



SPÓRT ÉIREANN
SPORT IRELAND

ACCELERATE

Management Development
Programme 2025/2026



ACCELERATE is Sport Ireland's sector specific Management Development Programme. Its main aim is to foster excellent management capability in sports organisations funded by Sport Ireland.

If you are looking to:

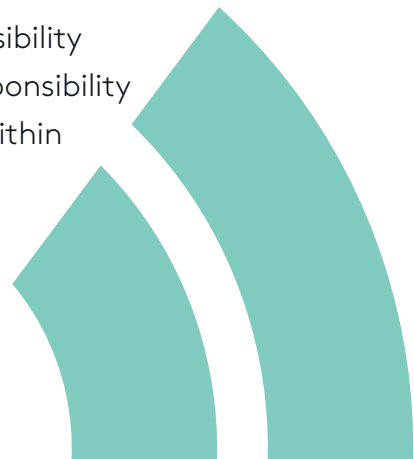
- Develop the skills, acquire the knowledge and understand the behaviours needed to be an effective manager
- Build a professional network with other managers in the sports sector
- Attain a level 6 QQI award in Management

then ACCELERATE is for you!

ACCELERATE is specifically designed for:

- People currently in Managerial roles with line management responsibility
- People currently in Managerial roles without line management responsibility
- People who have been identified for a future Managerial role within their organisation

All participants must be employed in sports organisations funded by Sport Ireland.



The programme experience and key features:

ACCELERATE will be highly experiential and will consist of 3 core modules, namely Self Management, People Management, Project Management and Sport Skills Development.

It will include the following elements:

- Psychometric Assessment and Coaching
- Blended Learning
- Networking opportunities and peer support
- Online learning platform and support

The programme modules:

SELF-MANAGEMENT

- Self-Awareness
- Character, Competence & Trust
- Time Management

PEOPLE MANAGEMENT

- Legislation, Policies and Regulation
- Conflict Management
- Diversity and Inclusion
- Team Building (optional)
- Managing Remote Teams
- Business Writing Skills
- Performance Management

PROJECT MANAGEMENT AND SPORT SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

- Project Management
- Innovation
- Governance in Sport
- Financial Management
- Personal & Career Development







When will the programme run?

The programme will commence in September 2025 and will run until June 2026.

What are the key dates?

| | | |
|--|---|---|
| PREPARATION | → | August 2025 Thursday the 4th of September 2025 (Induction Day) |
| MODULE 1: Self-Management | → | Wednesday the 17th of September 2025 Wednesday the 1st of October 2025 Wednesday the 15th of October 2025 |
| MODULE 2: People Management | → | Monday the 3rd of November 2025 Tuesday the 2nd of December 2025 Wednesday the 28th of January 2026 Wednesday the 11th of February 2026 Wednesday the 25th of February 2026 |
| MODULE 3: Project Management and Sport Skills Development | → | Thursday the 19th of March 2026 Wednesday the 15th of April 2026 Tuesday the 12th of May 2026 Wednesday the 20th of May 2026 |
| ASSESSMENT | → | June/July 2026 |
| GRADUATION | → | November 2026 |



Where will ACCELERATE take place?

Programme activities will take place either virtually or at an in-person Dublin based venue. These dates will be communicated on the schedule you will receive at the in-person induction for the programme.



The application process

To apply, please complete the Application Form and email it to odc@sportireland.ie by no later than 4pm on Tuesday the 29th of July 2025. Applications via post will not be accepted.

All applications will be reviewed by Sport Ireland for eligibility, and applicants will be notified of their status in writing by no later than 12pm on Friday the 15th of August 2025.



Questions

Should you have any questions in relation to the programme and the application process, please contact the ACCELERATE Programme Lead, Ashleigh McGuirk at odc@sportireland.ie



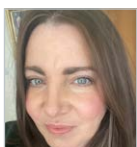
ACCELERATE Management Development Programme

Past Participant Testimonials



"I am incredibly grateful for the ACCELERATE programme and the positive impact it has had on my career. I highly recommend this programme to anyone looking to enhance their managerial skills, build a strong professional network, and attain a recognised qualification in management. ACCELERATE truly lives up to its name by accelerating the careers of sports sector managers like myself."

Brian Staunton, Director of National Governing Bodies of Sport, Sport Ireland



"The ACCELERATE programme equipped me with valuable new skills in areas such as self-awareness, project management, governance, conflict resolution and critical thinking. The Programme provided me with a hands-on learning experience through the immersive modules, one-to-one coaching and situational role plays. I really enjoyed the invaluable peer-to-peer learning and it was great to be able to learn from and network with colleagues throughout the sports sector."

Sinead Collieran, Operations Manager, Community Games



"High quality course and great to connect with others from similar roles. The course was nicely spaced which helped with juggling work commitments also."

Richard Doyle, Performance Operations Manager, Paralympics Ireland



"It was one of the best decisions I ever made to participate on the ACCELERATE programme. The willingness of participants to share ideas and more importantly experiences was invaluable. The topics covered were relevant to my role and learnings were easily applied in the workplace afterward and continue to be. I would encourage anyone thinking of taking the course to do so."

Elaine Twomey, Sport Development Manager, Special Olympics Ireland



"The ACCELERATE programme is a fantastic programme. I feel I gained a lot personally and professionally from this course and would highly recommend it. The content is very practical, clear, and helpful for a variety of roles within organisations. The most beneficial part for me was the invaluable learning from my peers within the group. Learning from peers from a similar role to me and those with different roles really helped to develop my management skills."

Donna Berry, Women in Sport Development Officer, Kildare Sports Partnership



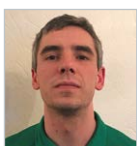
"Great course, I really enjoyed it. It was great to interact with others in the same position as me in other organisations. I felt that the learning happened in a variety of ways, from each other, the content in the virtual classroom sessions and the research required for the assignments."

James Geraghty, National Development Manager, Irish Athletic Boxing Association



"The programme content was clear, relevant and effective. It was delivered in concise modules that were easy to absorb. The main benefits came from doing practical assignments related to my role and organisation, knowledge sharing and interacting with my peers from other sports bodies. I thoroughly enjoyed the programme and would recommend to anyone stepping into a leadership role."

Orla Nugent, Operations Manager, Triathlon Ireland



"ACCELERATE was a really enjoyable programme. It was great to meet other people from the Sports Sector, connect with and learn from them. I felt that my management skills have developed from the various modules that were covered. My personal awareness has also increased as a result of the psychometric assessment and the modules."

Fiach Andrews, Sports Inclusion Disability Officer, Kildare Local Sports Partnership

Sport Ireland

ACCELERATE Management Development Programme

Application Form

SECTION 1: Personal Information

Please complete the following information regarding your Application electronically.

| | | | | |
|--|--------|------|------------|-------------------|
| Applicant's Name: | | | | |
| Organisation: | | | Job Title: | |
| Email Address: | | | | |
| Mobile Number: | | | | |
| Identify as: | Female | Male | Other | Prefer not to say |
| CEO/Most relevant Senior Leaders Name: | | | | |
| CEO/Most relevant Senior Leaders Number: | | | | |
| CEO/Most relevant Senior Leaders Email: | | | | |

SECTION 2: Application Information

What do you hope to achieve by participating in this Programme?

Please indicate what management experience you have to date.

Please indicate how participating in this Programme will help build your knowledge and skills.

Please indicate how participation in this Programme will benefit performance for you and your organisation.

SECTION 3: Organisation

Please note that your Line Manager/CEO is required to complete this section.

How will the applicant's participation in this Programme benefit the applicant?

How will the applicant's participation in this Programme benefit the organisation?

SECTION 4: Signatures and Approval

ACCELERATE Applicant:

Type in Name of Applicant

The below signature relating to line management is to be completed by employees who work in sports organisations funded by Sport Ireland only:

CEO/Line Manager Signature:

Type in name of CEO/Line Manager



SPÓRT ÉIREANN
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Contact Us

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