

# SPORTAUS

## Participation Growth Funding Investment Guidelines

01 JULY 2022 - 30 JUNE 2023



# Participation Growth Funding

Formally known as the Australian Sports Commission's (ASC) Core Participation Funding, Participation Growth Funding is the new annual investment that will support National Sporting Organisations (NSO) and National Sporting Organisations for People with Disability (NSOD) to deliver quality participation outcomes.

Participation Growth Funding will support NSOs and NSODs to drive involvement and inclusion in their sport, to grow the capability of individuals in their workforce and support organisations running sports to improve their effectiveness.

With the core themes of increasing accountability, providing more expert support to sports and building capability of the participation workforce, Participation Growth Funding will be available from 1 July 2022.

Participation Growth Funding will have a strong outcomes focus. In order to maximise the value and impact of this funding, NSOs and NSODs will be required to deliver on participation priorities that result in measurable participation outcomes. These activities should also support the participation priorities identified within a sport's own participation plan.

Priority investment areas are detailed in Attachment A and describe how funding is to be allocated to drive participation growth. To help support this process, NSOs and NSODs will be required to work in partnership with their Sport Australia Participation Advisor to develop agreed participation priorities prior to submission.

## Investment Strategy and Approach

Through Participation Growth Funding, the ASC will invest up to \$17.26 million (excl GST) to increase participation in organised sport.

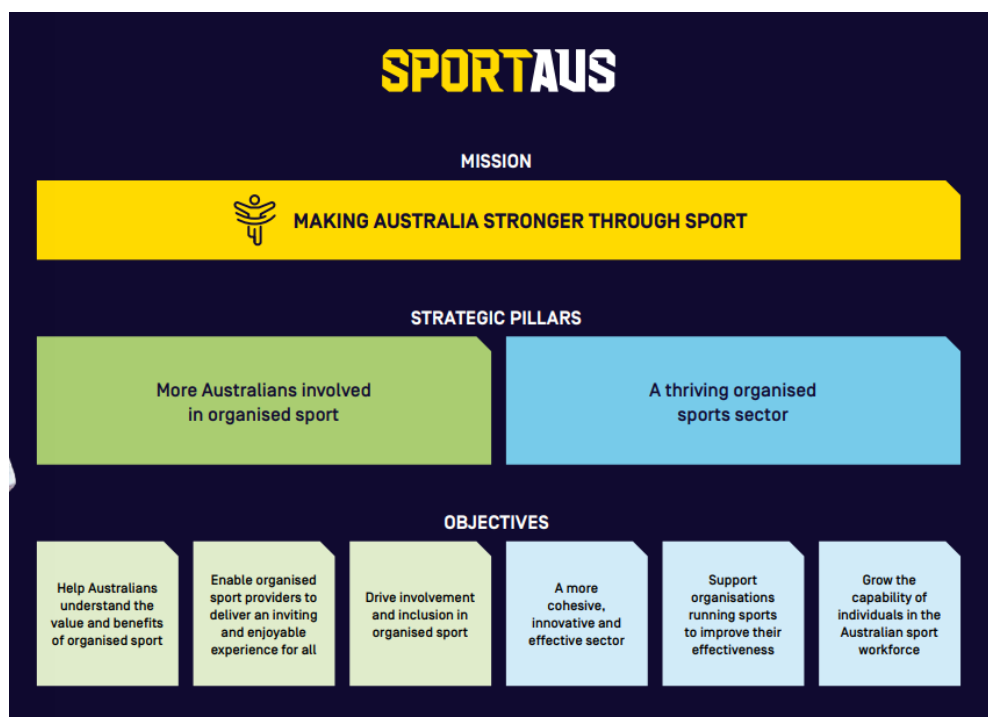
NSOs and NSODs who received Core Participation Funding in 2021/2022 are eligible to receive Participation Growth Funding in 2022/2023. All NSOs and NSODs who will receive Participation Growth Funding in 2022/2023 must meet and comply with the ASC's Recognition Criteria.

All funded sports must then meet and comply with all requirements detailed in their Sport Investment Agreement (SIA).



# Australian Sports Commission Corporate Plan

As outlined in the ASC's 2021-25 Corporate Plan, Sport Australia's mission is to *Make Australia Stronger through Sport*. Sport Australia has two Strategic Pillars within the Corporate Plan and a number of key objectives that support strong participation outcomes.



To ensure Sport Australia is actively supporting all NSOs and NSODs to make Australia stronger through sport, funded organisations will be required to align their Participation Growth Funding participation priorities with Sport Australia's Strategic Pillars and Objectives identified within the ASC corporate plan.

The ASC's Corporate Plan can be accessed here: [2021 - 2025 Corporate Plan](#)

## Investment Priorities, Budget Allocation and Review

In partnership with your Sport Australia Participation Advisor, NSOs and NSODs will be required to complete an online form via the Sport Australia Partner Portal outlining priority activities and budget allocation.

Investment activities, outcomes and detailed budget allocations against activities must be provided to Sport Australia for review and approval prior to submission via the Partner Portal. Your Participation Advisor will support, where necessary, refinement of proposed activities to ensure they meet these investment guidelines.

Once activities are approved by your Participation Advisor, funded NSOs and NSODs will enter into a Sport Investment Agreement (SIA) with the ASC. Please review your SIA in detail to ensure you are aware of all Participation Growth Funding obligations. The agreed priority investment activities, budget and reporting requirements will be included in the SIA.

NSOs and NSODs will be required to report regularly on their performance and budget against the agreed priority activities demonstrating to the ASC that the investment has produced the desired outcome.

# Funding Decision-Making Process

The ASC Board is the Grant Approver for Participation Growth Funding allocations.

The Grant Approver decision is final in all matters, including the:

- Allocation amount and
- Terms and conditions of funding.

There is no review or appeals process after the Grant Approver's final decision.

## Funding Agreement & Payment

Funded NSOs and NSODs will enter into an SIA with the ASC and will have 30 days, from the date of a written offer, to execute the SIA ('execute' means both the ASC and applicant have signed the agreement).

The offer may lapse if both parties do not execute the SIA within this time. In certain circumstances, the ASC may extend this period.

Funding approval may have specific conditions that have been determined through the assessment process. Any such details will be specified in the SIA.

The SIA will state the approved funding amount payable to the NSO/NSOD, reporting requirements, payment instalments and any compliance to be met for the release of the payments.

## Agreement Variations

The ASC understands that unexpected events may result in a change of priority activities or delay a project/activity's progress. In these circumstances, the NSO/NSOD can request an SIA variation.

Proposed changes to specifications in the SIA must be made in writing before the end date of the funding agreement. If a variation request is submitted, the following factors will be considered:

- how it affects the project outcome; and
- changes to the timing of grant payments.

To request a variation to Schedule 3 of the SIA, the NSO/NSOD must contact the ASC via email ([participation@sportaus.gov.au](mailto:participation@sportaus.gov.au)) to arrange a time to discuss the proposed changes and the mitigating factors.

The ASC will work directly with the NSO/NSOD to ensure that any changes are agreed and in line with the investment guidelines. All variations must be approved by the ASC prior to commencing the proposed activities.

## Financial Acquittal

All funded NSO and NSODs will need to provide an acquittal regarding the financial expenditure as specified in the SIA.

## Conflict of Interest

The ASC manages conflicts of interest according to the APS Code of Conduct (section 13 (7) of the Public Service Act 1999). ASC staff involved in the Participation Growth Funding Program must declare any conflicts of interest.

If the ASC considers a conflict of interest is a cause for concern, staff will not take part in the assessment and/or management of the program.

# Disclosure of Information

The ASC may share your information with other government agencies for a relevant Commonwealth purpose such as:

- to improve the effective administration, monitoring and evaluation of Australian Government programs;
- for research; and
- to announce grant recipients.

The ASC will treat the information provided by applicants as sensitive and therefore confidential if it meets one of the four conditions below:

1. Is clearly identified as confidential and provide an explanation.
2. The information is commercially sensitive.
3. Disclosing the information would cause unreasonable harm to you or someone else.
4. Applicants provide the information with an understanding that it will stay confidential.

The ASC may disclose confidential information to:

- The ASC's CEO, Board and our employees and contractors, to help us manage the Program effectively;
- the Minister or Parliamentary Secretary;
- the Auditor-General, Ombudsman or Privacy Commissioner; and
- a House or Committee of the Australian Parliament.

The ASC may also disclose confidential information if:

- required or authorised by law;
- if agreed to the information being disclosed; or
- someone other than the ASC has made the confidential information public.

The ASC must treat your personal information according to the Australian Privacy Principles (APPs) and the Privacy Act 1988. This includes informing you:

- what personal information the ASC collects;
- why the ASC collects your personal information; and
- to whom the ASC give your personal information.

The ASC may give personal information collected to our employees and contractors, and other Commonwealth employees and contractors, so we can manage the Program; and research, assess, monitor and analyse our programs and activities.

# Reporting

Effective disclosure and reporting of administered grants is essential for public accountability. Reliable and timely information on grants is vital for public and Government confidence in the quality and integrity of grants administration.

In accordance with the Commonwealth Grants Rules and Guidelines (CGRG), the ASC publishes grant recipients and funding details in the Grant Funding Report on its website.

Further information on the ASC's reporting requirements is available at Section 1.4 and Government mandatory requirements can be found in Part 1 of the CGRG 2017.

# Freedom of Information

The Freedom of Information Act 1982 and the Privacy Act 1988 are the main pieces of legislation that provide for access to, and amendment of personal information. Arrangements for managing Freedom of Information (FOI) requests should be discussed with the ASC's FOI Officer.

The FOI Act is about openness and access to government-held information and is based on the principle that government information should be accessible by the public because it belongs to the public. Consequently, it is important that recorded information is accurate, up to date, complete, not misleading and relevant to the purpose for which it was collected.

The FOI Officer must be contacted to assist with FOI requests. The circumstances under which an agency may refuse a request for information under FOI laws are limited. Advice on possible exemptions should be sought from the FOI Officer.

## Appendix A – Investment Priorities

Participation Growth Funding will support NSOs and NSODs to:

- Drive involvement and inclusion in their sport
- Grow the capability of individuals in their workforce
- Support organisations running sports to improve their effectiveness.

The table below provides investment priority areas for Participation Growth Funding in 2022-23.

	<b>PARTICIPATION GROWTH FUNDING PRIORITY THEMES</b>	<b>PARTICIPATION GROWTH FUNDING PRIORITY INVESTMENT</b>
Driving involvement and inclusion in your sport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Participation Workforce</li> <li>• Participation Planning</li> <li>• Product Development</li> <li>• Participation Partnerships</li> <li>• Participation Campaigns</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Employ Participation Manager/s</li> <li>• Pilot new participation products/programs</li> <li>• Review and implement improvements to existing programs/products</li> <li>• Develop national participation plans</li> <li>• Distribute funding to support the delivery of participation activities through State Sporting Organisations</li> <li>• Delivery of an annual participation recruitment campaign/event</li> </ul>
Supporting your paid and volunteer workforce	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Capability Building</li> <li>• Coaching</li> <li>• Officiating</li> <li>• Volunteering</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establish a sub-tenancy on the Australian Sport Learning Centre</li> <li>• Develop sport specific coaching and officiating education resources</li> <li>• Develop volunteer strategies, resources and education</li> </ul>
Supporting your sport to improve its effectiveness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Club Development</li> <li>• Participation Research</li> <li>• Participation Models</li> <li>• Participation Market Insights</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Customise and promote Sport Australia's GamePlan online diagnostic tool</li> <li>• Develop a model that supports more efficient participation outcomes across the whole of sport</li> <li>• Development of sport specific club development resources</li> <li>• Undertake market research to identify potential growth areas</li> <li>• Market test potential products designed to grow participation</li> </ul>



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