



SPÓRT ÉIREANN
SPORT IRELAND

Sport Ireland
Core Grant Investment
2026

Introduction

Sport Ireland is the authority tasked with the development of sport in Ireland including participation, high performance, anti-doping, coaching, and the development of the Sport Ireland Campus.

Established in 2015, it combines functions of the former Irish Sports Council and the National Sports Campus Development Authority, and works to implement national sports policy and increase physical activity levels across the country.

Sport Ireland's Core Grant Investment represents a strategic commitment by the State to strengthen Ireland's sporting system. Core Grant Investment is designed to provide funding and stability to enable National Governing Bodies, Local Sports Partnerships, and other funded bodies to operate effectively, plan strategically, and deliver on sporting priorities. These organisations operate in an increasingly complex environment, shaped by rising demands in participation, evolving governance standards, heightened safeguarding expectations, sustainability responsibilities, and the need to ensure sport is inclusive and accessible to all.

Sport Ireland recognises that to sustain long-term progress across the sector, we need strong organisations to deliver that growth, and annual Core Grant Investment is key to supporting that capacity. The 2026 Core Grant Investment supports the policy framework of the National Sports Policy 2018-2027 and the National Sports Action Plan 2024-2027, which set out a clear vision for sport in Ireland. Core Grant Investment is a key mechanism to deliver on these national objectives.

In 2026, Sport Ireland's total Core Grant Investment will amount to €33.36m, the highest level of investment ever. This represents a 6.5% increase on 2025 levels, and an 87.4% increase on the €17.8m investment in 2018. This growth reflects the sustained and increasing commitment that the State has made in the development of sport and physical activity in Ireland since the introduction of the National Sports Policy. Sport Ireland acknowledges and sincerely thanks the Government, the Minister for Culture, Communications and Sport Patrick O'Donovan TD, and the Minister of State with special responsibility for Sport and Postal Policy Charlie McConalogue TD, for their continued support.

National Governing Bodies

National Governing Bodies (NGBs) are the independent organisations that lead, develop, and regulate their respective sports across Ireland. They are responsible for governance, safeguarding, coaching and officiating standards, competition structures, and athlete pathways from grassroots to elite level. Sport Ireland recognises 65 NGBs, providing financial and advisory support to help them deliver sport nationwide.

In 2026, there will be a continued increase in financial support to National Governing Bodies. Overall, Core Grant Investment will rise by €1.2m, from €18.3m in 2025 to €19.5m in 2026, representing a 6.6% year-on-year increase and an 80% increase since 2018, the first year of the National Sports Policy. This investment enables Sport Ireland to further strengthen the NGB sector and support sustainable development.

Local Sports Partnerships

Sport Ireland's network of Local Sports Partnerships (LSPs) is comprised of 29 county-based organisations dedicated to increasing participation in sport and physical activity for all residents. Through locally delivered programmes, support for community clubs and volunteers, and high-quality training, LSPs deliver measurable improvements in physical and mental health and contribute to stronger, more resilient communities across Ireland.

Sport Ireland has secured an additional €710,000 in core funding for LSPs, representing a 5.9% increase on 2025 allocations. This brings the total LSP budget to €12.66m, more than double the €6m invested in 2018, the first year of the National Sports Policy.

Other Funded Bodies

Alongside the 29 LSPs and 65 NGBs, Sport Ireland funds a number of additional sporting bodies. These organisations support the sector in participation, inclusion, and equality across sport and physical activity. From encouraging older adults and people with disabilities to be active, to supporting higher education sport and raising standards in leisure and fitness facilities, they ensure that more people can access sport and physical activity.

In 2026, there will be a continued increase in financial support to these Other Funded Bodies. Overall investment will rise by €134,500, from €1,075,000 in 2025 to €1,209,500 in 2026, representing a 12.5% year-on-year increase and a 36.3% increase since 2018, the first year of the National Sports Policy. This increase enables Sport Ireland to further strengthen partnerships with these organisations and support targeted initiatives that complement the work of NGBs and LSPs.

Sport Ireland Sector Development & Support

Multi-Annual Core Investment

In line with Action 1 of the National Sports Policy Sports Action Plan 2024-2027, from 2026 onwards, the Department of Culture, Communications and Sport and Sport Ireland will seek to roll out a multi-annual approach to core investment allocations, with 2026 acting as a baseline for the following three years.

Action 1 – “To enhance planning capability and operational stability of our sporting bodies, we will implement a multi-annual approach to core funding allocations to sporting bodies, subject to budget availability and ongoing adherence by the sporting bodies to the prevailing governance requirements”.

Values Charter for Sport in Ireland

In 2025, Sport Ireland published the Values Charter for Sport in Ireland, which defines the core values that underpin sport nationwide. These values—Inclusion, Integrity, Respect, Excellence and Accountability—reflect what sport represents to both the Irish public and sport sector and set a clear standard of conduct for everyone involved in sport.

Sport Ireland is committed to promoting fair, inclusive sporting environments that prioritise the welfare of participants and officials and are grounded in honesty and respect. A strong values-based approach to sport delivery will help build public trust, confidence and engagement.

In 2026, to support the embedding of these values at all levels of sport, Sport Ireland will host a series of workshops based on the Values Charter for Sport.

Workforce Strategy

The development of a Workforce Strategy serving the sport sector represents a key National Sports Policy action and a central deliverable under the remit of the Sport Ireland Organisational Development & Change (ODC) Unit. The strategy aims to ensure the sector has the right people, with the right skills, in the right roles to deliver sustainable growth, performance, and inclusion in Irish Sport.

The strategy aligns with Sport Ireland’s Statement of Strategy, supporting national goals for participation, performance, diversity, and governance. It focuses primarily on the professional, paid workforce across Sport Ireland supported NGBs, LSPs, and other funded organisations.

The strategy was developed in consultation with the sport sector. Its creation was overseen by a Sport Ireland steering group and supported by an independent consultant.

Key components of the development process included:

- Six formal steering group meetings
- Review of 28 key policy and research documents
- A sector-wide survey issued to Sport Ireland funded bodies
- Five sport sector focus groups
- More than 20 individual interviews with representatives from: the Federation of Irish Sport, external disability and D&I representatives, the Department of Children, Disability and Equality, third-level education sector, and international peers (Sport England, Sport New Zealand, and Sport Northern Ireland) and Sport Ireland

This process produced a robust evidence base and a clear mandate for the Strategy’s content and direction. Subject to finalisation and formal approval, the Strategy is due to be published in 2026.

Women in Sport

The Sport Ireland Policy on Women in Sport, first launched in 2019 with a revised version launched in 2023, identifies four key target areas which highlight challenges and opportunities for women in sport. These target areas continue to be a focus for Sport Ireland, its stakeholders and Government in 2026. The four key areas are:

- 1. Leadership and Governance**
- 2. Active Participation**
- 3. Visibility**
- 4. Coaching & Officiating**

While notable progress has been made in areas such as gender balance in governance and in closing the participation gap between women and men, work remains to be done to close the gender gap in coaching and in sports media. As part of the work under the WIS Policy, the Balanced Leadership Framework Toolkit was recently developed. Acting as a guide to assist sport organisations in achieving gender equality in their leadership, it builds on the previous Gender Balance on Boards Toolkit, which was updated to reflect the changes that have taken place across the sector over the last five years, including the implementation of the National Sports Policy 2018-2027 and the Governance Code for Sport.

Sport Ireland will establish training workshops and educational resources to support organisations as they seek to implement various actions from the framework. Successful campaigns such as Her Moves, Women in Sport Week and Her Outdoors will also remain in place supporting the work of NGBs and LSPs. An increased focus on coaching and visibility is needed, and Sport Ireland will continue to use mechanisms such as Women in Sport funding to encourage and motivate NGBs and LSPs to implement solutions to advance gender equality in these areas.

The enhanced Women in Sport funding allocation for 2026 will enable LSPs to expand and strengthen targeted initiatives for women and girls across all life stages, with a particular focus on those from disadvantaged communities, ethnic minority backgrounds, teenage girls, older age groups, and women with disabilities.

Sport Ireland will open the NGB Women in Sport funding application process in early 2026. In 2025, grants totalling €3m were allocated to NGBs to support their work in the development of programmes and initiatives that aid the implementation of objectives of the Women in Sport Policy.

Disability in Sport

The Sport Ireland Disability Inclusion in Sport: Statement of Commitment and Action, published in 2024, sets out Sport Ireland's roadmap for inclusion. The statement commits to measurable actions under five pillars:

- 1. Leadership** - A dedicated Disability Inclusion Lead was appointed by Sport Ireland in 2025 to collaborate with National Governing Bodies, Local Sports Partnerships, and others to drive the implementation of these commitments. As part of this commitment Sport Ireland will deliver leadership workshops and mentoring programmes to build capacity in disability sport governance.
- 2. Change** - Embedding inclusion across governance and practice. Targets include reducing the participation gap (currently 32% for people with disabilities vs 52% for those without disabilities).
- 3. Communication** - Increase visibility of athletes, coaches, and volunteers with disabilities as role models in media and accessible campaigns.
- 4. Access** - Improving facilities and funding for inclusive programmes. Ensure all Sport Ireland-funded content is accessible in line with the European Accessibility Act (EAA).
- 5. Capacity** - Expand training and education for coaches, officials, and volunteers to confidently deliver inclusive programmes. Provide resources and toolkits for NGBs and clubs to embed inclusive practices.

In support of Action 2.2 in the Sport Ireland Disability Inclusion in Sport: Statement of Commitment and Action, Sport Ireland will open a Disability in Sport European Accessibility Act (Digital Accessibility) funding application process in early 2026.

Action 2.2 – *“Recognising the upcoming change to Irish legislation regarding accessibility, build capacity across the sports sector on digital accessibility and appropriate and accessible use of language on all communications and promotional activity.”*

In 2025, Sport Ireland National Disability Sport Inclusion Officer Forums brought together over 50 officers from NGBs, LSPs, and other funded organisations. Sport Ireland also launched its first National Disability in Sport Week in December, under the theme “Celebrating Ability, Ag Ceiliúradh Cumas” – the initiative highlights the achievements of athletes, coaches, volunteers, and advocates with disabilities while reinforcing the principle that sport and physical activity is open to everyone, everywhere. The week was delivered in collaboration with NGBs, LSPs and disability inclusion organisations.

Safeguarding

Sport Ireland has developed comprehensive safeguarding guidance, templates, and resources consistent with child protection guidance and legislation. These are disseminated across the sport sector and supported through a structured programme of education, support and compliance. This includes the national delivery of Sport Ireland Child Safeguarding Workshops to thousands of sports leaders every year, safeguarding refresher training, tutor development, and our widely used Safe Sport App, which provides on-the-go information to coaches, parents, children, and volunteers.

In 2025, Sport Ireland commissioned a review of its safeguarding workshops, with a view to improving how we deliver essential safeguarding information to sports leaders. Implementation of the recommendations in this report will commence in 2026 in collaboration with the sector. 2026 will also see a continued focus on safe sport for adults, ensuring that everyone, regardless of age or circumstance, can participate in sport in a safe environment. A young voices focus group was also established by Sport Ireland in 2025 to ensure that the voice of children and young people is incorporated into our decision making.

Coaching & Officiating

Sport Ireland is responsible for the development of coaching and, most recently officiating in Ireland. Sport Ireland supports National Governing Bodies (NGBs) to develop high-quality coach education programmes that meet the standards of the Coaching Development Programme for Ireland (i.e. the national standard for coaching). Sport Ireland advises NGBs on the development of effective coaching systems to support coaches at all levels, assists them in developing and implementing annual coaching plans, and trains Coach Developers to work with coaches on the ground across formal and non-formal learning settings. Sport Ireland also works with NGBs and Local Sports Partnerships (LSPs) to provide specialised training in key coaching areas such as coaching children, coaching teenage girls, physical literacy development and coaching people with disabilities.

In November 2025, Sport Ireland launched the Technical Officials Development Plan 2025-2027 (TODP), a national plan developed in partnership with NGBs and LSPs, to address the challenges highlighted in the 2024 Sport Ireland Feasibility Study on officiating. The TODP focuses on strengthening recruitment and retention, improving training and development, enhancing recognition pathways and addressing abuse prevention for officials. It aims to transform the officiating landscape through stronger support structures, safer and more respectful environments and informed data-driven decision-making. This makes the TODP the first national plan of its kind in Europe.

Anti-Doping

Sport Ireland's functions include the elimination of doping in sport and Sport Ireland undertakes actions that are deemed appropriate to combat doping and protect clean sport. These actions include the national testing programme and intelligence and investigation. As part of the testing programme, Sport Ireland directs the collection of samples and the management of these test results. One of the fundamental principles that underpin any anti-doping programme is access to education.

Sport Ireland delivers a comprehensive clean sport education programme for athletes, support personnel, and NGBs, forming a core pillar of the Irish Sport Anti-Doping Programme. The Anti-Doping Unit implements an education first approach, ensuring athletes and support personnel are fully informed of their rights, responsibilities, and the key doping control processes in advance of providing a sample.

Anti-Doping Education is delivered through a range of accessible platforms, including e-learning, clean sport workshops, tutor training, outreach events and sport-specific resources. Sport Ireland also provides practical tools such as medication check guidance, supplement risk guidance, and mobile-friendly access to key resources, supporting athletes and NGBs in promoting a strong culture of clean sport.

Research, Evaluation & Innovation

The Sport Ireland Research Strategy 2021-2027 sets out the role of research in supporting a world-class sports sector in Ireland, operating to the highest standards of governance and accountability and contributing towards the National Sports Policy objectives. The strategy promotes a culture of curiosity and progress underpinned by robust research across the sports sector. The Sport Ireland Research and Innovation Unit leads, grows, actively shares and champions high quality research undertaken by Sport Ireland and the Irish sports sector. The Strategy outlines 26 actions across five strategic goals, delivered in close collaboration with the sector and relevant institutions. To advance knowledge generation and digital capability, Sport Ireland will invest €554,913 in 2026 across two grant schemes: the Research & Evaluation Grant and the Digital Catalyst Fund. A total of 28 projects will be supported, ensuring sporting bodies have the insight and digital tools needed to deliver high-quality, impactful opportunities nationwide.

Research & Evaluation Grant Scheme

Established in 2021 as a pilot under Action 12 of Sport Ireland's Research Strategy, the Research & Evaluation Grant Scheme (REGS) was created to strengthen evidence-based decision-making across Irish sport and to build long-term research partnerships between sporting bodies and Higher Education Institutions. Since then, the scheme has funded 112 research and evaluation projects, involving over 30 National Governing Bodies, more than 25 Local Sports Partnerships in collaboration with several Higher Education Institutions. The scheme has grown to support applied research, evaluation of participation initiatives, pathway development, and high-performance innovation. It continues to build the sector's capacity to generate high-quality evidence and strengthen partnerships that drive impact and learning nationwide. In 2026, a total of €408,947 has been allocated to 17 collaborative projects. Successful applications are addressing themes such as women in sport, teenage participation, coaching pathways, para-sport development, sport for health and recovery, and high-performance athlete monitoring.

Digital Catalyst Fund

The Digital Catalyst Fund (DCF) was launched in 2024 in response to sector-wide feedback identifying the need for dedicated investment in digital capability. The DCF supports NGBs, LSPs and Other Funded Bodies to undertake digital projects that improve the administration and management of sport, aid data collection, analytics, cyber security, GDPR and storage, enhance the experience and/or performance of members, participants, athletes, volunteers or spectators, support education and training functions, or develop communication and live streaming of sport opportunities.

For 2026, Sport Ireland will invest €145,966 in 11 projects across NGBs and LSPs. These projects will deliver advances in data dashboards, participant management systems, competition and membership platforms, athlete support tools, and innovative digital engagement solutions.

SIGMA – Sport Ireland Grant Management Application

The implementation of SIGMA, the Sport Ireland Grant Management Application in 2023 marked a significant advancement in Sport Ireland's operational capabilities. SIGMA is the online portal through which eligible organisations apply for various funding schemes. Initially designed to support 10 grant programmes across more than 100 organisations, the platform now supports 16 funding programmes.

SIGMA has delivered substantial improvements in efficiency, consistency, and transparency. Centralised workflows have significantly reduced the internal administrative burden, while enhanced data accuracy and real-time reporting have strengthened our ability to monitor performance and allocate resources effectively.

Importantly, the system has improved our two-way communication and collaboration with funded organisations. We will continue to build on this by enabling more streamlined application processes and reliable compliance management. Overall, this system has reinforced our commitment to accountability and has positioned our business units to deliver even greater impact in the year ahead.

Governance Code for Sport

Sport Ireland views effective governance as fundamental to ensuring transparency, accountability, and ethical leadership across the sector. Strengthening governance capability remains a core priority for Sport Ireland, recognising that good governance is a continuous journey rather than a fixed destination. Action 38 of the 2024-2027 National Sports Policy Sports Action Plan reaffirms the requirement to regularly review and enhance the Governance Code for Sport so that it keeps pace with evolving expectations and best practice. Following agreement of the project scope and the establishment of a multi-lot framework in 2025, Sport Ireland will now lead a comprehensive refresh of the Code during 2026. This work will be supported by the continuation of a parallel programme of education, training, and sectoral supports delivered through Sport Ireland's governance development programme, Gov-Enhance.

Action 38 – “Continuously review and update the Governance Code for Sport to incorporate new governance trends”

National Governing Bodies of Sport

The National Governing Bodies of Sport (NGBs) recognised by Sport Ireland are at the centre of Irish sport. They are the delivery agents of Sport Ireland's strategic objectives and wider Government policy at a community level.

A key focus of Sport Ireland is to assist NGBs to develop effective structures to facilitate increased numbers of participants and volunteers in sport. Investment is made with the specific aim of ensuring the long-term sustainability of NGBs. When investing in NGBs, Sport Ireland considers the national significance of each sport, quality of programmes & operations, levels of participation, membership, volunteerism and social capital. Sport Ireland also wishes to see a diverse range of sports available to the public and continues to invest in a wide variety of NGBs.

Building on previous years, Sport Ireland continues to prioritise capacity building within volunteer-led NGBs, enabling them to align with broader Government objectives and transition towards more professional structures.

In addition to core funding, Sport Ireland will allocate €390,000 in targeted strategic investment as part of a pilot initiative in 2026. This funding will support organisational development and workforce capacity in selected NGBs with strong growth potential. Beneficiary organisations include Boxing Ireland, Rowing Ireland, Basketball Ireland, Mountaineering Ireland, Weightlifting Ireland, Irish Judo Association, Volleyball Ireland, Irish Surfing Association, Snooker & Billiards Ireland, and Orienteering Ireland.

NGB Allocation 2018-2026

National Governing Body	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Special Olympics Ireland	€1,200,000	€1,200,000	€1,400,000	€1,400,000	€1,450,000	€1,500,000	€1,600,000	€1,650,000	€1,732,000
Athletics Ireland	€887,000	€950,000	€1,000,000	€1,000,000	€1,100,000	€1,150,000	€1,230,000	€1,270,000	€1,333,000
Swim Ireland	€827,000	€910,000	€950,000	€950,000	€1,050,000	€1,100,000	€1,175,000	€1,215,000	€1,275,000
Horse Sport Ireland	€775,000	€855,000	€930,000	€930,000	€975,000	€1,000,000	€1,070,000	€1,105,000	€1,160,000
Basketball Ireland	€598,000	€695,000	€740,000	€740,000	€800,000	€840,000	€900,000	€930,000	€980,000
Tennis Ireland	€353,000	€425,000	€450,000	€450,000	€450,000	€475,000	€535,000	€760,000	€800,000
Cricket Ireland	€355,000	€450,000	€480,000	€480,000	€500,000	€525,000	€570,000	€595,000	€627,000
Ladies Gaelic Football Association	€400,000	€450,000	€485,000	€485,000	€500,000	€525,000	€570,000	€595,000	€627,000
Boxing Ireland	€432,000	€475,000	€500,000	€500,000	€500,000	€525,000	€570,000	€595,000	€625,000
Irish Sailing	€323,000	€385,000	€410,000	€410,000	€450,000	€475,000	€520,000	€545,000	€575,000
The Camogie Association	€395,000	€395,000	€435,000	€435,000	€450,000	€475,000	€520,000	€545,000	€575,000
Cycling Ireland	€305,000	€350,000	€420,000	€420,000	€420,000	€440,000	€500,000	€525,000	€555,000
Badminton Ireland	€320,000	€365,000	€390,000	€390,000	€425,000	€445,000	€490,000	€515,000	€542,000
Gymnastics Ireland	€230,000	€320,000	€340,000	€340,000	€370,000	€395,000	€420,000	€445,000	€470,000
Hockey Ireland	€260,000	€325,000	€340,000	€340,000	€365,000	€383,000	€410,000	€435,000	€457,000
Rowing Ireland	€210,000	€300,000	€320,000	€320,000	€350,000	€368,000	€395,000	€420,000	€440,000
Golf Ireland	€233,000	€300,000	€320,000	€320,000	€350,000	€368,000	€395,000	€415,000	€436,000
Irish Wheelchair Association Sport	€240,000	€275,000	€285,000	€285,000	€315,000	€330,000	€360,000	€380,000	€400,000
Canoeing Ireland	€205,000	€250,000	€275,000	€275,000	€310,000	€325,000	€355,000	€375,000	€395,000
National Community Games	€284,000	€315,000	€315,000	€260,000	€285,000	€299,000	€320,000	€340,000	€358,000
Triathlon Ireland	€108,000	€180,000	€225,000	€225,000	€265,000	€278,000	€300,000	€320,000	€340,000
Squash Ireland	€160,000	€180,000	€200,000	€200,000	€230,000	€242,000	€300,000	€320,000	€337,000
Mountaineering Ireland	€193,000	€225,000	€235,000	€235,000	€235,000	€247,000	€265,000	€285,000	€300,000
Volleyball Ireland	€185,000	€200,000	€210,000	€210,000	€230,000	€242,000	€260,000	€280,000	€295,000
Motorsport Ireland	€137,000	€160,000	€180,000	€180,000	€200,000	€210,000	€220,000	€240,000	€255,000
Table Tennis Ireland	€107,000	€107,000	€115,000	€115,000	€150,000	€160,000	€210,000	€230,000	€245,000
Irish Judo Association	€70,000	€85,000	€100,000	€100,000	€150,000	€155,000	€165,000	€180,000	€193,000
Pitch & Putt Ireland	€63,000	€75,000	€80,000	€80,000	€95,000	€100,000	€150,000	€165,000	€180,000

National Governing Body	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Irish Surfing	€64,000	€75,000	€80,000	€80,000	€125,000	€130,000	€135,000	€150,000	€162,000
Vision Sports Ireland	€35,000	€45,000	€48,000	€48,000	€70,000	€75,000	€125,000	€140,000	€152,000
Diving Ireland	€60,000	€70,000	€75,000	€75,000	€110,000	€116,000	€125,000	€140,000	€150,000
GAA Handball Ireland	€90,000	€100,000	€105,000	€105,000	€115,000	€120,000	€130,000	€130,000	€140,000
Snooker & Billiards Ireland	€63,000	€70,000	€75,000	€75,000	€80,000	€85,000	€100,000	€115,000	€123,000
Orienteering Ireland	€45,000	€65,000	€65,000	€65,000	€75,000	€80,000	€85,000	€100,000	€107,000
Irish Clay Target Shooting Association	€36,000	€45,000	€48,000	€48,000	€48,000	€50,000	€55,000	€95,000	€101,000
Fencing Ireland	€27,000	€55,000	€55,000	€55,000	€65,000	€68,000	€75,000	€90,000	€96,000
Irish Martial Arts Commission	€45,000	€60,000	€60,000	€60,000	€75,000	€78,000	€90,000	€90,000	€96,000
Olympic Handball Ireland	€35,000	€45,000	€48,000	€48,000	€60,000	€65,000	€75,000	€90,000	€96,000
Weightlifting Ireland	-	€30,000	€32,000	€32,000	€55,000	€57,000	€75,000	€90,000	€96,000
Deaf Sports Ireland	€61,000	€65,000	€65,000	€65,000	€67,000	€68,000	€70,000	€85,000	€91,000
Irish Lawn Bowls	€24,000	€30,000	€32,000	€32,000	€50,000	€55,000	€70,000	€85,000	€91,000
American Football Ireland	€23,000	€30,000	€32,000	€32,000	€45,000	€50,000	€60,000	€75,000	€85,000
Tug of War Ireland	€22,000	€40,000	€40,000	€40,000	€55,000	€57,000	€60,000	€75,000	€80,000
Tenpin Ireland	€27,000	€35,000	€37,000	€37,000	€45,000	€47,000	€55,000	€65,000	€71,000
Irish Waterski & Wakeboard Federation	€20,000	€25,000	€27,000	€27,000	€40,000	€42,000	€50,000	€60,000	€65,000
Racquetball Association of Ireland	€15,000	€20,000	€25,000	€25,000	€40,000	€42,000	€48,000	€58,000	€65,000
Twirl Ireland Federation	€16,000	€20,000	€25,000	€25,000	€40,000	€42,000	€48,000	€58,000	€63,000
Angling Council of Ireland	€10,000	€15,000	€20,000	€20,000	€30,000	€32,000	€45,000	€55,000	€60,000
Irish Ice Hockey Association	-	€10,000	€10,000	€10,000	€25,000	€28,000	€45,000	€55,000	€60,000
Motorcycling Ireland	€48,000	€48,000	€48,000	€48,000	€50,000	€55,000	€55,000	€55,000	€60,000
ONAKAI	€6,000	-	€10,000	€10,000	€25,000	€28,000	€45,000	€55,000	€60,000
Irish Amateur Wrestling Association	€15,000	€20,000	€25,000	€25,000	€30,000	€32,000	€40,000	€50,000	€56,000
Archery Ireland	€12,000	€15,000	-	€15,000	€30,000	€32,000	€40,000	€50,000	€55,000
Ból Chumann na hÉireann	€20,000	€30,000	€32,000	€32,000	€35,000	€37,000	€40,000	€50,000	€55,000
Speleological Union of Ireland	€10,000	€15,000	€20,000	€20,000	€30,000	€32,000	€40,000	€50,000	€55,000
Croquet Association of Ireland	€5,000	€10,000	€10,000	€10,000	€25,000	€28,000	€35,000	€45,000	€50,000

National Governing Body	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Rugby League Ireland	€11,000	€15,000	€20,000	€20,000	35,000	€37,000	€40,000	€40,000	€45,000
Taekwondo Ireland*	€9,000	€25,000	€25,000	€25,000	35,000	€37,000	€37,000	€37,000	-
Total	€10,709,000	€12,330,000	€13,324,000	€13,284,000	€14,580,000	€15,282,000	€16,768,000	€18,008,000	€18,993,000
Special Projects & Programmes**	€126,000	€305,000	€501,000	€541,000	420,000	€488,000	€302,000	€92,000	€117,000
Performance Programme Transition***	-	-	-	-	-	€230,000	€230,000	-	-
Targeted Strategic Investment****	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	€200,000	€390,000
Special Olympics World Games	-	€180,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Horseshoe Pitchers Association of Ireland	€5,000	€10,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
National Aero Club of Ireland	€5,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
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	€17,300,000	€18,300,000	€19,500,000

* **Taekwondo Ireland:** Not approved for a 2026 core grant at this stage due to outstanding reporting and compliance requirements. Sport Ireland will continue to engage with Taekwondo Ireland with a view to addressing these issues.

** **Special Projects & Programmes:** Funding ringfenced for strategically important NGB projects and programmes

*** **Performance Programme Transition:** Funding to support Performance Programmes in Tennis Ireland & Irish Clay Target Shooting Association - Incorporated into core from 2025

**** **Targeted Strategic Investment:** Additional targeted investment to support pilot projects in Boxing Ireland, Rowing Ireland, Basketball Ireland, Mountaineering Ireland, Weightlifting Ireland, Irish Judo Association, Volleyball Ireland, Irish Surfing Association, Snooker & Billiards Ireland and Orienteering Ireland

***** **Pentathlon Ireland:** Funding rebalanced to the Sport Ireland High Performance Programme

LSP in Numbers

LATEST PARTICIPATION FIGURES

577,728 
people participated in 2,211 locally delivered participation initiatives – a 48% increase from 2018

27,378 
people with a disability participated in LSP initiatives – a 12% increase from 2019

477,536 
participants from socio-economically disadvantaged communities took part in LSP initiatives

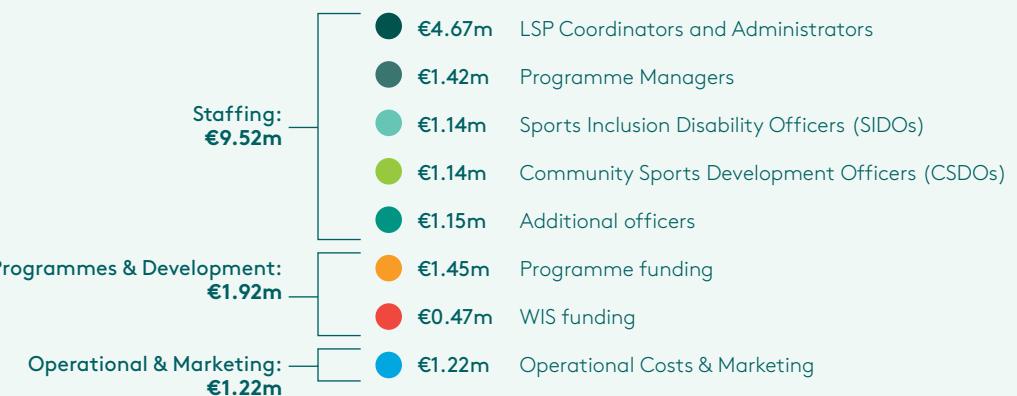
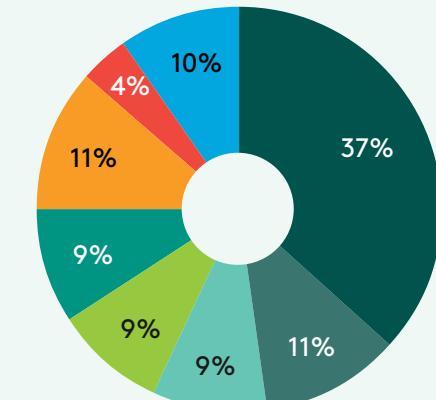
52% 
of all board members at LSPs are female

44,957 
women and girls participated in Women in Sport initiatives – a 79% increase from 2018

21,949 
participants took part in initiatives targeting older adults

LSP FUNDING DATA

2026 LSP Investment: €12.66m



Sport Ireland's Network of Local Sports Partnerships

For 2026, Sport Ireland has increased investment across its network of 29 Local Sports Partnerships (LSPs) to €12.66m, more than doubling investment since 2018. The 2026 Core Grant Investment will build on the existing work of LSPs, strengthening their capacity to support and empower communities, particularly those experiencing disadvantage, to engage in sport and physical activity. This approach will ensure Sport Ireland's vision is embedded locally through the LSP network.

The investment enables LSP staff to deliver programmes through sustained funding initiatives, promotional activities, and community and club development. Coordinated centrally by Sport Ireland, this investment is designed to maximise the impact of LSP resources, foster partnerships, and enhance capacity through targeted investment in local sport and physical activity.

Guided by the objectives of the Sport Ireland Strategy and the actions of the National Sports Policy, the 2026 Core Grant Investment will expand the reach and impact of the LSP network, supporting the promotion of local opportunities and national participation campaigns across Ireland.

Core areas of investment into the network:

1. Staffing - €9.52m

- LSP Coordinators and Administrators, ensuring each LSP has dedicated leadership to deliver upon strategic aims - €4.66m
- Programme Managers in every LSP, strengthening management and programme coordination - €1.42m
- Sports Inclusion Disability Officers (SIDOs) to advance opportunities for people with disabilities - €1.14m
- Community Sports Development Officers (CSDOs) to engage underrepresented communities - €1.14m
- Additional officers in priority areas such as governance, finance, diversity, outdoor sport, communications and administration - €1.16m

2. Programmes and Development - €1.92m

- Programme funding for LSPs will total €1.45m in 2026, with a strong emphasis on Club Development Grants (CDGs) as a key mechanism for building local capacity and engaging underrepresented communities.
- Increased Women in Sport (WIS) funding to €473,555 in 2026, a 14% increase to support gender equality and inclusive participation with a focus on supporting disadvantaged and ethnically diverse communities, older adults, and women with disabilities and with the overarching objective of closing the participation gaps.

3. Operational Costs and Marketing - €1.22m

- This funding is allocated to cover core operational costs and enhance marketing outputs across the LSP network. The investment will strengthen local and national visibility, promote participation opportunities, and support volunteer recruitment and local investment.

2026 LSP Core Grant Investment

Local Sports Partnership	Core and Programme Funding	Women in Sport	Total
Carlow	€326,127	€45,000	€371,127
Cavan	€355,581	€7,000	€362,581
Clare	€441,393	€24,000	€465,393
Cork	€604,691	€23,500	€628,191
Donegal	€468,807	€9,000	€477,807
Dublin City	€436,474	€18,000	€454,474
Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown	€394,341	€10,000	€404,341
Fingal	€405,563	€30,000	€435,563
Galway	€462,048	€15,000	€477,048
Kerry	€350,281	€8,000	€358,281
Kildare	€462,577	€14,000	€476,577
Kilkenny	€502,309	€3,000	€505,309
Laois	€419,047	€25,000	€444,047
Leitrim	€211,523	€15,000	€226,523
Limerick	€728,901	€16,000	€744,901
Longford	€302,372	€9,000	€311,372
Louth	€314,080	€5,000	€319,080
Mayo	€407,654	€25,000	€432,654
Meath	€661,334	€56,000	€717,334
Monaghan	€331,881	€10,000	€341,881
Offaly	€341,268	€15,000	€356,268
Roscommon	€396,669	€5,000	€401,669
Sligo	€443,007	€40,555	€483,562
South Dublin	€344,565	€0	€344,565
Tipperary	€387,592	€12,000	€399,592
Waterford	€533,985	€13,000	€546,985
Westmeath	€327,390	€5,000	€332,390
Wexford	€388,590	€8,500	€397,090
Wicklow	€431,396	€7,000	€438,396
Sub Total	€12,181,445	€473,555	€12,655,000

2018 - 2026 LSP Core Grant Investment

Local Sports Partnership	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Carlow	€160,914	€203,072	€221,249	€248,375	€236,285	€268,696	€330,778	€334,571	€371,127
Cavan	€157,312	€214,493	€219,373	€292,889	€285,071	€283,317	€312,750	€375,864	€362,581
Clare	€236,082	€247,982	€283,304	€357,427	€366,791	€407,547	€483,467	€442,691	€465,393
Cork	€344,196	€361,779	€408,787	€540,018	€530,609	€622,141	€606,120	€536,675	€628,191
Donegal	€252,993	€271,825	€307,978	€364,438	€364,579	€386,222	€444,887	€437,219	€477,807
Dublin City	€247,387	€320,812	€356,809	€436,344	€448,815	€436,224	€446,527	€510,474	€454,474
DúnLaoghaire–Rathdown	€187,367	€215,963	€237,663	€347,255	€286,294	€273,687	€355,371	€351,838	€404,341
Fingal	€162,717	€236,793	€280,224	€354,294	€363,712	€307,903	€312,212	€370,653	€435,563
Galway	€211,300	€243,346	€280,351	€380,102	€393,486	€343,208	€340,274	€402,023	€477,048
Kerry	€180,127	€233,800	€250,073	€255,262	€230,067	€205,570	€223,588	€284,118	€358,281
Kildare	€179,478	€215,465	€264,868	€374,739	€369,378	€311,196	€410,415	€459,430	€476,577
Kilkenny	€211,778	€246,710	€274,219	€311,610	€315,244	€301,714	€334,263	€504,749	€505,309
Laois	€220,342	€249,810	€278,821	€306,932	€335,544	€362,670	€363,565	€416,688	€444,047
Leitrim	€188,794	€233,944	€164,862	€250,487	€221,996	€241,884	€310,330	€320,419	€226,523
Limerick	€355,576	€378,110	€379,528	€453,567	€411,367	€493,397	€576,679	€613,413	€744,901
Longford	€148,565	€229,858	€217,068	€281,841	€221,628	€279,246	€359,746	€286,539	€311,372
Louth	€133,776	€209,482	€213,453	€291,585	€312,945	€343,662	€352,311	€341,419	€319,080
Mayo	€255,401	€266,960	€279,194	€379,822	€369,112	€383,409	€425,393	€413,294	€432,654
Meath	€222,460	€240,492	€269,780	€422,909	€381,797	€440,128	€533,724	€558,722	€717,334
Monaghan	€155,799	€213,109	€178,817	€218,554	€215,957	€249,653	€343,001	€326,667	€341,881
Offaly	€177,178	€217,255	€233,825	€311,249	€272,880	€311,305	€353,571	€396,055	€356,268
Roscommon	€144,557	€211,470	€214,840	€244,846	€261,595	€305,672	€366,733	€411,934	€401,669
Sligo	€277,971	€292,078	€300,008	€383,312	€384,918	€415,148	€457,821	€458,189	€483,562
South Dublin	€177,711	€239,170	€280,920	€351,691	€287,923	€326,530	€398,371	€351,041	€344,565
Tipperary	€307,899	€326,333	€274,738	€392,021	€372,887	€347,121	€420,724	€440,250	€399,592
Waterford	€277,122	€313,075	€327,272	€408,775	€416,269	€385,787	€455,042	€500,613	€546,985
Westmeath	€180,268	€239,734	€240,578	€237,227	€246,446	€267,829	€326,701	€312,728	€332,390
Wexford	€159,027	€210,953	€235,954	€326,857	€331,178	€348,422	€378,392	€434,007	€397,090
Wicklow	€160,236	€207,635	€228,103	€323,000	€323,793	€322,963	€361,568	€352,717	€438,396
Total	€6,074,333	€7,291,508	€7,702,659	€9,847,423	€9,558,566	€9,972,251	€11,384,324	€11,945,000	€12,655,000

2026 Other Funded Bodies

Age & Opportunity

Evidence from the Irish Sports Monitor (ISM) 2024 points to clear age-related disparities in sport and physical activity participation. The ISM data highlights that older people are more likely to be inactive and face greater risks to their physical health. In the context of an ageing population, addressing this participation gap presents an important challenge for sport.

Age & Opportunity is the national organisation dedicated to creating opportunities that empower older people to enhance individual and community wellbeing through participation in physical activity and recreational sport, arts and creativity, personal development and active citizenship initiatives. Continued funding for Age & Opportunity is closely aligned with Sport Ireland's objectives to promote inclusion, lifelong participation, and access to sport at all stages of life. Working in partnership with Local Sports Partnerships, Age & Opportunity delivers targeted physical activity programmes such as FitLine, CarePALS, and Walking Football, which are designed to encourage and sustain physical activity among older adults.

Active Disability Ireland

Evidence from the ISM shows that people with disabilities in Ireland are more than twice as likely not to participate in sport compared to those without disabilities, despite over 325,000 (32%) now engaging regularly in sport or physical activity. While participation has grown, the gap is still larger than the rate for non-disabled individuals, with the disability gradient up from 20 percentage points in 2023 to 22 percentage points in 2024. As the Irish population ages, the rates of disability in Ireland are expected to increase.

Active Disability Ireland is a national pan-disability organisation committed to creating an Ireland where people with disabilities have more opportunity to participate in a physical activity of their choice. Active Disability Ireland and Sport Ireland collaborate with NGBs and LSPs in coordinating and developing training and education workshops on the inclusion of people with disabilities in sport and physical activity. The training includes Autism in Sport, Disability Inclusion Training, Inclusive Fitness Training and Sport Inclusion & Disability Awareness Training. In 2022, the Sport Ireland Sport Inclusion Disability Charter was launched in collaboration with Active Disability Ireland, which now has over 2,000 signatories from 1,400 clubs, 80+ sports, and 160+ gyms and leisure centres.

Ireland Active

Key findings from the ISM 2024 reveal that personal exercise remains the most popular activity, with over twice as many participants as the next most popular activities.

Ireland Active is the national representative body for the leisure, health, and fitness sector, encompassing over 350 facilities nationwide, including leisure centres, gyms, swimming pools, fitness education providers, and recreational venues. Its mission is to help members recover, grow, and thrive, encouraging more people to be more active, more often.

Ireland Active works to raise standards across the sector by maintaining a professional register for exercise professionals (REPs) and hosting the annual National Quality Standard Awards for facilities.

Federation of Irish Sport

The Federation of Irish Sport is the representative organisation for National Governing Bodies (NGBs) of Sport and Local Sports Partnerships (LSPs) in Ireland, representing over 110 organisations. The organisation was established in 2002 by the National Governing Bodies of Sport. A key function of the Federation of Irish Sport is to raise political awareness of the benefits of sport and advocate for increased state investment on behalf of its members. The Federation of Irish Sport provides a range of important support services for NGBs and LSPs and also operates Sport Dispute Solutions Ireland (SDSI).

Student Sport Ireland

Student Sport Ireland is the governing body for higher education sport on the island of Ireland. Its primary focus is leading the sector's development and enabling sport and physical activity at its 23 affiliated universities and colleges representing over 240,000 full-time students and over 800 Higher Education Institutions' sports clubs. Sport Ireland invests in Student Sport Ireland to support the development of partnerships between National Governing Bodies of Sport and Higher Education institutions.

Organisation	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Age & Opportunity	€607,605	€607,605	€607,605	€607,605	€607,605	€620,000	€620,000	€630,000	€724,500
Active Disability Ireland	€130,000	€130,000	€130,000	€130,000	€130,000	€140,000	€140,000	€150,000	€160,000
Ireland Active	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	€50,000	€50,000
Federation of Irish Sport	€100,000	€100,000	€115,000	€115,000	€115,000	€125,000	€135,000	€155,000	€175,000
Student Sport Ireland	€50,000	€60,000	€60,000	€60,000	€60,000	€70,000	€75,000	€90,000	€100,000
Total	€887,605	€897,605	€912,605	€912,605	€912,605	€955,000	€970,000	€1,075,000	€1,209,500

DISCLAIMER:

The information contained in this brochure is provided for general guidance purposes only and may be subject to change. Sport Ireland does not guarantee the accuracy or completeness of the figures presented herein. All organisations should refer to their official letter of allocation for confirmation of their approved investment amounts.



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