



**SPÓRT ÉIREANN**  
**SPORT IRELAND**

**Women in Sport Programme**

**2021/2022 Funding Guidelines &  
Application Process**



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## Introduction

Women in Sport is central to the work of Sport Ireland. Since 2005, the Sport Ireland Women in Sport Programme has funded a wide range of initiatives delivered by NGBs, LSPs and funded bodies to further the agenda of gender equality in sport.

Following an extensive project throughout 2018, Sport Ireland published its new [Policy on Woman in Sport](#) (WIS) in March 2019. This policy serves as a guide for Sport Ireland’s future work and investment in the area. The policy outlines Sport Ireland’s vision for women in sport as one where women have an equal opportunity to achieve their full potential, while enjoying a lifelong involvement in sport. Sport Ireland is committed to increasing women’s sustained involvement in sport as coaches, volunteers, club members, athletes, advocates, leaders, and participants from grassroots to the podium. Through the WIS Policy, Sport Ireland identified four key areas, which have emerged as current gaps and future opportunities for women in sport.

<b>Target Areas</b>	<b>1. Coaching &amp; Officiating</b>
	<b>2. Active Participation</b>
	<b>3. Leadership &amp; Governance</b>
	<b>4. Visibility</b>

## Target Areas & Objectives

Sport Ireland recognises the track record of NGBs and funded bodies in improving the landscape for women in sport. Since the introduction of the Women in Sport Programme in 2005, a wide range of initiatives have been successfully delivered. In 2019, a new funding process was launched which challenged NGBs and funded bodies to critically evaluate previous programmes with consideration to every aspect of their sport which may be under-represented by women.

In the last funding cycle, applicants were asked to address one or more of the target areas of the policy when submitting their funding application. By adopting this measure, the sports sector has seen the successful implementation of programmes and initiatives targeting not only participation, but also the recruitment and/or development of female coaches and officiators, the progression of female leaders as well as the enhanced visibility of all role models in sport. As a result, the four key target areas of the policy will remain as the key topics to which NGBs and funded bodies should develop programmes or initiatives under. Funding applications which address one or more of these areas will be considered favourably when determining investment.

Contained within each of the target areas are a number of objectives. It is recognised that each sport will have different strengths relative to these objectives. Where possible, it is recommended that NGBs and funded bodies consider a plan which will address more than one target area. Organisations are also strongly encouraged to identify potential partnerships which will increase the number of women targeted and avoid duplication of effort.

<b>Target Area Objectives</b>	<p><b>1. Coaching and Officiating</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Broaden the coaching base to include more women from grassroots to high performance</li> <li>- Increase the number of women officiating and refereeing</li> </ul>
	<p><b>2. Active Participation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Significantly reduce the active sport participation gradient between men and women</li> <li>- Reduce the drop-out from physical activity and sport in young girls</li> <li>- Engage with women of a minority background</li> </ul>
	<p><b>3. Leadership &amp; Governance</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Progress towards greater gender balance in Board membership of funded bodies</li> <li>- Provide a pathway for women aspiring to become leaders of funded bodies</li> </ul>
	<p><b>4. Visibility</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Increase the visibility and profile of our female role models in sport</li> <li>- Use the heroes of today to inspire the next generation of future Olympians and Paralympians</li> </ul>

## Funding Process

Sport Ireland now invites all Sport Ireland recognised NGBs and funding bodies to apply for funding under the Women in Sport Programme 2021/2022.

Under this new funding cycle, grants will be awarded in 2021 with a 2-year commitment from Sport Ireland, pending availability of funding in 2022. Sport Ireland recognises that effective and sustainable programmes require a long-term approach. To that end, the 2021 and 2022 awards will enable organisations to make significant progress in their strategic objectives for women in sport. It is expected that where a gap remains, work will continue on these programmes in 2022 and beyond.

If an NGB/funded body chooses to opt out of this funding process or are unsuccessful in 2021, Sport Ireland maintains an expectation that they will continue to adopt best practice models in the area of women in sport. The next opportunity to apply for funding after this 2021 award will be in 2023.

To apply for funding, NGBs/funded bodies are required to complete the application form accompanying these guidelines.

**Please submit completed applications to the NGB Unit at [NGB@sportireland.ie](mailto:NGB@sportireland.ie) before 5pm on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> March 2021. Late applications will not be accepted.**

## Funding Guidelines

Sport Ireland will review and consider each application received. There are a number of elements expected in a successful application. The following factors form the basis for determining investment decisions:

### ***Expected - What a good application looks like***

1. NGBs are as explicit as possible in relation to the age profile; ethnic background; socio-economic background; and ability of the women targeted
2. NGBs are clear and ambitious about their goals for women in sport
3. NGBs understand where their sport currently measures against each of the target areas
4. NGBs will deliver programmes which retain the involvement of its target audience on a long-term basis
5. NGBs will deliver programmes which align with the NGB's overall strategy
6. NGBs applying for €50,000 or more are recommended to have a WIS Action Plan or Strategy accompanying their application. This recommendation will form part of the application evaluation process.

### ***Preferred – What a great application looks like***

1. NGBs will address more than one target area (Coaching and Officiating; Active Participation; Leadership & Governance; and Visibility)
2. NGBs will target a range of backgrounds as identified by the Women in Sport Policy
3. NGBs will identify partnerships with other organisations
4. Sport Ireland is not the sole funder of the NGB's proposal
5. NGBs will aim to deliver programmes which can be replicated at local level by clubs and communities

### ***To be avoided – What an unsuccessful application looks like***

1. NGBs overly dilute the programme by targeting other groups
2. NGBs seeking funding for a programme already supported by Sport Ireland Funding Schemes
3. NGBs planning to deliver one-off events or competitions where funding is primarily used towards venue/equipment hire, catering, accommodation, etc.
4. Targeting a significant quantity of women at the expense of smaller, more sustainable engagements

### ***When applying for funding NGBs should consider the following:***

1. Women in Sport funding aims at supporting and facilitating additional women in sport opportunities/ programmes, activities, initiatives not already included in the core work of the NGB
2. While funding may be used to support dedicated WIS staffing costs, NGBs should ensure a sustainable approach is taken towards human resourcing and the employment of staff should not be wholly reliant on current or future WIS funding.

### Eligibility

This fund is open to Sport Ireland recognised NGBs and funded bodies to develop and deliver Women in Sport projects commencing in 2021 for delivery across 2021 & 2022. Projects or programmes that can demonstrate that they support actions from the [Sport Ireland Policy on Women in Sport](#) will be prioritised.

### Sustainability

Projects and programmes must demonstrate the ability to have a legacy potential once the funding has been expended.

### Funding Structure

Applications will only be considered in relation to current funding. While there is no minimum or maximum on the amount an NGB/Funded body can apply for, applicants should be conscious of the overall levels of funding available and apply accordingly. Please note this is a competitive bid process and will be evaluated against the criteria set.

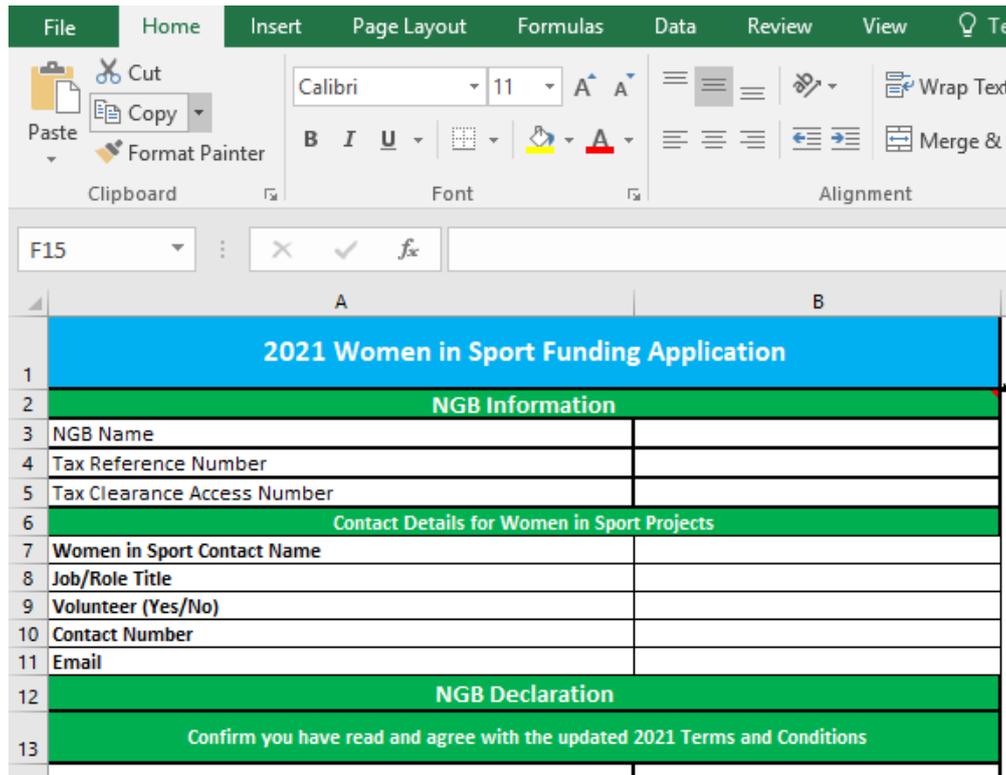
NGBs should be mindful of ongoing Covid-19 restrictions. In the event of an oversubscription of requests, support may be prioritised towards Covid-19 friendly projects that have a higher probability of delivery across 2021/2022.

**Please submit completed applications to the NGB Unit at [NGB@sportireland.ie](mailto:NGB@sportireland.ie) before 5pm on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> March 2021. Late applications will not be accepted.**

## Appendix 1: Completing Your Application Form

The 2021/2022 Women in Sport Funding Application has moved from a Word document to an Excel format. The following points explain how NGBs/funded bodies should complete their application form.

**Step 1:** Fill in the NGB information on the first tab of the Application Form. E-signatures are sufficient.



2021 Women in Sport Funding Application	
NGB Information	
NGB Name	
Tax Reference Number	
Tax Clearance Access Number	
Contact Details for Women in Sport Projects	
Women in Sport Contact Name	
Job/Role Title	
Volunteer (Yes/No)	
Contact Number	
Email	
NGB Declaration	
Confirm you have read and agree with the updated 2021 Terms and Conditions	

At the bottom of this 'NGB Information' tab you will see a 'Summary of Project Funding Requested' section. This will autofill using the information you submit in each Project application.

Summary of Project Funding Requested	
Project title	Funding Request
Total	€ -

**Step 2:** Complete a Project sheet for each additional project you would like to include as part of your Women in Sport Funding Application. Organisations may apply for multiple projects in multiple tabs, or may create one high-level project application for a programme with multiple strands in one tab. The information requested in the project sheets is to help us get an understanding of the project, as well as the background work already completed by the NGB in order to get the project up and running. The following image shows some of this project sheet.



**Women In Sport Funding Application 2021/2022**

Note: Project can refer to a project, initiative, programme, etc. Please complete a separate tab for each individual project if necessary. Multiple projects can be included in the one tab if they all fall under a particular campaign, etc.

NGB Name: 0

**Overall Summary and Project Description**  
 Note: The information contained across the below row will form part of an overall summary for all your WIS projects submitted as part of this application to Sport Ireland. This summary will be used by Sport Ireland staff when asked about the type of projects funded under the WIS fund, or the type of projects ongoing under each of the pillars/target areas of the WIS Policy. Please ensure you include any information that you would like to ensure appears in a summary of your projects in this row.

Project title ↓	WIS Policy Pillar Select all that apply to this project	Project goal: In as few words as possible, please give a clear and concise description of your project goal.	Is this a new project?	Proposed start date of project	Brief Project Description: 500 Word Limit	Profile of women/girls targeted e.g. Age, Ethnic background, etc. (if applicable)	What are the key performance indicators of success for this programme? Please provide a minimum of 3 KPIs
					Who/What is the initiative for and who will you be partnering with? - What will you be doing? -	1	1
					Why are you doing the project and why now? - Where will the initiative be implemented? -	2	2
					How will the initiative be implemented? - How long will the initiative last for? -	3	3
					Other points - -	4	4

Needs Analysis	
What type of needs analysis have you carried out for this project? →	
If applicable, please provide further information on the needs analysis process.	e.g. Number of people/organisations you consulted? - When did the needs analysis take place? - Brief overview of how you completed the analysis.
What were the identified needs? (please list in bullet points)	