



**SPÓRT ÉIREANN**  
**SPORT IRELAND**

# **FAI & Sport Ireland – Covid-19 Funding Support for Clubs**

FAI Webinar  
Friday August 28<sup>th</sup> 2020

Presented by: **Walter Holleran**  
**Rory O'Connor**



# Webinar Schedule:

1. Overview of Grant Scheme
2. Application Draft Example
3. Frequently Asked Questions
4. Next Steps for Applicants

# Funding Support Overview

€70 million has been made available through Sport Ireland grant schemes designed in consultation with the Department of Media, Tourism, Arts, Culture, Sport and the Gaeltacht.

€70 million - divided between **Four Funding Schemes**.

- **Scheme One** (€40m) - Aimed at Three Large Field Sports – FAI, GAA & IRFU
- **Scheme Two** (€10m) – Aimed at all other NGB's outside of the 'Big Three'.
- **Scheme Three** (15m) – A **Club Resilience Fund** to support affiliated clubs of **ALL NGB'S**
- **Scheme Four** (€5m) – A sports Restart & Renewal Fund aimed at LSP's and LA's.

# Club Resilience Fund – Scheme Three

**Up to €15 million** available for Club Support via Scheme Three of Club Support Fund. This scheme is expected to support Clubs, Leagues & Affiliates of **ALL NGB's** with the financial impact of Covid-19.

- Applications must be **facilitated by NGB's** – Sport Ireland will **not accept direct** applications.
- The **primary purpose** of the funding is to **prevent clubs from becoming insolvent** due to the impact of Covid-19.
- These grant schemes are designed to **support sporting activity only**.
- Sport Ireland have stated that **funds are not** aimed to replace lost income from ancillary activities such as **hospitality, rentals, club bars, sub-letting facilities** or other **non-sporting commercial activity**.
- Clubs are asked to provide a **realistic value** of funding required that will assist in preventing their club from insolvency/closure. **Supporting documents** will be sought to prove all applicant requests for funding.
- Applicants will need to **fully satisfy Sport Ireland & the FAI** that the grant has merit and is required.
- Applications should be built around the parameters outlined in the **Funding Scheme Terms & Conditions**.

# Application Example

# Application Example:

1. Name of Club applying *	[ FAI United FC ]
2. Address of Club applying: (Please use of Club Ground) *	[ FAI HQ, Abbotstown, Dublin 15 ]
3. Eircode of Club Ground: *	[ D15 X8PD ]
4. Primary Contact Name: *	[ Walter Holleran ]
5. Email address: (Please use email address to be used for contact regarding this scheme). *	[ <a href="mailto:Covidfundingsupport@fai.ie">Covidfundingsupport@fai.ie</a> ]
6. Primary Contact phone number: *	[ 01 - 8559500 ]
7. Amount of funding sought by club under this grant scheme: (€) *	[ €3,000 ]

# Application Example:

8. Purpose for club seeking funding via this scheme: \*

- Club is in need of funding support for safety equipment to facilitate a safe return to play
- Club is at risk of insolvency/closure due to impact of Covid
- Other

9. Please provide a detailed narrative explaining your club's need for funding support: \*

Club purchased equipment such as hand sanitizer and signage to get our facility ready for a return to football.

10. Please provide value of actual reductions on income from January to June 2020 as a result of COVID 19: \*

€4,000

11. Please provide value of estimated reductions of income from July to December 2020: \*

€3,000 approx.

12. Please provide an estimation of how long core operations could continue under current circumstances if reserves were used and no grant support was forthcoming: \*

6 months

# Application Example:

13. Please list any immediate short term cash flow or financial commitments (if any) that your clubs may be challenged to meet: \*

Insurance costs are upcoming and we have used our reserves on getting our facility prepared with sanitizers etc.

14. Please outline any savings made as a result of reduced activity: \*

Club has saved on its ESB bill for lights – total of €1,000

15. Details on any projects or programs that will have to be deferred, postponed or cancelled: \*

We also missed out on a summer blitz which was a small fundraiser for the club.

16. Value of immediate restart costs/overheads: (including insurance) \*

€1,500 to get back up and running.

17. Value of additional costs arising in facilities from the provision and installation of COVID 19 precautions: \*

€2,000



# Application Example:

These grant schemes are designed to support sporting activity only. Sport Ireland have outlined that these funds are not aimed to replace lost income from ancillary activities such as hospitality, rentals, sub-letting facilities or other non-sporting commercial activity. The below requirements have been laid out by Sport Ireland regarding the criteria and eligibility that clubs must meet to access funding. Please read the below information before completing your club's application.

The deadline for applications is 5pm on September 2nd 2020. No late applications will be accepted.

#### Terms & Conditions of Grant Schemes:

1. The primary purpose of this funding is to prevent sporting clubs from becoming insolvent due to the impact of Covid.
2. Clubs will need to provide a realistic value of funding needed that will assist in preventing their club from insolvency/closure. Supporting documentation may be requested.
3. Funding is being provided to support the financial impact on clubs due to Covid. Therefore, funding for financial issues/needs/projects that were present prior to Covid will not be funded under this scheme.
4. Clubs applying for funding will need to prove the funding is needed for the indicated purpose outlined in the application. Supporting documentation may be requested.
5. Clubs applying for funding must highlight how funding will be used meet the intended need. Supporting documentation may be requested.
6. Clubs will need provide details on the impact COVID has had on club reserves to date and the level of expenditure that has been used throughout the pandemic. Supporting documentation may be requested.
7. Funding is to be provided for sporting purposes only. Loss of income from ancillary activities such as hospitality, rentals, sub-letting facilities or other non-sporting commercial activity facility rental, bars or other will not be funded via this scheme.
8. If your club has accessed other Government/State or NGB supports during or as a result of the pandemic please include details with application.
9. Applications must be submitted by 5pm on September 2nd 2020. No late applications will be accepted. \*

Confirm

Submit

# Eligible Vs Ineligible Funding Requests

**Eligible**

Vs

**Ineligible**

# Eligible Funding Requests

**Primary purpose** - prevent sports clubs from becoming **insolvent / closure**.

- Increased **operational costs** due to Covid-19 :
  - Increased cleaning costs, Covid-19 officer training etc.
  - Hand sanitizer stations, signage etc.
  - Barriers, one-way system costs.
- **Fundraising Events;**
  - Costs to run the event covered – not the potential income.
- **Sponsorship Loss** – Loss of sponsorship income backed up with supporting evidence from previous 3 years.
- **Loss of Membership fees.** – will need to show consistency of proof from previous 3 years.
- **Gate Receipts** – proof of gates receipts required. Amount should include the deduction of savings made from non-running of event/games.

# Ineligible Funding Requests

- Non-essential projects that were planned prior to Covid-19 that are now on hold.
- Pre-existing debts or deficits will not be covered.
- Non-essential equipment.
- Non- essential machinery.
- Ancillary Activities – hospitality, sub-letting of facilities or non-sporting commercial activity.
- Loss of income from club bar closure.

# Other Options - Restart Grant

Funding has also been made available for **rateable sports businesses** by the Department of Business, Enterprise and Innovation via the **Restart Grant Plus**.

- Grants of between €4,000 and €25,000 for **rateable sports businesses**.
- To qualify Clubs must:
  - Be a rateable enterprise or sport business
  - Have 250 employees or less
  - Reduced turnover by 25% as a result of Covid-19.
- For more information please contact your **Local Authority**.
- Link to more information: <https://dbei.gov.ie/en/What-We-Do/Supports-for-SMEs/Covid-19-supports/Covid-19-Restart-Grant-Local-Authority-Websites.html>

# Frequently Asked Questions:

- **The Local Sports Partnership has grants available for Covid-19 – can we apply into this also?**
  - Applicants can apply into **either** the NGB or LSP but not both. In the first instance applicants should apply to their NGB first.
- **Our jersey sponsor had planned to give €X amount but is now unable to help us. Will this be covered?**
  - Sponsorship loss is eligible to be applied for under this scheme. Proof of previous years sponsorship must be provided.
- **Our club has payments due to builders for works completed prior to Covid-19, can we apply for funding help with this?**
  - Only costs arisen from the impact of Covid-19 are eligible for funding.
- **Our membership fees are down and the lack of income has put us in trouble?**
  - Loss of membership fees can be applied for under this scheme. Supporting proof of loss must be provided.
- **Will gate receipts be covered under this scheme?**
  - Loss of income from gate receipts can be applied for under the scheme. Proof of loss via supporting documents must be provided.  
Savings from non-running of events must be deducted from any requests.
- **We cancelled an annual fundraising event that generates income for operations. Can this be covered?**
  - The costs incurred by the club to run the event can be applied for. Savings from non running of event must be deducted.

# Frequently Asked Questions:

- **Our club has spent reserves on getting our facility ready i.e, sanitizer, signage etc. – can we apply for funding?**
  - Issues such as this are eligible to be applied for under the scheme.
- **Are Legal bills or development contract payments eligible for funding?**
  - Funding is aimed primarily at sporting activity and pre-existing issues will not be covered.
- **We have had an increase in facility rental to ensure we meet social distancing requirements, can we apply for this additional cost?**
  - Once proven the additional costs eligible for funding. Supporting documents must be provided.
- **Can Leagues or Provincial Association apply for funding support?**
  - Yes. Leagues, Affiliates and Provincial Association are able to apply for funding.
- **Will the information from today’s webinar be made available?**
  - Yes, this presentation will be circulated afterward.

# Next Steps:

Following this Webinar the next steps for all potential applicants are:

- Ensure you have a **full understanding** of what can be applied for under this grant scheme before applying.
- It is important to understand this funding scheme is designed to help clubs in need of support. .
- **Complete a funding application** if not already done so.
- **Phase Two** of this application process will be seeking additional information post September 14<sup>th</sup>
- **Application Deadline – Wednesday September 2<sup>nd</sup> at 5:00pm.** No late applications accepted.
- Contact [CovidFundingSupport@fai.ie](mailto:CovidFundingSupport@fai.ie) with any questions.
- **Link to Application – [Click Here](#)**

# Thank You!