

## **Large Scale Sport Infrastructure Fund – Frequently Asked Questions**

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## **Who can apply?**

While the scheme is aimed primarily at National Governing Bodies (NGBs) and Local Authorities (LAs) it is also open to other bodies (including third level institutions), philanthropic funders, clubs and voluntary organisations to apply but such applications would necessarily have to be **made and prioritised** by a LA and/or an NGB. Applications can be in any of the following formats;

- A solo application involving an NGB itself
- A solo application by a LA
- A joint application with one or more NGBs
- A joint application with one or more LAs
- A joint application involving other NGBs and one or more LAs
- Other bodies may also be included in any of the above combinations

Joint applications are encouraged. An application that has been prioritised by both LA(s) and NGB(s) is likely to receive more favourable consideration in the assessment process.

## **Can third level institutions apply?**

No. NGB(s) and/or an LA(s) must make the application involving a third level institution.

## **Can an organisation make an application with more than one NGB and /or LA?**

Yes.

## **Can an NGB and /or LA make multiple applications?**

Yes, but applications must be listed in order of priority by the NGB and /or LA.

## **Are multi-sport sites eligible for funding?**

Yes. They are encouraged.

## **If an organisation other than an NGB or LA owns the land, who makes the application?**

An NGB or LA must make the application on behalf of the organisation. The organisation must have legal title to the land where the project is proposed. All parties to an application will be required to enter into an agreement with the Minister for Transport Tourism and Sport for the delivery of the project. The Minister will also require a comprehensive legal agreement placing a charge on the property being developed for the amount of the grant aid and for a period of up to 35 years at the discretion of the Department.

## **If an NGB and/or LA makes an application on behalf of a third party with ownership of the land, who receives the funding?**

The funding goes to the organisation that has legal title to the property.

## **What sort of match funding is acceptable?**

The applicant will be required to contribute a minimum of 30% of total project costs as match funding for both Stream 1 and Stream 2. Match funding may be in the form of a combination of wider Exchequer and /or State sector capital expenditure, Local Authority investment, community investment, philanthropic contributions and private sector investment. Cash-based own funding will

receive more favourable assessment. Projects that provide in excess of 30% cash based own funding will also receive more favourable consideration.

### **How much funding is available?**

The National Development Plan (Project Ireland 2040) makes provision of at least €100 million to the fund between 2018 and 2027.

### **How will the funding be distributed under Stream 1 and Stream 2?**

Distribution will be in line with the objectives outlined in the National Planning Framework, dependent on the volume and quality of applications received from across the regions. There will also be an emphasis on the allocation of funding to a variety of sports.

### **What is the minimum amount of funding available in Stream 1?**

There is no minimum amount in Stream 1 although applicants should bear in mind that the construction cost of a project being designed should be in excess of €400,000

### **What is the minimum amount of funding available in Stream 2?**

€300,000 is the minimum amount under Stream 2.

### **What assessment criteria will be used to assess applications?**

The assessment criteria have yet to be finalised. Paragraph 4 of the scheme outline lists the projects types that will receive priority.

### **Will there be further rounds of the LSSIF?**

The current fund opened for applications on 19<sup>th</sup> November 2018 and will close at **5.00 p.m. on 17<sup>th</sup> April 2019**. Further rounds of the scheme will depend on funding available and the level of interest.

### **What projects are ineligible under the LSSIF?**

All projects that do not meet the criteria set out in section 4 of the scheme's outline are deemed ineligible. In keeping with EU State Aid rules, leisure parks and hotel facilities, in particular, are deemed ineligible.

Facilities that mirror or are deemed to compete with facilities currently available, under construction or planned at the National Sports Campus are also ineligible. Details of ineligible projects are available in section 5 of the scheme's outline.

### **Can a project at tender stage apply for Stream 2?**

Yes, provided construction work has not begun.

### **Are swimming pools eligible for funding under the scheme?**

New swimming pool projects and refurbishment of existing swimming pools are eligible for funding under the LSSIF.

### **Is a tender process required for a design team at the design phase of a project?**

In keeping with the outline of the scheme all costs which the Department is being asked to fund must comply with public procurement guidelines.

### **Are professional fees eligible for funding?**

*A contribution towards professional fees (excluding the fee for Deed of Covenant and Charge if applicable) may be made.*

### **How much information is required on the projected usage of the facility for Stream 1 applications?**

*Stream One applications are designed for projects that are at an early stage of planning. Prospective applicants may submit a Stream 1 Application when the project has reached a stage at which there is a definitive project brief and outline costs, and a feasibility report. Projects will be assessed on the Sporting Outcomes that will stem from the development and so it is advisable that an analysis of the proposed outcomes forms part of a submission*

### **How much information is required on the projected usage of the facility for Stream 2 applications?**

*A detailed staffing and operation plan is required – including projections of operational profit – showing how the facility will be operated over a period of up to 25 years to achieve the aims set out in the application. This can incorporate a 5 Year Business Plan combining capital, revenue, public and private resources to show how the facility is sustainable.*

### **Can funding received under the Sports Capital Programme be used as match-funding?**

No

### **What is meant by Professional Sport under the scheme?**

*“Professional Sport” is defined by the EU Commission in its State Aid Rules. These provide that “professional sport” means the practice of sport in the nature of gainful employment or remunerated service, irrespective of whether or not a formal labour contract has been established between the professional sportsperson and the relevant sport organisation, where the compensation exceeds the cost of participation and constitutes a significant part of the income for the sportsperson. Travel and accommodation expenses to participate to the sport are not considered compensation for this purpose.*

*Following on from that definition it is not the sport that is classified as professional but the sportsperson, team or club. When a facility is being designed for any of these that can be classed as professional then the particular restrictions on professional use – contained in the scheme apply.*

**Is there a form of contract that must be used for a construction project?**

*This is a matter for your technical advisor. As stated in the outline scheme however your technical advisor must provide a statement confirming that the projects procurement process is in accordance with the Government's Construction Works Management Framework and Public Procurement Guidelines.*

**Are community gyms/playing field/tennis courts eligible for LSSIF funding?**

Community gyms/playing field/tennis courts are eligible for LSSIF funding.