

What is the Community Investment Fund and Who Can Apply?

The Community Investment Fund is the name of Sport England's lottery funding for community sports projects. You will need to make your application to the region in which your project is based and the decision whether to support your project will be made locally by the Regional Sports Board.

Our vision is to make England an active and successful sporting nation. The Community Investment Fund helps us achieve three sports and physical activity objectives:

- **START** – to improve the health of the nation, particularly for disadvantaged groups;
- **STAY** – through a thriving network of clubs, coaches and volunteers and a commitment to equality
- **SUCCEED IN SPORT** – through an infrastructure capable of developing world-class performers.

We welcome applications from organisations that:

- Exist for public good and community benefit
- Have a written constitution, memorandum and articles of association, or statutory powers
- Have consulted with partners and have considered their role in the [Delivery System for Sport](#).

Such organisations include:

- ✓ Voluntary clubs and associations
- ✓ National Governing Bodies of sport recognised by Sport England
- ✓ Local Authorities, Primary Care Trusts and other public bodies
- ✓ Schools, colleges and universities
- ✓ Charitable trusts, playing field associations, youth and uniformed organisations, community and other organisations
- ✓ Commercial organisations and professional sports clubs, but only if the project is not primarily for personal or shareholders' gain.

Schools, universities and colleges

We accept applications directly from foundation, independent and voluntary-aided schools, colleges and universities. Other educational institutions may need to ask the Local Education Authority to be the applicant on their behalf.

Membership organisations

Members clubs and associations must be run according to fully democratic principles. For example, anyone should be able to become a member and be elected to the committee. Elections should be held on an annual basis. A simple majority should decide all voting except when making constitutional changes. It should not be possible to expel a member without a full explanation and the right of appeal. If the club is ever wound up, no individual

should be able to gain financially. Later in the application process, we will ask you to submit a copy of your club's constitution.

The purpose of your organisation

Whatever type of organisation yours is, the constitution or memorandum and articles of association must:

- Permit the sporting activities proposed in your application;
- Give the necessary legal powers to own or lease facilities, employ staff and manage finances as appropriate to your application;
- Not impose unreasonable restrictions on public access to facilities.