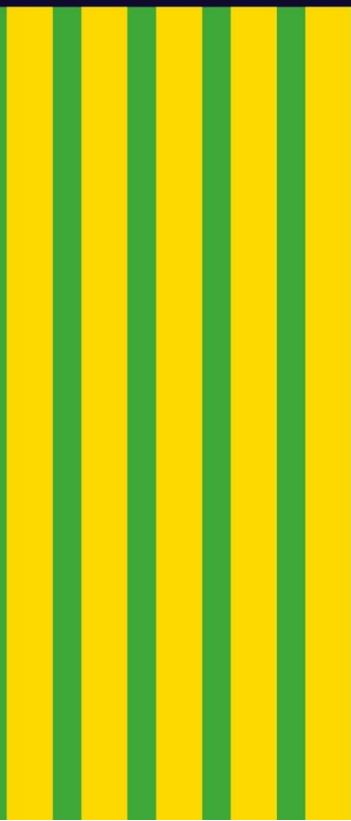




**Australian Government**  
**Australian Sports Commission**

# Participation Growth Funding Investment Guidelines

2023-2024



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# Participation Growth Funding

Participation Growth Funding is the annual investment that supports 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 achieve one of the Australian Sports Commission's (ASC) strategic goals to *Involve more Australians with sport at all levels*. With the core themes of increasing accountability, providing expert support to sports and building capability of the participation workforce, Participation Growth Funding will be available from 1 July 2023.

Participation Growth Funding has a strong outcomes focus and 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 have been updated following a review of the first year of the program and are detailed in Attachment A. This section describes 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 ASC Participation Advisor to develop agreed participation priorities prior to submission. Through Participation Growth Funding, the ASC will invest up to \$17.26 million (excl GST) to increase participation in organised sport.

All funded sports must continue to meet and comply with all requirements detailed in their 2022-24 NSO/NSOD Grant Agreement.

## Australian Sports Commission Strategic Vision

As outlined in the ASC's Strategic Vision: Our Green and Gold Decade of Opportunity, we will lead and enable the world's best sport system, involve more Australians with sport at all levels and drive innovation in sport.

The graphic features the Australian Government and Australian Sports Commission logos on the left, and the AIS logo on the right. Below the logos, the text reads: **STRATEGIC VISION:** Sport has a place for everyone and delivers results that make Australia proud. **MISSION:** The ASC will lead, support and provide opportunities for all communities to be involved in sport, while growing elite success and representation, inspiring future generations.

**OUR STRATEGIC GOALS**

- LEAD AND ENABLE THE WORLD'S BEST SPORT SYSTEM** (Yellow box with person icon)
- INVOLVE MORE AUSTRALIANS WITH SPORT AT ALL LEVELS** (Green box with runner icon)
- DRIVE INNOVATION IN SPORT** (Green box with lightbulb icon)

**KEY FOCUS AREAS**

- Build the capability of sport and the people involved
- Advocate for sport and its positive influence on Australia
- Promote and support inclusive and diverse sporting environments
- Drive thought leadership and innovation, inspiring world's best practices
- Optimise our facilities to advance sport and inspire Australians to get involved

Navigation icons at the bottom: Home, Back, Forward, Search, and Refresh.



To ensure the ASC is actively supporting all NSOs and NSODs to deliver on these strategic goals, funded organisations will be required to align their Participation Growth Funding participation priorities with these goals and the key focus areas identified in the ASC Strategic Vision

The ASC's Strategic Vision can be accessed here: [Publications | Australian Sports Commission \(sportaus.gov.au\)](#)

## Investment Priorities, Budget Allocation and Review

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

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

Please review your 2022-2024 NSO/NSOD Grant Agreement in detail to ensure you are aware of all reporting requirements for Participation Growth Funding obligations.

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.

The 2022-2024 NSO/NSOD Grant Agreement 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.

## 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 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 a variation.

Proposed changes to specifications 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, 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 2022-24 NSO/NSOD Grant Agreement.

## Conflict of Interests

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

Through Participation Growth Funding, the ASC will support NSOs and NSODs to:

- Lead and enable the world's best sport system
- Involve more Australians with sport at all levels
- Drive innovation in sport

The table below provides investment priority areas for Participation Growth Funding in 2023-24.

PARTICIPATION GROWTH FUNDING INVESTMENT CATEGORY	PARTICIPATION GROWTH FUNDING SUB-CATEGORY
<b>Participation Workforce</b>	Employ participation manager, participation coordinator or participation staff members whose focus is on a specific participation related topic area
<b>Participation Planning</b>	Development of a sport specific national participation plan
	Development of participation-based plans relating to a specific topic area (eg. inclusion)
<b>Product Development</b>	Review and implement improvements to existing programs/products
	Pilot new participation products/programs
	Test new participation delivery models that support more effective participation outcomes across the whole of sport
<b>Participation Partnerships</b>	Partner with SSOs or clubs/associations
	Partner with NSO/Ds or other sporting organisations
	Partner with external, not for profit/charity/advocacy organisations
<b>Participation Campaigns</b>	Delivery of a targeted campaign for First Nations, CALD, LGBT+ and Disability.
	Delivery of a targeted campaign for a specific program, product or event
	Delivery of a targeted campaign for coaches, officials, volunteers or other non-playing participants
	Delivery of an annual participation-based campaign
<b>Capability Building</b>	Review, develop and/or implement a learning and development strategy or operational plan (for coaching, officiating, volunteering or related topic area)
	Implementation of a learning management system, including the ASLC
	Development of new participation focused eLearning content and resources for delivery within a learning management system, including the ASLC
<b>Coaching</b>	Development and/or implementation of community coaching framework or strategy
	Develop sport specific coaching resources
	Delivery of coach education and/or courses to improve the quality of coaches
	Delivery of coach educator and facilitator sessions and/or courses
<b>Officiating</b>	Development and/or implementation of community officiating framework or strategy
	Develop sport specific officiating resources



	Delivery of officiating education and/or courses
	Delivery of officiating mentoring programs
<b>Volunteering</b>	Capture and/or utilisation of data to understand your volunteers
	Implementation or delivery of volunteer recruitment activities
	Implementation or delivery of volunteer retention activities
	Implementation or delivery of volunteer reward activities
<b>Game Plan</b>	Grow the number of clubs who have completed the foundation modules within Game plan
	Grow the number of clubs who have completed your sport specific modules
<b>Research &amp; Insights</b>	Undertake a research project to meet a strategic participation goal of your organisation
	Utilise the findings from your research project to inform decision making and planning
<b>Schools</b>	Review and implement changes to school product offerings







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