



**SPÓRT ÉIREANN**  
**SPORT IRELAND**

## **2025 Sport Ireland Evaluation Grant Scheme**

### **FUNDING GUIDELINES**



ciste na  
gcuntas díomhaoin  
**the dormant  
accounts fund**

## Introduction

Sport Ireland (through the Dormant Accounts Fund) will provide support to recognised National Governing Bodies of Sport (NGBs), Local Sports Partnerships (LSPs) and other Sport Ireland (SI) Funded Bodies based on the conditions and criteria outlined in this document. The **Evaluation Grant Scheme** is a grant scheme that supports evaluation endeavours for the Irish sports sector.

Sport Ireland are seeking applications for evaluations of programmes that meet the Dormant Accounts criteria i.e., must be able to demonstrate how the proposed evaluation relates to the personal and social development of persons who are economically or socially disadvantaged, the educational development of persons who are educationally disadvantaged, persons with a disability (within the meaning of the Equal Status Act 2000).

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

- **NGBs/LSPs/SI-Funded Bodies seeking funding will be required to submit an application form.**
- **Only one application per NGB/LSP/SI-Funded Body will be accepted. NGBs, LSPs and SI-Funded Bodies can partner together. Each SI-funded body can lead on one application form per grant scheme; however they are free to partner on as many applications as they wish (i.e., each SI-funded body can lead on a maximum of one EGS application and one RGS application)**
- **Applications will be considered up to a maximum of €18,000 (Only current funding will be applicable under the scheme).**
- **Funding expenditure must be completed by the conclusion of the grant scheme (date specified in the timeline section).**
- **NGBs/LSPs/SI-Funded Bodies are required to submit a signed copy of the Information & Declaration Form. Electronic versions of the handwritten signatures and email confirmation of signature are accepted.**

If you have any questions throughout the application process, please refer to this guidelines document or contact [evaluation@sportireland.ie](mailto:evaluation@sportireland.ie) for further information.

## About the Scheme

LSPs, NGBs, and SI-funded bodies can apply for funding from Sport Ireland to undertake evaluations in partnership with the third-level sector and/or evaluation consultants in Ireland. The introduction of a Sport Ireland Evaluation grant scheme provides the sector with the resources and support needed to undertake local evaluations relevant to their own context.

The evaluation grant scheme aims to provide a platform for LSPs, NGBs, and SI-funded bodies to build meaningful relationships with the third level sector and/or evaluation consultants whilst building their understanding and capability on how to evaluate. The scheme is linked to two Sport Ireland Research Strategy actions:

1. Evaluate the return on investment in sport and physical activity, what works, for whom and under what conditions, identifying and communicating the critical success factors of effective approaches to sports development.
2. Provide evaluation training resources, templates, and workshops for sports bodies to encourage the use of consistent validated methods in the evaluation of projects and programmes.

SI-funded bodies are encouraged to engage with third level institutions or specialised evaluation consultants to develop appropriate evaluation methodologies for their projects. Funding a one of its kind applied partnership evaluation grant will help bridge the gap between research, policy and practice.

## Mid-Year Review Requirements

You are required to submit a Mid-Year Review report to summarise the project's progress to date. Failure to submit a satisfactory Mid-Year Review report may impact your ability to access funding in the future. Funded projects will be provided with a Mid-Year Review report template to provide updates. Mid-Year Review report will cover project progression, next steps and evaluation findings.

## Evaluation Grant Scheme

An application form has been developed to aid with the organisation submissions. Please follow the guidance below to complete the application form. Please note this is a competitive bid process and will be evaluated against the criteria set.

### Eligibility

This fund is open to NGBs/LSPs/SI-funded Bodies to develop and deliver an evaluation on sport and physical activity initiatives and projects that meet the Dormant Accounts criteria. This grant scheme will not fund long-term research projects or PhDs.

### Section 1 Application Lead & Organisation

In this section, please list contact details of the designated project contact person from your organisation. Please note the email provided in this section will be used as the main contact point for all application outcomes.

### Section 2 - Evaluation Project Details

This section of the submission will be used to better understand the evaluation being proposed, methodology, project time frames, promotion of evaluation findings and ethics. Please ensure submissions are written in a clear manner to be easily understood by our multi-disciplinary reviewers.

## **2.1 Evaluation Area**

Please note that Evaluation grant projects must meet Dormant Account Fund criteria. Please select the subject area and target group that most closely match the proposed project. If needed, please select the 'other' option and state the proposed subject and/or target group.

## **2.2. Project title**

Please state the title of the proposed evaluation project.

## **2.3. Lay Abstract**

Please provide a lay abstract for your proposed evaluation, which will be used to inform a lay audience (non-experts). Please note that this text will be published on Sport Ireland's website to serve as project summary if the project is funded.

## **2.4. Evaluation objectives and rationale**

Please use this section to clearly outline the evaluation questions that the proposed project aims to address. The objectives may be presented as statements or evaluation questions. Please provide a clear rationale to explain the importance and value of these questions.

## **2.5. Dormant Accounts Criteria**

Please demonstrate how the proposed evaluation relates to (1) the personal and social development of persons who are economically or socially disadvantaged, or (2) the educational development of persons who are educationally disadvantaged, or (3) persons with a disability (within the meaning of the Equal Status Act 2000).

## **2.6. Evaluation Design and Methodologies**

Please describe the evaluation design and methodologies to be employed, and justify the methodologies chosen. Elaborate on the evaluation measures being used/developed, target number of respondents, survey, interviews, focus groups, etc. Please ensure sufficient details are provided to demonstrate a clear understanding of the evaluation topic and the ways in which the proposed evaluation questions are addressed.

## **2.7. Milestones and Deliverables**

Please provide a schedule of milestones/deliverables and associated dates for completion of the proposed evaluation project.

## **2.8. Risks and Mitigations**

Please provide a schedule of risks that might hinder the delivery of the project. Please consider the impact such risks present, the likelihood of the risks, and specific mitigation measures.

## **2.9. Ethics**

Please specify measures planned for mitigating ethical concerns in relation to the proposed evaluation project. If your project will undergo review and approval processes from a recognised body, please specify the relevant body (e.g., university ethics committee).

## **2.10. GDPR**

Please specify measures planned for mitigating concerns regarding data storage and data protection within the proposed evaluation project.

## **2.11. Dissemination**

Please outline a strategy for disseminating the findings from the proposed evaluation project. This may include publications, media coverage, conference attendance, workshops, toolkits and any other outreach activities.

## **Section 3 - Funding**

The maximum project funding through the Sport Ireland Evaluation Grant Scheme 2025 is €18,000.

### **3.1 Amount of funds requested (In Euro)**

Enter the amount of funds requested from Sport Ireland.

### **3.2 Match funding (optional)**

If receiving other income as match funding, please list the provider and amount (including funding from your own organisation).

### **3.3 Detailed expenditure**

Please give a breakdown of project expenditure, including any additional funding from other sources. Note only current expenditure will be funded.

## **Section 4 – Evaluation Project Partners**

#### **4.1 Project Partnership**

The evaluation project will need to be delivered in partnership with a third level university/IT/higher educational institution or a private evaluation consultant. Projects demonstrating appropriate partnerships will be scored higher on assessment.

Select the appropriate option provided with regards to project partnership and provide key details of the project partners. If a partner has been identified, please attach a letter of support or intent from a partner organisation to support the application.

#### **Section 5 – Application checklist**

All applications are required to attach a signed copy of the Declaration Form, as part of their application submission. Electronic versions of the handwritten signatures and email confirmation of signature are accepted. Please send queries and/or completed applications to [evaluation@sportireland.ie](mailto:evaluation@sportireland.ie).

## Additional Details

### Timescales

<u>Event</u>	<u>Date</u>
Funding scheme open for submissions	24th January 2025
Submission deadline	31st March 2025 (5pm)
Funding decision announcement	Final week of May 2025
Project initiation meeting	June 2025
Mid-Year Review deadline	January 2026
Final Report deadline	August 2026
Project presentation event	September/October 2026

### Terms and Conditions

The funding guidelines are to be read in conjunction with Sport Ireland's current Terms and Conditions of Grant Investment.

### Acknowledgement

In the promotion and dissemination of the evaluation findings funded by this scheme, Sport Ireland requests the dual language Sport Ireland logo and Dormant Account logo be included on all materials and for Sport Ireland and Dormant Accounts to be acknowledged as the funders/co-funders in presentations, publications and related materials.

### Scoring Criteria

Scoring to be applied to applications based on:

<u>Criteria</u>	<u>Weighting</u>
Quality of abstract	5%

Clarity of evaluation objectives and questions	15%
Alignment to Dormant Accounts Criteria	10%
Evaluation methodology	25%
Clarity and feasibility of deliverables and timelines	10%
Risks and mitigations	5%
Ethics/ GDPR	5%
Dissemination strategy	10%
Match funding as appropriate to the project scope	5%
Project partner	10%