

Clare Sports Partnership

Small Club Grant Scheme 2026

Terms & Conditions

Introduction

Clare Sports Partnership has secured club development funding from Sport Ireland to support sports clubs across County Clare.

The **Small Club Grant Scheme 2026** aims to support clubs in increasing participation in sport and physical activity while helping develop sustainable opportunities within their organisations and communities.

The scheme particularly supports initiatives that engage key target groups including:

- Young people
- Women and girls in sport
- Older adults
- People with disabilities
- Disadvantaged communities
- Ethnic minorities

Funding Streams

Clubs may apply under **one of the following three funding streams:**

Community Programmes

Funding to support programmes that promote physical activity within the club and local community.

Examples include:

- Community participation programmes
- Activity programmes
- Educational workshops
- Equipment required to run new programmes

Volunteer Support & Education

Funding to support the development and training of club volunteers.

Examples include:

- Coaching and officiating courses through National Governing Bodies

- First aid courses
- Volunteer wellbeing initiatives

Women in Sport / Teenage Girls

Open to all clubs and focused on **recruiting and retaining female participation in sport.**

Examples include:

- Female participation programmes
- Teenage girls' introduction sessions
- Equipment to support female participation
- Coaching, leadership or training opportunities for female volunteers
- Community initiatives targeting women and girls

Grant Amount

The **maximum grant available is €750 per club/application.**

All applications will be assessed and scored competitively, and due to limited funding not all applications will be successful.

Eligibility Criteria

To apply, clubs must:

- Be an established club providing sport or physical activity opportunities
- Be affiliated with a National Governing Body recognised by Sport Ireland
- Operate as a not-for-profit organisation
- Have a club constitution or equivalent governing documentation
- Promote participation regardless of gender, age, race or ability
- Follow best practice in safeguarding children in sport where applicable
- Have appropriate insurance cover
- Have a recognised club bank or credit union account in the organisation's name

Clare Sports Partnership will not transfer funds to private accounts.

Ineligible Applications

The following will **not be funded**:

- Applications from individuals

- Capital or building projects
- Applications from governing bodies or statutory agencies
- For-profit or commercial organisations
- Private facility owners
- Organisations based outside **County Clare**
- Costs such as:
 - Transport
 - Rent or utilities
 - Insurance
 - Ongoing coaching wages
 - Ongoing maintenance costs
 - Consumable equipment that requires regular replacement (e.g. items that are used up or worn out during normal use)
 - Equipment that would normally need to be replaced annually by the club regardless of grant support

The grant scheme is intended to support new initiatives, development opportunities, and sustainable equipment or training, rather than covering routine operational costs.

Eligible Projects

Projects must align with **one of the three funding streams** and should aim to:

- Increase participation in sport and physical activity
- Support Clare Sports Partnership target groups
- Deliver sustainable benefits to the club
- Reach a broad number of participants
- Provide education or development opportunities for volunteers

Application Process

Applications must be submitted through the online application form on the Clare Sports Partnership website.

Late or incomplete applications will not be considered.

Evaluation and Reporting

Successful clubs will be required to complete a short evaluation report outlining how the funding was used and the impact of the project.

Failure to submit this report may affect eligibility for future Clare Sports Partnership funding.

Grant Acceptance

Successful clubs must:

- Provide any requested supporting documentation

Additional Information

- Funding decisions will be ratified by the Clare Sports Partnership Board of Directors
- Canvassing will result in disqualification
- Any disputes will be handled on an individual basis