



## **CRICKET IRELAND – SPORT IRELAND COVID-19 GRANT SCHEME 3 Funding Guidelines & Application Process**

### **INTRODUCTION**

In June 2020 the Government approved an investment programme of up to €70 million to support the sports sector. This investment programme will be allocated through four targeted grant schemes:

1. The FAI, the GAA and the IRFU to receive up to €40 million
2. The National Governing Bodies, Local Sports Partnerships & Other Funded Bodies to receive up to €10 million
- 3. *A Sports Club Resilience Fund of up to €15 million to support clubs***
4. A Sports Restart and Renewal Fund of up to €5 million

The stated objective of the COVID-19 scheme is to protect the sports sector from permanent financial and strategic harm arising from the public health crisis.

In the instance of Scheme 3, Cricket Ireland has applied to Sport Ireland for funding on behalf of individual Cricket Clubs and will administer the fund.

### **CORE OBJECTIVES AND GUIDING PRINCIPLES OF FUNDING**

- The primary purpose of the scheme is to prevent any viable cricket clubs from becoming insolvent.
- Funding allocations to clubs under the new scheme will be determined following a robust grant application and assessment process conducted by Cricket Ireland and approved by Sport Ireland.
- Cricket Ireland will distribute primarily to recognised affiliated cricket clubs.
- Cricket Ireland must be fully satisfied that the grant is absolutely required.
- The funding is targeted at issues arising from COVID 19.
- Pre-existing debts or deficits will not be covered.
- Principles of fairness will apply.
- No upper or lower limits are in place. This can only be determined when the extent of the demand of the schemes is known.

## **FAIRNESS, EQUITY & INCLUSION**

Cricket Ireland recognises that Provincial Unions and certain cricket clubs have been disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 crisis.

The stated aim of the Schemes means that the outcomes will be based on identified need. That means the extent of applications can be estimated but is not knowable in advance. Nor can it be known how many valid applications will be received.

Cricket Ireland will endeavour to ensure that the investment is distributed fairly. Every effort will be made to ensure that the wider cricket community benefits from the schemes.

Limits on grant amounts may be put in place. That can only be done when the extent of the demand for the scheme is known

## **PROCESS & TIMELINE**

- The closing date for applications will be **9am, 23 November 2020**.
- Applications and supporting documentation should be sent to: [grantapplications@cricketireland.ie](mailto:grantapplications@cricketireland.ie)
- Late applications cannot be accepted.
- Final decisions will need to take into account the level of demand across the schemes.
- Depending on the level of submissions, the outcome of those deliberations will be communicated to sports organisations mid/late January 2021.
- Subject to approval and standard Terms & Conditions, the process of payment will begin thereafter.

## **RECOVERY AND RENEWAL PLANS**

The COVID-19 Grant Schemes are designed to ensure cricket clubs can maintain operations, avoid insolvency and prepare for a return to productive activity in good financial health.

Any financial recovery of the sector or an individual organisation will comprise of a number of elements:

1. Return to operations;
2. Use of reserves and other streams of finance to sustain liquidity;
3. Ensuring ongoing income (e.g. membership subscriptions, affiliations, renegotiate commercial arrangements);
4. Access to horizontal State supports (e.g. Rate holidays, Salary subsidies);
5. Drawdown on business continuity insurance if applicable;
6. Cost reductions;
7. Supplemental grants (i.e. COVID 19 Grant Schemes).

## **ASSESSMENT CRITERIA**

When assessing applications, Sport Ireland will review a number of areas including:

- a. Technical Merits of the Application (i.e. verifiable evidence of need)
- b. Likelihood of meeting the primary objective of the scheme (i.e. avoiding insolvency and maintaining operations)
- c. Agree to be audited in relation to funds received from the Grant
- d. Signed off by Club Chair/President and Treasurer
- e. Adherence to Terms and Conditions as set out by Cricket Ireland

## **Scheme Three: Club Resilience Fund**

A Resilience Fund of up to €15 million has been made available through Sport Ireland to support Sports Clubs who find themselves in need of assistance to avoid closing.

The grant scheme is designed to support sporting activity only. These funds are not aimed to replace lost income from ancillary activities such as hospitality, sub-letting facilities or other non-sporting commercial activity.

If requesting funding on behalf of individual clubs a detailed submission will need to be provided for each Club (Please fill out enclosed spreadsheet).

It is also recommended that a detailed written narrative along with supporting documentation be submitted to provide further context and evidence of need.

Submissions should include:

- Latest available financial report including a reasonable estimate of financial support required.
- Details of actual reductions on income with supporting evidence.
- Details of any cost savings on expenditure; details of any income increases arising from increased membership.
- Specific details on the staff and payroll implications of COVID-19.
- Notes on access to horizontal supports such as the Government wages subsidy scheme, rate holiday.