

5th August 2020

Dear Clubs,

RE: Swim Ireland Club Resilience Fund

In association with key partners such as Sport Ireland and the Federation of Irish Sport, and alongside other NGB's, Swim Ireland have been working consistently and persistently behind the scenes in campaigning the Government of Ireland for financial support for our network of clubs. As such, we were extremely pleased and grateful when the government responded in a manner which would suggest that they had heard our call and subsequently made available a €15 million support package to sports clubs where financial hardship has become a concern for them. In a further support package for our sport, the government (through the July stimulus package) made available a further €2.5 million to support swimming pools in their efforts to re-open and again we worked closely with Ireland Active in securing this particular funding stream.

There is no doubt that the COVID-19 pandemic has been a challenging time for all sports clubs around the country; as such, the Sports Resilience Fund will now be made available through Sport Ireland to deliver immediate funding to those most in need. We very much welcome this news and want to work closely with our clubs to support them financially, a key measure in helping to safeguard their future and to get our members back into the water.

The scheme has been designed by Sport Ireland to support clubs in financially supporting their sporting activities only and not one to replace lost income from ancillary activities such as hospitality, subletting or other non-sporting commercial activity. The funding available is specifically targeted at clubs who are experiencing immediate financial hardship and are facing the threat of closure due to financial pressure. Once you have taken into account the extent of the club's reserves and other sources of revenue/supports available to you, if you feel that your club is not at risk of closure, please do not apply for this particular funding source.

All clubs are expected to have taken whatever action were possible to reduce their outgoings through this difficult time. Such actions will be considered in the assessment of the applications.

Clubs within Northern Ireland are also reminded that Sport NI has sought applications for a hardship fund for all clubs. If clubs in the North did not apply for this or have applied and have not been successful through this particular hardship fund (or any other similar funding applications), then they may apply to Swim Ireland for consideration under this scheme.

Swim Ireland now opens the application process for this fund and welcomes clubs to start putting together their application for submission. Clubs should spend time in preparing detailed responses to the questions and provide the required information/documents as incomplete applications will not be considered. Please note that clubs are not permitted to make applications directly to Sport Ireland and must do so through their National Governing Body.

Clubs must apply through the online Application Form which can be found [here](#).

Clubs should take note of the following:

- A completed application form is not a guarantee of funding from this source as all applications will be assessed by Swim Ireland, Sport Ireland and (in the cases of clubs in Northern Ireland), Swim Ulster
- As we are anticipating a large number of clubs applying for this fund from across all sports, demand may very well exceed the available funds and clubs may therefore not be awarded the full amount requested
- Only clubs who meet the affiliation requirements and are currently affiliated to Swim Ireland will be eligible to receive funding through the Resilience Fund
- No Canvassing permitted. Clubs may contact their support officer for guidance on completing form, any club found to be campaigning for funds will be automatically excluded
- At a later stage, clubs may be asked to submit additional information in support of their application
- Swim Ireland may change the funding application process or conditions at any stage should the requirements from Sport Ireland determine this

All applications must be received through the online form by **5pm on the 31st August 2020**.

We will also be holding Webinars where we will answer your questions and work through the funding application to help you understand how best to tailor your application. The first two have been scheduled as follows:

11th August 2020 (7.00pm) – [Book here](#)

14th August (11.00am) – [Book here](#)

DATA PROTECTION: The information collected will only be used for the purpose of processing your request for the Resilience Fund and will only be shared with Sport Ireland.

For more information please contact your regional contact:

Connacht Clubs – Vincent Finn (vincentfinn@swimireland.ie)

Leinster Clubs – Aisling McKeever (aislingmckeever@swimireland.ie)

Munster Clubs - Damien Fitzpatrick (damienfitzpatrick@swimireland.ie)

Ulster Clubs – Ruth McQuillan (ruth@swimulster.net)

Water Polo Clubs – Sarah Kelly (sarahkelly@swimireland.ie)

Your sincerely,



Adam Cox

Head of Clubs, Community and Competitions

Application Questions

(These are for club reference only and all applications must be made through the online application form which can be found [here](#))

General Details

1. Name of Club
2. Name of individual applying on behalf of club
3. I can confirm I have been authorised to apply for a grant on behalf of my club (Tick Box)

Funding information

- 4 How much funding is the club applying for?
5. Please provide details and amounts of actual reductions of total income from January to June 2020 as a result of COVID-19.

* Additional supporting evidence via a multi-year comparison (min 3 years) of this loss of income should also accompany the application.

6. Please provide details and amounts of the value of estimated reductions of income from July to December 2020.

* Additional supporting evidence via a multi-year comparison (min 3 years) income should also accompany the application.

7. Please provide details and amounts of any cost savings and expenditure measures the club employed due to scaled back operations from January to June and similar savings projected for the second half of the year.

8. Please provide details and amounts of any increases in current liabilities due to COVID-19.

9. Please provide details and amounts of the staff and payroll implications due to COVID-19. (i.e. what staff expenditure did you have to continue to meet during the lockdown).

10. Please provide details and amounts of any Government supports utilised by your club. (i.e. Government wages subsidy scheme).

11. Please provide details and amounts on the levels of current reserves used and their potential further use by the club to support operations during the return.

* Additional supporting evidence via an estimation of how long operations could continue under the current circumstances if reserves were used for this purpose and no grant support was forthcoming, or how reserves have been used to date to support club operations.

12. Please provide details and amounts of any immediate short-term cash flow or financial commitments that the club may be challenged to meet. Please include monetary values and timeframes.

13. Please provide details and amounts of any additional financing utilised due to COVID-19 (i.e. Bank Loans, Overdraft Facilities etc.)

14. Please provide details and amounts on the increase or potential increase of any bad debts.

15. Please provide details of on any projects or programmes that will have to be deferred, postponed, or cancelled.

16. Please provide details and amounts of immediate restart costs/overheads
 17. Please provide details and values of additional costs arising from the provision and installation of COVID- 19 precautions.
 18. Please provide details and values of costs arising for adjustment of club operations to cater for socially distanced sport programming. (i.e. reduced athlete numbers in lanes, increased lane space required)
 19. Value of income reduction arising from reduced numbers.
- * Additional supporting evidence via a multi-year comparison (min 3 years) of this loss of income should also accompany the application.**
20. Details of any increases in income such as from new and increased memberships.
 21. Please outline the consequences of not receiving this funding support and how it will impact on the club and community to deliver swimming activities
 22. Demonstrate how the club has operated/operates with good financial procedures in place.
 23. If successful for funding what will this funding be used for?
 24. Please also provide the following:
 - Financial statement of accounts for the past 2 seasons
 - Copies of bank statements (past 12 months) detailing the clubs cash position as at the 1st August 2020.
 - The proposed budget for the next 12 months (with and without grant funding)
 25. Please provide any other details you feel are relevant to your application.

By ticking this box, you can confirm all the following:

All information contained in this application, including the supporting documentation provided is, to the best of our knowledge, true and accurate and we confirm that this financial support will be spent as described in the application.

Acknowledge that this application will be subject to monitoring / auditing and undertake to keep adequate records for this purpose. (Monitoring process will be issued to successful clubs at a later date)

We will inform Swim Ireland promptly of any significant changes to the information supplied in this document.

That deliberately providing wrong or misleading information is an offence and such information may be used against us in any subsequent investigation and render this application