



SPÓRT ÉIREANN
SPORT IRELAND

Sport Ireland
Sport Investment

2023





Welcome

I am pleased to welcome you to Sport Ireland's Core Grant announcement, which sets out the core funding for National Governing Bodies and Local Sports Partnerships for 2023.

I would also like to welcome Minister Thomas Byrne TD as the new Minister of State with special responsibility for Sport and Physical Education. He was appointed to this role in December 2022, and we look forward to working with him.

This time last year the sports sector was getting back to a semblance of normality with the removal of the final COVID 19 Public Health Measures.

Throughout 2022 Sport Ireland distributed over €82 million to National Governing Bodies, across 12 Investment Programmes such as Core, Women in Sport, Dormant Accounts and Healthy Ireland. Additional funding to support the sector with the challenges of COVID 19 and rising energy costs was also provided. This investment ensured National Governing Bodies and thousands of grassroots sports clubs across the country could continue to develop and deliver sport at a local level.

Also at a local level, participation opportunities were provided across 60+ sports, through Sport Ireland's network of 29 Local Sports Partnerships.

For 2023, the Sport Ireland investment has been maintained across the network of 29 Local Sports Partnerships, with a total investment of €10.3 million.

2023 sees a 6% increase in National Governing Body investment with an additional €1 million being invested in the sector, bringing the total Core funding levels up to €16m.

In August 2022, Sport Ireland published key priorities for 2023, making Diversity and Inclusion, improved Governance and Gender Balance criteria for investment. The continued provision of Sport Ireland funding to sporting bodies is reliant on meeting these criteria.

National Governing Bodies are required to have a minimum of 40% female representation on their Boards by the end of this year. I would like to acknowledge the 33 bodies who have already met this goal.

Next month marks the 20th Anniversary of the opening of the National Aquatic Centre. Since it opened in 2003, the Sport Ireland Campus has become home to world class sporting and support facilities, and I was delighted to launch the vision for the future of the campus in November last year.

This year promises to be an exciting year for everyone in the sector and I wish all our National Governing Bodies and Local Sports Partnerships every success.

Dr. Una May
CEO Sport Ireland



National Governing Bodies Highlights



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Participation Sports

Over 120,000 registered members swimming, cycling and running across 1,036 Cycling, Swimming, Athletics & Triathlon clubs



Disability Sport

Over €1.9 million Core Funding invested in supporting disability sport focused NGBs



Racquet sports

Over 85,000 registered members taking part in Racquet sports such as Badminton, Squash, Racquetball & Tennis



Basketball

Over 35,000 members actively participating in the sport across 225 Basketball Ireland affiliated clubs



Water Sports

Over 85,000 registered members taking place in water sports such as Diving, Water-skiing, Sailing, Surfing, Rowing & Canoeing throughout Ireland

National Governing Bodies

The National Governing Bodies of Sport (NGBs) recognised by Sport Ireland are at the centre of Irish sport. A key focus of Sport Ireland is to assist NGBs to develop sustainable and effective structures to facilitate increased numbers of participants and volunteers in sport. Since the introduction of the National Sport Policy, NGBs have seen increased levels of Core funding rising from €10.845 million in 2018 to €16 million in 2023. Given the significant uplift on pre-2018 levels, Sport Ireland has provided the majority of performing governing bodies with substantial increased investment in recent years.

During 2020 and 2021, COVID 19 restrictions led to large scale decreases in sporting activities across the country. National and international competition, participation opportunities, individual and community wellbeing and social capital was all severely hampered. In response to this threat, the Government provided targeted COVID 19 Resilience & Recovery Funds. This investment addressed the immediate financial and operational needs of the Sector.

Notwithstanding the financial support provided, a number of longer term, more complex challenges are now emerging following COVID 19. The two-year hiatus in traditional sporting activities compounded with labour market shortages, decreased volunteer bases and historic rises in inflation continues to challenge the sports sector.

2023 sees a continued increase in NGB investment with an additional €1 million being invested in the sector bringing the total Core funding levels up to €16 million. This increased investment provides Sport Ireland with an opportunity to support the majority of governing bodies with a cost-of-living increase for 2023 along with continued targeted investment in a number of specific areas.

Strategically Significant Sports

The National Sports Policy 2018–2027 identifies swimming, cycling and running as sports that are likely to have a greater impact on addressing the wider government agenda of lifelong sports involvement and health. These sports will continue to receive high levels of Core Funding in 2023.

Indoor Sport

Post pandemic, continued investment is required to support the long-term recovery of indoor sport. This investment recognises the disproportionate and unanticipated extent of restrictions on their activities and the difficulties associated with a resumption and return to normal levels of activity.

Strengthen the Volunteer Led Sector

There are a number of sectors identified as those with strong potential in increasing participation levels. These include the martial arts and certain outdoor focused sports. Sport Ireland will continue to invest in these sports during 2023 to build their capacity so they are better placed to deliver against National Policy objectives.

Disability Sector

In 2017 Sport Ireland launched its Policy on Participation in Sport by People with Disabilities. The policy set out Sport Ireland's position in relation to the participation in sport and physical activity by people with disabilities. Disability focused NGBs such as Special Olympics Ireland, Vision Sports Ireland and the Irish Wheelchair Association Sport have played a strong role in working with the broader sports sector to increase opportunities for people with disabilities to be more active.

The introduction of Dormant Accounts Funding has resulted in a continued increase in the number of partners wanting to engage in the NGBs expertise. Sport Ireland will continue to leverage opportunities to expand and support work in this key area.

Special Projects Budget

Similar to previous years, funding will be ring fenced for strategically important NGB events and projects under the 'Special Projects' funding. This funding will also seek to support any unforeseen or emerging issues in the broader NGB sector. The amount provided for in 2023 is €488,000.

National Sports Policy Funding 2018-2023

National Governing Body	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Special Olympics Ireland	1,200,000	1,200,000	1,400,000	1,400,000	1,450,000	1,500,000
Athletics Ireland	887,000	950,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,100,000	1,150,000
Swim Ireland	827,000	910,000	950,000	950,000	1,050,000	1,100,000
Horse Sport Ireland	775,000	855,000	930,000	930,000	975,000	1,000,000
Basketball Ireland	598,000	695,000	740,000	740,000	800,000	840,000
Irish Athletic Boxing Association	432,000	475,000	500,000	500,000	500,000	525,000
Ladies Gaelic Football Association	400,000	450,000	485,000	485,000	500,000	525,000
Cricket Ireland	355,000	450,000	480,000	480,000	500,000	525,000
Tennis Ireland	353,000	425,000	450,000	450,000	450,000	475,000
The Camogie Association	395,000	395,000	435,000	435,000	450,000	475,000
Irish Sailing Association	323,000	385,000	410,000	410,000	450,000	475,000
Badminton Ireland	320,000	365,000	390,000	390,000	425,000	445,000
Cycling Ireland	305,000	350,000	420,000	420,000	420,000	440,000
Gymnastics Ireland	230,000	320,000	340,000	340,000	370,000	395,000
Hockey Ireland	260,000	325,000	340,000	340,000	365,000	383,000
Rowing Ireland	210,000	300,000	320,000	320,000	350,000	368,000
Golf Ireland	233,000	300,000	320,000	320,000	350,000	368,000
Irish Wheelchair Association Sport	240,000	275,000	285,000	285,000	315,000	330,000
Canoeing Ireland	205,000	250,000	275,000	275,000	310,000	325,000
National Community Games	284,000	315,000	315,000	260,000	285,000	299,000
Triathlon Ireland	108,000	180,000	225,000	225,000	265,000	278,000
Mountaineering Ireland	193,000	225,000	235,000	235,000	235,000	247,000
Irish Squash	160,000	180,000	200,000	200,000	230,000	242,000
Volleyball Ireland	185,000	200,000	210,000	210,000	230,000	242,000
Motorsport Ireland	137,000	160,000	180,000	180,000	200,000	210,000
Table Tennis Ireland	107,000	107,000	115,000	115,000	150,000	160,000
Irish Judo Association	70,000	85,000	100,000	100,000	150,000	155,000
Irish Surfing Association	64,000	75,000	80,000	80,000	125,000	130,000
GAA Handball Ireland	90,000	100,000	105,000	105,000	115,000	120,000
Diving Ireland	60,000	70,000	75,000	75,000	110,000	116,000
Pitch and Putt Ireland	63,000	75,000	80,000	80,000	95,000	100,000
Snooker & Billiards Ireland	63,000	70,000	75,000	75,000	80,000	85,000
Orienteering Ireland	45,000	65,000	65,000	65,000	75,000	80,000
Irish Martial Arts Commission	45,000	60,000	60,000	60,000	75,000	78,000
Vision Sports Ireland	35,000	45,000	48,000	48,000	70,000	75,000
Deaf Sports Ireland	61,000	65,000	65,000	65,000	67,000	68,000
Fencing Ireland	27,000	55,000	55,000	55,000	65,000	68,000
Irish Olympic Handball Association	35,000	45,000	48,000	48,000	60,000	65,000
Tug of War Ireland	22,000	40,000	40,000	40,000	55,000	57,000
Weightlifting Ireland	-	30,000	32,000	32,000	55,000	57,000
Motorcycling Ireland	48,000	48,000	48,000	48,000	50,000	55,000
Bowling League of Ireland	24,000	30,000	32,000	32,000	50,000	55,000
Irish Clay Target Shooting Association	36,000	45,000	48,000	48,000	48,000	50,000
American Football Ireland	23,000	30,000	32,000	32,000	45,000	50,000
Irish Tenpin Bowling Association	27,000	35,000	37,000	37,000	45,000	47,000

National Governing Body	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Irish Waterski & Wakeboard Federation	20,000	25,000	27,000	27,000	40,000	42,000
Baton Twirling Sport Association of Ireland	16,000	20,000	25,000	25,000	40,000	42,000
Racquetball Association of Ireland	15,000	20,000	25,000	25,000	40,000	42,000
Bol Chumann na hÉireann	20,000	30,000	32,000	32,000	35,000	37,000
Irish Taekwondo Union	9,000	25,000	25,000	25,000	35,000	37,000
Rugby League Ireland	11,000	15,000	20,000	20,000	35,000	37,000
Irish Amateur Wrestling Association	15,000	20,000	25,000	25,000	30,000	32,000
Speleological Union of Ireland	10,000	15,000	20,000	20,000	30,000	32,000
Angling Council of Ireland	10,000	15,000	20,000	20,000	30,000	32,000
Archery Ireland	12,000	15,000	-	15,000	30,000	32,000
Croquet Association of Ireland	5,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	25,000	28,000
Irish Ice Hockey Association	-	10,000	10,000	10,000	25,000	28,000
ONAKAI	6,000	-	10,000	10,000	25,000	28,000

Special Projects & Programmes	126,000	305,000	501,000	541,000	420,000	488,000
Performance Programme Transition	-	-	-	-	-	230,000
Special Olympics World Games	-	180,000	-	-	-	-

Ice Skating Association of Ireland	-	-	-	-	-	-
Horseshoe Pitchers Association of Ireland	5,000	10,000	-	-	-	-
National Aero Club of Ireland	5,000	-	-	-	-	-
Trout Anglers Association of Ireland	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pentathlon Ireland	-	20,000	20,000	20,000	-	-

Total	10,845,000	12,845,000	13,845,000	13,845,000	15,000,000	16,000,000
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Organisation	2018 Allocation	2019 Allocation	2020 Allocation	2021 Allocation	2022 Allocation	2023 Allocation
Federation of Irish Sport	100,000	100,000	115,000	115,000	115,000	125,000
Student Sport Ireland	50,000	60,000	60,000	60,000	60,000	70,000



Local Sports Partnerships



2022 Highlights

1,050,000
people participated in
850 European Week of
Sport Events in 2022



Local participation opportunities provided across

60+ sports

48% of LSP coordinators are women

Over 7,000 females took part in **385 events** across the HER Outdoors Week in 2022

39% of LSP board members are women

2023 Investment

€939,000
invested in
Community Sports
Development Officers
(CSDOs)

€1,055,000
invested in
additional LSP
Development
Officers

€910,000
invested in a
network of Sport
Inclusion Disability
Officers

€1,344,041
increase of 6% in
Programme Funding
to LSPs in 2023

€265,000
will be invested
in the Women in
Sport programme
for 2023

Sport Ireland Local Sports Partnerships

For 2023, the Sport Ireland investment has been maintained across the network of 29 Local Sports Partnerships (LSPs), with a total investment of €10,365,000.

Sport Ireland will utilise the proposed 2023 funding to continue to enhance the capacity of LSPs, support a locally led safe return to sport and increase the reach and impact of LSP initiatives across Ireland. The 2023 investment strategy is informed by the goals of the Sport Ireland Strategy and the actions of the National Sports Policy and the National Physical Activity Plan which are now captured in the Sport Ireland Sports Participation Plan.

Sport Ireland's strategy remains focussed on increasing the investment in LSP programming, along with continued investment in the local promotion of LSP activity opportunities and national campaigns to build awareness of the LSP network across the country. The investment strategy will be underpinned by ensuring appropriate human resource is employed in the LSPs to help build and strengthen local partnerships, deliver, and sustain increased programme investments and provide the necessary supports to clubs and communities to engage safely in sport, in 2023.

Age & Opportunity - Go for Life Programme

Sport Ireland funds the Age & Opportunity Active Go for Life sport and physical activity programme as part of its commitment to increase participation in recreational sport among older people. Go for Life aims to get older people more active, and its objectives are closely aligned to the National Sports Policy as well as the National Physical Activity Plan, the National Positive Ageing Strategy and Healthy Ireland.

The Go for Life programme works closely with the network of Local Sports Partnerships to create a range of opportunities to help older people get more physically active such as their FitLine and CarePALs programs.

Cara Sport Inclusion Ireland

Sport Ireland Policy on Participation in Sport by People with Disabilities designates Cara Sport Inclusion Ireland as the supporting organisation in playing a vitally important strategic, operational and advocacy role for persons with a disability in Irish sport. "Their wide-ranging national and international perspective and expertise on issues affecting sport is a particularly valuable input to sports policy development."

Cara facilitates participation for people with a disability by promoting the Sport Inclusion Disability Charter. It also does this through coordinating the delivery of training and education workshops on the inclusion of people with disabilities in Sport and Physical Activity such as their Xcessible, Disability Awareness and Disability Inclusion programs.





the “elimination of active sport participation gradient between men and women”. The Women in Sport allocation to the Local Sports Partnerships in 2023 will be €265,000. The LSPs will work with the Sport Ireland Women in Sport lead and will focus specific initiatives on female target groups including women in disadvantaged communities, women with a disability, older woman, women from ethnic minorities and teenage girls. The LSPs will also explore ways of increasing female social participation in sport through club membership and volunteerism.

5 Programme Funding

With the recruitment of SIDOs, CSDOs and additional officers across the network it is important to provide these positions with the support and resources required to deliver safe and effective programmes at a local level. In 2023, Sport Ireland continue to expect LSPs to experience increased delivery costs due to the cost-of-living crisis and are therefore funding for LSP programme funding has increased to €1,344,041.

6 Club Development Grants

Sport Ireland anticipate an ongoing need for support from sports clubs and communities around the country as they continue to return to sport in 2023 and attempt to recruit and re-activate their members, participants and volunteers. A high level of support to the club and community development grant at €767,500 will be invested to allow LSPs to provide these funds at a local level.

7 Local Sports Plans

Action 8 of the National Sports Policy has tasked Sport Ireland with leading on the development of Local Sports Plans. Sport Ireland have been working with the County and City Managers Association (CCMA) Economic, Enterprise, Community and Culture Committee to highlight the role and value of LSPs and discuss the development of Local Sports Plans. Sport Ireland are working with the CCMA on the recruitment and employment of LSP staff, LSP governance code compliance in a Local Authority context and Sport Ireland funding strategies for the Local Authority based LSPs. Sport Ireland will ring fence funding in the 2023 participation unit budget to assist LSPs and Local Authorities in the development of Local Sports Plans.

8 Statement of Ambition

The LSPs were established in 2001 to help people get active and remove barriers to participation in sport and physical activity. The initial ambition, in 2001, for the network of LSPs was to deliver and service each locality for all the sport and physical activity participatory needs. Following 21 years of expansion, effective delivery and success, Sport Ireland undertook a process of defining the direction for its network of LSPs during 2022. After months of extensive consultation with the LSP staff, their boards and steering groups, stakeholders and the wider sporting sector, a Statement of Ambition for Sport Ireland’s network of LSPs was developed.

To support the Statement of Ambition, Sport Ireland will continue to advocate that the LSPs are effectively resourced at all levels to deliver local opportunities for everyone to enjoy the lifelong benefits of sport and physical activity. Sport Ireland will review the funded positions within the LSPs and examine how the current roles can be resourced to most effectively deliver on the future direction of the LSPs. Sport Ireland will ring fence funding in the 2023 participation unit budget to allow for necessary restructuring of LSPs.

1 Sport Inclusion Disability Officers

In 2023, Sport Ireland will invest €910,000 to continue supporting the full network of 29 Sport Inclusion Disability Officers (SIDOs). The aim of the Sport Inclusion Disability Programme is to encourage and facilitate more people with disabilities to participate in sport and physical activity and develop sustainable clubs and programmes in all settings. The SIDOs work in a coordinating capacity with all relevant stakeholders to increase and sustain participation opportunities for people with disabilities. SIDOs can also play an important role in helping both people with a disability and older adults to safely re-engage with community based or independent sport and physical activity opportunities after COVID 19.

2 Community Sport Development Officers

Sport Ireland will invest €939,000 in the LSP network for the employment of Community Sport Development Officers (CSDOs), which will ensure funding support to all 29 LSPs for employment of a CSDO, achieving a nationwide rollout of the CSDO initiative. CSDOs are tasked with activating local communities through a variety of means including the co-ordination of targeted programmes and training initiatives for clubs and communities.

CSDOs are also tasked with increasing the reach of LSPs to ethnic minorities and teenagers. The CSDOs also support the objectives of the National Physical Activity Plan action to ‘Strengthen and enhance the capacity of the LSPs to further develop locally led plans and more long-term sustainable physical activity programmes’.

3 Additional Human Resources

In 2023, Sport Ireland will invest €1,055,000 to maintain these roles across the 29 LSPs for a third year and build on the work completed in 2022 in which Sport Ireland invested €828,583 in the employment of additional officers in the LSP network to cover the following priority areas; Community and Club Development, Ethnic Diversity, Outdoor Sport Development, Promotion and Building Awareness, Women in Sport and Administration and managerial support. An overarching goal of this funding stream will be to bring the minimum number of staff in every LSP to 5 people in order to build and maintain a consistency of opportunities in every county in Ireland.

4 Women in Sport

Additional support for Women in Sport is referenced in the National Sports Policy, specifically referring to the high-level goal of increasing participation through

LSP	2023 Core (Staff and Operational Costs)	2023 Programme Funding	Women in Sport
Carlow	€229,870	€27,576	€11,000
Cavan	€254,747	€25,720	€2,600
Clare	€342,757	€52,540	€12,000
Cork	€522,591	€90,800	€8,500
Donegal	€312,972	€68,000	€5,000
Dublin City	€319,474	€102,000	€14,500
Dun Laoghaire Rathdown	€218,937	€52,500	€2,000
Fingal	€249,653	€45,000	€13,000
Galway	€266,458	€66,500	€10,000
Kerry	€180,820	€18,000	€6,500
Kildare	€271,586	€30,360	€9,000
Kilkenny	€281,784	€11,680	€8,000
Laois	€314,655	€36,765	€11,000
Leitrim	€206,614	€27,520	€7,500
Limerick	€428,927	€54,220	€10,000
Longford	€243,196	€26,800	€9,000
Louth	€263,472	€70,940	€9,000
Mayo	€310,459	€57,700	€15,000
Meath	€347,238	€70,640	€22,000
Monaghan	€207,603	€36,800	€5,000
Offaly	€253,715	€52,340	€5,000
Roscommon	€260,042	€42,880	€2,500
Sligo	€319,758	€75,140	€20,000
South Dublin	€265,400	€52,880	€8,000
Tipperary	€303,811	€35,060	€8,000
Waterford	€360,537	€20,000	€5,000
Westmeath	€229,679	€32,000	€5,900
Wexford	€306,072	€34,100	€8,000
Wicklow	€283,133	€27,580	€12,000
Sub Total	€8,755,959*	€1,344,041	€265,000

*An additional €400,000 will be allocated in due course upon project approval.

Programme	2023 Funding
Age & Opportunity	€620,000
Cara	€140,000





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