



Funded by
UK Government

Irish FA/DCMS Grassroots Facilities Investment Fund 25-26

Section 1

Application Guidance

Submission Deadline Your Application Form needs to be completed and submitted, by no later than **12 noon May 8th 2025**. **One Application per Project and Location** An individual application form must be submitted for each project proposal. You may only submit one application, for one project proposal, at any one location. However, organisations that hold responsibility for multiple sites, may submit applications for different sites. **Multiple**

Components Allowed in One Proposal A project proposal may consist of more than one component e.g. pitch and changing rooms and this should be submitted as one application. **Read the Guidance Notes Before Starting** We strongly advise that you read the Information and Guidance Notes before completing the form. Please also check that you can successfully complete all the information requested. **Complete All Sections and Upload**

Templates You will need to provide full project details and answer all the questions detailed on the application form and complete and upload the accompanying templates. You should complete every numbered section of the application form with information that is relevant and appropriate for your proposal. The Irish FA reserves the right to reject any incomplete or incorrectly completed forms that prevent a full assessment. **Upload All Required**

Documentation Failure to upload requested documentation, including evidence of eligibility, will result in the application being deemed incomplete. **Review and Assessment** Once your application form has been submitted it will be reviewed by Co-operation Ireland and the answers provided on the application form assessed and scored against the criteria detailed in the Information and Guidance Notes. **Save a Copy of Your Answers** Please note that a copy of the

application form cannot be saved once it has been submitted, and we would recommend keeping a separate record of all responses. **File Naming for Uploads** To help us process your application smoothly and efficiently, please ensure that you include your project name and a description of what the document is in the document title before uploading eligibility and other supporting documents to the relevant folder in your personal application folder. For example, if you are uploading a usage plan please label the document as '(project name) Usage Plan' and save it to the supporting documents sub folder in your personal application folder. This will help us quickly locate and review the relevant documents in relation to each question, and ensure that your application is processed accurately and efficiently. **Contact for Help with the Process** We hope you find the Application Form easy to complete, and whilst we cannot help you with completing your application, if you have any questions in relation to the eligibility criteria or the process, please email dcmsfunding@cooperationireland.org. Your request will then be forwarded to someone who can help you with your query.

Section 2

About Your Organisation

1. Please enter your **Reference** so we can process your application.

Finding your reference Once you've completed the eligibility check, you will receive a confirmation email. In that email, look for the line labeled "Reference" followed by a series of numbers and/or letters (e.g. IFAXXXX-XXXX-XXXXXX). This is your unique identifier for the application process.

2. Project Title (to be used in official correspondence)

3. Project Description

Please provide a brief overview of your project. **Respond in no more than 100 words**

4. What is the full legal name of your organisation

5. Organisational Purpose

Please provide a brief overview of your organisation including its purpose and involvement in grassroots football. **Respond in no more than 300 words**

6. Eligibility Check: Please confirm that you have uploaded the following evidence of eligibility

If relevant

Yes

Your organisations governing document (for applicants that are Football-focused Sports Community or Charitable Organisations)

For applicants that are Local Authorities, Football-focused Sports Community or Charitable Organisations, copy Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) or a written undertaking to support a partnership with an Irish FA affiliated 'anchor club'(s) and endorses significant grassroots football activities being hosted at the facility

Evidence of applicant or anchor clubs IFA accreditation/licence or of having commenced the process to become accredited/licensed.

Evidence of Title (if land is owned) or copy Lease Agreement/ Service Level Agreement for site to be developed.

Evidence that the proposed works are permitted by the owner of the property/facility

Written confirmation from the local planning authority that planning consent has been granted or is not required – must include planning approval reference number for verification

Evidence of confirmed match funding

Quotations for proposed pitch works and associated infrastructure dated within last 6 months.

Evidence of planning pre conditions having been met

Minutes or other evidence of approval from your committee or board for your proposed pitch development project

Club or Anchor club Structure

In this section you will be asked about the team structure and number of active players involved in your football club or anchor football club. The Irish FA may use COMET to verify this information, so please take a moment to check that everything is up to date and accurate.

7.Anchor Club Name

Please confirm the primary anchor club associated with this project. This may be the same as the applicant organisation.

8.Number Of Active Teams - Male

9.Number Of Active Teams - Female

10.Number Of Junior Players - Male

11.Number Of Junior Players - Female

12.Number Of Senior Players - Male

13.Number Of Senior Players - Female

Section 4

Pitch Development Technical Details

In this section you will be asked to provide details of the pitch development works to be undertaken, including type of pitch and associated infrastructure. This section must be completed as accurately as possible and is critical to the assessment and scoring of the pitch project. Please ensure you upload a copy of technical drawings, site plans, architects drawings, specification documents for capital items to be funded e.g. AGP carpet/drainage/shockpad/subbases/floodlights/fencing etc.

14.What facilities, if any, are currently available on this site?

Provide detail of existing football infrastructure on the overall site where the pitch will be (e.g. pitches, floodlighting, fencing, changing or spectator accommodation) and its current condition. Please upload photographic evidence to verify the condition including photos of floodlights in operation (illuminated), where applicable. - **Respond in no more than 200 words**

15.What type of pitch are you applying for?

Please select from the drop-down box below the type of pitch project to be delivered.
Select your answer

16.What year was your existing artificial grass pitch installed?

Please upload evidence which confirms the year your pitch was installed to your personal application folder using the link provided by e-mail.

Logic applied

17.**Overall** size for the proposed pitch

Length x width (m) including run off areas (m)

18. **Playing area** size for the proposed pitch

Length x width (m) excluding run off areas

19. Do you plan to host competitive league matches at the proposed ground?
If so please specify the league(s) involved. If not, please enter n/a.

20. How many hours per week will the pitch be used for competitive league matches in total?

Please give the overall number of hours. A breakdown of usage by each league/match should be included in your usage plan. If you do not intend to host competitive matches please enter 0.

21. Does the proposed pitch comply with the relevant infrastructure requirements as stipulated in the league regulations?

The Joint Grounds Criteria can be found at <https://www.irishfa.com/media/41546/ifa-joint-ground-criteria-nov-2019.pdf>

Yes

No

N/A - The proposed pitch will not be used for adult football matches from intermediate level and above.

AGP & MUGA Only

22. For Artificial Grass Pitch and Multi Use Games Area pitch proposals, confirm the 3G carpet type and standard.

Please select for carpet type from the list below. If 'other' option is selected, evidence must be uploaded to confirm the pitches quality, suitability and safety standards to host football/ non-football sports. This information will be used as part of the assessment of the project.

Logic applied

FIFA Quality certified 3G pitch

EN 15330-1:2013 certified 3G carpet

EN 15330-1:2013 certified 3G carpet **MUGA**

FIFA Quality Pro certified 3G pitch

AGP & MUGA Only

23. Artificial Grass Pitch and Multi Use Games Area pitch proposals, confirm shockpad installation type.

All AGP and MUGA proposals must include a shockpad. Please confirm the shockpad option that applies to your proposal.

Logic applied

New Shockpad to be installed

Existing shockpad to be retained

Existing shockpad to be replaced

Natural Grass pitch only

24. Describe your plans for installing a natural grass football pitch. How will you ensure that the design, construction and maintenance align with FIFA's Quality Programme for Football Turf – Natural Grass Guidelines (2023), including appropriate ground preparation, drainage, grass selection and ongoing maintenance?

FIFA Football Turf – Natural Grass Guidelines area available via the following link. -

<https://digitalhub.fifa.com/m/13a9ba8e47d968ea/original/FIFA-Natural-Turf-Guidelines.pdf>).

Respond in no more than 300 words. <

AGP and MUGA only

25. What does your project proposal include in relation to floodlighting?

Artificial Grass Pitches (AGPs) and small-sided Multi-Use Games Areas (MUGAs) will only be funded where either an existing, fully functioning floodlighting system is already in place and can be retained, or where a new LED floodlighting system will be installed as part of the overall project proposal. This requirement does not apply to natural grass pitches. Please refer to the guidance notes for further information on floodlighting requirements. Select the option that applies to your proposal.

Existing – fully functioning floodlights already in place and will be retained

Upgrade – existing floodlights will be upgraded to LED

New – LED floodlights will be installed as part of the project

Natural grass pitch only: None – no floodlights in place and none included in the proposal

26. In addition to the pitch proposal, are you applying for any of the following eligible associated pitch infrastructure?

Changing room pavilion which may include associated spaces/ hubs to support the use of pitches

Pitch/ spectator fencing, ballstops fencing/net and/or access gates

Ground perimeter fencing and entrance/ exit gates

Access/ egress around and leading up to the pitch

Car park to service pitches

Covered dugouts (fixed)

Covered dugouts (mobile but remain on site)

11 a side Goals (fixed)

11 a side Goals (mobile but remain on site)

Small sided Goals (fixed)

Small sided Goals (mobile but remain on site)

Bespoke pitch maintenance equipment for natural grass pitch

Bespoke pitch maintenance equipment for AGP

N/A

27. Are all of proposed changing facilities, floodlights, fences including ballstop netting over 2 meters high, car parks and access/egress routes in your proposed project included in your planning approval?

Please note any items not included in planning approvals will be deemed ineligible.

Logic applied

Yes

No

N/A - No supporting infrastructure requiring planning approval included in proposal.

28.Floodlighting – LUX Levels (Current & Proposed)

If your project includes retaining, upgrading, or installing LED floodlighting, please tell us the current LUX levels (if known) and the planned LUX levels after the work is done. -

Respond in no more than 200 words

Logic applied

29.Changing room pavilion which may include associated spaces/ hubs to support the use of pitches

Provide detail on overall construction type including materials to be used, size and internal room provision - **Respond in no more than 200 words**

Logic applied

30.Fencing, ball stop fencing/nets and access gates

Provide detail on length, height and location of proposed fencing, ball stops and access gates - **Respond in no more than 200 words**

Logic applied

31.Access/ egress around and leading up to the pitch

Provide detail on provision and location - **Respond in no more than 200 words**

Logic applied

32.Car park to service pitches

Provide detail on size, number of spaces, construction type/materials, lighting provision and whether car parking spaces will be marked out within the proposed car park -

Respond in no more than 200 words

Logic applied

33.Covered dugouts

Provide detail on the size, number and location (fixed only) of proposed dugouts -

Respond in no more than 200 words

Logic applied

34.Pitch Maintenance Equipment

Provide detail on the pitch maintenance equipment proposed. - **Respond in no more than 200 words**

Logic applied

35.AGP and MUGA Pitch Proposals – What type of surface will your project use?

Please select the primary infill or surface material that will be used in your pitch system.

Logic applied

Rubber crumb (e.g. SBR or EPDM)

Olive husk infill

Coconut fibre infill

Wood chip infill

Natural sand blends infill

Polymeric/rubber infill

36. Confirmation of Mandatory Microplastic Infill Mitigation Measures for AGP Projects

As outlined in the Guidance Notes, all Artificial Grass Pitch (AGP) proposals must include the following measures to minimise the risk of microplastic infill migration: - Low-level containment barriers around the spectator perimeter fencing - Boot cleaning stations for players post-match at main player access gates

Logic applied

I confirm that low-level containment barriers and boot cleaning stations are included in the project proposal.

37. If you are including any additional mitigation measures, please briefly describe them below:

Logic applied

Project Need

In this section you will be asked to demonstrate project need. This section must be completed as accurately as possible and is critical to the assessment and scoring of the pitch project

38. Project Location - Postcode

39. Project Location - Super Output Area (SOA)

Please enter your Super Output Area (SOA) below. If you're unsure of your Super Output Area, you can check the postcode of the proposed pitch project by clicking the link below. [NI Multiple Deprivation Measures 2017 Lookup Tool](#)

40. Project Location

By Local Authority Area

Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council

Ards and North Down Borough Council

Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council

Belfast City Council

Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council

Derry City and Strabane District Council

Fermanagh and Omagh District Council

Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council

Mid and East Antrim Borough Council

Mid Ulster District Council

Newry Mourne and Down District Council

41. Explain why your project is needed.

Your response should provide detail on the relative adequacy of your existing facilities, the availability of pitch facilities locally and local health/sporting need. Where possible your answer should include reference to pitch technical reviews, feasibility studies, local or national government investment priorities, Irish FA strategic priorities, local sports strategies/plans official statistics or other research that quantifies need. **Respond in no more than 500 words**

Grassroots Football Participation

In this section you will be asked about your current and projected grassroots football activities on the site of the proposed pitch project. This section must be completed as accurately as possible and is critical to the assessment and scoring of the pitch project. A usage plan must be uploaded to support the numbers provided in this section. <

42. Football Baseline: How many people per week currently participate in grassroots football activities on the site of your proposed pitch?

This number will be used as the baseline to help monitor and evaluate progress against your future targets. Base it on current football activity at the location of your proposed pitch. If it is a new site, the number will likely be zero. For existing or improved sites, use real usage data where possible, such as pitch booking records, sign-in sheets, club membership, scheduled matches, or data from club apps. Please upload evidence of current usage.

43. 12 month Football Target: How many people per week will use the pitch for grassroots football activities within 12 months of the proposed pitch becoming fully operational?

This number will be used as your participation target. It should reflect expected weekly use within 12 months of the pitch opening, once all capital works are complete. You will be asked later in the application to explain how you plan to achieve this target, including who you will work with and who the pitch is for. Your usage plan must capture how the pitch will be used and who will have access to it throughout the week.

44. 5 Year Football Target: How many people do you expect will use the pitch for grassroots football activities each week, five years after the proposed pitch becomes fully operational?

This number will be used as your participation target. It should reflect expected weekly use within 12 months of the pitch opening, once all capital works are complete. You will be asked later in the application to explain how you plan to achieve this target, including who you will work with and who the pitch is for. Your usage plan must capture how the pitch will be used and who will have access to it throughout the week.

45. Football Baseline (Hours): How many hours per week of grassroots football activities are currently provided on the site of your proposed pitch?

This number will be used as your baseline to help monitor and evaluate progress against your future targets. Base it on current football activity at the location of your proposed pitch. If it is a new site, the number will likely be zero. For existing or improved sites, use actual usage data where available. This could include pitch booking records, sign-in sheets, club membership information, scheduled matches, or data from club apps. Please upload evidence of current usage.

46. 12 Month Football Target (Hours): How many hours per week will the pitch be used for grassroots football activities within 12 months of the proposed pitch becoming fully operational?

This number will be used to demonstrate your projected usage. It should reflect the expected number of hours the pitch will be used each week within 12 months of opening, once all capital works are complete. You will be asked later in the application to explain how you plan to achieve this, including who you will work with and who will have access to the pitch. The number provided below must match the activity shown in your usage plan.

47.5 year Football Target (Hours):How many hours per week will the pitch be used for grassroots football activities within 5 years of the proposed pitch becoming fully operational?

This number will be used to demonstrate your projected usage. It should reflect the expected number of hours the pitch will be used each week 5 years after opening, once all capital works are complete. You will be asked later in the application to explain how you plan to achieve this, including who you will work with and who will have access to the pitch.

48.How will you achieve these targets? Please describe the programmes you intend to deliver, the teams you will develop, your target groups, and the organisations you will work with to help achieve your participation targets. Clearly show how the proposed pitch project, whether a new or improved facility, will increase capacity for football on the site. Explain how that increased capacity will be used to increase participation and hours through specific programmes, activities and partnerships. Your response should demonstrate a clear link between the facility improvements and the expected growth from your current baseline participation numbers to your target numbers. Strong responses will show how your proposal meets local needs, aligns with strategic priorities, and demonstrates your capacity to deliver. Your response must be supported by a usage plan. This should be saved as '[Your Project Name or ID] – Usage Plan' and uploaded to the supporting documents folder in your application folder before submission. **Respond in no more than 300 words.**

Multisport Participation

In this section you will be asked about your current and projected non football sports activities on the proposed site. This section must be completed as accurately as possible and is critical to the assessment and scoring of the pitch project

49. Does your proposed project deliver a sustained and regular benefit to at least one other sport in addition to football?

Sustained and regular benefit is defined as more than 5 hours per week reserved for non football sports. Projects providing more than 30% time allocation to non football sports will be included for consideration as a flagship multisport project. Please select option that best describes your project. Multisports usage must be clearly shown on your usage plan.

Multisport Flagship Proposal - More than 30% pitch usage time will be for non football sports.

Yes - More than 5 hours a week pitch usage time will be for non football sport

No - Less than 5 hours a week of pitch usage time will be for non football sports

Proposals of less than 5 hours per week for non football sports skip to Q58

50. Which Sport(s) other than football will your project support?

Logic applied

Gaelic Football

Hockey

Rugby

Athletics

Camogie/Hurling

School Curriculum PE

51. **Multisport Baseline:** How many people per week currently participate in non football sports on the site of your proposed pitch?

This number will be used as the baseline to help monitor and evaluate progress against your future targets. Base it on current non-football activity at the location of your proposed pitch project. If it is a new site, the number will likely be zero. For existing or improved sites, use real usage data where possible, such as pitch or facility booking records, sign-in sheets, scheduled sessions, club membership data, or existing agreements with other sports clubs or community organisations.

Logic applied

52. **12 month Multisports Target:** How many people per week will participate in non-football sports on the proposed pitch within 12 months of the pitch becoming fully operational?

This figure will be used as your participation target for non-football activity. It should reflect expected weekly use by participants in non-football sports within 12 months of the pitch opening, once all capital works are complete. You will be asked later in the

application to explain how you will achieve this target, including who you will work with and who the pitch is for. You will also set this out in your usage plan, which will capture how the pitch will be used and who will have access to it.

Logic applied

53.5 year Multisports Target: How many people do you expect will participate in non-football sports on the pitch each week, five years after the proposed pitch becomes fully operational?

This figure will be used as your participation target. It should reflect the expected weekly usage by people taking part in non-football sports within five years of the pitch opening, once all capital works are complete. Later in the application, you'll be asked to explain how you plan to achieve this target, including who you will work with and who the pitch is for.

54.Multisports Baseline (Hours): How many hours per week of non-football sport or physical activity are currently provided on the site of your proposed pitch?

This figure will be used as your baseline to help monitor and evaluate progress against your future targets. Base it on current non-football activity at the location of your proposed pitch. If it is a new site, the number will likely be zero. For existing or improved sites, use actual usage data where available. This could include pitch or facility booking records, sign-in sheets, scheduled sessions, club membership data, or existing agreements with other sports clubs or community organisations.

Logic applied

55.12 month Multisports Target (Hours): How many hours per week will the pitch be used for non-football sport or physical activity within 12 months of the proposed pitch becoming fully operational?

This figure will be used to demonstrate your projected usage for non-football activity. It should reflect the expected number of hours the pitch will be used each week for non-football sports within 12 months of opening, once all capital works are complete. You will be asked later in the application to explain how you will achieve this, including who you will work with and who will have access to the pitch. Your usage plan will also capture how the pitch will be used and who will access it throughout the week.

Logic applied

56.5 year Multisports Target (Hours): How many hours per week will the pitch be used for non-football sport or physical activity 5 years after of the proposed pitch becomes fully operational?

This figure will be used to demonstrate your projected usage for non-football activity. It should reflect the expected number of hours the pitch will be used each week for non-football sports 5 years after opening, once all capital works are complete. You will be asked later in the application to explain how you will achieve this, including who you will work with and who will have access to the pitch. Your usage plan will also capture how the pitch will be used and who will access it throughout the week.

57. How will you achieve these targets for non-football participation? Please describe the programmes you intend to deliver, the teams you will develop, your target groups, and the organisations you will work with to help increase participation in non-football sports at the proposed pitch project.

Clearly show how the proposed pitch project, whether a new or improved facility, will support increased access and capacity for non-football activity. Explain how this will be used to grow participation through specific programmes, activities and partnerships. Your response should demonstrate a clear link between the facility improvements and the expected increase in non-football participation. You should also outline how you will provide a regular and sustained MultiSport offer of at least five hours per week. If you are seeking consideration as a flagship project, your response must also demonstrate how a minimum of 30% of priority slots will be allocated for non-football use. Strong responses will show how your proposal meets local needs, aligns with strategic priorities, and demonstrates your capacity to deliver. **You must respond in no more than 300 words.** Your response must be supported by a usage plan. This should be saved as '[Your Project Name or ID] – Usage Plan' and uploaded to the supporting documents folder in your application folder before submission.

Logic applied

Access for Women and Girls

In this section you will be asked about current and projected participation in football by women and girls on the site of your proposed pitch. All projects are required to allocate at least 20% of priority hours to Women and Girls football. This should be clearly shown in your usage plan. This section must be completed as accurately as possible and is critical to the assessment and scoring of the pitch project. <

58. Women and girls baseline: How many women and girls currently participate in football or physical activity at the site of your proposed pitch each week?

This figure will be used as your baseline to help monitor and evaluate progress against your future targets. Base it on current participation levels for women and girls at the location of your proposed pitch. If it is a new site, the number will likely be zero. For existing or improved sites, use actual usage data where available, such as pitch booking records, sign-in sheets, club membership data, or scheduled sessions specifically for women and girls.

59. 12 month Women and Girls Target: How many women and girls per week will participate in football or physical activity on the pitch within 12 months of the proposed pitch becoming fully operational?

This figure will be used as your participation target. It should reflect expected weekly use by women and girls within 12 months of the pitch opening, once all capital works are complete. You will be asked later in the application to explain how you will achieve this target, including who you will work with and who the pitch is for. Your usage plan will also capture how the pitch will be used and who will have access to it.

60. 5 year Women and Girls Target: How many women and girls do you expect will take part in football or physical activity on this pitch each week, five years after the proposed pitch becomes fully operational?

This figure will be used as your participation target. It should reflect the expected weekly usage by women and girls within five years of the pitch opening, once all capital works are complete. Later in the application, you will be asked to explain how you plan to achieve this target, including who you will work with and who the pitch is for.

61. Women and Girls Baseline (Hours) : How many hours per week are currently provided for women and girls' football or physical activity at the site of your proposed pitch project?

This figure will be used as your baseline to help monitor and evaluate progress against your future targets. Base it on current weekly hours dedicated to women and girls' activity at the proposed pitch site. If it is a new site, the number will likely be zero. For existing or improved sites, use actual usage data where available, including pitch bookings, session schedules, or programme records focused on women and girls.

62. 12 month Women and Girls Target (Hours): How many hours per week will be provided for women and girls' football or physical activity on the pitch within 12 months of the proposed pitch becoming fully operational?

This figure will be used to demonstrate your projected usage for women and girls football activity. It should reflect the expected number of hours the pitch will be used each week for women and girls football within 12 months of opening, once all capital works are complete. You will be asked later in the application to explain how you will achieve this, including who you will work with and who will have access to the pitch. Your usage plan will also capture how the pitch will be used and who will access it throughout the week.

63.5 year Women and Girls Target (Hours): How many hours per week will be provided for women and girls' football or physical activity on the pitch 5 years after the proposed pitch becomes fully operational?

This figure will be used to demonstrate your projected usage for women and girls football activity. It should reflect the expected number of hours the pitch will be used each week for women and girls football 5 years after opening, once all capital works are complete. You will be asked later in the application to explain how you will achieve this, including who you will work with and who will have access to the pitch. Your usage plan will also capture how the pitch will be used and who will access it throughout the week.

64.12 month Women and Girls Priority Usage Target: How many priority usage hours per week will be reserved for women and girls' within 12 months of the proposed pitch becoming fully operational?

Priority usage hours refer to the most in demand training and playing slots. This figure will be used to demonstrate your commitment to women and girls football activity. It should reflect the expected number of priority usage hours the pitch will be used each week for women and girls football within 12 months of the pitch becoming fully operational. You will be asked later in the application to explain how you will achieve this, including who you will work with and who will have access to the pitch. Your usage plan will also capture how the pitch will be used and who will access it throughout the week.

65.5 year Women and Girls Priority Usage Target: How many priority usage hours per week will be reserved for women and girls' 5 years after the proposed pitch becomes fully operational?

Priority usage hours refer to the most in demand training and playing slots. This figure will be used to demonstrate your commitment to women and girls football activity. It should reflect the expected number of priority usage hours the pitch will be used each week for women and girls football 5 years after opening, once all capital works are complete. You will be asked later in the application to explain how you will achieve this, including who you will work with and who will have access to the pitch. Your usage plan will also capture how the pitch will be used and who will access it throughout the week.

66.How will you achieve these targets for women and girls? Please describe the programmes you intend to deliver, the teams you will develop, your target groups, and the organisations you will work with to help improve access for women and girls at the proposed pitch project.

Clearly show how the proposed pitch project, whether a new or improved facility, will support increased access and capacity for women and girls. Explain how your planned programmes, activities, and partnerships will help grow participation. Your response should demonstrate a clear link between the facility improvements and the expected increase in access and participation for women and girls compared to your current baseline. You should also outline how you will ensure that, within 12 months of the pitch becoming fully operational, an average of at least 20% of priority usage hours are allocated to women and girls' programmes. Strong responses will show how your proposal meets local needs, aligns with strategic priorities, and demonstrates your capacity to deliver. **You must respond in no more than 300 words.** Your response must be supported by a usage plan. This should be saved as '[Your Project Name or ID] – Usage Plan' and uploaded to the supporting documents folder in your application folder before submission.

Under-represented groups

In this section, you'll be asked to explain how your project will increase access to sports facilities for under-represented groups, defined as those who face greater barriers to participation, access, or opportunity. Please complete this section as accurately as possible, as it is critical to the assessment and scoring of your pitch project.

67. Under-represented Groups Baseline: How many people from under-represented groups currently participate in football or physical activity at the site of your proposed pitch project each week?

This figure will be used as your baseline to help monitor and evaluate progress against your future targets. Base it on current participation levels among under-represented groups at the proposed site. If it is a new site, the number will likely be zero. For existing or improved sites, use actual usage data where available, such as pitch bookings, attendance records, session sign-ins, or information provided by partner organisations working with under-represented groups.

68. 12 month Under-represented Groups Target: How many people from under-represented groups will participate in football or physical activity on the pitch each week within 12 months of the proposed pitch becoming fully operational?

This figure will be used as your participation target. It should reflect expected weekly use by under-represented groups within 12 months of the pitch opening, once all capital works are complete. You will be asked later in the application to explain how you will achieve this target, including who you will work with and who the pitch is for. Your usage plan will also capture how the pitch will be used and who will have access to it.

69. 5 year Under-represented Groups Target: How many people from under-represented groups do you expect will take part in football or physical activity on the pitch each week, five years after the proposed pitch becomes fully operational?

This figure will be used as your participation target. It should reflect the expected weekly usage by under-represented groups within five years of the pitch opening, once all capital works are complete. Later in the application, you'll be asked to explain how you plan to achieve this target, including who you will work with and who the pitch is for.

70. Under-represented Groups Baseline (Hours) : How many hours per week are currently reserved for use by under-represented groups?

This figure will be used as your baseline to help monitor and evaluate progress against your future targets. Base it on current weekly hours dedicated to under-represented groups activity on the site of the at the proposed pitch. If it is a new site, the number will likely be zero. For existing or improved sites, use actual usage data where available, including pitch bookings, session schedules, or programme records focused on under-represented groups.

71.12 month Under-represented Groups Target (Hours): How many hours per week will be reserved for use by under-represented groups within 12 months of the proposed pitch becoming fully operational?

This figure will be used to demonstrate your projected usage for under-represented groups. It should reflect the expected number of hours the pitch will be used each week by under-represented groups within 12 months of opening, once all capital works are complete. You will be asked later in the application to explain how you will achieve this, including who you will work with and who will have access to the pitch. Your usage plan will also capture how the pitch will be used and who will access it throughout the week.

72.5 year Under-represented Groups Target (Hours): How many hours per week will be provided for under-represented groups football or physical activity on the pitch 5 years after the proposed pitch becomes fully operational?

This figure will be used to demonstrate your projected usage for under-represented groups. It should reflect the expected number of hours the pitch will be used each week by under-represented groups 5 years after opening, once all capital works are complete. You will be asked later in the application to explain how you will achieve this, including who you will work with and who will have access to the pitch. Your usage plan will also capture how the pitch will be used and who will access it throughout the week.

73.How will you achieve these targets for under-represented groups? Please describe the programmes you intend to deliver, the teams you will develop, your target groups, and the organisations you will work with to help increase participation among under-represented groups at the proposed pitch project. Clearly show how the proposed pitch project, whether a new or improved facility, will support increased access and capacity for under-represented groups. Explain how your planned programmes, activities and partnerships will help grow participation. Your response should demonstrate a clear link between the facility improvements and the expected increase in participation for under-represented groups compared to your current baseline. You should also outline how you will ensure regular and sustained use of the pitch by under-represented groups within 12 months of the facility becoming fully operational. For this objective, regular and sustained use is defined as at least one hour per week. Strong responses will show how your proposal meets local needs, aligns with strategic priorities, and demonstrates your capacity to deliver. **You must respond in no more than 300 words.** Your response must be supported by a usage plan. This should be saved as '[Your Project Name or ID] – Usage Plan' and uploaded to the supporting documents folder in your application folder before submission.

Project Delivery

In this section you will be asked to provide detail on how the project will be managed. This section must be completed as accurately as possible and is critical to the assessment and scoring of the pitch project <

74. Confirm an achievable project start date

i.e., when capital works will be able to commence Please note the date format is US (M/d/yyyy)

75. Confirm an achievable project end date

i.e., when the capital works will be completed in full and all funding can be drawn down Please note the date format is US (M/d/yyyy)

76. What steps have already been taken to prepare for delivery of your proposed pitch project?

In your response, provide details on site investigations undertaken, professional services engaged (including pitch consultants), any preparatory work completed, or other steps taken to enable speedy commencement of site works following funding approval. To support your answer, you are strongly encouraged to upload relevant documentation such as:

- Technical drawings, site plans, and specification documents
- Feasibility studies, ground condition reports, or flood risk assessments
- Planning-related surveys
- Environmental and sustainability plans, including drainage design and construction methodology

All supporting documents should be uploaded to the **Supporting Documents** folder within your personal application folder. **Respond in no more than 300 words. If not applicable, enter 'n/a'.**

77. What management arrangements will you put in place to ensure the effective delivery of the construction phase of the proposed pitch development project, including ensuring the works are completed by 31st March 2026?

We want to know about the governance arrangements you will put in place to oversee the capital works, key personnel/members involved and relevant experience/qualifications as well as professional services you plan to engage. **Respond in no more than 300 words.**

78. What arrangements will you put in place to ensure the effective delivery of the grassroots sports development phase of your project, including ensuring your 12 month and 5 year targets are met?

We want to know about the governance arrangements you will put in place to oversee achievement of your project targets including the relevant experience of those involved. **Respond in no more than 300 words.**

79. How will you monitor and evaluate the use of the pitch and participation levels once the facility is complete, to ensure your project delivers what was set out in your application?

Monitoring and evaluation is a key requirement of this grant award. Please explain what plan you have in place to track pitch usage, participation numbers, and progress against your original objectives. Describe the tools and systems you will use to collect, manage

and review data (e.g. booking systems, registers, surveys, feedback tools), and whether these are already in place or will be developed. Your response should show how you will evaluate whether the project has achieved its intended outcomes, and how this information will be reported and used to shape future delivery. Strong responses will outline a clear monitoring and evaluation plan, demonstrate capacity to implement it, and show how this will support ongoing improvement and accountability. **Respond in no more than 300 words.**

Sustainability

In this section you will be asked how you will ensure the benefit of this investment can be sustained, including steps you will take to maintain and ultimately replace the pitch carpet at the end of its serviceable life. This section must be completed as accurately as possible and is critical to the assessment and scoring of the pitch project

80.If you are applying for a replacement of an artificial grass pitch (AGP), please indicate how your existing AGP was funded and confirm whether you have a sinking fund.

Please detail the source and value of funding for the existing pitch.

81.All projects are required to set up a sinking fund to enable pitch replacements works at the end of its serviceable life. Please outline how you will ensure your organisation has sufficient funding to replace the pitch installed, setting out the estimated lifespan of the proposed pitch surface.

Respond in no more than 300 words.

82.Do you intend to hire out your pitch? Please provide details below.

How will you ensure the facility is open and accessible for sports clubs, leagues, community groups and other organisations during core training times (evenings and weekends)? Please include this information in your usage plan, along with your proposed hourly hire rates, explaining how these offer value for money and reflect local market rates. If your rates vary by time, day or user type, please provide details. If not applicable, respond with 'N/A'.

Respond in no more than 300 words.

83.All projects will be required to effectively maintain the pitch installed. Please provide detail of your pitch maintenance plan, including training to be undertaken, with reference to recommended maintenance regimes for your proposed pitch construction type. **Respond in no more than 300 words.**

Please describe your maintenance regime for either a natural grass or artificial grass pitch. Include key tasks, frequency, topping up of infill (for AGPs only) and any specific equipment, techniques used or details on trained personnel.

Risk

In this section you will be asked to outline potential risks to your project, mitigations and/or contingencies that you have already or will put in place to either reduce the likelihood or impact of those risks. This section must be completed as accurately as possible and is critical to the assessment and scoring of the pitch project.

84. Has your site ever been flooded, suffered from drainage issues, or does it lie in a high risk flood area?

Yes

No

85. If so, what actions have you taken to reduce the risk of your proposed pitch flooding in future or to alleviate drainage issues? - Respond in no more than 200 words

Logic applied

86. What risks might occur during the construction of your pitch proposal? What risk mitigations or contingencies will you put in place?

In your response consider things that might go wrong during the construction phase and steps you can take to reduce the likelihood of this happening, or impact if it does. Common construction risks include issues such as cost increases, delays due to inclement weather and contractor disputes, however risk will be bespoke to the nature of your site and works proposed. All projects should include a minimum 5% contingency in their budget to mitigate the risk of unexpected additional costs materialising during the construction phase. **Respond in no more than 300 words.**

87. What risks might occur during the sports development phase of your project? How will you manage these risks?

In your response consider things that might negatively impact on your ability to meet your participation targets. What steps will you take to reduce the likelihood of this happening, or impact if it does. This might include issues such as loss of key personnel or volunteers, financial challenges or ineffective strategies to recruit new participants. However risk will be bespoke to your organisation, the activities you plan to deliver, who you will work with and the targets you have set. **Respond in no more than 300 words.**

Project Costs and Finance

In this section you will be asked to provide headline costs and grant requirements. a detailed budget must also be uploaded using the budget template provided in the Information and Guidance notes Annex 2. This section must be completed as accurately as possible as it will be used to assess your project against the value for money criterion and to calculate the value of your grant award. Costs provided should align with your quotes.<

88.What is the total cost of the project?

(£) Total costs should include all construction costs, professional fees incurred post funding award, 5% contingency and VAT if you are not VAT registered, exclusive of VAT if you are VAT registered. The minimum total project cost for Local Authorities and Schools/Colleges/Universities is £166,666 and £111,111 for all other applicants.

89.How much are you requesting from this Fund?

(£) The minimum grant available is £1000,000 and maximum grant available is £500,000

90.Are you VAT registered?

Yes

No

91.Will your project be able to proceed without the award of Irish FA/ DCMS funding?

Yes

No

92.When developing your proposal what other options did you consider? Why were these options rejected? **Respond in no more than 300 words.**

Alternative options will vary depending on the site and existing infrastructure. Alternative options usually include doing nothing, a smaller scale option such as a smaller pitch or a pitch without supporting infrastructure, or an alternative pitch surface and a larger scale option incorporating additional works or infrastructure. Reasons for rejection may include, but are not restricted to, cost, risk, suitability for your needs and site or planning restrictions.

Section 12 Contact Details

Contact details for the person to whom all communication regarding this application will be directed

93.Contact Name

94.Official Position

95.Contact Address Line 1

96.Contact Address Line 2

97.Contact Address Line 3

98.Contact Postcode

99.Contact Email Address

1 Email Address Only

100.Contact Telephone Number

Section 7 - Declaration

101. Confirmation

We confirm that **we are duly authorised to sign this declaration** on behalf of the Applicant Organisation. We certify that the information given in this application is **true** and confirm that the enclosures are **current, accurate and adopted or approved** by the Applicant Organisation. We confirm that all required supporting documentation has been uploaded via the dedicated link (provided when email address was registered) alongside the submission of the application. We understand that any offer of grant will be subject to, without limitation, the Irish FA's Terms and Conditions for Grant, a copy of which we confirm having read and accepted. We confirm that the Applicant Organisation has the **power to accept** any offer of grant if the application is successful and to repay it if the grant conditions are not met. We understand that, if we make any misleading statements (whether deliberate or accidental) at any stage during the application process, or if we knowingly withhold any information, this could make the Project application invalid and we will be liable to **repay any grant already paid**. We understand that the Irish FA may commission an evaluation of the Project and we confirm that we will co-operate with any evaluation related activities which are required of us by the Irish FA. We note that all data will be processed and collected in line with the Irish Football Association Privacy Notice: <https://www.irishfa.com/privacy>

Agree

102. Please confirm that you have provided the following information in support of your application

You must upload site photographs, a Baseline and Target Pitch Usage plan that matches your proposed participation hours, a copy of the pitch and associated facilities technical specification documents including technical drawings, environmental/sustainability documents, a completed Budget Template and confirmation of VAT Status. If available you should also upload any site surveys, pitch condition reports or feasibility studies you have commissioned.

Photographs and/or drawings of the current site for development. The photographs/ site drawings should clearly show the entire site to be developed. If the project is a pitch replacement the photographs should clearly show the current pitch conditions, highlighting any areas of concern

Copy technical drawings, site plans, architect drawings, specification documents for capital items to be funded e.g. AGP carpet/ drainage/ shockpad/ subbases, floodlights, fencing, gates etc.

Copy technical, feasibility surveys, ground surveys, floodlighting surveys, flood risk reports and any other reports or surveys related to the conditions set out in your planning approval.

Environmental/ sustainability documents including pitch infill products, carpet specification, shock pad recycling details, infill migration measures etc.

A proposed pitch usage plan and this plan will form part of the assessment for need and demand. The plan must provide detail on proposed hourly use per each named user group and proposed hourly rate

A completed Budget Template.

Confirmation of VAT Status

Submit