

Olympic Legacy Fund (2026/27)

Information and Guidance

Phase 1 - £1,000,000

Opens September 23rd 2026

Closes October 14th 2026

Phase 2 – £1,000,000

Opens November 2026 (Date TBC)

Closes December 2026 (Date TBC)

Introduction

WHAT IS THE OLYMPIC LEGACY FUND?

The Olympic Legacy Fund is a £2m 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.

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 a 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.

Who Can Apply & What Funding Is Available

WHO CAN APPLY?

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.

Note – If you received funding in 2025/26 you are not eligible to apply in 2026/27

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

HOW MUCH FUNDING CAN I APPLY FOR?

Olympic Legacy funding will be available in two tranches - £500k in September 2026 (confirmed) and £1.5m in October/November 2026 (subject to budget).

Minimum Campaign Value: £5,000

Maximum Campaign Value: £50,000

Sport NI contribution: 65% of up to £50,000

Your contribution: 35% of up to £50,000

Note: 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 must be completed by 30th June 2027.

What will we fund?

Equipment

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

Facility Modernisation

- Clubhouse Renovations
- Upgrading changing rooms, toilets or showers
- Upgrading floodlighting or any other energy saving installations
- Repurposing existing indoor and outdoor spaces
- Surface works eg drainage

Facility Enhancement

- New spectator accommodation
- Spectator fencing / boundary fencing
- Sports surface enhancement
- New changing facility / toilets blocks
- Additional storage space
- Other facility works eg dugouts / ball stops

What won't we fund?

Equipment

- Equipment with total cost under £5,000
- Equipment not related to the applicants primary activity/s.
- Second hand equipment.

General

- Organisations funded in 25/26 under the OLF
- The applicant does not own or lease their facility.
- 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 by 30th June 2027.
- 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'.

How Do I Apply?

Applying to the Olympic Legacy Fund

1. You can apply for Olympic Legacy funding here: [Sport Northern Ireland: Olympic Legacy Fund](#)
2. Complete an application form and create a crowdfunding campaign page.
3. Guidance on how to create a successful campaign page is available here: [Guide to Success](#)
4. Following the closing date, your application will be assessed by Sport NI.
5. If your application is selected for funding, Sport NI will begin its review of your campaign page.
6. You will be given a maximum of two Sport NI reviews to finalise your crowdfunding campaign (an initial review and then one final review once updated).
NOTE: If your campaign is not in a fundable position after two Sport NI reviews, your application will be declined/deferred.
7. Once approved and instructed to do so by Sport NI, your crowdfunding campaign can 'go live'.
8. You will have **six weeks** from your 'go live' date to raise 100% of your project costs.
9. To receive a 65% pledge from Sport NI, you must achieve the pledge conditions (see page 6)
10. Once the conditions above have been met, Sport NI will make our 65% contribution.
11. You then have whatever time remains of your six weeks to achieve your funding target.
12. 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.
13. Your project can begin (closely monitored by Sport NI).

How do I Receive a Sport NI Pledge?

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.

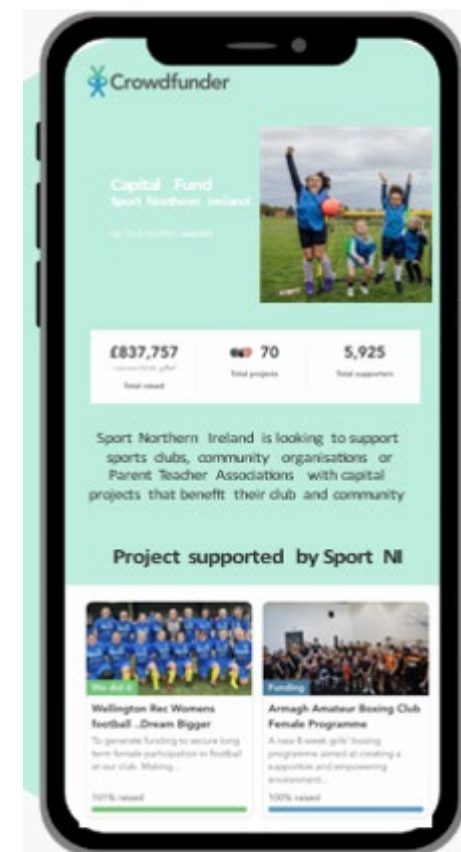
How many unique supporters is our campaign required to have?

£5k to £20k = 30 unique supporters (minimum)

£20k to £35k = 60 unique supporters (minimum)

Over £35k = 90 unique supporters (minimum)

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



How will my application be assessed?

Part 1: Eligibility and Readiness Check

Sport NI will check the following:

- Is the applicant eligible?
 - Is the proposed project eligible?
 - Has partnership funding been evidenced (if above £50k)?
 - Has planning approval been obtained or is it exempt?
 - Has security of tenure been evidenced or is it exempt?
 - Have project costs been validated via submission of quotations?
 - Is the campaign still in draft and not been made live?
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- Only those applicants that satisfy the above criteria will proceed to the next stage of assessment.
 - Applicants will be given 1-week to address any eligibility issues and resubmit additional information.
 - Ineligible organisations or projects will be declined.
 - Organisations unable to address eligibility issues will be declined or deferred.

How will my application be assessed?

Part 2: Place Based Assessment

Your geographic location will be assessed based on your organisations potential to engage the following key target groups:

- People from Areas of Deprivation
- Young People (aged 0-15)
- Older People (aged 65+)
- Women & Girls
- People with a Disability
- People from an Ethnic Minority background

Part 2: Active Membership Assessment

Your 'active membership' numbers for the following groups will be assessed as a percentage of your total membership:

- Young People (aged 0-15)
- Older People (aged 65+)
- Women & Girls
- People with a Disability
- People from an Ethnic Minority background

Part 2: Post-Assessment

- Applications will be ranked by assessment score (highest to lowest).
- Assessment score will determine when your project will be considered for funding.
- Project proposals will be considered (in rank order) until programme budget has been exhausted.

How will my application be assessed?

Part 3: Campaign Page Review

After the eligibility check and assessment exercise, Sport NI will have a ranked list of applications. Your application will be selected in rank order, until the available budget has been exhausted. If selected to proceed campaign page will be reviewed by Sport NI.

We will be looking to ensure the following are included:

- A valid campaign funding target (consistent to that within the application).
- A good quality video bespoke to your proposed project.
- Images related to your proposed project.
- Community based rewards (to incentivise your crowd).
- Project details & text content.

PLEASE NOTE: It is essential that you follow Sport NI's [Guide to Success](#) when completing your campaign page. This step by step guidance will ensure your campaign page meets Sport NI expectations and requires minimal review amendments. You will have 1-week to make all requested amendments following Sport NI's initial review. Failure to action Sport NI review amendments will result your application being declined or deferred.

Simplified Funding Process



Examples

Example 1

Applicant: ABC Sports Club

Project: Internal refurbishment & gym fitout

- Project Value: £60,000
- Sport NI Contribution: £32,500 (65% of £50k)
- Project Crowdfunding: £17,500
- Evidence of partnership funding: £10,000
- No of Unique Contributors: 90
- Time to Raise Funds: Six Weeks

Example 2

Applicant: ABC Community Group

Project: Storage containers

- Project Value: £25,000
- Sport NI Contribution: £16,250 (65% of 25k)
- Project Crowdfunding: £8,750
- No of Unique Contributors: 60
- Time to Raise Funds: Six Weeks

