



## **Sports Development Grant Guidelines 2026**



## **Introduction**

Each year Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council opens a grant funding scheme, known as the DLR Universal Grants Scheme, that provides funding to individuals, groups and organisations engaged in projects, events or initiatives at a neighbourhood or County level within the DLR Co. Co. area. The scheme has a particular emphasis on supporting locally driven and grassroots initiatives.

The grants scheme supports the Council's commitment in its Corporate Plan 2025-2029 to *Driving Quality of Life for All* and *Creating an Environment for Economic Growth*. The aim is to ensure that the financial resources available are used to the maximum benefit of the DLR community at large and support in achieving the Council's goals and objectives.

## **Funding Available**

The funding available through the DLR Universal Grant Scheme is dependent on the budget adopted annually by the DLR Councillors and can therefore vary year to year.

Demand for these grants is high and for that reason, even if an application meets the criteria, it does not always guarantee that a grant will be offered. In certain cases, DLR Co. Co. may offer a lesser amount than the figure sought.

The number of applications supported, and the level of funding provided, will be at the Council's discretion and will reflect the available budget, the quality of the applications and the outcomes achievable.

Allocation of funds to an applicant for any purpose in any year must not be taken as an indication of commitment by the Council for funding in any subsequent year. Grant recipients' performance will be reviewed annually; continued funding is subject to satisfactory achievement against agreed targets detailed within the application.

## **Submission of Applications**

All grant applications must be made online via [dlrcoco.submit.com](https://dlrcoco.submit.com). Applicants should ensure that all relevant information is provided in their application. This includes giving a clear description of how the grant funding would be used, how it will benefit the locality and must also include a clear and detailed budget stating all sources of both income and expenditure.

## **General Eligibility Requirements**

- Applicants must be a sports club, sports organisation or community group and be a not for profit organisation.
- Applicants for all Sports Grants must have a Club / Organisation bank account, club constitution and functioning committee in place.
- The proposed initiative / activity must take place within the DLR county area.
- Applications from applicants that have breached previous funding agreements with the council, including post event reporting criteria, and where no commitment has been made to rectify this, will not be deemed eligible.
- Employees and Councillors of Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council are not eligible to apply for grants.
- Applicants must demonstrate they possess the financial capacity/matched funding to deliver the project/activity.
- Annual operational costs such as administration, registration, servicing of debt or purchasing sports clothing are not eligible.
- Projects where organisations applying for grants are not linked to a registered NGB (National Governing Body) or other registered and recognised agency and cannot be identified as such will not be considered for funding.



- An application can be for one grant only. If you are applying for more than one grant, separate applications must be submitted. If you are submitting multiple applications, you must number your applications in order of priority.
- Funding requested must be for an initiative / activity to be held in the year of the scheme. Funding will not be granted for events/activities held in the previous or subsequent year.
- Any organisation working with children must have a written Child Protection Policy in place and if successful, must sign the safeguarding statement provided.
- Funding will not be made available for general operating or administrative expenses, such as the following:
  - Payment of staff or officials.
  - Travel costs to events both inside and outside the county.
  - Building, renovating, and/or remodelling a facility.
  - Fundraising programmes.
- This grant cannot be used for capital projects, prize money or prizes, to advance a profit venture or advance the activities of the organiser.
- Applications received after the deadline for receipt of applications are not eligible.
- Initiatives /activities already provided for by the Council or are believed to be a duplicate service will not be considered for funding.
- Grants will not cover third party grants or assistance to cover loans or deficits, charity fundraising events or the hire fee of Council premises.
- Applicants must have no outstanding debt owing to the Council or any Council controlled organisations.
- Applicants must fully declare any additional council, government or council-controlled organisation funding or grant.
- No virtual initiatives / activities will be considered for funding.
- Applications from schools, colleges or universities will not be considered for funding.
- Incomplete applications submitted without the required documentation will be refused.
- The Council reserves the right to make minor changes to Guidelines and/or Application Form where this will either improve customer service or help to achieve key Corporate Objectives/Priorities.
- The decision of the County Council on the DLR Universal Grant Scheme is final.
- The Council is not responsible for any underestimated costs by applicants.

### **Sports Development Grant Categories**

The Sports Development Grant is assessed under 3 separate categories:

#### **Sports Development Grants**

Sports Development grants aim to assist sports clubs/organisations with the implementation or development of new activities and initiatives.

- Grants will generally be awarded up to a maximum of €1,000 or 50% of the cost.
- Applicants must be able to demonstrate clearly how their project contributes toward the development of sport in DLR and the benefits it will bring to its residents.
- Applications that are deemed to duplicate existing programmes/projects will not be considered for funding.
- Projects where organisations applying for grants are not linked to a registered NGB (National Governing Body) or other registered and recognised agency and cannot be identified as such will not be considered for funding.



## Sports Equipment Grants

Sports equipment grants aim to co-fund equipment that helps getting people active and playing sport. Applications should focus on the benefits that having the equipment would give, who it is being aimed at and how it would help get people more active.

Equipment Grants are split into two categories:

**Major Equipment Grants** - for co-funding equipment up to €3,000 or 70% of cost, whichever is the lesser. (€4,000 or 80% for Identified Areas of Disadvantage IAD). Applicants who receive a major equipment grant cannot apply for another for 3 years.

**Minor Equipment Grants** - for co-funding equipment up to €1,500 or 70% of cost, whichever is the lesser. (80% for Identified Areas of Disadvantage IAD).  
N.B. - If the cost of the equipment is less than the grant amount offered, the grant payment will be reduced accordingly.

The following equipment types are not eligible for funding:

- Equipment already purchased.
- Non-Club owned equipment.
- Competitive uniforms.
- Coaching/officiating supplies.
- Fees of any nature.
- Certain training and fitness equipment
- Maintenance equipment.
- Transportation equipment.
- Facilities or capital works.
- Electronics and powered devices or consumables.
- Personal or individual items.
- Signage.
- Prizes or rewards.
- Injury, rehabilitation and mobility supplies.

## Sports Access Grants

Sport Access grants aim to assist projects that help increase sporting activities for youth at risk within **designated disadvantaged** communities and develop more resilient sporting habits to lead to more positive attitudes among young people. When considering applications, the Panel will pay particular attention to the value and relevance of the proposed project/activity to the community and its contribution to the development and promotion of sport within Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown.

- Sports Access Grants will be awarded up to €1,500.
- The grant is to be used for 'youth at risk', between 10-21 years, from designated areas of disadvantage.
- Applicants must have a focus on participation based activities for disadvantaged youth.
- Funding cannot be used for buying equipment.

## Awarding Criteria for Sports Development Grants

Applications will be marked on but not limited to the following general criteria:

Category	Weighted Score
Proposal and Community Benefit	50 marks
Sustainability	25 marks
Council Priorities and Objectives	15 marks
Value for Money	10 marks



## **Grant Assessment Timeline**

