



**Hockey
Ireland**

Sport Ireland - Club Resilience Fund



Background

In October 2021 Sport Ireland has secured additional funding for 2021 to support Sporting Organisations with the impact of COVID 19.

This investment programme will be allocated through five targeted grant schemes:

- A Field Sport Fund to support the FAI, the GAA and the IRFU
- A Resilience Fund to support the National Governing Bodies of Sport and other Sport Ireland Funded Bodies
- A Sports Club Resilience Fund
- A Swimming Pool & Facilities Fund
- A Fund to support the Resumption of Sport & Physical Activity

Who can apply?

- **Affiliated bodies severely financially affected by the Covid-19 health crisis**
- **ROI Hockey clubs**
- **Multi-sports clubs**
- **Provincial organisations**

Core Objectives and guiding principles

- The stated objective of the COVID 19 scheme is to protect the sports sector from permanent financial and strategic harm arising from the public health crisis.
- The primary purpose of the scheme is to prevent any viable sports organisation from becoming insolvent.
- The secondary purpose of the scheme is to ensure that the sports sector has the capacity to make a significant medium and long-term contribution to the public health of the nation.
- The distribution of funds will be consistent with the aims and values of the National Sports Policy 2018 - 2027.
- This investment is new and is in addition to funding provided previously to Sport Ireland in 2021.

Core Objectives and guiding principles

- Funding allocations to NGBs, LSPs and clubs under the new scheme will be determined following a robust grant application and assessment process conducted by Sport Ireland.
- Sport Ireland will distribute primarily to and through recognised National Governing Bodies (NGBs) and the national network of Local Sports Partnerships (LSPs).
- Sport Ireland must be fully satisfied that the grant is absolutely required.
- The funding is targeted at issues arising from COVID 19. □ Pre-existing debts or deficits will not be covered. □ There must be evidence of a sports organisation working to a business recovery plan. □ Principles of fairness will apply. □ No upper or lower limits are in place. This can only be determined when the extent of the demand of the schemes is known.

Fairness, equity and inclusion

- Sport Ireland recognises that certain sports organisations have been disproportionately impacted by the COVID 19 crisis. An essential feature of a public health crisis is that it is indiscriminate.
- In this instance a shut-down in operations had a bigger impact on organisations that had developed a diverse business model reliant on a variety of streams of income. As part of Scheme Five (*Resumption of Sport & Physical Activity Fund*) a special once off grant payment to support the return of Indoor Sport will be provided.
- This investment recognises the disproportionate and unanticipated extent of COVID 19 Restrictions on their activities and the difficulties associated with a resumption and return to normal levels of activity.
- The various Schemes are to address identified needs. Until such time that applications are returned and assessed, Sport Ireland is not in a position to determine the quantity and/or validity of applications.

Fairness, equity and inclusion

- Sport Ireland will endeavour to ensure that the investment is distributed fairly. Every effort will be made to ensure that the wider sports community benefits from the schemes. Limits on grant amounts may be put in place. That can only be done when the extent of the demand for the scheme is known.
- Sport Ireland recognises that people with a disability have been disproportionately impacted by the COVID 19 crisis. It will ring-fence a proportion of the investment so that it is targeted directly at the disability sector.
- There will be a dedicated fund to support the Local Sports Partnerships in operating local grant schemes to ensure the restart of community based schemes.
- Funded bodies which are not recognised NGBs or LSPs should seek advice from Sport Ireland to ascertain if they are eligible for funding support under any of these schemes. National Sports Policy and Sport Ireland strategic objectives in terms of addressing inequality in sport in particular addressing social, disability, gender, ethnic and other gradients will be a consideration in allocating funding.

Process and Timeline

- **Club applications must be submitted to Finance@hockey.ie before 17.00 on 15th October**
- **Applications will then be collated by Hockey Ireland and submitted to Sport Ireland before October 26th 2021**
- **Sport Ireland will make an initial assessment on the level of request under each scheme.**
- **Final decisions will need to take into account the level of demand across the schemes.**
- **Depending on the level of submissions, the outcome of those deliberations will be communicated to sports organisations in December 2021**
- **Subject to approval and standard Terms & Conditions, the process of payment will begin thereafter**

Recovery and Renewal Plans

- The COVID 19 Grant Schemes are designed to ensure sports organisations maintain operations, avoid insolvency and prepare for a return to productive activity in good financial health. The total amount of money being made available is designed to protect the existing physical and operational infrastructure of Irish sport. This is in recognition that any reconstruction of Irish sport would ultimately cost more over the long run.
- Any financial recovery of the sector or an individual organisation will comprise of a number of elements.
 - 1. Return to operations
 - 2. Use of reserves and other streams of finance to sustain liquidity
 - 3. Ensuring ongoing income (e.g. membership subscriptions, affiliations, renegotiate commercial arrangements)
 - 4. Access to horizontal State supports (e.g. Rate holidays, Salary subsidies)
 - 5. Drawdown on business continuity insurance if applicable
 - 6 Cost reductions
 - 7. Securing certainty on future funding streams
 - 8. Supplemental grants (i.e. COVID 19 Grant Schemes)
- In applying for funding, sports organisations should submit details of their Business Recovery Plans. In particular, there should be detail on the drawdown of other State supports and the use of financial reserves.

Key points to consider

- Sport activity only
- Not to replace income from ancillary activities such as hospitality, sub-letting facilities or other non-sporting commercial activity
- Proof is required
- Rateable clubs not at risk of insolvency but requiring financial support with the costs associated with reopening are encouraged to explore the Local Authority Restart Grant