

Office of Sport

Game on for Change - Preventing Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence through Sport

Program Guidelines

November 2025



Artwork: 'Jennebe'

By Jasmine Sarin

Acknowledgement of Country

The Office of Sport acknowledges and celebrates the Traditional Custodians of the lands and waters of NSW where we work, live and play.

We pay our respects to Elders past and present, and recognise their strengths, knowledge, and continuing connection to Country.

Published by NSW Office of Sport

sport.nsw.gov.au

Program Guidelines

Updated: November 2025

Important Dates and Program Details	
Opening date	26 November 2025
Closing date and time	'Local Impact' (Small): 1pm (AEDT), 18 February 2026 'Expanding Reach' (Medium) and "Whole-Of" Action' (Large): 1pm (AEDT), 4 March 2026
Application outcome date	All Tiers: April 2026 onwards
Project delivery timeframe (for successful applications)	'Local Impact' (Small): Projects should commence within two months of the notification of outcome. Projects must be completed by December 2027. 'Expanding Reach' (Medium) and "Whole-Of" Action' (Large): Projects should commence within two months of the notification of outcome. Projects must be completed by April 2028.
Funding Agreement executed (for successful applicants)	For grants up to \$75,000: Within 2 weeks of notification of outcome via acceptance of Terms and Conditions. For grants over \$75,000: Within 6 weeks of notification of outcome via a milestone Funding Agreement.
Evaluation timeframe (for successful applications)	By June 2028. (Refer to section 5.7.)
Decision-maker	Minister for Sport
NSW Government Agency	Office of Sport
Type of grant opportunity	Open, competitive
Grant value (total available funding for the grant and the available individual grant amounts, excluding GST)	\$3,135,000 available for projects within three tiers: 'Local Impact' (Small) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$500,000 total funding available. • Grants between \$15,000 and \$75,000 for small-scale projects delivered at the local level. 'Expanding Reach' (Medium) and "Whole-Of" Action' (Large) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$2,635,000 total funding available. 'Expanding Reach' (Medium) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grants between \$75,001 and \$300,000 for medium-scale projects that extend

Important Dates and Program Details	
	<p>impact beyond a single organisation or group.</p> <p>“Whole-Of” Action’ (Large)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grants between \$300,001 and \$450,000 for large-scale projects delivered across an entire sporting code or local government area.
Enquiries	<p>Application Enquiries</p> <p>Sport Grants Unit 13 13 02 grantsunit@sport.nsw.gov.au</p> <p>Program & Project Specific Enquiries</p> <p>Primary Prevention Team – Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence primary.prevention@sport.nsw.gov.au</p>

The Office of Sport reserves the right to amend any of these dates during the Program, at its absolute discretion.

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Message from the Minister for Sport



Sport is a cornerstone of Australian life. Whether it's a kick at the local oval, a backyard game of cricket or elite competition, sport brings people together.

Its impact goes far beyond the scoreboard. Sport provides a powerful platform to challenge harmful norms, shift attitudes and drive cultural change. It promotes inclusion, respect and progress.

In 2024, the NSW Government launched its first whole-of-government strategy for the prevention of domestic, family and sexual violence. This strategy recognises that lasting change requires collective action from all parts of society, including government, councils, workplaces, sporting organisations and community leaders. It is grounded in evidence and designed for long-term impact, with a focus on innovation and collaboration to build safer communities.

As part of this strategy, \$3.135 million is available to support organisations across NSW to deliver sport-based projects that address the gendered drivers of domestic, family and sexual violence. These projects should promote positive change in knowledge, behaviour, values, attitudes and skills, helping to build respectful relationships and safer environments through sport.

Funding is available under three tiers to support projects of varying scale. This includes small-scale initiatives at local or grassroots level, medium-scale projects that expand proven approaches or trial new ideas and large-scale initiatives designed to embed prevention work across entire sporting codes or communities.

Please read these guidelines carefully. If your organisation has an eligible project, we encourage you to apply.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Steve Kamper', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

The Hon Steve Kamper MP

Minister for Lands and Property
Minister for Multiculturalism
Minister for Sport
Minister for Jobs and Tourism

1

Overview of Game on for
Change - Preventing
Domestic, Family and
Sexual Violence through
Sport

1 Overview

Primary prevention means stopping violence from occurring in the first place.¹ It aims to change the underlying social conditions that lead to violence against women, including those that excuse, justify or even promote it. Primary prevention works across the whole population to address the drivers of this violence, by shifting attitudes, social norms, practices, structures and power imbalances.²

The NSW Government's strategy, *Pathways to Prevention: NSW Strategy for the Prevention of Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence (the Strategy)*, recognises that gender inequality is a root cause of gender-based violence. However, violence is not caused by any single factor.

The Strategy highlights there are also context-specific risk factors and identifies the following four key drivers that have consistently been found to predict gendered violence at the population level:³

- **Driver One:** Condoning of violence against women.
- **Driver Two:** Men's control of decision-making and limits to women's independence in public and private life.
- **Driver Three:** Rigid gender stereotyping and dominant forms of masculinity.
- **Driver Four:** Male peer relations and cultures of masculinity that emphasise aggression, dominance and control.

Further information regarding the key drivers and the public health approach to primary prevention can be found in the published [Strategy](#).

Under the Strategy, the NSW Government has identified sport as a priority setting with the potential to drive widespread positive change. The NSW Government has committed \$3.135 million across three (3) tiers of funding to support the delivery of primary prevention projects at all levels of sport.

The tiers have the following funding allocations:

- 'Local Impact' (Small) - \$500,000 in total
- 'Expanding Reach' (Medium) and "'Whole-Of' Action' (Large) - \$2,635,000 in total.
 - There are no reserved funding allocations for the 'Expanding Reach' (Medium) and "'Whole-Of' Action' (Large) tiers. Applications will be assessed on merit and recommended for funding in merit order across both tiers.

The 'Expanding Reach' (Medium) and "'Whole-Of' Action' (Large) tiers require applicants to form new partnerships, or demonstrate existing partnerships, to ensure that evidence-based approaches are embedded throughout the project design and implementation.

An applicant may make multiple applications; however, the maximum amount of funding that can be awarded to any one organisation is \$450,000.

These guidelines outline the key objectives, eligibility criteria, assessment process and timeframes for the Game on for Change - Preventing Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence through Sport Program.

Applicants should read this document before filling out an application.

¹ NSW Department of Communities and Justice. (2024). *Pathways to Prevention: NSW Strategy for the Prevention of Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence 2024–2028*. Retrieved from: <https://dcj.nsw.gov.au/documents/service-providers/supporting-family-domestic-sexual-violence-services/pathways-to-prevention-nsw-dfsv-primary-prevention-strategy-2024-to-2028.pdf>

² Our Watch. (2021). *Change the story: Summary*. Retrieved from: <https://assets.ourwatch.org.au/assets/Key-frameworks/Change-the-story-summary-AA.pdf>

³ . Our Watch. (2021). *Change the story*. Retrieved from: <https://assets.ourwatch.org.au/assets/Key-frameworks/Change-the-story-Our-Watch-AA.pdf>

1.1 Purpose and key objectives

Purpose

The Program aims to empower all levels of the sporting sector to play a leading role in the prevention of domestic, family and sexual violence.

Through this Program, the Office of Sport is building the capacity and capability of the sector to address the gendered drivers of domestic, family and sexual violence leading to positive change in knowledge, skills, values and behaviours.

Key Objectives

- Identifying and scaling up evidence-based prevention initiatives, whilst testing and evaluating new approaches to build the evidence base and foster safe, respectful and inclusive environments.
- Establishing and/or strengthening partnerships between the sport and primary prevention sector to build shared capacity, align efforts, and embed prevention practices across sporting environments.
- Ensuring prevention initiatives in sport are inclusive and responsive to diverse lived experiences, recognising how intersecting identities influence participation, safety and access to support.

1.2 Grant value

The NSW Government has allocated up to \$3,135,000 in 2025/26 for this Program. Projects or interventions should target one or multiple **groups** within the sporting environment, including (but not limited to) players, coaches, administrators, officials, spectators, parents, internal staff and the broader community.

‘Local Impact’ (Small)

- Grants between \$15,000 and \$75,000
- Supports small-scale projects delivered at the local level.
- This tier is designed, but not limited to, projects that make change at the local level, generally working with one club or organisation.

‘Expanding Reach’ (Medium)

- Grants between \$75,001 and \$300,000
- Supports medium-scale projects that extend impact beyond a single organisation or group.
- This tier is designed, but not limited to, initiatives that engage additional or multiple groups within the same club or association and/or increase reach into new clubs or settings such as by delivering in new locations.

“‘Whole-Of’ Action’ (Large)

- Grants between \$300,001 and \$450,000
- Supports large-scale projects delivered across an entire sporting code or local government area.
- This tier is designed, but not limited to, initiatives that either engage multiple groups within multiple clubs or settings or engage a single group across every club within the code’s or organisation’s remit.

Organisations applying for multiple grants

- An applicant may make multiple applications; however, the maximum amount of funding that can be awarded to any one organisation is \$450,000.

Financial co-contribution

- There is no mandatory financial contribution. The total project cost should reflect only the scope of works for which grant funding is being sought. Value of in-kind contributions cannot be calculated toward the financial co-contribution.

2

Selection criteria

2 Selection criteria

2.1 Eligibility criteria

To be eligible for funding, your application must:

- be submitted by an eligible applicant as per 2.1.1.
- be submitted through SmartyGrants.
- include a valid Incorporation number and/or ABN.
- be for a project located in NSW.
- be for an eligible project for the relevant tier.
- request a grant amount appropriate for the relevant tier.

Projects in the **'Local Impact' (Small)** tier must be delivered by December 2027.

Projects in the **'Expanding Reach' (Medium) and "Whole-Of" Action' (Large)** tiers must:

- be delivered by April 2028.
 - Note: This is to ensure meaningful delivery and continuous improvement across two cycles i.e. two sporting seasons or two delivery periods. This timeframe enables applicants to implement activities during the first season/delivery period, assess outcomes and refine their approach to enhance delivery in the second season/delivery period.
- provide evidence of a formal partnership as per 2.1.3.

2.1.1 Eligible applicants

Eligible applicants are a:

- Incorporated, community-based or not-for-profit organisation.
- NSW based professional sporting organisations competing in a national or state competition.
- Local government authority in New South Wales.
- Regional Joint Organisation of councils, the Lord Howe Island Board and the Unincorporated Far West groups.
- Private enterprise (company established under the Corporations Act 2001 (Cth), incorporated association established under the Associations Incorporation Act 2009 (NSW) or incorporated limited partnership established under the Partnership Act 1892 (NSW).
- an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Corporation registered under the Corporations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) Act 2006 (Cth).
- a Local Aboriginal Land Council (LALC) under the Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983 (NSW).
- an Australian university either located in NSW or with campuses located in NSW.

All applicants must include a declaration by the applicant organisation that if successful they will provide Public Liability Insurance with a minimum \$5 million cover, depending on the grant value.

2.1.2 Ineligible applicants

Ineligible applicants are any organisation types not listed in the ‘Eligible Applicants’ section, and include (but are not limited to):

- Individuals.
- Parents and Citizens (P&C) Associations.
- For-profit, commercial organisations except NSW based professional sporting organisations specified in section 2.1.1.
- State and Federal Government departments and agencies.
- Schools and TAFEs.
- NSW Institute of Sport, Australian Sports Commission (incorporating the Australian Institute of Sport) and NSW Regional Academies of Sport.
- Organisation named: (i) by the National Redress Scheme for Institutional Child Sexual Abuse on its list of institutions that have not joined or signified their intent not to join the Scheme; or (ii) in the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse that has not yet joined the National Redress Scheme.

2.1.3 Eligibility of a formal partnership

- **Note: This is an eligibility requirement for applications in the ‘Expanding Reach’ (Medium) and “‘Whole-Of” Action’ (Large) tiers only.**
- Applicants under either the ‘Expanding Reach’ (Medium) or “‘Whole-Of” Action’ (Large) tiers are required to establish a formal partnership to support the development, implementation, and delivery of project activities.
- These partnerships should include organisations with demonstrated expertise in the design and delivery of primary prevention programs, to ensure that evidence-based approaches are integrated throughout the project lifecycle.
- Partnerships must consist of **at least two** organisations (minimum), one of which must be the applicant organisation who must meet the Eligible Applicant requirements in section 2.1.1.
- The applicant organisation is responsible for submitting the application on behalf of the partnership. If successful, a Funding Agreement is entered into between the applicant organisation and the Office of Sport.
- For applications submitted under the ‘Local Impact’ (Small) tier, where a formal partnership is not a mandatory requirement, those applicants who elect to establish such a partnership will be viewed more favourably during the merit assessment process.

2.1.4 Eligible projects

All applications must focus on projects or interventions that either build knowledge and skills, or promote positive behavioural and attitudinal change. These efforts should be aimed at supporting the primary prevention of domestic, family, and sexual violence through sport.

Projects or interventions should target one or multiple **groups** within the sporting environment, including (but not limited to) players, coaches, administrators, officials, spectators, parents, internal staff and the broader community.

Examples of eligible projects include but are not limited to:

- New programs that promote respectful relationships, build awareness of coercive control, challenge harmful gender norms and build emotional wellbeing through sport.
- Facilitated sessions with players and coaches that explore how team culture can reinforce or challenge harmful norms, with practical strategies to build respectful and inclusive environments.
- Sustained engagement by elite athletes and teams with the same school or community group across multiple sessions and seasons. These sessions use sport-based activities, storytelling and leadership development to promote respectful relationships, challenge harmful gender norms and build non-violent behaviours.
- Sport-based programs that build emotional regulation, empathy and non-violent conflict resolution skills.
- Training that equips coaches to promote respectful relationships, prevent harmful behaviours, and embed wellbeing and resilience in sport.
- Initiatives that promote equitable leadership and decision making, encouraging diverse representation and inclusive governance across all levels of sport.
- Sessions that help parents understand how their own behaviours, language and emotional regulation influence young athletes and team culture.
- An audit to update codes of conduct, internal policies and procedures, and governance frameworks to explicitly address the drivers of violence and promote respectful, inclusive environments.
- Peer leadership programs that train young athletes to act as role models and peer influencers, promoting safe, inclusive, and non-violent behaviours within their teams and clubs.
- Club policy reviews supported by prevention experts to embed gender equality and respectful behaviour into codes of conduct and member protection policies.
- Internal education programs to build organisational or board-level understanding of the role sport can play in the primary prevention of domestic, family and sexual violence.

Detailed examples of projects by tiers are provided in the Appendix (Section 7).

2.1.5 Eligible project costs

Project-related expenditure including (but not limited to):

- Venue hire for program delivery
- Program materials and equipment
- Promotion and marketing
- Specialist facilitator fees
- Accessibility costs
- Travel and accommodation if essential to delivery.
- The salaries of persons directly involved in the delivery of the project for project related activity.
- Evaluation activities for the project beyond contributing data and input to the Office of Sport's evaluation process (limited to no more than 15% of the total project cost).

2.1.6 Ineligible projects and project costs

Projects or components that do not meet the criteria outlined in the 'Eligible projects and Eligible project costs' sections 2.1.4 and 2.1.5 may be considered ineligible. These may include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Activities without a primary prevention focus.
- Activities that are not delivered within the sporting context.
- Retrospective funding, where projects have commenced or have been completed at the time of application.
- Projects that have already been funded by the NSW Government unless significant new and additional scope is identified.
- Projects that will not be completed by December 2027 ('Local Impact' (Small) or April 2028 ('Expanding Reach' (Medium) and "Whole-Of" Action' (Large)).
- Projects that are not iterative over two sporting seasons or delivery periods ('Expanding Reach' (Medium) and "Whole-Of" Action' (Large)).
- For any costs associated with preparing and submitting the grant application.
- Project administration costs and staff wages not directly related to the Project.
- Appearance fees, prize money, trophies and presentation functions.
- Entertainment, hospitality, catering, food and drink not directly related to the Project. The purchase of alcohol will not be funded in any circumstances.
- Events that are organised for the primary purpose of fundraising, including charity fundraising events.
- Purchase of land, rental of premises for the organisation's administrative and operational requirements, or associated occupancy payments.
- General running costs including capital equipment
- Insurance costs (public liability, general liability, etc.).
- Infrastructure projects (e.g. construction, upgrade, maintenance, and repairs).

Project budgets should not include any ineligible costs, and these will be removed by assessors if included, at the absolute discretion of the Office of Sport.

2.2 Assessment criteria

Criteria	Specific information and evidence required	Weighting
Criterion 1: Strategic justification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Describe how the project aligns with the purpose of the Program and to one or more of the objectives of this Program. • Demonstrate how the project will achieve meaningful Program impact within the sporting context at the intended level and scale of the funding tier. • Demonstrate how the project will support the long-term integration of primary prevention within the sport beyond the life of the grant. 	30%
Criterion 2: Project scope and design	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Describe clearly what the project is and what the key deliverables/outputs will be. • Demonstrate how the proposed project will meet an identifiable Program need within your sporting community or organisation. • Demonstrate how the project design considers and responds to the intersecting experiences of individuals and communities most affected by violence and exclusion. • For ‘Expanding Reach’ (Medium) and “‘Whole-Of” Action’ (Large) tiers only: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Demonstrate a clearly defined partnership approach that is mutually beneficial and strategically aligned with the goals of all partner organisations. ○ Demonstrate the expertise that each partner brings to the partnership and how this expertise strengthens project outcomes. ○ Describe how the partnership supports capacity building and effective project delivery including shared responsibilities, collaborative planning, and coordinated contributions from key stakeholders. 	30%
Criterion 3: Project affordability / Value for money	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide a clear project budget. The budget should clearly identify and itemise all eligible project costs relevant to the scope of works. • Provide evidence of robust itemised cost planning and include supporting documentation to evidence the cost is realistic and value for money. 	20%

Criteria	Specific information and evidence required	Weighting
Criterion 4: Project deliverability and applicant capability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide a project plan that illustrates key project tasks and milestones and a forecast delivery timeline which is aligned to grant timeframe. List any risks, assumptions, constraints and dependencies in delivering the project. Demonstrate proven experience of both the applicant and partner organisation in delivering similar scale and/or type of project(s) or detail the resources and skills you possess in order to deliver the project successfully. 	20%

2.3 Supporting documentation

Failure to provide any of this supporting documentation may negatively impact the merit assessment score your application receives. The Office of Sport is under no obligation to inform an applicant of any omitted or missing supporting documentation.

The table below outlines the required and desired supporting documentation. Please submit all mandatory documentation with your application to ensure eligibility and demonstrate project readiness. Desired supporting documentation is not a requirement however the quality of the documentation will be assessed in line with the relevant merit criterion.

Supporting documentation	'Local Impact' (Small)	'Expanding Reach' (Medium)	"Whole-Of" Action' (Large)
<u>Evidence confirming community and end user consultation and/or collaboration on the project scope, to support the need and impact</u> Examples include community consultation report, meeting minutes, survey results, and on-line feedback or similar.	Highly Desired	Highly Desired	Highly Desired
<u>Letters of support</u> From organisations that indicate how they will either support or benefit from the project.	Highly Desired	Highly Desired	Highly Desired
<u>Partnership Agreement</u> The agreement should outline the roles and responsibilities of each partner, the purpose and scope of the partnership, and how the collaboration will support the delivery of the proposed project.	Desired	Mandatory	Mandatory
<u>Project budget</u> The budget should clearly identify and itemise all project costs relevant that match the scope of works.	Mandatory	Mandatory	Mandatory

Supporting documentation	'Local Impact' (Small)	'Expanding Reach' (Medium)	'"Whole-Of" Action' (Large)
<p><u>Eligible project cost evidence</u></p> <p>Quotes and/or cost evidence demonstrating the budgeted costs are realistic and value for money. The quote/cost evidence should be recent (within 3-6 months), and the description should match the project scope and deliverables in the application and support the project budget. Provision of more than one quote is highly desired. The Office of Sport may set aside applications that cannot adequately evidence project costs.</p>	Mandatory	Mandatory	Mandatory
<p><u>Confirmation of all financial co-contribution sources (where applicable)</u></p> <p>Examples include a letter from the organisation's authorised officer, stating the funding amount committed to the project and a current bank statement/s demonstrating the funding amount is held by the organisation. The Office of Sport may set aside applications that cannot appropriately evidence this.</p>	Highly desired	Highly desired	Highly desired
<p><u>Project plan</u></p> <p>A clear plan that illustrates key project milestones and forecasts the delivery timeline, with evidence of ability to deliver the project within the required timeframe for the relevant tier.</p>	Mandatory	Mandatory	Mandatory
<p><u>Copy of current Public Liability Insurance cover/policy</u></p> <p>A certificate of currency must be provided prior to entering a funding agreement.</p>	Mandatory	Mandatory	Mandatory

3

Application process

3 Application process

3.1 What is the application process?

How to apply: Follow the steps below to submit your application.



Step 1: Check your eligibility

- See Eligible Applicants section of these Guidelines to see which organisations can apply for funding.
- If you are not eligible, you may be able to partner with an eligible organisation, although they will need to be the applicant organisation and submit the application.



Step 2: Understand the requirements

- Before you apply, please read these guidelines and related materials including the application checklist to make sure you understand all relevant requirements, including whether you are eligible to apply.
- You can find the relevant information on the Office of Sport's website: [Game on For Change – Preventing Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Through Sport](#)



Step 3: Prepare your application

- Gather your evidence including project plans, letters of support, partnership agreements (where appropriate), quotes etc.
- Consider using the SmartyGrants tool, [SmartyFile](#). The tool allows organisations to collaborate with team members, pre-fill information into forms and manage, view, search and sort submissions across multiple funders in one spot. Applicants with an ABN can use this function.



Step 4: Submit your application

- Applying for a grant is a simple process using the [SmartyGrants platform](#).
- The Office of Sport recommends that applicants familiarise themselves with the online application form ahead of preparing the application and plan to submit ahead of the closing date to reduce the risk of missing the deadline.
- Complete your application by filling in each of the sections. The SmartyGrants portal will not accept submission of an application unless all mandatory documents have been uploaded.
- Submit your application as soon as possible and before the closing date and time.
- You will be asked to declare that “The responses in this application and all supporting documents provided are to the best of my knowledge true and correct”. The application may be deemed ineligible if the application contains false or misleading statements.
- Projects must be submitted through the [SmartyGrants website](#) to be considered eligible.

Successful submissions will be issued with a SmartyGrants system generated acknowledgement email containing a PDF copy of the application which will confirm the time the application was submitted.

3.2 Support available to applicants

Documents available on the Office of Sport Game on for Change - Preventing Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence through Sport website to assist your application include:

- Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs).
- Online Information Sessions - find out dates and register via the Program website.
- [Pathways to Prevention: NSW Strategy for the Prevention of Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence.](#)
- Template funding agreements.

Office of Sport staff are available to clarify interpretation of these Guidelines. They can also provide guidance relating to the online application process. The Office of Sport Grants Team can be contacted as follows:

- Phone: 13 13 02
- Email: grantsunit@sport.nsw.gov.au
- The Program website: Game on for Change - Preventing Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence through Sport | NSW Government

For questions or technical issues relating to SmartyGrants, contact SmartyGrants at:

- Phone: 03 9320 6888
- Email: service@smartygrants.com.au
- Technical help guide for applicants

If you require the use of a translator, please call the National Translating and Interpreting Service on 131 450, and ask them to call us on 13 13 02. The service provides immediate phone interpreting.

3.3 Late application

3.3.1 Late application

- Late applications can only be made where an applicant has started an application in SmartyGrants prior to the relevant tier closing date/time.
- If for any reason you are unable to lodge your application on time, you must contact the Office of Sport within 24 hours after the relevant tier closing date/time.
- A late application will only be considered where its acceptance would not compromise the integrity and competitiveness of the process. The final determination on whether a late application will be accepted will be made by the Grant Assessment Panel supported by advice from an independent probity advisor.

3.3.2 Late supporting documents

- If any document is not available prior to the closing date/time and you would like to submit this for consideration you must contact grantsunit@sport.nsw.gov.au

- Late supporting documentation will only be accepted for applications already submitted in SmartyGrants before the closing date and time and will only be considered where its acceptance would not compromise the integrity and competitiveness of the process.
- The final determination on whether a late supporting documentation will be accepted will be made by the Grant Assessment Panel supported by advice from an independent probity advisor.

4

Assessment process

4 Assessment process

4.1 Assessment of grant applications

The Game on for Change - Preventing Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence through Sport Program is an open, competitive grant program where eligible applications will be assessed on their comparative merits against nominated criteria. The Game on for Change - Preventing Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence through Sport Program is administered by the Office of Sport in two stages:

1. Eligibility check
2. Merit assessment

Throughout the assessment process the Office of Sport may request additional information from the applicant.

An independent probity advisor will oversee the grant process and attend all Grant Assessment Panel meetings.

The Minister for Sport will consider the recommendations of the Grant Assessment Panel and make decisions relating to the approval of funding.

4.2 Eligibility check

The Office of Sport will undertake an eligibility check on all grant applications, including any late applications which have been accepted for assessment and make recommendations to the Grant Assessment Panel on ineligible applications. The Grant Assessment Panel will make the final determination on eligibility.

4.3 Merit assessment

The Office of Sport will support the Grant Assessment Panel by conducting a preliminary merit assessment of all eligible applications against the Program Criteria (see section 2.2) and provide administrative support.

The Office of Sport will assess all eligible applications against the Program Criteria considering the extent to which the applicant has addressed the assessment criteria and provided supporting evidence to determine the preliminary merit assessment score.

The Grant Assessment Panel will then consider the extent to which the applicant has addressed the assessment criteria and provide supporting evidence to determine the final merit assessment score.

During the assessment process, the Grant Assessment Panel may apply a minimum scoring requirement to one or more of the criteria, or an overall application score (weighted and/or raw). Where an application does not meet the minimum scoring requirement adopted during the assessment process, the Grant Assessment Panel reserves the right not to consider the application for grant funding.

The Grant Assessment Panel may, by agreement, recommend a reduced grant amount at their discretion. If ineligible project scope and components are included in the application the Grant Assessment Panel will adjust the requested grant amount accordingly.

To avoid duplication of State Government funding for projects, and/or to further assess risks when recommending funding for an application, written comment/feedback on applications may be requested from the following stakeholders to inform the assessment:

- Regional Organisation of Councils
- Premier's Department
- Office of Local Government
- Other State Government entities/agencies providing funding for similar projects
- State/national sporting organisations
- Relevant experts.

The Grant Assessment Panel will consider the following to determine the recommendation of projects for funding:

- project type and scale
- geographical spread of local government areas across NSW
- grant amount per applicant
- project size
- achieving the objectives of the Program

The Grant Assessment Panel will make recommendations to the NSW Minister for Sport. The Minister for Sport is the decision-maker for this Program.

4.4 Notification of application outcome

All applicants will be formally notified in writing following the final approval of outcomes. For successful applicants, the notification will include the approved grant amount and the confirmed project deliverables.

4.5 Feedback on applications

Due to the high volume of applications, the Office of Sport team is unable to provide individual feedback on each unsuccessful application. There are no appeals under the Game on for Change - Preventing Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence through Sport Program 2025. Any feedback about the program or individual applications should be submitted in writing to grantsunit@sport.nsw.gov.au.

4.6 Publication of grants information

The Grants Administration Guide (**Guide**) requires that certain information is published in relation to grants awarded no later than 45 calendar days after the grant agreement takes effect. This information is also open access information under the *Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009* (NSW) (**GIPA Act**), which must be made publicly available unless there is an overriding public interest against disclosure of the information.

In accordance with these requirements, relevant information about the grants awarded will be made available on the [Office of Sport website](#) and the [NSW Government Funding Finder](#) as soon as possible after the grant funding is approved or declined.

All records in relation to this decision will be managed in accordance with the requirements of the *State Records Act 1998* (NSW).

5

Successful grant
applications

5 Successful grant applications

All successful applicants are required to enter into a funding arrangement with the Office of Sport.

5.1 Grant agreement

The standard Terms and Conditions and/or Funding Agreement are published on the Office of Sport website, and no amendments will be considered.

The following reflects the intent of some key provisions that will be included in the terms and conditions with successful applicants:

- Grant payments will not be made until an executed funding agreement is in place and the Office of Sport will not be responsible for any project expenditure until this time.
- If, for whatever reason, an organisation is unable to proceed with a project, the Office of Sport must be informed in writing as soon as possible.
- Successful applicants may be required to complete periodic project updates, in addition to listed reporting requirements in the funding agreement.
- The Office of Sport reserves the right to request grant and project related data from successful applicants on an ad hoc basis for a period of up to five years following completion of the project.
- The Office of Sport reserves the right to undertake an audit of grant funding to successful organisations within seven years of funding payment.

If a grant recipient breaches any of the terms and conditions of the funding agreement, the Office of Sport reserves the right to terminate the terms and conditions and reclaim the grant in part or in whole at its discretion.

5.2 Conditions of funding

All successful applicants (including partners) are required to:

- Participate in the Office of Sport's Community of Practice meetings.
 - Participate in the Office of Sport's training opportunities and other capacity building activities related to the Program.
 - Participate in the evaluation of the Program.
-

5.3 Variations to an approved project

The Office of Sport acknowledges that things may occur that will impact grant recipients and projects at any time. Any variation requested by a successful applicant to a project that constitutes a change to the original application will require a revised assessment of the application to determine whether the project should still be funded in accordance with the program guidelines.

Any variation to the project as detailed in the application form must be agreed to in writing by the Office of Sport and may require Minister approval. In these circumstances, the grant recipients should request a variation via SmartyGrants. Requests for variations to the terms and conditions or changes to the project will only be considered in limited circumstances.

Applicants are encouraged to ensure that their application provides accurate costs and timelines to reduce the need for variations.

5.4 Grant payment

Payments to successful applicants will be made either up front or in accordance with the milestones set out in the funding agreement. To receive payment, grantees must submit tax invoices for the grant amount plus GST (for those applicants registered for GST). Invoices must be uploaded into SmartyGrants. Invoices must be written out to:

Office of Sport Locked Bag 1422 SILVERWATER NSW 2128.

Invoices must be uploaded into SmartyGrants.

Applicants that do not have an ABN must provide a signed ATO Statement by Supplier form that can be downloaded from the [Australian Tax Office website](#).

5.5 Unspent funds

Where a project is completed and there are unspent funds remaining from the grant allocation, the Office of Sport may require the grant recipient to return the unspent funds.

5.6 Indicative reporting and acquittal requirements

Milestone Reporting

Reporting requirements, including milestone-based progress reports and evidence of expenditure, may apply throughout the grant delivery period depending on the value and nature of the approved funding. If this is the case it will be outlined in the funding agreement.

Project Completion

A project completion report will be required within 30 days of completion of the project as outlined in the funding agreement.

Financial Acquittal

A financial acquittal will be required within 90 days of project completion within SmartyGrants. This will require preparation of a profit and loss statement relating to the project expenditure and funding sources. The profit and loss statement must be certified by two office bearers of the recipient organisation stating that the funding has been spent in accordance with the grant application and terms and conditions. For grant amounts over \$75,000 this must also be certified by an independent qualified accountant. Acquittal must be for the total project cost for funded scope items (which includes grant amount plus any financial co-contribution that contributes directly to the scope items).

Successful recipients should ensure that all invoices, receipts, remittances and bank transfers are retained in order for this to occur.

The Office of Sport reserves the right to reduce proportionally the amount of the grant if the total cost of the project is less than the amount stated in the application or ineligible cost items are included in the acquittal. In these instances, the Office of Sport will withhold remaining payments or require the recipient to repay a proportion of the grant. The revised grant amount will be recalculated to maintain the original financial co-contribution ratio between the Office of Sport and

the recipient. Accordingly, both the grant funding and the recipient's financial contribution will be reduced on a pro-rata basis to reflect the adjusted project cost.

Recipients that do not provide a financial acquittal by the required date(s) may be ineligible for future Office of Sport grants until the required documentation is provided.

5.7 Evaluation

The Office of Sport, in conjunction with the subject matter experts at the University of Newcastle, will design an overarching evaluation framework and toolkit to support the monitoring and evaluation of the successful projects. Applicants will be required to attend one of several evaluation workshops during the project establishment phase, where they will develop their project's evaluation plan. The format and delivery method of these workshops will be confirmed closer to the date.

'Local Impact' (Small):

Projects funded under the 'Local Impact' (Small) tier will be required to submit a *Post-Project Evaluation Report* only. This report must include, but is not limited to:

- A comprehensive summary of key learnings
- Relevant case studies
- Data collected through evaluation instruments that demonstrate the impact of the program

'Expanding Reach' (Medium) and "Whole-Of" Action' (Large) Tiers

Projects funded under the 'Expanding Reach' (Medium) and "Whole-Of" Action' (Large) tiers will be required to submit both an *Interim (Mid-Term) Evaluation Report* and *Post-Project Evaluation Report*.

The Interim (Mid-Term) Evaluation Report must include, but is not limited to:

- Learnings from the initial phase of delivery
- Any changes or adaptations made to the program
- Reflections on what is working well and areas for improvement
- Preliminary data on program impact collected through evaluation instruments

In addition to these reporting requirements, the Office of Sport reserves the right to request grant and project related data from successful applicants on an ad hoc basis for a period of up to five years following completion of the project and/or identified evaluation activities, including by an external evaluator.

5.8 Acknowledging the NSW Government

Successful applicants must acknowledge the NSW Government's support through the provision of funding as per the [NSW Government Funding Acknowledgement Guidelines](#).

The NSW Government reserves the right to be involved in media opportunities and speaking engagements relating to the funded project.

Recipients must ensure that any media opportunities, speaking engagements and signage relating to the Program or project are discussed with, and approved in advance by, the Office of Sport.

5.9 Publicity

The NSW Government reserves the right to be involved in media opportunities and speaking engagements relating to the funded project. Recipients must ensure that any media opportunities, speaking engagements and signage relating to the Program or project are discussed with, and approved in advance by, the Office of Sport.

5.10 Insurances

Organisations approved for funding by this Program are required to have a minimum level Public Liability Insurance cover stated in these Guidelines. In exceptional circumstances, the Office of Sport may, in its sole discretion, consider a lower amount of cover based on the nature and risks of the project. The determination will be made on the level of risk posed by a proposed project. If an Applicant proposes Public Liability Insurance cover below the minimum required threshold, a detailed justification outlining the exceptional circumstances must be provided to warrant the reduced coverage.

It is recommended, but not a condition of funding, that applicant organisations have Personal Accident, Professional Indemnity and Directors and Officers insurance. Organisations that employ staff must comply with the *Workplace Injury Management and Workers Compensation Act 1998* (NSW).

6

Additional information and
resources

6 Additional information and resources

6.1 Complaint handling

Complaints can be made online using the Feedback option in the contact form on the [Office of Sport website](#) to provide details of your compliment, complaint or suggestion and they will be forwarded to the right team for action.

The Office of Sport is a public authority covered by the NSW Ombudsman scheme. The NSW Ombudsman is an independent integrity agency that pursues fairness for the people of NSW. It strives to ensure that those entrusted with public power and resources fulfil their responsibilities and treat everyone fairly. For information about the NSW Ombudsman, including when and how you can make a complaint, visit: www.ombo.nsw.gov.au.

6.2 Access to information

The GIPA Act provides for the proactive release of government information by agencies and gives members of the public an enforceable right to access government information held by an agency (which includes Ministerial offices). Access to government information is only to be restricted if there is an overriding public interest against disclosure.

The NSW Legislative Council has the power to order the production of State papers by the Executive Government. Standing Order 52 provides that the House may order documents to be tabled by the Government in the House. The Cabinet Office coordinates the preparation of the papers – that is, the return to order. The return to order may contain privileged and public documents. Privileged documents are available only to members of the Legislative Council. Note that documents submitted as part of a grant application may be subject to an application under the GIPA Act or an order for papers under Standing Order 52.

6.3 Disclosure of project information

Information submitted in the application will be shared within the NSW Government. Should your application be successful, the Office of Sport may provide certain information to the media and Members of Parliament for promotional purposes. This information may include applicant name, project name, project description, location of the project, location of the grant recipient, amount funded and total project cost. Information provided in the grant application/milestone and project completion reports may be used to develop case studies including photos. The contact details supplied by the person submitting the application may also be provided to the relevant Members of Parliament.

6.4 Privacy policy

The Office of Sport will collect and store the information you voluntarily provide to enable processing of this grant application. Any information provided by you will be stored on a database that will only be accessed by authorised personnel and is subject to privacy restrictions. The information will only be used for the purpose for which it was collected (or otherwise with your consent). The Office of Sport is required to comply with the *Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998*. The Office of Sport collects the minimum personal information to enable it to contact an organisation and to assess the merits of an application. Applicants must ensure that people whose personal details are supplied with applications are aware that the Office of Sport is being supplied with this information and how this information will be used. The Office of Sport may engage external service providers to assist it in assessing applications, evaluating grant programs

and/or ensuring probity of programs. Any such service provider is required to comply with privacy laws.

6.5 Conflict of interest

A conflict of interest exists when a person might reasonably perceive that the personal interests of a key decision maker of the funded organisation could be favoured over the duties to the funded organisation.

Applicants will be asked to declare as part of their application, and as part of continuous disclosure required by the terms and conditions, any perceived or existing situation which could or does give rise to a conflict of interest. If applicants later identify that there is an actual, apparent, or potential conflict of interest or that one might arise in relation to a grant application, they must inform the Office of Sport in writing immediately. All key decision makers of your organisation including persons who will be responsible for expending the funds (such as board/committee members, the CEO (or equivalent) and managers of the project) must also declare any conflicts of interest.

With respect to this Program, applicants must not:

- do anything which could place a public official in a conflict of interest.
 - offer gifts or inducements to any public official.
-

6.6 Confidentiality

Each party agrees it must maintain the confidentiality of all commercially sensitive or confidential information it receives from the other party, unless it obtains the consent of that other party to disclose the information. For the purposes of this section, the Office of Sport considers the amount of the Funding to be confidential information.

This does not apply if the information disclosed is publicly available at the time of the disclosure; and/or is required to be disclosed under the *Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009*(NSW) or process or requirement of Parliament, law or a court; or is required to be disclosed for the purpose of preparing a party's financial statement.

6.7 Records management

The Office of Sport complies with the management, storage and retention requirements of the *State Records Act 1998* to the extent it applies to any documents created by the Office of Sport, funding applicants or funding recipients under this Program.

6.8 Disclaimer

Submission of an application does not guarantee funding. The costs of preparing an application are borne by the applicant as are any costs incurred prior to agreeing to the terms and conditions.

6.9 Probity

The Office of Sport has appointed O'Connor Marsden & Associates Pty Ltd (OCM) as independent Probity Advisors for this Program. If there are any concerns regarding the probity or integrity of this Program, contact should be made with the Office of Sport in the first instance via email on grantsunit@sport.nsw.gov.au.

7

Appendix

7 Examples of eligible projects

'Local Impact' (Small)	'Expanding Reach' (Medium)	"Whole-Of" Action' (Large)
<p>A local sporting club works with a community-based primary prevention organisation to co-design and pilot a small-scale initiative for coaches of the under 14s, 15s and 16s teams. The program is delivered in person across multiple weeks, with a series of interactive sessions held during pre-season.</p>	<p>A regional sporting association partners with a community-based primary prevention organisation to expand a successful pilot initiative targeting coaches and team managers of the under 14s, 15s and 16s age groups across multiple, if not all, clubs within the association. The initiative is delivered in person over several weeks, with a structured series of workshops designed to build participants' understanding of the drivers of domestic, family, and sexual violence and equip them with practical strategies to foster respectful, inclusive sporting environments.</p>	<p>A State Sporting Organisation partners with a large primary prevention organisation to roll out a large-scale initiative targeting coaches and team managers of the under 14s, 15s and 16s groups across every affiliated club in the State. The program is delivered through a blended model, combining in-person metropolitan and regional workshops over several weeks and the development of an online education module. The module is integrated into the State Sporting Organisation's formal coach education and accreditation pathways, ensuring consistent access to prevention content for new and existing coaches.</p>
<p>A council works with a local sporting club to deliver a pilot education program for junior players focused on respectful behaviour and inclusion. The initiative includes short workshops during training and a review of club policies to identify opportunities for improvement.</p>	<p>A council partners with several local sporting clubs within the area and a community-based primary prevention organisation to engage players, coaches, officials and spectators. The program includes tailored workshops, visual messaging at venues, and a community forum to promote respectful behaviour in sport.</p>	<p>A council leads a whole-of-community initiative targeting the sport sector across the entire local government area. In partnership with a local primary prevention organisation/s, the council works with sporting clubs across various codes to deliver coordinated training, education, and awareness activities. The initiative includes in-person workshops for players, club leaders, coaches, and volunteers, supported by digital resources and messaging embedded in council-run sporting facilities and events.</p> <p>To extend the reach and impact, the council also collaborates with schools, youth services, and community organisations that intersect with sport, ensuring consistent messaging and engagement across settings.</p>

'Local Impact' (Small)	'Expanding Reach' (Medium)	"Whole-Of" Action' (Large)
<p>A local community domestic violence organisation is running a small sport-based project within one sporting club to promote respectful relationships. Through school visits and match-day activities, the initiative shares simple, culturally appropriate messages that encourage safety, wellbeing and positive behaviour in the community.</p>	<p>A professional sporting club partners with a university to design and implement a community initiative addressing rigid gender stereotypes and dominant forms of masculinity linked to domestic, family, and sexual violence. The project engages parents, spectators, and local schools through match-day messaging, school visits, and community events that promote respectful relationships and challenge norms around aggression, dominance, and control. The university supports the development and delivery of the program, ensuring it is grounded in evidence and tailored to the sporting context.</p>	<p>A professional rugby club and a professional netball club partner with a university and a domestic violence prevention organisation to deliver a two-season initiative across their affiliated community clubs and schools. The project focuses on challenging the condoning of violence against women and promoting gender equality in leadership and decision-making. Activities include joint leadership forums, club policy reform, match-day campaigns and school outreach that highlight respectful relationships, shared decision-making and accountability.</p>
<p>A local sporting club is delivering a small wellbeing-focused project with its players and coaches to strengthen emotional regulation skills.</p> <p>Through team workshops and game-day check-ins, the initiative shares practical, culturally sensitive strategies that help individuals manage stress, respond calmly under pressure and build positive communication habits.</p> <p>The program promotes safety, resilience and respectful behaviour both on and off the field.</p>	<p>An elite sporting club partners with a primary prevention organisation to promote respectful relationships and prevent domestic, family, and sexual violence within its internal environment. The project engages players, coaches, officials, administrators and parents through tailored workshops and leadership sessions that explore roles, behaviours and strategies to foster safe, inclusive team cultures.</p> <p>The club's pathways teams participate in multi-session programs focused on emotional wellbeing, respectful relationships and challenging coercive control. Staff and volunteers engage in sessions promoting shared decision-making and gender equality in leadership.</p> <p>The initiative also includes a review and enhancement of internal policies and procedures to strengthen safeguarding and inclusion.</p>	

Office of Sport

Level 3, 6B Figtree Drive,
Sydney Olympic Park, NSW 2128

Locked Bag 1422,
Silverwater NSW 2128

Office hours:
Monday to Friday
9.00am – 5.00pm

T: 13 13 02
E: grantsunit@sport.nsw.gov.au
W: sport.nsw.gov.au

Game on for Change - Preventing Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence through Sport

Published by NSW Office of Sport - sport.nsw.gov.au

First published: November 2025

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