

NGB/CSP Ways of Working 2005 - 2009

As we start the Whole Sport/One Stop Plan four-year cycle there are a number of Active Sports legacy issues that require clarification.

1. How will the transition from Active Sports delivery to the new strategic focus of CSPs take place between now and March 2006?

Whole Sport and One Stop Plans that lay out the overall player/athlete pathway for the sport have superseded the framework for Active Sports. Just as Active Sports was rolled out over three years, so the transition is an evolution not a revolution and both the CSPs and NGBs are on a four-year cycle up to March 2009.

2. With limited financial resources, how can we make financial planning easier?

Sport England is flexible in relation to the Active Sports funding and how it is spent, i.e. it does not have to be spent on exactly what was in the Active Sports frameworks, it can be spent on Whole Sport/One Stop Plan delivery. Spending must however be aligned to Lottery requirements. To make budgeting easier for all, the term of the awards can be extended to 2009, if the NGB and CSP team so wish, subject to agreement by the Sport England region. This process will include an extension letter being issued to the applicant by the region. Joint planning will be essential and due consideration will need to be given to employment liabilities of any sports related staff.

3. Who does the Active Sports money 'belong to'?

Active Sports money belongs to the applicant working closely with the Sports Action Group. Where there is effective partnership working this question is not highly important. It is for the Sports Action Group to determine, through locally agreed transition plans, how to spend the money based on the Whole Sport/One Stop plan. In instances where there is disagreement it is the role of the Sport England region to mediate.

4. Can a CSP's funding be moved from sport to sport?

One of the aims is to spend all Active Sports funding, otherwise under the terms of the lottery it will eventually be decommitted and returned to the Lottery pot. Effective joint planning between the CSP and NGB should ensure that funding is spent and that it remains linked to the designated sport. However, if the relevant Sports Action Group agrees that it does not want to spend all the money on a particular sport, it could be spent on another sport. The relevant NGB lead officer must sign off this decision. It is not for the CSP team to unilaterally decide which sport to spend the money on.

5. How does the flexibility regarding the funding affect the partnership funding percentages?

CSPs must be able to demonstrate that over the remainder of any revised award period (up to March 2009), the NGB partnership funding must not be less than was originally agreed for the five-year plan in order to draw down the full amount of lottery funding. Extensions to awards are still bound by the original lottery award conditions including partnership funding percentages. Partnership funding does not necessarily have to enter the CSP's bank account, but evidence must be provided that the money is spent on Whole Sport/One Stop Plan activity. Again, local joint planning will be essential as it is important that we collectively meet the requirements of the lottery.

6. Where do the Partnership Youth Games fit now?

A full review will be carried out in autumn 2005.

7. How is Sport England addressing issues associated with NGB/CSP interface?

A sub-group of the Acceleration Team has produced a document for consultation that outlines key principles for NGBs and CSPs and provides a framework for future ways of working. Further information will be provided as soon as possible.

8. Summary

In this first year of Whole Sport/One Stop plans we have tried to strike a balance between maintaining the integrity of the original lottery awards and recognising the right of NGBs and CSPs to interpret Whole Sport/One Stop Plans, to integrate them according to local needs and circumstances, to avoid duplication and make the most effective use of other available resources. The transition from Active Sports to Whole Sport/One Stop plans will only be successful if NGBs and CSPs work together to reprofile funding and realign plans.