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Irish FA/ DCMS Grassroots Facilities Investment Fund Frequently Asked Questions

The Irish FA will update this page as questions are received and answered about the programme. If you have a question, please email dcms.funding@irishfa.com.

1. What is the closing date for applications?

The closing date for applications is 12.00pm on Thursday 4 May 2023.

2. Do I have to complete all sections of the application?

All mandatory/ required questions must be completed and if these questions are skipped or incomplete, the application is deemed ineligible for funding. If you think a question is not relevant to your proposal, please enter the wording “Not applicable.”

3. Can one applicant submit multiple application forms for the same project?

No. Only one application per applicant is permitted for the same project.

4. Can one applicant submit multiple application forms for different projects?

Yes, applicants can submit applications for different pitch projects. To submit separate applications, will need to register their email again to create another personalised link and application number (ID). Applicants submitting multiple applications must ensure that they upload the appropriate documents to the corresponding application ID.

5. Does this grant only apply to clubs who own or permanently lease their own facility? I am on the committee of an Intermediate club who doesn't own their own premises.

Section 6, page 13 of the funding Information & Guidance Notes provides detail on eligibility requirements relating to Security of Tenure. Applicants must provide evidence that they either own (Title Deeds) or lease the project site and **at the time of application** have a minimum of 10 years validity on the lease.

6. If the club owns its ground, do we need to upload copy Title Deeds or will a Solicitor's letter confirming ownership suffice?

A Solicitor's letter confirming ownership will suffice, however a map demarcating the portion of ground that the applicant club owns must accompany and match up with the

content of the letter.

7. The criteria states that a football club must own their own ground or have a 10-year lease minimum. The closing date for the application is 4 May 2023. We are currently putting in place a 10-year lease for our football ground but it probably won't be signed/ finished by the 4 May 2023. We assume that, providing the 10-year lease is in place at the time of any potential letter of offer, that would be sufficient?

See answer to Q5 above.

8. Can I view the application form questions in full in advance of submitting the application form?

The application form questions can be viewed via the Irish FA/ DCMS funding page on the Irish FA website:

<https://www.irishfa.com/irish-football-association/irish-fa-dcms-grassroots-facilities-investment-fund>

9. We are a NIFL club. Are we eligible for funding?

Yes, pitch proposals can be delivered via a NIFL club or professional club. However, the applicant must clearly demonstrate how it will support affordable and accessible community sporting activities i.e., open to external grassroots/ community groups at key play times such as evenings and weekends. Professional club grassroots football activities are eligible. Examples include club youth academy teams (male and female), club disability team activities, club mini-soccer activities etc.

10. Can sports equipment such as footballs and training kit be funded under the DCMS funding?

Sports equipment is not eligible for funding. Refer to section 4, page 8 of the Information & Guidance notes for eligible items that can be funded.

11. Do I need to have planning permission in place for my project at the time of application?

Section 6, page 13 of the funding Information & Guidance Notes provides detail on eligibility requirements relating to planning permission/ statutory approvals. Given the challenging timescales associated with funding distribution and the subsequent completion of the resultant project, at the time of application either full planning permission must have been granted or, as a minimum, outline planning permission is in place. Planning consent must then be granted by the time the assessment panel convenes to make their decisions in respect to the allocation of all Programme funding for 2023-25, otherwise the application will be deemed ineligible.

13. We received funding from the Irish FA/ DCMS Grassroots Facilities Investment Fund in 21/22 and/or 22/23. Does this make us ineligible to apply for 23-25 funding?

No, applicants who previously received funding under earlier rounds of the Irish FA/DCMS Grassroots Facilities Investment Fund will be eligible to apply again in this tranche of funding.

14. What proportion of match funding would be acceptable?

As advised in section 7, page 15, There is a minimum match funding expectation of 40% for Local Authorities and Schools/ Colleges/ Universities based in NI. For all other applicants there is a minimum 10% match funding expectation¹.

The application process will be competitive and priority scoring will be given to higher levels of match funding whilst lower percentages, including below the minimum expectation, will be considered in the context of the strength of the overall application.

15. We don't have a lease with the landowner or own the pitches we operate from. However, we have exclusive use of these facilities, and have been using them for a number of years. Are we eligible to apply for funding?

If the applicant does not own its facility, they must demonstrate Security of Tenure i.e. hold a lease with a minimum term of 10 years. Applicants who are unable to fulfil either of these requirements are ineligible for funding.

19. If we apply for funding for goalposts can we move them to another site?

No, any goalposts or portable items funded under the programme must remain at the location of the project as listed in the application form. Goalposts must not be taken off site.

20. Do I need to obtain quotations prior to submitting an application?

To develop more accurate project budgets, obtaining quotations prior to application is strongly recommended. Obtaining quotations also assists in ascertaining the availability of contractors or supply of goods within the defined programme timeframe.

However, the procurement of any goods or services cannot take place until a Letter of Offer has been issued and agreed. The project procurement process must be verified, agreed with and signed off by Co-operation Ireland before contractors are appointed to commence capital works. This includes the review of all tender and any relevant procurement documentation.

21. Are local authorities eligible to apply?

Yes, under section 3 of the Information and Guidance Notes it states that 'a local authority based in Northern Ireland is eligible to apply for the Irish FA/ DCMS Grassroots Facilities Investment Fund 23-25.'

22. The application form will only allow me to submit my project start and finish dates in American format. Is this normal?

Yes, unfortunately, the Microsoft form tool only allows applicants to submit dates in American format.