

# IRISH FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

## FIFA COVID-19 RELIEF FUNDING (WOMEN'S CLUBS)

### Guidance Note



#### Background

Following FIFA Council approval of its COVID-19 Relief Plan, the Irish FA Board agreed at its 27 August 2020 meeting to use financial support available from this programme to 1) continue the wider growth of the women's game in Northern Ireland and 2) establish a fund to assist clubs in meeting some of the costs associated with the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

#### Who is eligible to apply

Northern Ireland Football League Women's Premiership clubs and Northern Ireland Women's FA clubs (who are affiliated to the Irish FA) will be eligible to apply for funding under the FIFA COVID-19 Relief Funding programme. Clubs must be participating in the 2020 season to be eligible to receive funding.

#### Eligible items for funding

Items relating to addressing issues arising from the COVID-19 pandemic and combating the spread of COVID-19 (**including eligible expenditure incurred since the IFA suspension of football in March 2020**) will be eligible for support under the funding. This may include, but not be limited to, clubs:

- adapting and maintain their facilities to help mitigate the possibility of spreading Covid-19. This includes promoting good hygiene; keeping facilities and equipment clean; maintaining social distancing and avoiding congestion.
- carrying out vital work in preparing and maintaining pitches (for a return to competition football) which may not have been able to undergo usual close-season maintenance due to budgetary constraints or contractor availability.
- meeting some ongoing costs including utility bills, insurances, affiliation fees, facility hire and enhanced cleaning requirements.

#### Ineligible items for funding

- Activities or costs which are already covered by or claimed from other Government funding/ funding providers including rates;
- Player and staff wages/ expenses;
- Capital works programmes;
- New activities or events;
- Funding shortfalls.

#### Funding levels of support

Funding levels of support are available as follows:

League	Maximum Funding Allocation Per Club
NIFL Women's Premiership	£1,500
NIWFA clubs	£1,500

## How to apply for funding

Eligible clubs will be able to apply for funding via the online link only - see accompanying email.

Only one application per club is permitted. Once an application form is submitted, a copy of a recent club bank statement (within the last 3 months) must be emailed to [finance@irishfa.com](mailto:finance@irishfa.com) to verify the club's bank details. Receipt of the bank statement is required before funding is issued to applicant clubs.

All data will be processed and collected in line with the Irish Football Association Privacy Notice: <https://www.irishfa.com/privacy>.

## Deadline

All funding applications must be submitted by not later than Monday 12 October 2020. Application forms received after this date will not be accepted.

## Funding Monitoring and verification

If a club is successfully awarded funding, on request and in order to meet the FIFA requirements for transparency and accountability, it must be able to produce verification of expenditure i.e. production of relevant invoices/ receipts and confirmation of payment.

The Irish Football Association is bound by a condition of funding to 'monitor, supervise and report on the dispersal to and use of funds by subsequent recipients' and as part of the FIFA central audit review, the FIFA general secretariat may request the member association concerned to provide any evidence and/or documentation that it deems necessary in relation to funds provided under this funding scheme.

## COVID-19 Support Funding Programme contact

If clubs have any queries in regard to the COVID-19 Support Funding Scheme for women's clubs, please contact Leanne McCreedy by email at [leanne.mccreedy@irishfa.com](mailto:leanne.mccreedy@irishfa.com) or telephone 07894 614307.