

Research Briefing

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# UK sports funding for individuals, organisations and teams



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## Summary

This briefing provides an overview of the funding available for sport in the UK, including which organisations offer funding for different sports, the criteria for applicants to be eligible for funding, and the processes of applying for funding.

This includes the funds available for community teams and clubs as well as for individual athletes.

## UK Sports Councils

There are four primary bodies that have responsibility for promoting grassroots sport in each constituent part of the UK. Each organisation distributes funds from the UK Government and the National Lottery to achieve this goal:

- [Sport England](#)
- [sportscotland](#)
- [Sport Wales](#)
- [Sport Northern Ireland](#)

Typically, these organisations fund projects that look to increase participation, or improve pre-existing community sports facilities.

Each body may also offer ‘match funding’ for crowdfunding campaigns. This is when a grant giving organisation agrees to contribute to an applicant’s fundraising efforts. For example, it might offer to top up the remaining 40% of a project if the first 60% of the goal is reached through crowdfunding.

[The final primary funding distributor is UK Sport](#). UK Sport aims to support all potential Olympic and Paralympic athletes in the UK.

## Direct central government funding

The Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) is responsible for a multi-sport facilities programme, a tennis court refurbishment fund, and a swimming pool support fund that are administered by different bodies.

## National Governing Bodies for each sport

A National Governing Body (NGB) is an organisation that governs and administers a sport on a national basis. Amongst an NGB's typical responsibilities are organising competitions and promoting participation.

NGBs might offer very different funding schemes depending on the sport, such as capital grants to improve football stadiums, support for groups offering facilities to people usually under-represented in a sport, and interest-free loans for sports facilities.

## Funding for disability sports

Specific forms of funding are available for disability sport. Organisations might offer support to purchase specialist equipment for sports such as wheelchair tennis. Individuals and clubs may also be able to apply for more general funding to improve disabled peoples' access to sport.

## Other sources of sports funding

A variety of other organisations also offer funding to individual athletes and young people. These include charities that support young people from disadvantaged backgrounds, and organisations that fund individuals aiming to compete at the Olympic or Paralympic games.

Clubs Matters, an online platform created by Sport England, provides free help to those involved with a grassroots club. Its [funding guidance](#) and [applying for grant funding](#) pages provide an overview of how an organisation should approach the funding process.

# 1 Government funding

There are currently three forms of funding that have been directly announced by the Government. These are distributed by various bodies on behalf of the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS).

More general information about the funding activities of the other organisations listed below can be found in section 6 of this briefing.

## 1.1 Grassroots multi-sport facilities programme

DCMS' primary grassroots funding scheme is the grassroots multi-sport facilities programme. This programme aims to invest around £300 million over three years (from 2022 to 2025) into the improvement or creation of 8,000 multi-sports facilities throughout England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. The majority of the projects funded so far have been improvements to football facilities.<sup>1</sup>

According to DCMS, [projects are selected for the ability:](#)

...to deliver improved facilities in deprived areas, support multi-sport use and increase participation among currently under-represented groups — this focuses primarily on women and girls, disabled players and those in deprived areas.<sup>2</sup>

Detailed information about the [recipients of this scheme in 2021/22 and 2022/23](#) is available on the GOV.UK website. It is delivered by the following bodies across the constituent parts of the UK:

- England: Football Foundation. A charity jointly funded by the Football Association, DCMS and the Premier League. They offer funding for a variety of projects; [more information can be accessed on the Football Foundation website.](#)
- Scotland: Scottish Football Association (FA). Further information about the Scottish FA Grassroots Pitch & Facilities Fund is available on the [Scottish FA's website.](#)
- Wales: Cymru Football Foundation. An organisation created by the Football Association of Wales to support the development of football

<sup>1</sup> House of Lords Library In Focus, [National plan for sport, health and wellbeing: Committee report](#), 3 February 2023

<sup>2</sup> DCMS, [Guidance, Multi-Sport Grassroots Facilities Programme projects: 2022 to 2023](#), 2 June 2023

facilities. It currently has [two open schemes that are funded by DCMS and the Football Association of Wales](#).

- Northern Ireland: Irish Football Association. Applications for [2023-35 closed on 4 May 2023](#).

## 1.2 Tennis court refurbishment

The Government announced a [“£30 million” package to refurbish 4,500 public tennis courts on 2 October 2021](#). £22 million of this funding was committed by the Government, and an additional £8.4 million was provided by the Lawn Tennis Association (LTA). This investment is being delivered [by the LTA’s Parks Tennis Project](#). Individual organisations cannot directly apply for this funding. Rather, the LTA has worked with “local authorities to identify existing courts in a very poor or unplayable condition”.<sup>3</sup>

## 1.3 Swimming Pool Support Fund

A £63.3 million fund for public leisure facilities with swimming pools was announced at the Spring Budget 2023. [According to Sports England’s press release](#), pools run by councils (or by private companies on behalf of councils) and by charities will be eligible for funding.

The funding will be [delivered by Sport England as the Swimming Pool Support Fund](#). Around £20 million was made available in revenue grants to support facilities with swimming pools that are experiencing “increased cost pressures”.<sup>4</sup> £40 million is available in capital investment to improve the medium to long term energy efficiency of these facilities.

Applications can only be made by local authorities on behalf of “all publicly accessible swimming pools in their area”.<sup>5</sup> Community pools not owned by a local authority should contact their local authority if they’re interested in applying. The revenue grant component closed on 11 August 2023. It is expected that applications for capital investment funding will open on 4 September 2023.

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<sup>3</sup> LTA, [Park Tennis Project](#) (accessed 31 July 2023)

<sup>4</sup> Sport England, [Swimming Pool Support Fund](#) (accessed 31 July 2023)

<sup>5</sup> As above



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## 2 UK Sports Councils

Four UK Sports Councils have responsibility for promoting grassroots sport in each constituent part of the UK. To this end, each organisation distributes UK Government and Lottery funding to community organisations and clubs.

### 2.1 Sport England

[Sport England is a non-departmental government body sponsored by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport \(DCMS\)](#). It distributes Government and National Lottery money. The organisation has the broad remit of encouraging community sporting participation. Sport England's grassroots funding strategy is linked to the ambitions set out in its [January 2021 ten year Uniting the Movement strategy](#).

The ['find the right fund' tool enables organisations to select the fund](#) that is appropriate for them. There are three active funding programmes.

#### Small Grants Programme

[The Small Grants Programme provides National Lottery funding of between £300 and £15,000](#) to each project. The awards are "to help inactive and less active people become more active".<sup>6</sup> Multiple applications can be submitted, but organisations can only have awards of up to £15,000 in any 12-month period.

The priority of the programme is to support projects that work with people in areas of disadvantage, "as defined by the Indices of Multiple Deprivation areas 1 to 3".<sup>7</sup>

The closing date for applications is 31 March 2024.

#### Active Together

[Active Together is a crowdfunding initiative](#). It can provide up to £10,000 in match funding for successful Crowdfunder campaigns. This means that if an organisation or club raises 25% of their crowdfunding goal, Sports England

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<sup>6</sup> Sport England, [Small Grants Programme](#) (accessed 31 July 2023)

<sup>7</sup> As above

would then provide up to 50% of their target (up to a value of £10,000).<sup>8</sup> The total pot is £7.5 million.

The programme aims to support campaigns related to the ongoing impact of Covid-19, “as well as the emerging energy, cost of living or other local crises – such as adverse weather”.<sup>9</sup>

Applications to this fund are made through the Crowdfunder site. Sport England provides the following guidance to applicants:

Whilst we can't fund every campaign we see, those that make a good case, include a video and have engaging rewards that'll incentivise a crowd wider than just an existing membership, will usually succeed.<sup>10</sup>

## 2.2

## sportscotland

[sportscotland is a non-departmental Scottish government body and National Lottery fund distributor](#). It operates two primary facilities funds (one of which has been paused) and a [coach education subsidy programme](#). Its website also provides [a list of smaller forms of funding delivered by other organisations](#).

### Sport Facilities fund

[The Sport Facilities fund supports capital projects that create or improve places where people take part in sport and physical activity](#). Deadlines for submission of new Sport Facilities Fund applications are 1 April and 1 September each year. Awards of up to £100,000 are available for sports facility projects within club and communities, school and education or performance sport environments.

Further information is available in the [Sport Facilities fund guidelines](#) (PDF). These [guidelines are also available in Scottish Gaelic](#) (PDF).

### Cycling Facilities Fund

[The Cycling Facilities Fund aims to support cycling facility projects across Scotland](#). The total pot is £8 million. Due to the high level of interest that has been shown in the fund, expressions of interest are currently paused. Further updates will be given on the fund's webpage.

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<sup>8</sup> Crowdfunder, [Sport England: Active Together](#) (accessed 30 August 2023)

<sup>9</sup> Sport England, [Active Together](#) (accessed 31 July 2023)

<sup>10</sup> As above

## 2.3

### Sport Wales

Sport Wales is the national organisation responsible for developing and promoting sport and physical activity in Wales. It operates two funds for grassroots sport, as well offering funding to elite level athletes.

#### A Place for Sport

This capital funding is delivered in partnership between Sport Wales and Crowdfunder. It provides match funding for not-for-profit clubs and voluntary or community-based organisations that deliver or enable sport and/or physical activity in Wales. It is intended to help groups raise money for ‘off-field’ improvements, such as changing rooms and clubhouse renovations.

The following organisations are not eligible:

- Schools, colleges or universities
- Individuals and sole traders
- Commercial businesses or partnerships
- Leisure operators
- Any organisations who previously accessed the Sport Wales Private Provider Fund<sup>11</sup>

Applicants must have already created a Crowdfunder page for the project. This page is assessed by Sport Wales, who will then decide the level of match funding the project is eligible for. If projects reach 25% of the target, and this has been reached through support from a minimum number of unique donors (this threshold is linked to the size of the project), Sports Wales will pledge between 30% and 50% of the total project.

The actual amount of the pledge is linked to certain criteria:

- 30% if it is an eligible application that has a crowdfunding page that is likely to gain support.
- 40% if it is an eligible application that demonstrates how it intends to support tackling inequalities.
- 50% if it is an eligible application and the project is based in one of the most deprived areas of Wales, as identified by Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation data.

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<sup>11</sup> Crowdfunder, A Place for Sport – Sport Wales’ capital investment scheme for enhancing community sport facilities (PDF) (accessed 31 July 2023), p1

The maximum amount available to an organisation is £15,000.

[Crowdfunder's guidance document provides further information on this fund \(PDF\)](#), including the minimum unique supporter thresholds.

## Be Active Wales Fund

[The Be Active Wales Fund offers grants to not-for-profits club or community organisations in Wales](#) for projects that intend to do at least one of the following:

- purchasing equipment that allows more people to participate in sport
- upskilling volunteers in areas where your club lacks expertise or experience
- development of innovative projects that promote physical activity in new or different ways
- clubs utilising technology to engage more people in physical activity
- outreach aimed at people who are currently under-represented in sport and physical activity<sup>12</sup>

Potential projects must not yet have started; must take place in Wales and be mainly for people who live in Wales; and must be not only for the benefit of pupils of a school where the project takes place.

The minimum award available is £300 and the maximum is £50,000. Applicants have to make a contribution of 10% to grants over £10,000 and 20% to grants over £25,000.

A given club or organisation can apply for this grant once per financial year (April to April).

Sport Wales also suggests that organisations should contact one of the following before submitting an application: a National Governing Body; local authority sports development authority; and any other relevant support organisations.

## 2.4

## Sport Northern Ireland

[Sport Northern Ireland \(Sport NI\) is “the leading public body for the development of sport in Northern Ireland”](#).<sup>13</sup> It distributes both Exchequer and National Lottery funding. Its funding activities are broadly linked to the

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<sup>12</sup> Sport Wales, [Be Active Wales Fund](#) (accessed 31 July 2023)

<sup>13</sup> Sport NI, [About Us](#) (accessed 31 July 2023)

outcomes and mission statement laid out [in its five year corporate plan, published in 2021, The Power of Sport](#).

## District Council Community Planning 23/24

Under the [Local Government Act \(Northern Ireland\) 2014](#), councils in Northern Ireland must initiate and participate in community planning.<sup>14</sup> Community planning is a process by which the “council and its community planning partners” identify long-term objectives for improving the social, economic and environmental well-being of the district.<sup>15</sup> Sport NI is a statutory partner in this process.<sup>16</sup>

[Sport NI has made funding available for sport and physical activity projects in district councils to support the delivery of shared community plans](#). The core features of this investment are:

- Support the delivery of a community plan.
- Support the delivery of sport and physical activities within each district council area.
- Share knowledge to help Sport NI understand more about “who is physically active or taking part in sport in Northern Ireland and where this activity takes place”.
- Target support to cohorts of the population who are known to generally be the most inactive in Northern Ireland.<sup>17</sup>

Councils that wish to proceed with involvement in this programme should complete and return the [expression of interest](#) (PDF) and [project outline forms](#) (PDF).

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<sup>14</sup> [Local Government Act \(Northern Ireland\) 2014](#), s66(1)

<sup>15</sup> [As above](#), s66(2)

<sup>16</sup> [The Local Government \(Community Planning Partners\) Order \(Northern Ireland\) 2016](#)

<sup>17</sup> Sport NI, [District Council Community Planning 23/24](#) (accessed 31 July 2023)

## 3

# National Governing Body funding

National Governing Bodies (NGBs) govern and administer a given sport on a national basis. Their roles include the administration of competitions and encouraging participation. Typically, these are private, self-appointed organisations that govern their sports through the common consent of their sport.

NGBs can apply to one of the five Sports Councils (for instance, Sport England), to be recognised as the primary body with responsibility for a given activity. A list of all the NGBs recognised by the UK Sports Councils can be accessed on [Sport England's website](#), under the 'Sports and governing bodies that we recognise' heading.

The following section provides an overview of the NGBs for certain sports and the funding available from either the NGB itself or its supporter organisations.

## 3.1

### Football

The NGBs for football are as follows: [the Football Association](#) (England), [the Scottish Football Association](#), [the Football Association of Wales](#) and the [Irish Football Association](#).

#### Football Foundation (England)

Football Foundation is a charity jointly funded by the Football Association, the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) and the Premier League. They offer funding for a variety of projects, such as renovation of changing rooms or the installation of 3G pitches. [More information can be found on their website](#).

Each local authority area in England has a Local Football Facility Plan that describes the "football facilities needed across every local authority area in England".<sup>18</sup> Details of a [Local Football Facility Plan can be found using the Football Foundation's search function](#). However, the presence of a given facility on this plan does not guarantee Football Foundation support for the project.

Football Foundation also plans to commit 40% of its investment, by 2025, to [multi-sports projects that support both football and an additional sport](#).

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<sup>18</sup> Football Foundation, [Local Football Facility Plans](#) (accessed 31 July 2023)

## Premier League Stadium Fund (England)

The Premier League Stadium Fund was previously known as the Football Stadia Improvement Fund. The fund awards capital grants to clubs to support improvement of their stadium facilities for players, supports and officials.

Clubs in the following leagues are eligible for Premier League Stadium Fund grants:

- National League System (steps one to six)
- Women's Football Pyramid (tiers one to four)
- English Football League (upon promotion to League Two)

## Scottish Football Partnership and Scottish Football Partnership Trust

The Scottish Football Partnership works in partnership with the Scottish Football Association and sportscotland to “support Scottish football clubs and organisations across all levels of the game”.<sup>19</sup> The Scottish Football Partnership Trust is the organisation's charity; it provides funding opportunities for grassroots football in Scotland. The organisations currently deliver two schemes: the Scottish Football Partnership Trust Award and Changing Containers.

### Scottish Football Partnership Trust Award

Grants for grassroots football clubs or other charitable organisations with football related projects that meet the charity's objectives. For more information contact: [admin@thescottishfootballpartnership.com](mailto:admin@thescottishfootballpartnership.com).

### Changing Containers

This programme provides grassroots children's football teams with portable changing rooms or storage containers according to Scottish Football Partnership container specifications (PDF). For more information the Scottish Football Partnership can be contacted on 0755 445 0000, or at [admin@thescottishfootballpartnership.com](mailto:admin@thescottishfootballpartnership.com).

## Cymru Football Foundation

Launched in October 2022, the Cymru Football Foundation distributes DCMS and Football Association of Wales funding. It currently operates two funds: one for equipment and one for facilities.

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<sup>19</sup> Scottish Football Partnership, Who we are (accessed 31 July 2023)

### Fit-For-Future Equipment Fund

This fund offers grants of up to £30,000 for “essential equipment” projects worth up to £40,000, such as goal posts or pitch maintenance.<sup>20</sup> Target partnership funding (the amount of funds that must be put forward by the applicant) will be at least 20%.

### Fit-For-Future Facilities Programme

This programme offers large grants up to £300,000 to support capital projects, such as upgrading changing rooms or grass pitches. Target partnership funding will be at least 30%. Applications are due to re-open in October 2023.

### Irish Football Association

[The Irish Football Association](#) does not directly offer funding. They will deliver DCMS’ multi-sport grassroots facilities programme for 2023/25. This fund has now closed.

### Barclays Community Football Fund (UK)

The fund is operated in partnership with Sported, a charity that provides free professional services to support community sports groups and clubs in the UK.

[The goal of this fund is to](#) “make football more accessible across the UK”.<sup>21</sup> Grants are available annually to groups that wish to start offering football, or expand their existing programmes to “new, underrepresented audiences”. This includes:

...girls and young people from lower socio-economic and under-represented groups: including racially diverse communities, people with disabilities, and people from the LGBTQ+ community.<sup>22</sup>

Community sports groups can apply to receive:

- £500 cash grant for new fund recipients to spend on increasing underrepresented young people’s access to play.
- Larger grants are available for existing fund recipients.
- Access to Equality, Diversity and Inclusion training and resources.
- Exclusive opportunities to apply for tickets or for mascot opportunities in the Premier League and Women’s Super League.

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<sup>20</sup> Cymru Football Foundation, [Funding](#) (accessed 31 July 2023)

<sup>21</sup> Barclays, [Barclays Community Football Fund](#) (accessed 31 July 2023)

<sup>22</sup> As above



The fund will make a total investment of £1 million a year over three years, running until December 2024.

## 3.2 Rugby Union

The governing bodies for rugby union are as follows: [Rugby Football Union \(RFU\)](#) (England), [Welsh Rugby Union \(WRU\)](#), [Scottish Rugby](#) and the [Irish Rugby Football Union \(IRFU\)](#).

### RFU (England)

Currently, the RFU's [main facility fund is the RWC2025 Impact Facility Fund](#). In partnership with HM Treasury, DCMS and Sport England the RFU has a £7 million investment fund (between 2023 and 2027) that aims to “enhance the rugby club experience for females”.<sup>23</sup> The next tranche of this funding has yet to be announced. Updates will be given on the RFU's funding page.

The RFU also operates a [Grant Search tool that enables clubs to search for any grants or loans](#) that may be available through third party organisations.

### WRU (Wales)

The WRU does not currently offer any funding programmes. More information about grassroots rugby in Wales can be found on the [WRU's Club & Community website](#).

### Scottish Rugby

Scottish Rugby is operating three funds for the 2023/24 season. The [Club Investment Fund and Developing Club Investment Programme](#) have now closed.

#### Club Sustainability Fund

[This fund is comprised of four strands](#): Fast Track, Revenue, Capital and Major Capital Investment. Applications for the Fast Track stream have now closed. Applications for the other strands will open on 3 October 2023 and close on 26 November:

- Revenue: funding of up to £10,000 to support new projects designed to increase club revenue.
- Capital: funding of up to £50,000 to upgrade club facilities and improve the “quality, capacity and longevity of rugby participation.”<sup>24</sup>

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<sup>23</sup> RFU, [RWC2025 Impact Facility Fund](#) (accessed 31 July 2023)

<sup>24</sup> Scottish Rugby, [Club Sustainability Fund](#) (accessed 1 August 2023)

- Major Capital Investment: part of the Growth and Participation fund, subsidised by the Scottish Government. This strand is designed to support clubs with development in their physical infrastructure. It is a £500,000 fund, which will award up to £250,000 for one or two capital investments per year over the fund's five-year lifespan.

### IRFU (Northern Ireland)

Rugby clubs in Northern Ireland can apply directly to the IRFU for financial assistance. The objective of the IRFU's financial assistance scheme is to "measurably increase and improve the scope for the playing of the game of Rugby Football in Ireland".<sup>25</sup>

Clubs can apply for loans, interest subsidies or other forms of financial support. The [guidelines and application forms for this scheme can be accessed on the IRFU website](#).

## 3.3 Rugby League

The NGBs for rugby league are as follows: [England Rugby League](#), [Wales Rugby League](#), [Scotland Rugby League](#) and [Rugby League Ireland](#).

Currently, none of these bodies directly offer any funding programmes. Each NGB can be contacted in the following ways:

- Wales Rugby League: [info@walesrugbyleague.co.uk](mailto:info@walesrugbyleague.co.uk)
- Scotland Rugby League: [info@scotlandrl.com](mailto:info@scotlandrl.com)
- Rugby League Ireland: [info@rli.ie](mailto:info@rli.ie)
- England Rugby League: England Rugby League's funding page provides a list of funding options. This includes a [list of funding organisations that clubs may be able to apply to](#) (PDF). They can also be contacted at: [enquiries@rfl.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@rfl.co.uk).

## 3.4 Tennis

The [Lawn Tennis Association \(LTA\)](#) is the governing body for tennis in Great Britain.

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<sup>25</sup> IRFU, [Financial Assistance Guidelines](#) (accessed 31 July 2023)

[Tennis Wales](#) and [Tennis Scotland](#) are the NGBs for the sport in Wales and Scotland respectively. [Tennis Ireland is the governing body for tennis in Northern Ireland.](#)

## LTA (Great Britain)

Currently, the LTA operates three forms of funding. These apply to England, Wales and Scotland.

Indoor Community Tennis Projects are delivered through a different process in Scotland: for more information see the Tennis Scotland section below. Applicants based in Scotland should contact [info@tennisscotland.org](mailto:info@tennisscotland.org) for further information about these LTA funds; applicants based in Wales should contact [tenniswales@tenniswales.org.uk](mailto:tenniswales@tenniswales.org.uk).

### Indoor Community Tennis Projects

[The LTA has identified 72 target locations for future community indoor tennis venues in England, 12 in Wales and 12 in Scotland](#) (see below for more information on Scottish indoor tennis venues). The metrics used to establish these target locations, the current list of locations and the expression of interest form can be found on the LTA website.

### Quick Access Loan Scheme

[This scheme provides interest free loans from £25,000 up to £250,000.](#) The fund is open all the time; applicants must be an LTA-registered venue on project completion. This stream prioritises “investment in facilities, prioritising the installation and construction of covered courts” in order to enable communities to access all year round facilities.<sup>26</sup> The [fund’s webpage provides more information and an expression of interest form.](#)

### Gate Access Funding

The LTA provides [grant funding for either clubs or parks to install a Gate Access System](#). The LTA has identified areas in which it believes that participation can be grown through the use of this technology. Local Participation Development Partners will be able to provide more information.

### Open Court

This programme provides “[a package of equipment and support to enable venues to increase opportunities for disabled people](#)”.<sup>27</sup> This includes funding support, the provision of an adaptive equipment bag and access to other forms of support. Participants must commit to this programme for 12 months. Interested venues in England should contact [disabilitytennis@lta.org.uk](mailto:disabilitytennis@lta.org.uk).

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<sup>26</sup> LTA, [Quick Access Loan Scheme](#) (accessed 31 July 2023)

<sup>27</sup> LTA, [Open Court](#) (accessed 31 July 2023)

## Tennis Wales

Tennis Wales operates two Wales specific funding schemes for signage and for capital investment.

### Branding and signage

In partnership with Dragon Signs, [eligible projects can access discounted support and, in some cases, funding](#) to design and install new signage. Contact [tenniswales@tenniswales.org.uk](mailto:tenniswales@tenniswales.org.uk) for more information.

### Capital investment into public park tennis courts

[In partnership with the LTA and Sport Wales](#), Tennis Wales offers funding “to work with Local Authority partners to modernise tennis courts”.<sup>28</sup> Interested Local Authorities or residents in areas with public park tennis courts should contact [tenniswales@tenniswales.org.uk](mailto:tenniswales@tenniswales.org.uk) for more information.

## Tennis Scotland

Tennis Scotland operates two Scotland-specific funding schemes:

### Transforming Scottish Indoor Tennis Fund

Delivered in partnership with the LTA and sportscotland, this is the Scotland-specific form of the Indoor Community Tennis Projects scheme.

Initial priority will be given to projects which involve a minimum of three indoor courts. Funding of up to 66% of project costs is available up to a maximum of £250,000 per court.

The fund will be delivered through a series of funding rounds each year. The partnership aims to invest £15 million over the next 10 years. [An application form can be found on the fund’s webpage](#).

### Parks Renovation Fund

[Delivered in partnership with the LTA, this fund aims to improve the condition of park tennis courts across Scotland](#). Applicants can be local authorities, Leisure Trusts, not-for-profit groups/operators or clubs seeking to “develop a satellite venue”.<sup>29</sup>

## Tennis Ireland

Currently, Tennis Ireland does not offer any funding.

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<sup>28</sup> LTA, [Tennis Wales: Funding & investment](#) (accessed 31 July 2023)

<sup>29</sup> LTA, [Tennis Scotland: Parks Renovation Fund](#) (accessed 31 July 2023)

## 3.5

## Cricket

The NGBs for cricket are as follows: [the England and Wales Cricket Board \(ECB\)](#), [Cricket Scotland](#) and [Cricket Ireland](#).

### England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB)

The ECB operates two funds: the County Grants Fund and an interest-free loan scheme.

#### County Grants Fund

[This scheme is open to all ECB-affiliated cricket clubs in England and Wales.](#)

Clubs can apply for between £1,000 and £10,000 per application; further guidance is available on the website. The ECB recommends that clubs discuss their potential projects with their local County Cricket Board or Foundation before they apply. Three different types of project are eligible:

- Create welcome environments: open to cricket clubs registered for All Stars or Dynamos in 2022, or actively involved with women and girl's cricket and/or disability cricket.
- Enhanced facilities and playing opportunities for women's and girls' cricket and/or disability cricket: open to cricket clubs actively engaged in competitive female only cricket.
- Tackling climate change (supported by Sport England): open to any cricket club.

#### England and Wales Cricket Trust (EWCT) Interest Free Loan Scheme

[This scheme provides finance for capital projects](#) (for instance, changing room development or equipment purchase). [The guidance notes contain more information on terms and conditions](#) (PDF). All ECB-affiliated organisations and other organisations that can demonstrate achievement or delivery of the EWCT's charitable aims can apply. The following criteria apply:

- Applicants must demonstrate that funds will be used to “benefit the general community”.<sup>30</sup>
- Clubs without a junior section can apply for £1,000 to £20,000; clubs with a junior section can apply for £1,000 to £50,000; and other organisations are subject to application.
- A minimum of 10% partnership funding is required from the applicant.

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<sup>30</sup> ECB, [EWCT Interest Free Loan Scheme](#) (accessed 31 July 2023)

## Cricket Scotland

Cricket Scotland does not directly provide funding.

[The Cricket Development Trust provides grants and loans to certain projects](#); this organisation is a charitable trust that aims to promote cricket among children and young people.

The [amount and nature of support provided by the Cricket Development Trust is dependent on the nature of the project](#). “Each application will be determined by the Trustees on its own merits” and applicants must be affiliated to Cricket Scotland or be a recognised constituent body with a substantial concern for the development of cricket.<sup>31</sup> They must also have a junior section or be committed to introducing one.

Cricket Scotland’s website also has a webpage [that outlines other forms of funding](#).

## Cricket Ireland

Cricket Ireland does not directly provide funding. [Cricket Ireland’s club grant and funding programmes webpage offers more information about the other types of funding that a cricket club could access](#). This includes a list of local authorities’ contact information.

## 3.6

## Basketball

The NGBs for basketball are as follows: [Basketball England](#), [Basketball Wales](#), [Basketball Scotland](#) and [Basketball Ireland](#).

### Basketball England

Basketball England does not currently offer any funding programmes. [Its funding webpage](#) provides some examples of the funding basketball clubs could apply for through other organisations.

### Basketball Wales

Basketball Wales operates the [Nothing but Net programme that provides clubs and individuals with free basketball nets to improve local outdoor courts](#). Applicants should first fill out the [Outdoor Court Questionnaire](#) and then [complete the application form](#).

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<sup>31</sup> Cricket Development Trust Scotland, [Funding Guidelines](#) (accessed 31 July 2023)

## **Basketball Scotland**

Basketball Scotland does not currently offer any funding programmes. [Basketball Scotland's contacts page provides details of both the general enquiry email and department specific information.](#)

## **Basketball Ireland**

Basketball Ireland does not currently offer any funding programmes. It can be contacted at [info@ireland.basketball](mailto:info@ireland.basketball).

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## 4 Alternative sources of funding for organisations and teams

Organisations can also access funding in other ways. This section provides a brief list of these methods. Many National Governing Bodies (NGBs) will also have funding pages on their websites that offer lists of alternative funding sources.

### 4.1 UK

#### National Lottery Awards for All

These awards enable organisations to apply for funding between £300 and £10,000. It is [available to voluntary or community organisations and aims to fund projects and organisations which:](#)

- bring people together to build strong relationships in and across communities
- improve the places and spaces that matter to communities
- help more people to reach their potential, by supporting them at the earliest possible stage
- support people, communities and organisations that are facing increased demands and challenges as a direct result of the cost-of-living crisis.<sup>32</sup>

The following links provide access to the webpage for the relevant Awards for All page for each constituent part of the United Kingdom:

- [National Lottery Awards for All England](#)
- [National Lottery Awards for All Wales](#)
- [National Lottery Awards for All Northern Ireland](#)
- [National Lottery Awards for All Scotland](#)

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<sup>32</sup> The National Lottery Community Fund, [National Lottery Awards for All England](#) (accessed 1 September 2023)



## Community shares

Community shares are a specific form of equity capital available to two types of organisation: Cooperative Societies and Community Benefit Societies. More information about this can be found on the following webpages:

- [Sport England's community shares webpage](#).
- [The community shares webpage](#) provides further information and links to the specific websites for community shares in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

## Crowdfunding

Crowdfunding is the use of websites to organise and facilitate fundraising campaigns. Typically, these campaigns are hosted by a crowdfunding platform. A crowdfunding page will have some text explaining what the project is; individuals can then donate to the campaign through this page. The following links provide more information:

- [Sport England crowdfunding page](#).
- Nesta's [article provides advice from crowdfunding platforms on how to launch a crowdfunding campaign](#).

## Community foundations

Community foundations are charitable organisations focused on supporting a defined geographical area. Community foundations offer a variety of grant-making programmes.

UK Community Foundations, the membership organisation for 47 accredited UK community foundations, has a [search function that enables individuals to find their relevant local community foundation](#) (on the homepage under the 'Our network: Find your local community foundation' heading).

## Donations and fundraising

The National Council for Voluntary Organisations (NCVO), the umbrella body for the voluntary and community sector in England, has a collection of [guidance pages on fundraising methods](#). Many of the governing bodies listed above also have webpages that provide ideas for the types of fundraising activity a club or organisation could consider.

[The Code of Fundraising Practice](#), from the Fundraising Regulator, "sets the standards that apply to fundraising carried out by all charitable institutions and fundraisers in the UK."<sup>33</sup>

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<sup>33</sup> Fundraising Regulator, [Code of Fundraising Practice](#) (accessed 2 August 2023)

## Gift Aid

Gift Aid enables charities and community amateur sports clubs (CASCs) to claim an extra 25p for every £1 that is donated to them.

[The Sport England Gift Aid page](#) provides more information on this. The Government has also created a [guide to claiming Gift Aid as a charity or CASC](#).

## Grantfinder

Grantfinder is an online service provided through a Commons Library subscription and gives access to a searchable and continuously updated database of UK funding sources, including grants, loans and advisory schemes. It also contains lots of useful advice about applying for grants.

Grantfinder tends to work better for groups and enterprises than for individuals.

### How to access Grantfinder

Grantfinder can be accessed via the [Library's A-Z of databases](#) (Parliamentary Login required). Full details of how to log on from the estate and remotely can be found there.

When running a funding search on GrantFinder, try to get as much information as possible about the funding needed including location, amount needed, and the purpose of the funding.

The Library can help with the use of Grantfinder, run searches for Members and their staff and give training on the effective use of the database. Visit our [services page](#) to find out more.

## Poundland Foundation, Kits 4 Kids

Grants of up to £750 are available to buy new kits for local kids' sports clubs across the UK.

[Full eligibility criteria will be available on the fund's website ahead of the next grant window in the autumn.](#)

## 4.2

## Scotland

Funding Scotland, a service provided by the Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations, enables organisations to search for available funding opportunities in Scotland: [Funding Scotland, Funds](#).

## Foundation Scotland

Foundation Scotland distributes grant funding to community groups and charities in Scotland: [Funding Available](#).

### 4.3

## Wales

Funding Wales, created by Third Sector Support Wales, is a search platform that enables organisations to search for funds supporting projects in Wales: [Funding Wales, Search for funding](#).

## Welsh Government

[The Welsh Government operates a capital grant scheme called the Community Facilities Fund](#). Grants are available at two levels: small grants of under £25,000 and larger grants of up to £300,000. It is a rolling programme and applications can be submitted at any time.

The programme is open to community and voluntary groups. All applications will need to demonstrate that the facility to be improved is:

- Needed and well used by the community and is or will be offering services not duplicated in the surrounding area;
- Providing services or hosting activities which offer local opportunities for people to improve their lives. This could include access to training, employability support, health and wellbeing activities or services focussed on early years;
- Supported by and developed with the involvement of the local community;
- Sustainable over the medium to long-term (at least 3-5 years).<sup>34</sup>

## Community Foundation Wales

The Community Foundation Wales provides grants to community groups and charities in Wales. It enables organisations to search for funding specific to their region and organisation type: [Can we help you find funding?](#)

### 4.4

## Northern Ireland

The Northern Ireland Sports Forum is the recognised umbrella organisation for the voluntary sport sector in Northern Ireland. Its website provides a

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<sup>34</sup> Welsh Government, [Community Facilities Programme: Guidance for Grant Applicants](#) (PDF), 9 March 2023, p4

summary of the funding opportunities available for sports organisations in Northern Ireland: [Northern Ireland Sports Forum, Funding Opportunities](#).

## The Community Foundation Northern Ireland

The Community Foundation Northern Ireland is an independent, grant making trust. It offers various grants for voluntary, community or social enterprise organisations: [Open Grants and Programmes](#).

## Fibrus Play it Forward Fund

Fibrus, an internet provider operating in Northern Ireland and the north of England, established the Play it Forward Fund in spring 2023.

[The fund supports non-profit voluntary and community groups, organisations, and charities in Northern Ireland and Cumbria to provide](#) “financial support for their children’s sports projects or initiatives”.<sup>35</sup> Projects must be run in communities only in which Fibrus already has a broadband service.

Organisations can apply for up to £1000 of funding. Round two of the 2023 fund will go live in October 2023.

## Kingspan Kickstart Sports Fund

This fund is open to amateur athletes or sports clubs across the island of Ireland and aims to “help budding athletes get a financial boost to achieve their goals”.<sup>36</sup>

[The fund runs on a quarterly basis and offers up to £850 per applicant, per year](#).

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<sup>35</sup> Fibrus, [Fibrus Play it Forward Fund](#) (accessed 1 August 2023)

<sup>36</sup> Kingspan, [Kingspan Kickstart Sports Fund](#) (accessed 1 August 2023)

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## 5 Funding for disability sport

There are several specific funding options designed to help disabled people, or teams, access sport and leisure opportunities.

The Disability Grants website provides a database of disability grants that are available in the UK. This includes a list of grants for sport:

- [Grants for individuals](#)
- [Grants for clubs and groups](#)

WheelPower is the national charity for wheelchair sport. It provides online classes, training courses and guidance “for disabled people to enjoy sport and live healthy active lives”.<sup>37</sup>

The [equipment and sports wheelchair funding](#) webpage provides a list of charities that can provide support with purchasing a sports wheelchair and equipment.

### 5.1 The Sports Foundation for the Disabled

[The Sports Foundation for the Disabled was established in 1990](#) and provides funding (up to a maximum value of £5,000 per person or organisation) for disability sport in South West England and Wales.

The fund is available to young people or adults in South West England or Wales who are physically disabled or have a visual impairment. Individuals must be part of a sports club, sporting pathway, or linked to a National Governing Body (NGB).

Organisations for physically disabled or visually impaired groups are also eligible to apply. Organisations must also fulfil organisational criteria (such as being a not-for-profit group), coaching/teaching standards, health and safety, and child protection criteria. More information can be found on [the foundation’s website](#).

The following costs are eligible for funding:

- New equipment and kit “specifically for disability sport activities”.<sup>38</sup>

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<sup>37</sup> WheelPower, [Homepage](#) (accessed 1 August 2023)

<sup>38</sup> Sports Foundation for the Disabled, [Funding Criteria](#) (accessed 1 August 2023)

- Training courses. The organisation will not fund ongoing training costs. Training will only be covered if an applicant can demonstrate how these costs will be met in the long term, along with evidence identifying other sources of funding applied for or secured.
- Costs relating to a sport project for people with physical disabilities or visual impairments.
- Costs relating to sporting challenges including travel, equipment, sustenance and accommodation.

Successful applicants will be expected to complete monitoring forms to show how the funding has affected their progress.

## 5.2 Boost

Boost Charitable Trust is a grant-giving charity that was established in 2005. It provides funding to programmes which help “improve the lives of the disadvantaged and disabled through the power of sport”.<sup>39</sup>

Nearly half of its annual grants are “directed towards sport for those with physical or learning disabilities”.<sup>40</sup> It also funds projects linked to mental health challenges and social exclusion.

Boost will only support charities or non-profit-making organisations with a focus on sport within the UK.<sup>41</sup> Applicants should email a letter, no longer than two sides of A4, that includes:

- Organisations details: name of organisation, what it does and who its beneficiaries are.
- Project: details of the project and why it needs support.
- Funding: amount requested together with a budget.

It may take up to three months for the organisation to decide on the outcome of an application.

## 5.3 Dan Maskell Tennis Trust

Dan Maskell Tennis Trust, formed in 1997, is a tennis charity raising funds for people with disabilities who play tennis. Individuals and groups, clubs or

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<sup>39</sup> Boost Charitable Trust, [About](#) (accessed 1 August 2023)

<sup>40</sup> As above

<sup>41</sup> The Trust will offer grants outside the UK in exceptional circumstances.

projects may apply for general funding or for a tennis wheelchair or wheelchairs.

All applicants must be UK citizens and resident in the UK. Applications will be considered by the trustees of Dan Maskell Tennis Trust which meets four times a year. Applications not submitted before a given meeting's deadline will be considered at the next meeting.

[Applications are made through the online application form.](#)

## General funding

The maximum grant per application is £1,500 for a group, club or project and £500 for an individual.

[Items that will not be considered](#) include:

...clothing or individual transport costs, luxury items such as electronic equipment e.g. videos, publicity, promotions, advertising, general administration and catering at tournaments and events.<sup>42</sup>

## Individual applications

The Trust gives the [following examples of items that will be considered](#): “tennis rackets, coaching lessons with an LTA [Lawn Tennis Association] Licensed coach; course fees for official LTA Development/Coaching courses”.<sup>43</sup>

## Group, club or project applications

This is for those who are starting a disability group or a club programme/project or who need help with an existing project or programme.

Examples of what would be considered include help towards court hire, coaching fees or equipment costs: “All programmes and projects should aim towards self-financing and sustainability”.<sup>44</sup>

Applicants should provide as much information as possible and specify what costs are associated with each item. The Trust recommends that an organisation consults the LTA and/or its local County Tennis Association before applying.

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<sup>42</sup> Dan Maskell Tennis Trust, [Grant Criteria & Application Notes](#) (accessed 1 August 2023)

<sup>43</sup> As above

<sup>44</sup> As above

## Equipment funding

### Individual applications

Items considered in this category include strings, tape, gloves and tennis rackets. A maximum grant of £100 per racket may be offered.

### Group applications

A set package of equipment is available. This set package will be ordered and paid for by the Trust and delivered direct to a specific address.

## Tennis wheelchairs

### Individual applications

The organisation has three types of tennis wheelchair that are available for individual applicants. The contribution required for each of these may rise during the year:

- RGK Grand Slam. Suitable for the “more serious competitor”.<sup>45</sup> Each applicant is required to raise a contribution of £1,700 and the Trust pays the difference.
- RGK Club Sport. Suitable for those “who play more recreational and social tennis”.<sup>46</sup> Each applicant is required to raise a contribution of £700 for this chair.
- ROMA Sport’s grass roots chair. Available in junior and adult sizes. A contribution of £300 is required for this chair.

Applicants may also request alternative chairs to those listed above. If the Trust awarded a grant for an alternative chair, the applicant would then be responsible for ordering and payment of the chair directly with the supplier.

### Group, club or project applications

Applicants can apply for one or more tennis wheelchairs designed for general use at grassroots level.

The chair available for group applications is the ROMA grassroots chair. The contribution required is £300 per chair. The Trust will offer a grant for the remaining cost. The chair is available in junior and adult sizes.

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<sup>45</sup> Dan Maskell Tennis Trust, [Grant Criteria & Application Notes](#) (accessed 1 August 2023)

<sup>46</sup> As above



## 5.4

# Family Fund

Family Fund, founded in 1973, is a grant-making charity, operating across the UK, for families raising a disabled or seriously ill child, on a low income.

## Eligibility

### Income

Applicants are likely to be eligible if a family's main carer receives one of the following:

- Universal Credit
- Child Tax Credit
- Working Tax Credit
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income Related Employment Support Allowance
- Income Support
- Housing Benefit
- Pension Credit<sup>47</sup>

Applicants that do not receive any benefits can still apply. In these circumstances applicants will be required to provide further information about their household income.

### Child or young person's support needs

Family Fund requires information about a child or young person's disability. They do not need to have had a formal diagnosis.

If an applicant's child needs a high level of support in at least three of the following areas, they may be eligible to apply:

- Personal care
- Access to social activities
- Education
- Communication

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<sup>47</sup> Family Fund, [Are we eligible?](#) (accessed 1 September 2023)

- Supervision
- Medical treatment
- Physical environment<sup>48</sup>

## Available grants

Family Fund provides a wide range of grants for families in all the constituent parts of the UK. These can be used to fund outdoor play, specialist trikes/bikes, or clubs, hobbies and activities. More information is available on the webpage for each programme:

- [England](#)
- [Wales](#)
- [Scotland](#)
- [Northern Ireland](#)

The charity also offers [Your Opportunity, a dedicated grant programme aimed at 18 to 24 year olds across the UK](#). Applications should come from parents or carers. This grant can be used to purchase sports equipment, [and more information can be found on the fund's webpage](#).

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<sup>48</sup> Family Fund, [Are we eligible?](#) (accessed 1 September 2023)

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## 6 Funding for individual athletes

[UK Sport is the primary agency for the funding of individual elite level athletes in the United Kingdom.](#) This body distributes Exchequer and National Lottery funds to “every GB athlete considered to have a credible chance of winning a medal over the next two Olympic and Paralympic games”.<sup>49</sup>

Funding is allocated to individual athletes by their sport’s governing body. Individuals interested in UK Sport funding should begin by contacting their given National Governing Body (NGB).

### 6.1 Sport Wales

#### Talent Cymru

[Talent Cymru is a National Lottery grant that assists sportspeople with the cost of competing;](#) it “acts as a stepping stone between SportsAid Cymru and then either UK Pathway funding or Elite Cymru”.<sup>50</sup> To find out more about applying for Talent Cymru contact the relevant sport’s governing body.

#### Elite Cymru

[Covers the cost of competing for individual athletes](#) in non-Olympic & non-Paralympic sports (such as karate and motorsports), Commonwealth Games sports, such as bowls, shooting and squash (for the two years before the Games), or sports that medal on a world level, such as golf. Applications are via invitation only.

### 6.2 sportscotland

sportscotland does not directly provide funds for elite athletes. The following programme is delivered by other organisations and listed on the sportscotland funding page.

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<sup>49</sup> UK Sport, [FAQs](#) (accessed 1 August 2023)

<sup>50</sup> Sport Wales, [Talent Cymru](#) (accessed 1 August 2023)

## Athlete Travel Award Scheme (ATAS)

[ATAS “supports travel costs for Highland and island competitors](#) to help talented athletes from the Outer Hebrides, Orkney, Shetland and Highland”.<sup>51</sup> Applicants can receive up to £1,500 to cover accommodation and travel costs in attending training and competitions. ATAS facilitators can provide more guidance.

## 6.3

## Sport NI

### Athlete Award Programme

The Athlete Award Programme runs each year for [sports that have Commonwealth, Olympic or Paralympic events](#). Where athletes might require support with their “essential personal living costs” they can be nominated for this funding by their NGB.<sup>52</sup>

[Sport NI’s Athlete Award Programme 2022/23 document](#) (PDF) provides information about the sports that were funded for this cycle and the awards available to athletes.

For further information contact: [sportingwinners@sportni.net](mailto:sportingwinners@sportni.net)

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<sup>51</sup> sportscotland, [Athlete Travel Award Scheme \(ATAS\)](#), 27 June 2022

<sup>52</sup> Sport NI, [Athlete Award Programme 2022-23](#) (accessed 1 August 2023)

## 7

# Funding for young people

Some organisations offer specific funding for young athletes. These funds may either be targeted at athletes that will eventually compete in the Olympics or Paralympic games, or young people more generally that might struggle to access sporting activities without additional financial support.

## 7.1

### United Kingdom

#### The Dickie Bird Foundation

[The Dickie Bird Foundation, established in 2004, is a charity that awards grants](#) to financially less advantaged individuals under 16 in England, Wales and Scotland. The charity makes grants to all sports.

The trustees of the foundation meet every two months to consider new grant applications. Grants are only payable “for essential sports equipment and clothing”.<sup>53</sup> Travel or coaching expenses are not eligible.

Funding awards are limited to no more than £500 per individual. [Applications are made by completing the application form.](#)

#### Cash for Kids

[Cash for Kids is a grant-giving charity](#) that works to “improve the lives of disadvantaged children” across the UK.<sup>54</sup> It offers general grants to support children living in the UK, or registered charities that help children from the UK.

It offers general grants:

Our grant rounds support children from birth up to and including 18 years of age who are vulnerable, come from disadvantaged backgrounds or are living with an illness or disability. We also provide a lifeline to many other charities, organisations and community groups, funding much-needed services and life-changing equipment.

The value of a grant is typically from £1,000 to £3,000 but we will happily consider applications for larger amounts.<sup>55</sup>

<sup>53</sup> The Dickie Bird Foundation, [Home](#) (accessed 1 August 2023)

<sup>54</sup> Charity Commission, [Bauer Radio's Cash for Kids Charities](#) (accessed 30 August 2023)

<sup>55</sup> Cash for Kids, [Apply for a Cash for Kids Grant](#) (accessed 1 August 2023)

[Applications are made through the online system.](#)

## SportsAid

[SportsAid is a charity that helps young British sportspeople](#) (the “vast majority” aged 12 to 18).<sup>56</sup> It primarily works with the National Governing Bodies (NGBs) of Olympic and Paralympic sports.

SportsAid provides financial awards (typically around £1,000) to athletes in “more than 60 sports”.<sup>57</sup> Recipients are nominated by their given NGB.

## 7.2

## England

[Sport England invests in and supports the “the stages prior to the Performance Pathway”](#), which is UK Sport’s programme for supporting athletes recognised as able to compete in the Olympic or Paralympic games.<sup>58</sup> For the 2017 to 2021 funding cycle, Sport England committed around £85 million of investment across the talent pathways of 43 sports.

Sport England distributes funds to the following organisation and schemes in this capacity.

## SportsAid

In addition to its UK-wide financial awards, SportsAid manages two England-specific schemes on behalf of Sport England.

### Backing The Best

[Backing The Best applicants must demonstrate “outstanding ability”](#), and show that because of their “family’s financial situation, they might not get the opportunity to fulfil their potential without it”.<sup>59</sup> Awards are worth up to £5,000 per year and “help cover expensive costs”.<sup>60</sup> For instance, travel or accommodation.

NGBs allocate this funding.

### Talented Athlete Scholarship Scheme (TASS)

[TASS is a Sport England funded partnership](#) between “talented athletes, delivery sites and the national governing bodies of sport”.<sup>61</sup> TASS provides support services to athletes pursuing a recognised programme of learning.

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<sup>56</sup> SportsAid, [About Us](#) (accessed 1 August 2023)

<sup>57</sup> As above

<sup>58</sup> Sport England, [Our talent plan](#) (accessed 1 August 2023)

<sup>59</sup> SportsAid, [Backing The Best](#) (accessed 1 August 2023)

<sup>60</sup> As above

<sup>61</sup> TASS, [About TASS](#) (accessed 1 August 2023)

This is offered through 38 certified TASS Delivery Sites throughout England. Eligible applicants must be in full-time education and aged 16 or above.

NGBs nominate athletes for this scheme.

## 7.3

## Scotland

### SportsAid Scotland

Funding from SportsAid Scotland is distributed by Scottish Sports Aid, “a charity which provides financial assistance in the form of grant awards to talented sporting youngsters”.<sup>62</sup> The minimum award available is £250 and the maximum is £4000. Applicants are nominated by the relevant NGB in September and October each year.

### University of West Scotland (UWS) sports scholarship programme

The UWS sports scholarship programme is distributed by the UWS. This provides “financial scholarships as well as support for student athletes to access UWS sports facilities, educational workshops, sports science/medicine support”.<sup>63</sup> More information can be found on the UWS website.

### Winning Students scholarships

Winning Students scholarships are “awarded annually and can value up to £6,000 per annum, providing tailored support and academic flexibility”.<sup>64</sup> They are available to full-time and part-time students and to able-bodied and disabled athletes. Athletes in Olympic, Paralympic and Commonwealth games sports are nominated by their NGB; athletes in sports outside of these can also apply. These individual applications are currently paused. More information can be found on the Winning Students website.

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<sup>62</sup> sportscotland, [SportsAid Scotland](#), 30 November 2021

<sup>63</sup> sportscotland, [UWS Sports Scholarship Programme](#), 30 November 2021

<sup>64</sup> sportscotland, [Winning Students scholarships](#), 30 November 2021

## 7.4

### Wales

#### **SportsAid Cymru Wales**

SportsAid Cymru Wales focuses on athletes aged 12 to 18 years (or older for athletes with disabilities).<sup>65</sup> It provides financial awards to those who are not receiving financial support from other official sources.

Applications for support from SportsAid Cymru Wales have to be submitted through (and endorsed by) the NGB of the individual's sport.

## 7.5

### Northern Ireland

#### **King George VI Youth Award**

The King George VI Youth Awards funds youth work projects in Northern Ireland for young people aged 14 to 21 years. It also offers grants to from individuals that reside in Northern Ireland. The maximum grant available is £500.

Individual applicants for sports funding must demonstrate that they will pass their skills on to a youth group. Applications are considered by the awards panel at their meetings, which are usually held four times a year.

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<sup>65</sup> SportsAid Cymru Wales, [Athletes & Awards](#) (accessed 1 August 2023)




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