



SPÓRT ÉIREANN
SPORT IRELAND

Sport Ireland High Performance Investment 2026



2025 MEDAL HIGHLIGHTS

127 TOTAL HP
MEDALS



48 SENIOR
MEDALS

17 GOLD, 13 SILVER, 18 BRONZE

79 NON-SENIOR
MEDALS

22 GOLD, 20 SILVER, 37 BRONZE



HP MEDALS GENDER BREAKDOWN



62
FEMALE



56
MALE



9
OPEN/
MIXED

Investing in High Performance Sport

Sport Ireland's investment in high performance sport reflects a commitment to excellence, ensuring Irish athletes and teams have the support, resources, and environment required to succeed internationally.

Through targeted funding, expert coaching, and world-class performance support services, Sport Ireland aims to support NGBs in creating an environment where athletes can realise their full potential.

There was a record €89m of high performance investment across the Paris Cycle (2021-2024), which was a significant increase (~51%) on the €59m invested in the Tokyo Cycle (2017-2020). In the first year of the LA Cycle (2025-2028), Sport Ireland invested almost €27m in high performance sport (€4.2m in the Sport Ireland Institute).



2026 High Performance Investment

This year marks a pivotal moment for Sport Ireland and the wider high performance system, representing both the midpoint of the High Performance Strategy (2021–2032) and a key milestone in the journey toward the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games in LA 2028. It is a time to reflect on the significant progress achieved to date; strengthened systems, enhanced athlete supports, and consistent international success, while also sharpening our focus on the opportunities ahead. Sport Ireland is committed to the development of Ireland’s high performance system by deepening our investment in people and programmes.

In 2026, Sport Ireland will invest €28.5m in high performance sport. This funding will primarily support NGBs in the delivery of their High Performance Programmes through world-class coaching, support services, and access to training camps and competitions. Sport Ireland will also target its investment in innovation, pathway development and enhanced athlete supports.

As per the objectives of the High Performance Strategy, Sport Ireland seeks to support NGBs which produce results on a sustainable and systemic basis. Underpinning these results are NGBs which operate on the principles of improving and growing their sport through expert leadership, transparent decision making, and strong cultures of good governance and accountability.

The table below summarises Sport Ireland’s investment in high performance sport across all funding streams in 2025 and 2026.

	2025 Investment	2026 Planned Investment
High Performance Programme Funding	€12,705,000	€13,350,000
Performance Development Programme Funding	€994,590	€1,000,000
Direct Athlete Funding	€4,424,352	€4,750,000
Golf Ireland Professional Scheme	€350,000	€375,000
High Performance Coaching	€1,500,000	€1,600,000
Olympic Federation of Ireland	€650,000	€750,000
Paralympics Ireland	€700,000	€800,000
Performance Pathways	€442,970	€600,000
High Performance Innovation	€165,569	€300,000
High Performance Culture & Integrity	€250,000	€325,000
Strategy Implementation & Contingency	€303,738	€300,000
Sport Ireland Institute	€4,200,000	€4,350,000
Total	€26,686,219	€28,500,000

2026 High Performance Programme Funding

High Performance Programme Funding is invested by Sport Ireland directly to NGBs. Its purpose is to support the operations and delivery of NGBs' High Performance Programmes, which includes strategic leadership, coaching, support services, daily training environments, camps and competitions. High Performance Programme Funding is the primary funding mechanism for NGBs seeking to deliver their plans and programmes. In 2026, Sport Ireland will provide a 5% increase in funding to all 16 High Performance Programmes, as detailed below.

Funded Body	2025 Investment	2026 Investment	2025-2028 Investment
Athletics Ireland	€1,050,000	€1,103,000	€4,359,000
Badminton Ireland	€500,000	€525,000	€2,075,000
Boxing Ireland	€1,050,000	€1,103,000	€4,359,000
Canoeing Ireland	€475,000	€500,000	€1,975,000
Cricket Ireland	€600,000	€630,000	€2,490,000
Cycling Ireland	€725,000	€762,000	€3,011,000
Golf Ireland	€650,000	€683,000	€2,699,000
Gymnastics Ireland	€725,000	€762,000	€3,011,000
Hockey Ireland	€950,000	€998,000	€3,944,000
Horse Sport Ireland	€900,000	€945,000	€3,735,000
Irish Rugby Football Union	€600,000	€630,000	€2,490,000
Irish Sailing Association	€1,000,000	€1,050,000	€4,150,000
Paralympics Ireland*	€1,000,000	€1,050,000	€4,150,000
Rowing Ireland	€1,100,000	€1,155,000	€4,565,000
Swim Ireland	€1,100,000	€1,155,000	€4,565,000
Triathlon Ireland	€280,000	€294,000	€1,162,000
Total	€12,705,000	€13,345,000	€52,740,000

*For onward allocation per Paralympics Ireland's transition project.



2026 Performance Development Programme Funding

In 2025, Sport Ireland established Performance Development Programme Funding. This specific programme was targeted at NGBs which were either stepped down from High Performance Programme Funding, or which were designated as being an aspirational/developing programmes for future Cycles/Games. This scheme allows NGBs to receive support that is specific to their individual needs, while also being reflective of their respective stages of development. In 2026, nine NGBs will receive support through this scheme.

Funded Body	2026 Allocation
Basketball Ireland	€200,000
Irish Judo Association	€200,000
Pentathlon Ireland	€150,000
Squash Ireland	€80,000
Weightlifting Ireland	€50,000
Irish Clay Target Shooting Association	€45,000
Irish Surfing Association	€45,000
Volleyball Ireland	€45,000
Mountaineering Ireland	€20,000



2026 High Performance Core Funding

Sport Ireland's investment in the Olympic Federation of Ireland and Paralympics Ireland supports the operations of both organisations with a particular focus on planning for and participating at the Olympic and Paralympic Games. In addition, Sport Ireland's investment in the Olympic Federation of Ireland and Paralympics Ireland underpins long-term planning and collaboration across the high performance system. Through this partnership approach, Sport Ireland helps to maximise Ireland's potential on the global stage while fostering a unified and high-performing sporting system.

A key strategic objective for Paralympics Ireland is the planned transition of responsibility for two key para sports to their respective NGBs. Para-swimming and para-athletics will transition to Swim Ireland and Athletics Ireland respectively in 2026. This approach aims to fully integrate the para disciplines within their NGBs, creating more aligned, inclusive, and sustainable performance pathways for athletes. This year will be a key period of transition for these sports and Sport Ireland is committed to the success of this strategically important project. Further to the investment detailed in the table below, Sport Ireland will provide additional funding of up to €500,000 to Paralympics Ireland through the various high performance funding programmes including innovation, direct athlete supports, coaching, and pathways.

The table below details Sport Ireland's investment to both these organisations.

Funded Body	2025 Allocation	2026 Allocation
Olympic Federation of Ireland	€650,000	€750,000
Paralympics Ireland	€700,000	€800,000



2026 Strategic Priorities

In 2026, Sport Ireland will continue to prioritise investment in key strategic areas that underpin long-term success in high performance sport, with a particular focus on innovation, pathway development, and coaching. Sport Ireland recognises that targeting investment in these priority areas will help to build a more cohesive and coherent high performance system capable of delivering consistent results on the world stage.



High Performance Coaching

Investment under High Performance Coaching will increase from €1.5m in 2025 to €1.6m in 2026. Sport Ireland has led improvements in the high performance coaching landscape and made significant progress in addressing the challenges which exist. Sport Ireland has supported the recruitment demands of our High Performance Programmes and ensured each recruited coach is offered a support and development programme to meet the exacting capability requirement of high performance coaches. Mentoring and training has been a key feature of work, targeting coaches tracking towards the Olympic and Paralympic Games in both LA (2028) and Brisbane (2032), and coaches leading our Pathway Programmes.

NGBs have been highly engaged with Sport Ireland's efforts in high performance coaching, and we will continue to prioritise work in this area in 2026. Our High Performance Coaching Programme will continue to provide bespoke solutions to our High Performance Programmes coaching challenges, while maintaining support through the on-going Sport Ireland Institute's Pursuit of Excellence Programme, the Performance Pathway Coach & Mentor Development Programmes, and the Women in High Performance Coaching Network.

High Performance Innovation

Sport Ireland's first high performance innovation plan was formally launched in 2025, with a dedicated budget to support high performance NGBs with their respective innovation projects. Following a two-stage application process, direct financial support was provided to four bespoke projects (with a fifth project being supported through in-house expertise from the Research & Innovation Unit, the High Performance Unit and the Sport Ireland Institute). The four funded projects were for the Irish Sailing Association (Wind Instrumentation Upgrades & Euclid's Line), Cycling Ireland (Track Cycling Telemetry Project), Gymnastics Ireland (Innovate to Elevate) and Rowing Ireland (Project 1500), at a total investment of almost €166k. The fifth (unfunded but received direct in-house support) project was with Athletics Ireland (Tactical Insights Portal), which was used to great effect at the 2025 World Athletics Championships in Tokyo.

In addition to the supported projects, a high performance innovation network was created to allow for collective discussions and information sharing between NGBs, third-party entities and innovation/research experts. Sport Ireland are working with several NGBs to support their innovation projects in 2026.

Pathway Development

Pathway development is a feature of three of the strategic pillars of the Sport Ireland High Performance Strategy ('Focused Performance Investment', 'Athlete Performance & Holistic Support' and 'Partnerships'). In 2025, a specific budget was ring fenced for pathway projects/initiatives. Throughout the year, Sport Ireland provided financial support for 12 pathway-orientated projects/initiatives. Investment from Sport Ireland in any one project/initiative was capped at €50,000, with NGBs required to provide additional resource to maximise the opportunities of this pilot programme.

Based on an evaluation of the 2025 pilot pathway funding scheme, support appears to have delivered impact in three main areas: 1) pathway system strengthening (e.g., coaching capacity); 2) athlete opportunity and progression (e.g., international competition exposure); and 3) high performance system development (e.g., sport sciences provision). Continuing, and enhancing, this pathway funding scheme will be an important focus area in 2026.

Paris Cycle Review

In 2024, Sport Ireland commissioned Portas Consulting (now known as CAA Portas) to carry out the first independent standalone review of the high performance system. While Quadrennial reviews have taken place since the Athens Games in 2000, they have incorporated both a system and Games component. Given the growth and maturation of the high performance system over the last decade, it is imperative that the system is now reviewed on its own merits.

Conducted and completed in advance of the Paris Games, and using the seven strategic pillars of the Sport Ireland High Performance Strategy (2021-2032) as the guiding framework, the review involved key stakeholders from the high performance system, including NGBs and athletes, Sport Ireland, the Sport Ireland Institute, Sport Northern Ireland, the Sport Northern Ireland Sports Institute, the Olympic Federation of Ireland, Paralympics Ireland and the Department of Culture, Communications and Sport. In total, 20 system-orientated recommendations were made, which are to be implemented during the LA Cycle (2025-2028). Year one of the implementation determined that five (25%) of the recommendations were deemed 'complete', with the remaining 15 (75%) designated as 'on-going'. The year two implementation update will be provided in Q4 2026.

In addition to the published system-orientated recommendations, the 19 NGBs in receipt of High Performance Programme Funding for the duration of the Paris Cycle (2021-2024) also received a series of recommendations, based on the strategic pillars of the High Performance Strategy (2021-2032) (noting that these recommendations were not published and are for internal use by the respective NGBs and Sport Ireland). In total, 74 recommendations were made for the 19 NGBs, with the first formal NGB update provided to Sport Ireland in Q4 2025. The Sport Ireland High Performance Unit has provided detailed feedback on all updates and will continue to work with the NGBs as they progress their implementation plans in 2026 (and throughout the remainder of the LA Cycle).

2026 Direct Athlete Support

Programmes	2025	2026
International Carding Scheme	€3,817,000	€4,150,000
Athlete Career Transition (ACT)	€239,000	€150,000
Player Funding Scheme (Hockey)	€450,000	€450,000
Golf Ireland Professional Scheme	€350,000	€375,000
Total	€4,508,000	€5,125,000

Notes: The International Carding Scheme figure includes Individual Athlete Allocations, Relay and Pool Funding investment, as well as reserves.

2026 International Carding Scheme

The International Carding Scheme provides financial support to athletes for their training and competition programmes. The primary purpose of this funding is to support Irish athletes in reaching finals and achieving medals at European, World, Olympic and Paralympic level.

In 2026, Sport Ireland will invest €4.75 million in the International Carding scheme and Player Funding Scheme. This funding allocation will cover all elements of the Scheme, including 139 individually funded athletes, nine NGBs in receipt of pool/relay funding, the Athlete Career Transition (ACT) Programme, Player Funding Scheme, and reserves. Of the 139 athletes in receipt of individual funding, 64 (46%) are female and 75 (54%) are male. 29 Para athletes (21% of overall athletes) are supported through the scheme; this includes seven pilot/guide athletes from Para Athletics, Para Cycling and Para Triathlon.

Sport Ireland will provide funding on a one-year basis for 2026. Multi-annual funding will be reintroduced for 2027 and 2028, as per the approach taken during both the Tokyo and Paris Cycles. The Sport Ireland Institute provides world-leading services to Ireland's high performance carded athletes. It should be noted that the Direct Athlete Support Investment table does not capture the value of performance support services which is provided by the Sport Ireland Institute.

Athlete Wellbeing & Welfare

Across 2025 and early 2026, Sport Ireland has undertaken a comprehensive review of its Athlete Welfare Policy. Informed by this process, Sport Ireland has developed a strengthened and more directive framework for athlete welfare. The new policy places a greater emphasis on clear standards, accountability, and oversight, ensuring that organisations within the high performance system are meeting defined expectations in safeguarding athletes. It provides enhanced assurances to Sport Ireland through more robust reporting, monitoring, and compliance mechanisms, reinforcing a system-wide commitment to athlete protection, wellbeing, and best practice.

The ACT Programme, introduced in 2022, is world-leading in terms of its financial and service offerings to carded athletes upon retirement. Athletes availing of the ACT Programme are guaranteed 50% of their current award from their point of exit from the International Carding Scheme for a specific time period. In an Olympic/Paralympic year, an athlete will receive the remainder of their funding for the year and secure 50% of their funding for the following year. The ACT Programme provided support to 23 athletes in 2025.

Highlights of the 2026 International Carding Scheme

29

athletes have been awarded Podium level funding

26

athletes have been awarded World Class level funding

84

athletes have been awarded International level funding

54%

MALE

46%

FEMALE

8 Relays awarded funding

Two relays in Athletics (4 x 400m Mixed and 4 x 400m Women), and six relays in swimming, (Women's 400m Medley, Women's 400m Freestyle, Women's 800m Freestyle, Men's 400m Medley, Men's 800m Freestyle and Mixed 400m Medley) have been awarded funding for 2026

7 Sports awarded pool funding to support targeted athletes

Badminton, Boxing, Gymnastics, Rowing, Sailing, Para-sport and Triathlon

29

Para athletes supported

representing 21% of overall athletes, including seven pilots/guides supported in Para Athletics Para Cycling and Para Triathlon

NGB	Athlete	Category	Award
Athletics Ireland	Katherine O'Connor	Podium	€40,000
	Cian Mc Phillips	Podium	€40,000
	Rhasidat Adeleke	Podium	€40,000
	Sarah Healy	World Class	€25,000
	Nicola Albertina Tuthill	World Class	€25,000
	Sharlene Mawdsley	World Class	€25,000
	Sarah Lavin	World Class	€25,000
	Fionnuala McCormack	World Class	€25,000
	Mark Joseph English	World Class	€25,000
	Andrew Coscoran	World Class	€25,000
	Darragh McElhinney	International	€18,000
	Cathal Doyle	International	€18,000
	Israel Olatunde	International	€18,000
	Jack Raftery	International	€18,000
	Eric Tyrone Favors Jr	International	€18,000
	Sophie Becker	International	€18,000
	Brian Joseph Fay	International	€18,000
	Luke McCann	International	€18,000
	Jack O'Leary	International	€18,000
	Efrem Gidey	International	€18,000
	Peter Lynch	International	€18,000
	Sophie O'Sullivan	International	€18,000
	Nicholas Griggs	International	€18,000
Mixed 4x400m Relay	Relay funding	€60,000	
Women's 4x400m Relay	Relay funding	€60,000	
Athletics Ireland Total			€689,000

NGB	Athlete	Category	Award
Badminton Ireland	Nhat Nguyen	World Class	€25,000
	Rachael Darragh	International	€18,000
	Paul Reynolds	International	€18,000
	Sophia Noble	International	€18,000
	Scott Guildea	International	€18,000
	Pool Funding	Pool funding	€30,000
Badminton Ireland Total			€127,000

NGB	Athlete	Category	Award
Boxing Ireland	Gráinne Walsh	Podium	€40,000
	Patsy Joyce	Podium	€40,000
	Kellie Harrington	Podium	€40,000
	Lisa O Rourke	Podium	€40,000
	Aoife O Rourke	Podium	€40,000
	Jack Marley	International	€25,000
	Adam Hession	International	€18,000
	Jude Gallagher	International	€18,000
	Kelyn Cassidy	International	€18,000
	Daina Moorehouse	International	€18,000
	Martin McDonagh	International	€18,000
	Dean Clancy	International	€18,000
	Michaela Walsh	International	€18,000
	Jennifer Lehane	International	€18,000
	Shannon Sweeney	International	€18,000
	Niamh Fay	International	€18,000
Pool Funding	Pool funding	€80,000	
Boxing Ireland Total			€485,000

NGB	Athlete	Category	Award
Canoeing Ireland	Liam Jegou	World Class	€25,000
	Noel Hendrick	International	€18,000
	Alistair McCreery	International	€18,000
	Jake Cochrane	International	€18,000
Canoeing Ireland Total			€79,000

NGB	Athlete	Category	Award
Cycling Ireland	Lara Gillespie	Podium	€40,000
	Caoimhe O'Brien	International	€18,000
	Aoife O'Brien	International	€18,000
	Fiona Mangan	International	€18,000
	Erin Creighton	International	€18,000
	Emma Jeffers	International	€18,000
	Esther Wong	International	€18,000
	Mia Griffin	International	€18,000

NGB	Athlete	Category	Award
Cycling Ireland (Para)	Katie-George Dunlevy	Podium	€40,000
	Linda Kelly (Pilot)	Podium	€40,000
	Richael Timothy	International	€18,000
	Mitchell McLaughlin (Pilot)	International	€18,000
	Damien Vereker	International	€18,000
	Josephine Healion (Pilot)	International	€18,000
	Harvey Barnes (Pilot)	International	€18,000
	Stephen de Vries	International	€18,000
Cycling Ireland Total			€354,000

NGB	Athlete	Category	Award
Gymnastics Ireland	Rhys McClenaghan	Podium	€40,000
	Adam Steele	International	€18,000
	Eamon Montgomery	International	€18,000
	Halle Hilton	International	€18,000
	Emma Slevin	International	€18,000
	James Hickey	International	€18,000
	Dominick Cunningham	International	€9,000
	Pool Funding	Pool funding	€80,000
Gymnastics Ireland Total			€219,000

NGB	Athlete	Category	Award
Irish Clay Target Shooting Association	Jack Fairclough	World Class	€25,000
	Derek Burnett	World Class	€25,000
Irish Clay Target Shooting Association Total			€50,000

NGB	Athlete	Category	Award
Irish Judo Association	Joshua Green	International	€18,000
	Bearach Gleeson	International	€18,000
Irish Judo Association Total			€36,000

NGB	Athlete	Category	Award
Irish Sailing Association	Eve McMahon	Podium	€40,000
	Robert Dickson	Podium	€40,000
	Sean Waddilove	Podium	€40,000
	Finn Lynch	Podium	€40,000
	Ewan McMahon	World Class	€25,000
	Ellen Barbour	International	€18,000
	Erin McIlwaine	International	€18,000
	Pool Funding	Pool funding	€30,000
Irish Sailing Association Total			€251,000

NGB	Athlete	Category	Award
Paralympics Ireland - Swimming	Róisín Ní Riain	Podium	€40,000
	Dearbhaile Brady	Podium	€40,000
	Barry McClements	World Class	€25,000
	Deaten Registe	International	€18,000
Paralympics Ireland - Athletics	Orla Comerford	Podium	€40,000
	Greta Streimikyte	Podium	€40,000
	Shauna Bocquet	International	€18,000
	Lana Sutton	International	€18,000
	Sinead Kane	International	€18,000
	John O'Regan (guide)	International	€18,000
Paralympics Ireland	Athlete Support Package	Pool funding	€100,000
Paralympics Ireland Total			€375,000

NGB	Athlete	Category	Award
Rowing Ireland	Fiona Murtagh	Podium	€40,000
	Fintan McCarthy	Podium	€40,000
	Philip Doyle	Podium	€40,000
	Konan Pazzoia	Podium	€40,000
	Daire Lynch	Podium	€40,000
	Paul O Donovan	Podium	€40,000
	Ross Corrigan	World Class	€25,000
	Nathan Timoney	World Class	€25,000
	Margaret Cremen	World Class	€25,000
	Zoe Hyde	World Class	€25,000
	Natalie Long	World Class	€25,000
	Imogen Magner	World Class	€25,000
	Emma Waters	World Class	€25,000
	Aisling Hayes	World Class	€25,000
	Aoife Casey	International	€18,000
	Emily Hegarty	International	€18,000
	Donagh Claffey	International	€18,000
	Martin O Grady	International	€18,000
	Jacob McCarthy	International	€18,000
	Pathway Athlete Development	Pool funding	€80,000
Rowing Ireland (Para)	Tiarnán O Donnell	International	€18,000
	Katie O Brien	International	€18,000
Rowing Ireland Total			€646,000

NGB	Athlete	Category	Award
Swim Ireland	Daniel Wiffen	Podium	€40,000
	Mona McSharry	Podium	€40,000
	Ellen Walshe	World Class	€25,000
	Ellie McCartney	World Class	€25,000
	Danielle Hill	International	€18,000
	Darragh Greene	International	€18,000
	Eoin Corby	International	€18,000
	Evan Bailey	International	€18,000
	Jake Passmore	International	€18,000
	John Shortt	International	€18,000
	Nathan Wiffen	International	€18,000
	Tom Fannon	International	€18,000
	Charlotte (Lottie) Cullen	International	€18,000
	Conor Ferguson	International	€18,000
	Relay Funding	Relay funding	€100,000
Swim Ireland Total			€410,000

NGB	Athlete	Category	Award
Table Tennis Ireland (Para)	Colin Judge	World Class	€25,000
	Patrick Vaughan	International	€18,000
Table Tennis Ireland Total			€43,000

NGB	Athlete	Category	Award
Taekwondo Ireland	Ryan Doyle	International	€18,000
	Jack Woolley	International	€25,500
Taekwondo Ireland Total			€43,500

NGB	Athlete	Category	Award
Triathlon Ireland	Hollie Elliott	International	€18,000
Triathlon Ireland (Para)	Tom Williamson	Podium	€40,000
	Chloe McCombe	World Class	€25,000
	Catherine Sands (Pilot)	World Class	€25,000
	Judith McCombe	International	€18,000
	Eimear Nicholls (Pilot)	International	€18,000
	Donnacha McCarthy	International	€18,000
	Sean Husband (Pilot)	International	€18,000
Pool Guide Fund	Pool funding	€18,000	
Triathlon Ireland Total			€198,000



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