

Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon Sports Forum Grant Aid Scheme Guidance Notes 2026/27

AIM:

The purpose of the ABC Sports Forum Grant Aid Scheme is to promote and encourage the lifelong involvement in sport. This will be achieved by supporting the development of quality and sustainable clubs and our talented athletes. The finances for this will be made available through Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council and administered by the Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon Sports Forum.

CLUB DEVELOPMENT GRANTS:

The Club Development Grants focus on building capacity through opportunities to enhance governance, upskill and educate whilst also recognising success.

Clubs can apply for all four elements per financial year (1st April – 31st March).

The required supporting documentation must be submitted along with the application. This is listed within the online application form.

1. National Governing Body of Sport (NGB) Quality Accreditation/Reaccreditation Grant and Advancement Grant

To recognise Clubs that have achieved the minimum operating standards (through a recognised Accreditation Scheme) as set out by their National Governing Body.

- Initial Accreditation will be a maximum award of £500.
- Reaccreditation/Advancement Grant will be a maximum award of £300.

Clubs can get 2 awards in 1 financial year where the 2nd grant is an advancement grant.

2. Volunteer Development Grant

To assist clubs with the development of volunteers through the hosting of/or attending generic courses including First Aid, Safeguarding Children and Young People or specialist coaching courses to develop coaches (not players). The grant can also be used to host information sessions/workshops which will create awareness and support Health and Wellbeing.

- Up to a maximum of £500 per club per annum (up to 50% of eligible costs).

*Clubs can apply for the Course Fees, Tutor Fees and External Facility Hire.
Applicants should apply once per annum but can include multiple courses.*

3. Grant Aid for Coaches & Umpires/Referees

To assist Clubs with the cost of their coaches and/or umpires/referees undertaking a relevant National Governing Body Coaching/Umpiring/Refereeing Award.

- Up to a maximum of £1000 per club per annum (up to 50% of eligible costs).

Clubs can apply for Course Fees. Please note Foundation or Entry Level Courses are now eligible.

Applicants should apply once per annum but can include multiple courses.

4. Representative Sporting Clubs

- A) To recognise teams who have competed at a Northern Ireland, Ulster, or All-Ireland final (only the top 2 teams will be recognised).

The grant award will depend on the location of the final i.e.:

- Within Northern Ireland/Ulster - £1,000 maximum grant award
- Within Ireland - £1,500 maximum grant award

- B) To recognise teams who have qualified and represented Northern Ireland, Ulster or Ireland at a competition e.g British, European or World level competition.

A £2,000 maximum grant award will be available.

*For both elements applicants can apply for travel costs (e.g. Bus/Boat/Flights), Entry Fees and Accommodation. ***

***Accommodation costs @ 50% with a max of £50 per night.*

Applicants should apply once per annum but can include multiple competitions. The max grant awarded under Representative Sporting Clubs will be £2000 per annum per Club (up to 50% of eligible costs).

Supporting documentation to include where applicable

- Certificate of Achievement for National Governing Body Accreditation Grant
- Course Syllabus for Coaching and Umpiring/Refereeing Courses
- Invoice/Receipts in the name of the Club for any expenditure being claimed
- Selection letter from the National Governing Body for Representative Sporting Clubs

All Clubs must submit a copy of their most recent approved accounts and confirm that Safeguarding measures are in place.

It is also in the Club's interest to submit an application as soon as possible.

INDIVIDUAL GRANTS:

In recognition of the commitment needed to participate at an elite level in sport, grants are available to financially assist with costs incurred whilst training and competing, and also to provide access to training facilities (Leisure Access Card).

Individuals may hold one successful grant per financial year for up to 50% of eligible costs up to a maximum of £400 and must apply after they have taken part in the competition. Two applications will be accepted where the 1st is only for a leisure access card and the 2nd is a Talented Athlete Grant (or vice versa). It is in your best interest to apply as soon as your competition has taken place or when you have accrued costs to secure the maximum grant (should you be applying for more than one competition) as the ABC Sports Forum have a limited budget.

- **Talented Athlete Grant**

To assist athletes who have been selected (by a recognised National Governing Body of Sport) and represented at Northern Ireland level or above with competition costs and travel to training.

In sports where Provincial/National Teams are not selected, individuals who have attained a high standard will be considered e.g. Northern Ireland, Ulster or Irish Champion, National Governing Body High Performance Squad Athletes.

The Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon Sports Forum is committed to promoting equality of opportunity for all. In recognition of the fact that certain categories of persons (e.g., those with a disability) might incur additional costs in participating in sport, any such individual will be paid a grant of up to 50% of eligible costs, plus up to 50% of relevant additional costs i.e., costs that enable the athlete to compete, up to a maximum overall grant of £400.

| Items Eligible For Funding |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mileage to squad training sessions and competitions will be paid @ 25p/mile• Travel expenses (e.g. boat, bus, flights, train) will be paid at up to 50% of eligible costs• Accommodation - only accommodation relevant to competing will be paid and will be paid at 50% up to a max of £50 per night• Competition entry fees will be paid at up to 50% of eligible costs• Player contributions to NGB for costs associated to any of the above will be paid at up to 50% of eligible costs <p>ANY COSTS CLAIMED FOR FROM ANOTHER SOURCE CANNOT BE CLAIMED FOR THROUGH THE ABC SPORTS FOURM</p> |

Supporting Documentation to include where applicable

- National Governing Body Letter of Selection for competition being claimed for.
- Invoices/Receipts of all eligible costs being claimed for (this must be in the name of the applicant).
- National Governing Body training schedule details if claiming for mileage to training.

It is also in the best interest of the individual to submit an application as soon as costs have been incurred.

- **Leisure Access Card**

To support individuals who have been selected in the last 12 months, by their National Governing Body to compete at Northern Ireland, Ulster/Provincial/equivalent, Ireland, GB or County GAA level, with access to gym and swim facilities operated by Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council.

Where National Governing Bodies do not select National/Provincial Teams, individuals who have attained a high standard will be considered e.g., Northern Ireland, Ulster or Irish Champion.

National/Provincial Level performance squads or above **may** be considered.

Please note that only **one** facility can be selected. Age restrictions will apply for gym use for athletes under 16 years of age, with the minimum age being 12 years old for Teen Gym.

Supporting Documentation to include

- Letter from National Governing Body confirming selection.

The Leisure Access Card will be valid for one year from the date of issue and any renewal will be subject to a re-application process.

Criteria for all sports grant aid applications:

- All requests must be submitted on the official application form <https://www.armaghbanbridgecraigavon.gov.uk/resident/abc-sports-forum/#grantaid> and made retrospectively e.g. after the competition, course etc has taken place, with the exception of the Leisure Access Card which can be applied for in advance.
- Please ensure that all relevant sections of the form are fully completed and all requested documentation is submitted.
- Applications can be made at anytime during the year (1st April – 31st March). The form must be submitted by 30th April when applying for a grant from the previous financial year. Applications after this date will **not** be accepted.
- Financial assistance will only be offered to sports clubs/individuals that are affiliated to the Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon Sports Forum and involved in not-for-profit sporting activities.
- Clubs must be affiliated to the Sport Northern Ireland, Sport Ireland or UK Sport recognised Governing Body.
- Individuals must be affiliated (either individually or by Club) to the Sport Northern Ireland, Sport Ireland or UK Sport recognised Governing Body. Individuals must belong to a Club which is affiliated to the Sport Forum, otherwise they will need to affiliate themselves as an individual.
- The sports grant award scheme aims to **provide assistance and not to fund the activity in its entirety**.
- All applicants must be involved in an amateur capacity in their sport.
- All coaches/umpires/referees should be voluntary i.e. not be receiving payment for their coaching services.
- The amount of financial assistance received or applied for in the previous twelve months from other sources such as Lottery Sports Fund, Mary Peter's Trust, National Governing Body, Education Authority and sponsorship must be declared. **Any costs claimed for from another source CANNOT be claimed for through the ABC Sports Forum**
- The Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon Sports Forum must relate the amount of grant applied for to their financial resources and needs at the time of an application.
- Application for financial assistance will only be considered from:
 - Clubs based within the Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council area.
 - Individual members of clubs based within the Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council area and who have a permanent home address within this area.
 - Individuals not attached to a club within the Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council area must have a permanent home address within this area.
- At the discretion of the committee, special awards may be made in exceptional circumstances to assist applicants outside the above criteria. In such circumstances, the Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon Sports Forum will document the rationale for making the award.

- Any member of the Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon Sports Forum must declare his or her interest in a submission for financial assistance.
- Financial assistance **must** be used for the purpose for which the application was initially made otherwise the Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon Sports Forum will recover the award.
- All grants will be subject to audit by the Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council.
- Each affiliated sports club submitting an application to the grant aid scheme must have good governance and appropriate control procedures for financial management.
- No grant will be paid until all the conditions of any previous funding to you as an individual or sports club have been met where applicable.
- To ensure that the Grant Aid Scheme is administered correctly, an individual or sports club applicant agrees to co-operate with any requests from the Sports Forum or Council, for additional information or clarification.
- The Sports Forum have the right to enquire and seek further clarification about any financial information or any item of income or expenditure, detailed in a club's bank statement, submitted as part of an application for Club Grant Aid.
- The Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon Sports Forum will acknowledge all requests.
- The Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon Sports Forum's Executive Committee decision is final.
- **Other Financial Assistance available:**
Sports clubs are also eligible to apply under the following Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon Borough Council Grant Programmes:

REVENUE GRANTS

- Community Development Grants
- Community Events
- Arts Project Grants
- Good Relations Grants
- Coronation Bursary Grant Scheme
- Civic Representation Grant
- International Tourism Grant
- Large Event Grant
- International Linkages Grant

CAPITAL PROJECT GRANTS

- Small Capital Project Fund
- Large Capital Project Fund
- Events Equipment Grant

If you have any questions regarding the grant aid programme please contact **Amanda Moge**, Sports Development Officer at amanda.mogey@armaghbanbridgecraigavon.gov.uk