



SPÓRT ÉIREANN  
SPORT IRELAND



Rialtas na hÉireann  
Government of Ireland

# Outdoor Swimming Infrastructure Funding 2024



# Contents

- 1 Introduction 1
- 1.1 The Process 2
- 1.2 Terminology 2
- 1.3 Funding streams 3
- 1.4 Criteria 4
- 1.5 Timelines 4
- 1.6 How to apply 4

Sport Ireland recommends that each Local Sports Partnership (LSP) read the Introduction chapter and each relevant application chapter before starting the application process.

Sport Ireland encourages LSPs to apply for the full amount of funding on offer under each relevant application, through Capital funding. Sport Ireland is limited to providing funding to the maximum within your application.

All applications are of a competitive nature and are subject to assessment under specific criteria as presented in this document.

# 1 Introduction

The aim of the National Physical Activity Plan is to increase physical activity levels across the whole population. It aims to create a society which facilitates people whether at home at work or at play to lead an active way of life.

Increasing physical activity will help improve the health and wellbeing of people living in Ireland.

With specific responsibilities presented under this national plan, Sport Ireland and its network of Local Sports Partnerships and National Governing Bodies for Sport have key objectives to deliver to underpin the success of this plan.

Sport Ireland, working with the Department of Health (DoH) under the Healthy Ireland initiative, and Department of Tourism, Arts, Culture, Sport, Media, and Gaeltacht (DTACSMG) specifically in relation to Outdoor/Open Water swimming infrastructure that could strengthen and underpin the new National Swimming Strategy, is presenting a funding stream for application in 2024.

The Minister for Public Health, Wellbeing and the National Drugs Strategy Hildegard Naughton TD announced €500,000 in funding for outdoor swimming infrastructure projects across Ireland. In order to further promote outdoor swimming, the funding will be made available to Local Sports Partnerships, working in tandem with local authorities, to improve access and facilities at outdoor swimming locations in 2024.

There has been a significant growth in the popularity of outdoor swimming in recent years, yielding a breadth of physical and social wellbeing benefits. To further promote outdoor swimming, the funding will be made available to Local Sports Partnerships, working in tandem with local authorities, to improve access and facilities at outdoor swimming locations in 2024.

Sport Ireland is seeking applications for Healthy Ireland Outdoor Swimming Infrastructure Funding to support the Actions from the National Sports Policy and the National Physical Activity Plan and Sport Ireland Participation Plan to increase the opportunities to partake in outdoor swimming across Ireland.

All projects are offered through a competitive bid process and will be evaluated against the criteria set in the application forms and guidelines document.

## 1.1 The Process

LSPs seeking funding will be required to submit the completed Healthy Ireland Outdoor Swimming Infrastructure Funding application forms electronically in excel format on or before close of business on Monday 17th May 2024.

LSPs are also required to submit a signed copy of the 'LSP Information & Declaration' page, with the relevant applications ticked. Sport Ireland can accept any of the below methods of proof of signature.

- Scan/Photograph of signed declaration page.
  - Email confirmation from signatories.
  - Electronic signature
- Please submit applications to the Participation Unit at [Participation@sportireland.ie](mailto:Participation@sportireland.ie).

If there are any questions throughout the application process, please refer to this guidelines document in the first instance, look for specific comments within the application form or contact Sport Ireland for further information.

## 1.2 Terminology

For the purpose of the Grant Applications Sport Ireland will apply a consistent use of the below terminology. At both strategic and project level the below hierarchy of terminology has been applied.

For the planning stage the below terminology is used.

Vision & Mission ➡ Goals ➡ Objectives ➡ Actions

One vision and mission sit over multiple goals, which each sit over multiple objectives, which each sit over multiple actions.

For the reporting stage the below terminology is used

Actions ➡ Outputs ➡ Outcomes ➡ Impact ➡ Vision & Mission

Actions produce outputs, multiple outputs produce outcomes and multiple outcomes produce impacts which achieve your vision and mission.

As such, the intention is that:

- Outputs will be used to report on Actions.
- Outcomes will be used to report on Objectives.
- Impacts will be used to report on Goals.

This will remove the burden of reporting outcomes and impacts for every action.

## 1.3 Funding streams

For the purpose of this fund, LSPs can apply for support under two streams of funding. Some items are limited under these streams, please take note of these limitations when submitting your application.

The aim of each stream is listed below:

## **1. Stream One – Strengthening Open Water Swimming Infrastructure**

1.1 Provide funding support up to a maximum of €30,000 to innovative and creative solutions to improve changing facilities at outdoor swimming locations.

1.2 Provide funding support up to a maximum of €30,000 to improve general accessibility to safe swim zones.

1.3 Provide funding support up to a maximum of €30,000 to improve storage facilities for beach wheelchairs and/or inclusive equipment to support accessibility to safe swim zones for all.

1.4 Provide funding support up to a maximum of €30,000 to innovative and creative solutions to improve access to safe swim zones for people with disabilities.

1.5 Provide funding support up to a maximum of €10,000 for access improvements specifically relating to steps and handrails to aid support entering and leaving the water for the purpose of swimming.

## **2. Stream Two – Equipment**

2.1 Provide funding support up to a maximum of €10,000 to equipment such as buoyancy aids, specialist wheelchairs, equipment to support people with disabilities to enter the water to swim.

2.2 Provide funding support up to a maximum of €10,000 to beach mats that support wheelchair users onto the beach to access water.

2.3 Provide funding support up to a maximum of €10,000 to innovative and creative solutions for small scale swim equipment at outdoor swimming locations to create more opportunities for people to take part in outdoor swimming.

All applications can be one singular stream or a combination of both streams.

However, full applications are limited to a total maximum of €30,000.

## 1.4 Criteria

**For the purpose of this fund, the applications will be assessed under the following criteria:**

1. Quality of innovative and creative solutions (30%)
2. Quality of the needs analysis (20%)
3. Engagement of Stakeholders in county (20%)
4. Project Goal alignment to increasing opportunities for outdoor swimming in safe swim zones (20%)
5. Alignment to National Policies and Swim Ireland's Participation Strategy (10%)

Applications developed in conjunction with the Water Safety Officer in the Local Authority and local swim clubs/organisations and groups will be given priority in assessment.

Please note to ensure a comprehensive allocation, this capital funding will cover a geographical spread and may be implemented in areas with varying levels of outdoor swimming opportunities.

Please note that specified areas listed under Failte Ireland's Facilities for Outdoor Water-based activities are not eligible for support under this scheme.

## 1.5 Timelines

Applications will open on 5th April 2024 at 12pm.

Emails will be sent from Sport Ireland to all LSPs which will include application forms and guidelines for perusal.

Applications will close on close of business 17th May 2024.

No late applications will be accepted.

## 1.6 How to apply

All applications are to be submitted no later than 17th May 2024 at 12pm to [participation@sportireland.ie](mailto:participation@sportireland.ie)

For further queries on these guidelines, please contact Sport Ireland at [participation@sportireland.ie](mailto:participation@sportireland.ie)



SPÓRT ÉIREANN  
SPORT IRELAND