



Foundation



People
& Clubs

Building Better Sports Facilities



funded by



DfC
Department
for Communities

House keeping

The webinar will begin shortly

- To ask a question, we ask that you use the *chat function* option
- Questions/queries can also be emailed to Irish FA staff. (e-mail details will be provided)



Overview of this funding programme

The Building Better Sports Facilities programme will invest in all aspects of a sports facility's infrastructure with a view to improving operational efficiency leading to increased participation capacity.

A sport's facilities is seen as the 'entire core capital, ancillary and fixed equipment requirements to run the facility'.

The overall aim of the programme is to contribute towards the delivery of increased, inclusive and safe sustained **participation** in sport and physical recreation by meeting the following aims:

- To contribute to the **MODERNISATION** of sports facilities across Northern Ireland
- To respond to **HEALTH AND SAFETY** needs of sports facilities, including building resilience to the COVID-19 pandemic
- To contribute to improved **ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY** of sports facilities across Northern Ireland
- To contribute to **IMPROVED ACCESS AND INCLUSION** at sports facilities with a particular focus on women/girls and people with a disability
- To respond to facility improvement needs identified by sports as part of Sport Northern Ireland's **COVID-19** Engagement Survey (2020), through **RETURN TO SPORT** queries and other Sport Northern Ireland insights





1. What are the objectives of the investment?

Building Better Sports Facilities aims to improve the capital infrastructure of sporting organisations across Northern Ireland.

Building Better Sports Facilities will invest in all aspects of a sports facility's infrastructure with a view to improving operational efficiency leading to increased **participation** capacity.

A sport's facility infrastructure is seen as the "entire core capital, ancillary and fixed equipment requirements to run the facility".

While Sport NI has traditionally focused on investing in the actual playing facility e.g. pitch, hall, wicket, court etc., recent research has identified a need to take a more holistic approach to sports infrastructure development. This holistic approach would include the development of changing rooms, toilets, carparks, pathway and ancillary facilities that benefit all users of the facility.



2. What level of funding can I expect?

Award Thresholds

The **minimum award available is £5,000** and the **maximum is £25,000** for any project*.

**The total project costs may go to (but not exceed) £30,000 depending on the VAT status of the applicant.*

- Sport Northern Ireland have a total funding pot of **£700,000** for this fund
- The Building Better Sports Facilities Fund will be **heavily oversubscribed** for the funds available (300 applications have been started already). Sport NI may lobby for more funds
- **Eligible costs** include equipment and VAT. If your organisation is registered for VAT, VAT costs will not be eligible
- Partnership Funding is **not required**
- However, some capital projects may require professional input, which is likely to incur a cost. These costs **WILL NOT** be covered by Building Better Sports Facilities. It is the applicant's responsibility to obtain the appropriate professional services if applicable



3. Who can apply?

Building Better Sports Facilities will accept applications from the following organisations who either own or operate their own sports facilities*:

- Sports clubs (affiliated to an Sport Northern Ireland recognised governing body of sport); and
- Community sports organisations.

**Organisations who operate (but do not own their own facilities) must be able to evidence security of tenure of a minimum of 10 years.*

The following types of organisations are **ineligible** to apply to Building Better Sports Facilities: local authorities, schools/colleges/universities, individuals and sole traders, 'for profit' companies, and governing bodies of sport.



4. What is the application process?

Applications must be completed online through Sport Northern Ireland's Internet Grants Applications Manager (IGAM) portal.

Links to the IGAM portal can be accessed through Sport Northern Ireland's website here:

www.sportni.net/funding/our-fundingprogrammes/BuildingBetterSportsFacilities

Applications will not be accepted in any other format.

Information required

- Organisation and contact info
- Two main 'wordy' questions:
 - Description of the project (250 word limit)
 - How the project will improve facility infrastructure (250 word limit)
- Accurate costs (no formal quotes required. Include 10% contingency)
- No supporting documents required



5. What type of projects can be funded?

Can be funded:	Cannot be Funded:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General improvement works, including improvements & modifications to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Changing and toilets. • Facilities maintenance equipment. • Storage facilities & containers. • Access & egress projects, including improvements to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Entrances/Exits (internal or external). ○ Car parks. ○ Pathways; and ○ Fencing. • Environmental sustainability projects, including improvements to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Heating systems ○ Plumbing ○ Power supply ○ Ventilation and ○ Insulation • Works to enable your facility to operate more efficiently within Covid-19 guidelines 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capital projects above £30,000 • Works to bar areas and associated social spaces • Sports equipment (unless permanently fixed)



6. How will funding building better facilities be delivered?

Step 1: Application

- Email any queries to buildingbettersportsfacilities@sportni.net
- The deadline for queries is Friday 1st October 2021. All queries will be answered and uploaded to a Frequently Asked Questions document on the Sport Northern Ireland website.
- Submit an online application form before 12noon on Monday 4th October 2021;
- Applications should take approximately 30 minutes to complete.

Step 2: Assessment

- Applications assessed by Sport Northern Ireland during October 2021;
- Applications assessed and scored using criteria outlined below (Section 6);
- Decision letters issued during October/November 2021;
- Business Case developed by Sport Northern Ireland during October/November 2021;
- Applicants to procure works contractor during November/December 2021;
- Letters of Offer issued during December 2021.

Step 3: Project Delivery

- Works Commence - January - March 2022;
- All Projects to be completed by 31st March 2022.



7. How your project will be assessed and scored?

Criteria 1: <i>Your project and how it improves your facility infrastructure?</i>	Score:	Descriptor:
Details that will be considered by Sport Northern Ireland: How clearly has;	1	The project description is poor, and there is also poor evidence of how the project will improve infrastructure.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The applicant articulated their project proposal? 	2	The project description is limited, and there is also limited evidence of how the project will improve infrastructure.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The applicant evidenced why their project proposal is needed? 	3	The project description is good, and there is also good evidence of how the project will improve infrastructure.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The applicant described how their project proposal will improve facility infrastructure; 	4	The project description is excellent, and there is also excellent evidence of how the project will improve infrastructure.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The applicant indicated the potential impact the project proposal will have on their organisation. 		



What will make a strong application?

- *“The overall aim of the programme is to contribute towards the delivery of increased, inclusive and safe sustained **participation** in sport and physical recreation by meeting the following aims:” (Sport NI)*
- **MODERNISATION** (consider current limitations, condition, historic investment, age etc.)
- **HEALTH AND SAFETY** needs, including building resilience to the COVID-19 pandemic:
 - are works going to enhance ‘back to sport’ efforts of your club
 - address concerns
 - make facilities safe and fit for purpose
- **ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY** (greener solutions, cost savings, create efficiency)
- **IMPROVED ACCESS AND INCLUSION** with a particular focus on women/girls and people with a disability (new audiences, multi-usage, new demographics, create accessibility)
- Has your club any **EVIDENCE OF NEED**? E.g., community consultation, technical reports, governing body criteria, inspection reports etc.



8. Timelines

Please ensure the completed application is submitted within the deadline as detailed below.

Action	Date
Funding programme opened	17 th September 2021
Deadline for application submission	4th October 2021 (12noon)
Assessment period	October 2021
Decisions	October / November 2021
Public procurement process	November / December 2021
Letter of offer issued	December 2021
Works begin	January – March 2022
Project completed	31 st March 2022





9. What assistance is available to applicants?

9.1 Sport NI Capital Sports Development Team

If you require any clarification regarding the information provided in these slides or advice/guidance concerning the questions within the application – you can send an email to BuildingBetterSportsFacilities@sportni.net

9.2 Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Sport Northern Ireland will record all relevant clarifications sought by potential applicants using an FAQ log which can be found here - www.sportni.net/funding/our-funding-programmes/BuildingBetterSportsFacilities

The FAQ log will be updated when clarifications are requested.



Suggested next steps

- Read the guidance notes carefully and fully
- Draft the application and ask other club members to review the draft
- How can you make your application stand out from other clubs? (refer to slide 11)
- Make sure you **apply**!! Highly unlikely to be another application process.

Sport NI may use this process to approach clubs on the reserve list should more money become available.



Summary points

- The minimum award available is £5,000 and the **maximum is £25,000** for any project
- Clubs must be able to evidence security of tenure of a **minimum of 10 years either by lease or outright ownership**
- Applications must be completed online through Sport Northern Ireland's Internet Grants Applications Manager (IGAM) portal
- If your application is successful Project Delivery period will be between January - March 2022 and **all projects to be completed by 31 March 2022**
- **CLOSING DATE: Noon on Monday 4th October 2021**



Questions?

Irish Football Association staff are available to assist with any questions you may have. Please contact Irish FA staff by email.

Support contacts

- Richard Forsythe richard.forsythe@irishfa.com
- Michael Carvill michael.carvill@irishfa.com
- Dean Holmes dean.holmes@irishfa.com

