



Australian Government
Australian Sports Commission

Participation Growth Funding Investment Guidelines

July – December 2024

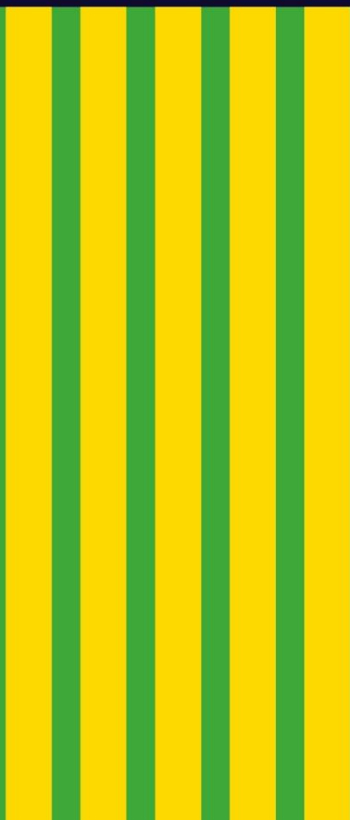


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Participation Growth Funding

Participation Growth Funding (PGF) is the investment that supports ASC Recognised National Sporting Organisations (NSO) and National Sporting Organisations for People with Disability (NSOD) to deliver high quality participation outcomes.

PGF will support NSOs and NSODs to deliver participation outcomes for participants, coaches, officials and volunteers through an investment that is focussed on supporting inclusive, welcoming and accessible participation opportunities. This investment helps deliver on Australian's first national sport participation strategy, *Play Well* by ensuring everyone has a place in sport.

With the core themes of increasing accountability, providing expert support to sports and building capability of the participation workforce, PGF will be available from 1 July 2024 for a six-month period ahead of a transition into a broader Play Well investment fund from January 1, 2025.

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 high quality measurable participation outcomes. These activities should also support the participation priorities identified within a sport's own national participation plan.

Priority investment areas 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 approved participation priorities prior to submission. Through PGF, the ASC will invest up to \$8.65 million (excl GST) to increase participation in organised sport across this six-month period.

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 in sport at all levels and drive innovation.



Play Well – Everyone has a place in sport

Play Well, Australia's Sport Participation Strategy has been developed to create great sporting environments and experiences, where individuals of all ages, backgrounds, genders and abilities can come together to access the benefits of sport.

Everyone has a right to participate in sport. Sport is a powerful vehicle for personal growth, community building and positive social change.



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 for the six-month funding period.

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 the six-month variation to your 2022-2024 NSO/NSOD Grant Agreement in detail to ensure you are aware of all reporting requirements for PGF obligations.

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

The six-month variation to your 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 PGF 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) 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 six-month variation to your 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 PGF, the ASC will support NSOs and NSODs to:

- Ensure everyone has a place in sport.
- 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 PGF in 2024.

PGF INVESTMENT CATEGORY	PGF SUB-CATEGORY	PLAY WELL ALIGNMENT
Participation Workforce	Employ participation manager, participation coordinator or participation staff members whose focus is on a specific participation related topic area	Empowering People and Organisations
Participation Planning	Development of a sport specific national participation plan	Empowering People and Organisations Driving Lifelong Involvement
	Development of participation-based plans relating to a specific topic area (e.g. inclusion)	Activating Places and Spaces Equitable Access Transforming Culture
Product Development	Review and implement improvements to existing programs/products	Driving Lifelong Involvement
	Pilot new participation products/programs	Driving Lifelong Involvement Building Connections
	Test new participation delivery models that support more effective participation outcomes across the whole of sport	Building Connections Empowering People and Organisations
Participation Partnerships	Partner with SSOs or clubs/associations	Building Connections
	Partner with NSO/Ds or other sporting organisations	Building Connections Empowering People and Organisations
	Partner with external, not for profit/charity/advocacy organisations	Building Connections Empowering People and Organisations
Participation Campaigns	Delivery of a targeted campaign for First Nations, CALD, LGBT+ and Disability.	Equitable Access Transforming Culture
	Delivery of a targeted campaign for a specific participation program, product or event	Driving Lifelong Involvement Building Connections Empowering People and Organisations



	Delivery of a targeted campaign for coaches, officials, volunteers or other non-playing participants	Empowering People and Organisations
	Delivery of an annual participation-based campaign	
Capability Building	Review, develop and/or implement a learning and development strategy or operational plan (for coaching, officiating, volunteering or related topic area)	Empowering People and Organisations
	Implementation of a learning management system, including the ASLC	Empowering People and Organisations Building Connections
	Development of new participation focused eLearning content and resources for delivery within a learning management system, including the ASLC	Empowering People and Organisations Building Connections
Coaching	Development and/or implementation of community coaching framework or strategy	Empowering People and Organisations
	Develop sport specific coaching resources	Empowering People and Organisations
	Delivery of coach education and/or courses to improve the quality of coaches	Empowering People and Organisations Driving Lifelong Involvement
	Delivery of coach educator and facilitator sessions and/or courses	Empowering People and Organisations
Officiating	Development and/or implementation of community officiating framework or strategy	Empowering People and Organisations
	Develop sport specific officiating resources	Empowering People and Organisations
	Delivery of officiating education and/or courses	Empowering People and Organisations
	Delivery of officiating mentoring programs	Empowering People and Organisations
Volunteering	Capture and/or utilisation of data to understand your volunteers	Empowering People and Organisations
	Implementation or delivery of volunteer recruitment activities	Empowering People and Organisations Equitable Access Transforming Culture
	Implementation or delivery of volunteer retention activities	Empowering People and Organisations Equitable Access Transforming Culture
	Implementation or delivery of volunteer reward activities	Empowering People and Organisations



Game Plan	Grow the number of Clubs and State Sporting Organisations who have completed the foundation modules within Game plan	Empowering People and Organisations Transforming Culture
	Grow the number of Clubs and State Sporting Organisations who have completed your sport specific modules	Empowering People and Organisations
Research & Insights	Undertake a participation based research project to meet a strategic participation goal of your organisation	Driving Lifelong Involvement
	Utilise the findings from your research project to inform decision making and planning	Driving Lifelong Involvement
Schools	Review and implement changes to school product offerings	Driving Lifelong Involvement





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