunder website, before submitting a Crowdfunding application to Sport NI. This can be done on the Crowdfunder page by selecting the "Extra Funding" tab at the top of the page and then selecting Northern Ireland. You can contact support@crowdfunder.co.uk who are there to support and help Northern Ireland applicants. Before you start to create your crowdfunding campaign, please read Sport NI's Guide to Success

13. How should we set our campaign target and match-funding from Sport NI?
Your published campaign target should be inclusive of the support you wish to receive from Sport NI. The Sport NI pledge will be added to your overall campaign target, which is why your target must be set up to allow for this.

If you have already gone live, it will not be possible to make any required changes to your campaign page and therefore, not possible to receive Sport NI funding.

Not going live with your campaign until receiving 'Approved' status feedback from Crowdfunder UK and Sport NI also means you can be more assured that when you launch your campaign page it will be as polished and engaging as possible; and enables you to maximise the length of your campaign (6 weeks)

14. Can other club/community members run their own Crowdfunder page that will contribute to our overall Crowdfunder target?
Yes, other members can run their own crowdfunding campaigns that link into the overall campaign target. To do so, the project owner should email support@crowdfunder.co.uk and ask for the 'multiplier option' to be added to your Crowdfunder page. For more information on multipliers, please have a look at the following article: **How does a multiplier work? | Crowdfunder Help Centre**

15. Are there fees associated with fundraising through Crowdfunder UK?
Yes, there are fees that will apply to your Crowdfunding campaign. Crowdfunder UK charge the project, not the person donating. The fees are applied for each individual donation received but are deducted from the payout your project receives upon completion of your campaign.

Sport NI will cover all the fees associated with the 65% contribution that we make to your project. However, you will be required to pay a small fee on the donations which contribute towards the 35% raised by your crowd. The fees that apply largely depend on the type of organisation you are (see table below).

Project Type	Platform Fee	Transaction Fee (Exc. VAT)
Not-for-profit community projects, social enterprises, sports clubs	0%	2.9% + 30p (per pledge) on UK/EU cards*
Charity profiles and fundraisers	0%	1.9% + 20p (per pledge) on UK/EU cards*

** 3.25% + 25p (per pledge) on non-EEA/UK transactions.*

16. Is there an example of what the fees look like in practice?
The fees vary based on your project and organisation type (see table above). Here's a quick look at the final amount a **sports club** project receives from a **£10** pledge after all fees are deducted.

Item	Calculation	Amount
Percentage Transaction Fee	2.9% of £10.00	£0.29
Fixed Transaction Fee	Flat Rate	£0.30
Total Transaction Fee	**£0.29 + £0.30**	**£0.59**
VAT on Transaction Fees	20% of £0.59	£0.12
Total Fee Deducted	**£0.59 + £0.12**	**£0.71**
Amount Your Project Receives	**£10.00 - £0.71**	**£9.29**

17. Is there any advice on how to meet the cost of transaction fees?
Hypothetically, if your project raises 35% of £50,000 from 90 unique supporters, with each supporter making a £194.45 pledge to your project, the funds you raise (£17,500) will be deducted by £641.70 (to cover Crowdfunder transaction fees). To ensure that your sports club is not left with a funding gap, we suggest that you either build in the fees to your campaign total, or if your campaign is £50,000, we suggest you continue to fund raise after your campaign has reached its target. That way, some, if not all of your transaction fees will be met through your fundraising campaign.

ABOUT CROWDFUNDING

18. What are the benefits of crowdfunding?
The use of Crowdfunding has been found to produce several financial and non-financial benefits. Your project will be opened to a global audience through a worldwide platform, it's a great marketing tool for organisations. It affords the sports sector an opportunity to source or attract new members/ volunteers, organisations to showcase their projects to new sponsors/ income streams. On average, for every £1 an organisation receives from Sport NI, organisations can leverage in £1.81 from their 'crowd'.

19. Do we have to be a tech genius to crowdfund?
No - You do not need to be a tech genius to crowdfund. There is lots of guidance on offer, and we encourage all applicants to take advantage of specialist advice from Crowdfunder UK. To get started, please see our step-by-step guide About | Crowdfunder UK.

20.What is required from our crowdfunding campaign?
Sport NI has created a useful Guide to Success This document guides you through the creation of a campaign page and provides helpful hints and tips for creating an effective crowdfunding campaign.

21. What happens if our campaign exceeds our funding target?
Once you have hit your initial funding target you can chose to add a 'stretch target' to your campaign. If you raise more than your target then you will have a bigger budget for your project, however, Sport NI will not increase its initial pledge. However, your project must be fully deliverable within your initial funding target.

22. What happens if we can't achieve our funding target or required supporters target?
If the project fails to reach 100% of its funding/supporters' targets, Sport NI's funding pledge will be cancelled. The project owner will be encouraged to review what went wrong and, if appropriate, may reapply (if time and budget availability permits).

23. How long should our crowdfunding campaign last?
Applicants will have **6 weeks** to complete their funding campaign and raise their total funding target.

24. When do we start our crowdfunding campaign if our application is successful?
If your application is approved, you'll receive an offer from Sport NI for a 65% contribution to your funding target. This offer will be valid for 2-weeks after the date of notification, if you do not launch your crowdfunding campaign within 2 weeks the offer will be rescinded.

25. When should we make our project 'live' on the Crowdfunder Platform?

You must submit your campaign in 'draft mode', without 'going live'. This means you can receive initial feedback on your project and campaign page, making any amendments to it prior to the crowd engaging with it. **DO NOT** start your crowdfunding campaign until instructed to do so by Sport NI. Crowdfunding campaigns that have already 'gone live' are not eligible for Sport NI funding.

26. Does my club/organisation qualify for Gift Aid?

To qualify for Gift Aid, you must be a registered charity. Gift Aid is a government scheme that means charities can claim back 25p for every £1 donated. To add Gift Aid to your campaign, click on the edit project button on your dashboard and go to the Basics section, then scroll down to tick the Enable Gift Aid button. The gift aid box will then be enabled for donations.

27. Am I expected to create a video for my campaign page?

If you are applying for Olympic Legacy Fund extra funding**, you MUST include a video that is bespoke to the project.** The video should outline who the clubs is, what the project is about, what the project will deliver, why you need funding and how you will spend the money raised. Please check out our live campaign page for inspiration from other live campaigns.