

Regional Sport Facility Fund

2020/2021 Frequently Asked Questions

How do I prepare and submit an application?

Applicants must use the [Office of Sport grants online system](#)

When do applications need to be lodged by?

Applications must be lodged by 5pm on 26 February 2021, via the Office of Sport's grants online system.

What criteria apply to the assessment of applications?

Detailed project plans/business cases that are eligible and comply with the application requirements will be assessed against the Fund's objectives, focus and aim and the assessment criteria: strategic justification, project scope and inclusive design, project affordability and project deliverability. Assessment criteria is detailed in the Regional Sport Facility Fund Fact Sheet.

Will all applications receive funding?

No. The application process is competitive. It is anticipated there will be multiple applications competing for the funding available. Successful applications will be those that best meet the objectives, focus and aim of the program and the assessment criteria.

What is a State Sporting Organisation, State Sporting Organisation for People with Disability and a National Sporting Organisation?

The sporting organisation recognised by the Office of Sport and Sport Australia as the pre-eminent body for the development of their sport in NSW and Australia.

Does a National/State Sporting Organisation Statement of Support need to be included for projects costing less than \$5 million?

No. Projects with a capital cost equal to or greater than \$5 million must have a letter of support from the relevant State/National Sporting Organisation. Where the facility provides for a number of sports, a letter from each State/National Sporting Organisation is required. Where a letter of support has not been provided, the Office of Sport reserves the right to recommend to the Grant Assessment Panel to set the application aside from further consideration, at its absolute discretion.

However, to demonstrate project need support letters can be provided by MPs, councils, National/State and local sporting clubs and associations, schools and community groups where available.

How do I load multiple letters of support in the document upload section of grants online?

List as an attachment and scan all the letters into one PDF document and upload that document.

Are educational organisations including schools, TAFEs and universities eligible for a grant?

No. The focus of the Fund is on facility projects that provide benefits to the community, not solely school students. Whilst educational organisations such as schools, TAFEs and universities are not eligible applicants, we encourage partnerships with these organisations to provide the community with

access to sporting facilities. A project between an eligible applicant e.g. council and a public school using the Joint Use Facility Agreement developed by School Infrastructure NSW would be an eligible project. The eligible applicant e.g. council would need to be the applicant under the Regional Sport Facility Fund.

Can funding be used to buy back private equity in an existing facility or used to purchase land for the project?

No. The Fund aims to support the capital construction costs of a project.

Where a financial co-contribution is required for a large project, can the source of the contribution be a different grant from another NSW Government agency?

Yes. However, the grant must be for a different component of the project.

Can the co-contribution be in kind, such as discounts or labour contributions?

No. The co-contribution must be a financial contribution.

If our project cost is \$100,000 and the applicant contributes \$10,000, making the funding amount \$90,000, are we still eligible?

No. The Guidelines state that the minimum grant amount is \$100,000. Therefore, the project cost must be at least \$100,000.

If part of the \$25 million available per year is not committed, will the balance be rolled over?

We expect the amount requested will exceed the funds available per annum and that the available funds will be fully committed.

Do you have to have Development Application approval prior to submitting the application?

Yes. Where a Development Application would be required by a council, it must be evidenced as part of the application. A Development Application demonstrates the shovel readiness of a project.

If a Development Application has not been provided (or evidence provided to support that the DA is not required), the Office of Sport reserves the right to recommend to the Grant Assessment Panel to set the application aside from further consideration at its absolute discretion.

Do organisations require land-owner consent for projects that will be built on land owned by a public authority?

Yes. A letter from the landowner must be provided as part of the application.

Where a letter providing landowner consent has not been provided, the Office of Sport reserves the right to recommend to the Grant Assessment Panel to set the application aside from further consideration at its absolute discretion.

Will local government be consulted if multiple projects are submitted within their area?

No. As councils are expected to also apply, they cannot have access to information on other applications.

Would an active recreation track/trail for cycling activities, walking and running be considered an eligible project?

Yes. Applications that will develop new or significantly improved walking, running or off-road cycling trails that are an integral component of the sport facility development are eligible. Fixed outdoor exercise equipment is eligible if co-located and integrated into a sport facility development.

Can you put in more than one application as long as they are different projects?

Yes. Applicants can submit up to three (3) applications, with each requesting up to \$1 million per round. It is up to the applicant if they would like to advise project priorities. As part of the assessment process projects will then be assessed in line with the Guidelines.

Can you package up projects across multiple sites?

No. Packaged up projects will only be accepted if there are multiple project elements within the one project site. Providing new or upgraded lighting across multiple sites will not be eligible.

Can sports lighting installations for multiple sports fields/surfaces for different sports be packaged as one application?

Yes, only if it is part of the same sport precinct/sports hub/master plan at the same site location.

Are Parents & Citizens Associations eligible to apply for a grant?

No. The statutory functions of P & C Associations are aimed at assisting the school with which they are associated and promoting the welfare of the students of that school.

Is a sport surface replacement or lighting replacement an eligible project?

Routine or cyclical maintenance projects are not eligible projects. New and/or upgraded project elements that demonstrate sustainable solution are eligible, including:

- energy efficiencies (e.g. LED lighting upgrade);
- environmental sustainability (solar installation, water harvesting); and
- building facilities/surfaces for increased longevity and use (synthetic upgrades) are part of an eligible project scope.

What is inclusive design, beyond compliant and dignified access?

Incorporation of universal design principles and providing safe, dignified and equitable access through functional space. Designs should be beyond Building Code of Australia or Access standards to ensure facilities are accessible to more people.

Refer to https://www.and.org.au/data/Design_for_Dignity/Design_for_Dignity_Guidelines_Aug_2016.pdf.

What is the definition of 'shovel ready'?

Projects need to be able to proceed to procurement stage within the required timeframes and to ensure physical construction works can commence within six months of an executed funding agreement.

Can detailed designs be included as part of the project scope?

Yes. Detailed designs can be considered as part of the project and budget, however the project needs to be able to ensure it can progress to physical project works within six months of signing the funding agreement.

When will successful projects need to be delivered by?

Projects must commence during 2021. Physical construction works are expected to commence within six months of signing the funding agreement. Projects are expected to be completed within two years of the signing of a funding agreement. Consideration will be given to projects of significant scale and complexity, to have an extension up to three years and will not be discounted.

Will consideration be given to small Councils with less resources?

The assessment process will consider project scale and relative size. Consideration will be given to overall impact, relative economic and sport participation benefits of a smaller project.

How do successful applicants acknowledge the funding when projects are underway?

All successful applicants will receive detailed information about how they must acknowledge NSW Government funding for infrastructure projects. Projects funded by the Regional Sport Facility Fund will typically require a statement of funding acknowledgment in the applicant's annual reports and media releases; and a statement and the NSW Government logo included on building signage, related websites and invitations and other funding related materials. Successful applicants will receive full guidelines, logo and signage template files.

Further details about acknowledgment of NSW Government funding for infrastructure projects can be found [here](#).