CLUB SUPPORT · FUNDING

Welsh Athletics Development Fund 2026-27

WELSH ATHLETICS
ATHLETAU CYMRU

Guidance for applicants

Supporting clubs, regions and school districts to grow athletics in Wales

£2,000	£1,000	31 Jan	31 Dec
Maximum for affiliated clubs	**Maximum for Regional Councils and School Districts**	**Closing date: 23:59, Sunday 31 January 2027**	**Projects completed by 31 December 2027**
Ask for what your project needs	Linked to your development plan	Decisions by mid-February 2027	Then a short completion report

SECTION 1

About the fund

The Welsh Athletics Development Fund (formerly the Modernisation & Development Fund) is our small grants scheme for affiliated clubs, Regional Athletics Councils and School District Athletic Associations. It helps you try something new that will make your club, region or district stronger and help our sport grow, in line with our vision of **athletics for everyone, everywhere**.

For 2026-27 the Development Fund has **three priorities**. Every application must show how it supports at least one of them.

WHAT'S NEW FOR 2026-27

- **A new name** that reflects what the fund is for: helping athletics in Wales grow.
- **Three clear priorities:** workforce development, regional competition development and inclusive environments.
- **A published scoring guide**, so you can see exactly how the panel will assess your application (section 5).
- **A shorter application form** focused on your project.
- **Targets you set and report back on**, so we can show together what the fund achieves.

SECTION 2

Our three priorities

PRIORITY 1

Workforce development

Coaches, officials, volunteers and leaders make athletics happen. We want to help you recruit more of them, from a wider range of backgrounds, and to support and keep the people you already have.

Examples of projects

- A recruitment campaign for new volunteers, officials or coaches, especially people who are under-represented in your current workforce
- A welcome and induction programme for new volunteers
- Mentoring, buddying or shadowing for new coaches and officials
- A young leaders or young volunteers scheme
- Coach or official education that enables new activity, for example qualifying leaders so you can open a new group (see section 4)

OUTCOMES YOU MIGHT MEASURE New volunteers, coaches or officials recruited; people starting or completing a qualification; people still active six months later.

PRIORITY 2

Regional competition development

We want more athletes to have good-quality competition close to home, at every age and stage. This priority supports our aim of a competition pathway that is engaging, exciting and athlete-centred. Regional Athletics Councils are particularly encouraged to apply.

Examples of projects

- A new regional competition, league or series, or a new format, such as a beginners' mini-meet or a sportshall event
- Expanding an existing competition so it reaches new age groups or new athletes
- Developing officials to staff regional competitions
- Equipment that makes a new or expanded competition possible

OUTCOMES YOU MIGHT MEASURE New competitions or fixtures delivered; athletes taking part; first-time competitors; officials involved.

Competitions must be able to continue without further funding from Welsh Athletics.

PRIORITY 3

Inclusive environments

We want everyone who comes to athletics to feel welcome, safe and able to take part. We particularly want to reach people who are under-represented in our sport, including disabled people, women and girls, people from ethnically diverse communities and people living in less affluent areas.

Examples of projects

- A new session or group for people who are under-represented in your club

- Making sessions accessible for disabled athletes, including equipment that makes inclusive sessions possible
- Partnerships with schools, community groups or disability organisations to reach new people
- Improving how your club welcomes and looks after people, for example new welcome processes or inclusion training for volunteers

OUTCOMES YOU MIGHT MEASURE Participants or new members from the groups you want to reach; new inclusive sessions; people still attending six months later.

ACROSS EVERY PRIORITY

Modernising how you work

Modernisation isn't a separate priority. It's how many good projects deliver. Moving to online booking, setting up a new partnership or changing how you organise volunteers can all be part of a strong application. Tell us how your project will change the way your club works for the better.

SECTION 3

Who can apply

Who	Maximum grant	Conditions
Clubs affiliated to Welsh Athletics (all disciplines)	£2,000	You must be meeting Welsh Athletics club standards, including completing your affiliation documents. We check this through the club portal, so you don't need to send anything.
Regional Athletics Councils	£1,000	Your project should link directly to your Regional Development Plan.
School District Athletic Associations	£1,000	–

APPLIED BEFORE? **If you've had a grant from this fund before**, you must have returned your Project Completion Report before you can apply again.

SECTION 4

What we can and can't fund

We can fund	We can't fund
✓ Costs of delivering **new activity**, such as venue hire for a recruitment day, a new session or a new competition	✗ Anything bought or started before we make our decision
✓ Coach, official and volunteer education **where it enables new activity**	✗ Routine running costs, such as regular training venue hire, affiliation fees or replacing existing kit
✓ Equipment that enables **new or expanded competition** or **inclusive provision**	✗ Medals, prizes, trophies, entry fees or travel to events
✓ Marketing and promotion of your project	✗ Payments to individuals, including individual athletes
✓ Volunteer recruitment, induction and development	✗ Coach or official education that doesn't lead to new activity
✓ Modernisation costs, such as setting up a new system or process	✗ Costs already paid for by another grant
	✗ The club contribution required by a Be Active Wales Fund application
	✗ Costs Be Active Wales can fund, unless you've applied and been unsuccessful

Be Active Wales Fund

Sport Wales' Be Active Wales Fund is a larger fund for community sport. It can pay for things like equipment, coaching courses up to Level 2, entry-level officiating and first aid training, and venue hire for new teams.

- If any of your costs fall into those categories, **apply to Be Active Wales first**. We'll only consider those costs if you've applied and been unsuccessful, and you'll need to tell us the outcome on the form.
- Our grant **can't** be used to pay the club contribution that Be Active Wales requires.

Using other funding alongside ours

You're welcome to combine our grant with other funding, as long as we're not paying for the same costs twice. Tell us about any other funding in the budget section of the form.

SECTION 5

How we'll assess your application

A Grants Panel will score every eligible application against six criteria. The application form asks its questions in the same order.

Criterion	What the panel is looking for	Weighting
1 Fit with priorities	Clearly delivers at least one of the three priorities.	30%
2 Need	Shows why the project is needed, with evidence such as numbers, waiting lists, gaps or feedback.	15%
3 Plan and delivery	A realistic plan and timeline, with named people in place to lead it.	15%
4 Outcomes	Two or three specific, measurable targets, and a clear way of measuring them.	20%
5 Legacy	What will continue after the money has been spent.	10%
6 Budget	Clear, reasonable and eligible costs, with quotes where possible.	10%

The panel scores each criterion from **0 to 3**: 0 = not shown, 1 = limited, 2 = good, 3 = strong. To be funded, an application must score at least 2 for fit with priorities and at least 1 for every other criterion.

If there are more strong applications than money available, the panel will fund the highest-scoring applications first. It may also consider a fair spread across regions, disciplines and priorities, and may offer part funding. All awards are at the panel's discretion and its decision is final.

SECTION 6

How to apply

1. **Read this guidance** and check you're eligible and your costs can be funded.
2. **Talk to us (recommended).** The Welsh Athletics team can help you shape your idea. Email Zoe Holloway at zoe.holloway@welshathletics.org, or join our online Q&A session on Thursday 14 January 2027.
3. **Get quotes** for larger items where you can. They help the panel see your costs are realistic.
4. **Complete the Word application form.** Answer every question and keep to the word limits. If you find completing the form difficult, contact us and we'll help.
5. **Ask two officers of your club or organisation to sign the declaration**, for example your Chair, Secretary or Treasurer.
6. **Submit by 23:59 on Sunday 31 January 2027.** Email your completed form and any quotes to zoe.holloway@welshathletics.org with "Development Fund 2026-27" in the subject line.

SECTION 7

Key dates

Stage	Date
Fund opens	Friday 4 December 2026
Online Q&A session	Thursday 14 January 2027
Closing date	**23:59, Sunday 31 January 2027**
Decisions	By 28 February 2027
Project completed	By 31 December 2027
Project Completion Report returned	Within six weeks of your project finishing

SECTION 8

If you're successful

- We'll email you to confirm your award and any conditions, and ask for your club's bank details so we can pay the grant. **Please don't include bank details in your application.**
- Spend the grant only on the project you described. Talk to us **before** making any changes.
- Acknowledge Welsh Athletics' support in any publicity about your project.
- We may contact you during the project, ask for information or arrange a visit.
- Complete your project by **31 December 2027** and return the **Project Completion Report** within six weeks of finishing. It asks how you did against your targets and how you spent the money. You can't apply to the fund again until we've received it.
- If you don't spend the full grant, or the project doesn't go ahead, we may ask you to return some or all of it.

SECTION 9

Tips for a strong application

- **Lead with the difference you'll make**, not the things you'll buy.
- **Use numbers.** How many members, volunteers or athletes do you have now, and what are you aiming for?
- **Set realistic targets.** Two or three you can measure are better than ten you can't.
- **Name who will lead the project** and check they have the time to do it.
- **Show what happens next.** How will the activity continue once the money is spent?
- **Check your costs** are eligible and aren't something Be Active Wales could fund.

COMMON REASONS APPLICATIONS AREN'T FUNDED

- No clear link to the three priorities
- Asking for routine running costs
- Vague outcomes with no targets
- Costs already spent
- Missing information or signatures

SECTION 10

Frequently asked questions

Can we apply for less than the maximum?

Yes. Ask for what your project needs. Smaller requests are just as welcome.

We had a grant last year. Can we apply again?

Yes, as long as you've returned your Project Completion Report for that grant. This includes grants awarded under the fund's previous name, the Modernisation & Development Fund.

Can social running groups apply?

The fund is open to affiliated clubs, Regional Athletics Councils and School District Athletic Associations.

Can the grant pay for coaching or officiating courses?

Only where the course enables new activity, for example qualifying leaders to start a new group. Courses up to Level 2 should go to Be Active Wales first.

We find Word forms difficult. Can we get help?

Yes. Contact Zoe Holloway and we can talk your application through with you, or help with completing the form.

What if our project changes after we're funded?

Contact us before making any changes. We'll usually be able to agree a sensible way forward.

CONTACT

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