



**CRICKET
LEINSTER**

Community Sport Facilities Fund Webinar

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Background to Community Sport Facilities Fund

Community Sport Facilities Fund

The Community Sport Facilities Fund is the primary vehicle for Government support for the development of sports and physical recreation facilities and the purchase of non-personal sports equipment throughout the country.

- The Community Sport Facilities Fund (CSFF), formerly the Sports Capital and Equipment Programme, has allocated over €1.4 billion to almost 19,000 projects since 1998.
- The programme prioritises participation, accessibility, and sustainability, with targets including 60% national participation in sport by 2027.



**An Roinn Cultúir,
Cumarsáide agus Spóirt**
Department of Culture,
Communications and Sport

Community Sport Facilities Fund

The CSFF is operated by the Department of Culture, Communications & Sport. CSFF provides grants to support:

- the development or refurbishment of sports facilities and,
- the provision of sports equipment.

The objectives of the Fund are to:

- Assist in the **development of high-quality, accessible facilities** in appropriate locations and provide equipment to help **maximise participation in sport** and physical recreation.
- Prioritise the **needs of disadvantaged areas and minority groups** in the provision of sports facilities and equipment.
- Facilitate **participation in sport by people with disabilities**.
- **Increase female participation in sport**.
- **Encourage the sharing of sports facilities**.



CSFF 2026 – Key Dates

28 September 2026	Registration opened on SPRAOI
19 October 2026	Applications opened
5pm, 26 February 2027	Application deadline: no late or partial applications
Before end-2027 (TBC)	Conditional offers of funding announced

Start early: the Department may not be able to answer queries close to the deadline, and applications can't be changed once submitted.



Who Can Apply?

Eligible

- Voluntary, not-for-profit sports clubs
- Community groups
- National Governing Bodies (Regional grants only)
- Local authorities
- Schools, ETBs, Diocesan Trusts and 3rd level colleges, jointly with a local club

Conditions

- Open to new members from the public, with no restrictions on who can join
- Annual fees and entrance fees each under €1,500
- All income used for the club's activities
- One application per club, including joint applications
- Sports clubs within schools or colleges can't apply

Amounts available?

Local grants (up to 95% of costs)

- Capital with title or registered lease (10+ years): **€250,000**
- Unregistered lease (10+ years): **€175,000**
- Lease of 5 to 10 years: **€100,000**
- Lease under 5 years or no lease: **equipment only**
- Equipment: **€70,000** (not NGBs)
- Maintenance equipment: **€40,000** every 5 years

Regional grants (up to 70% of costs)

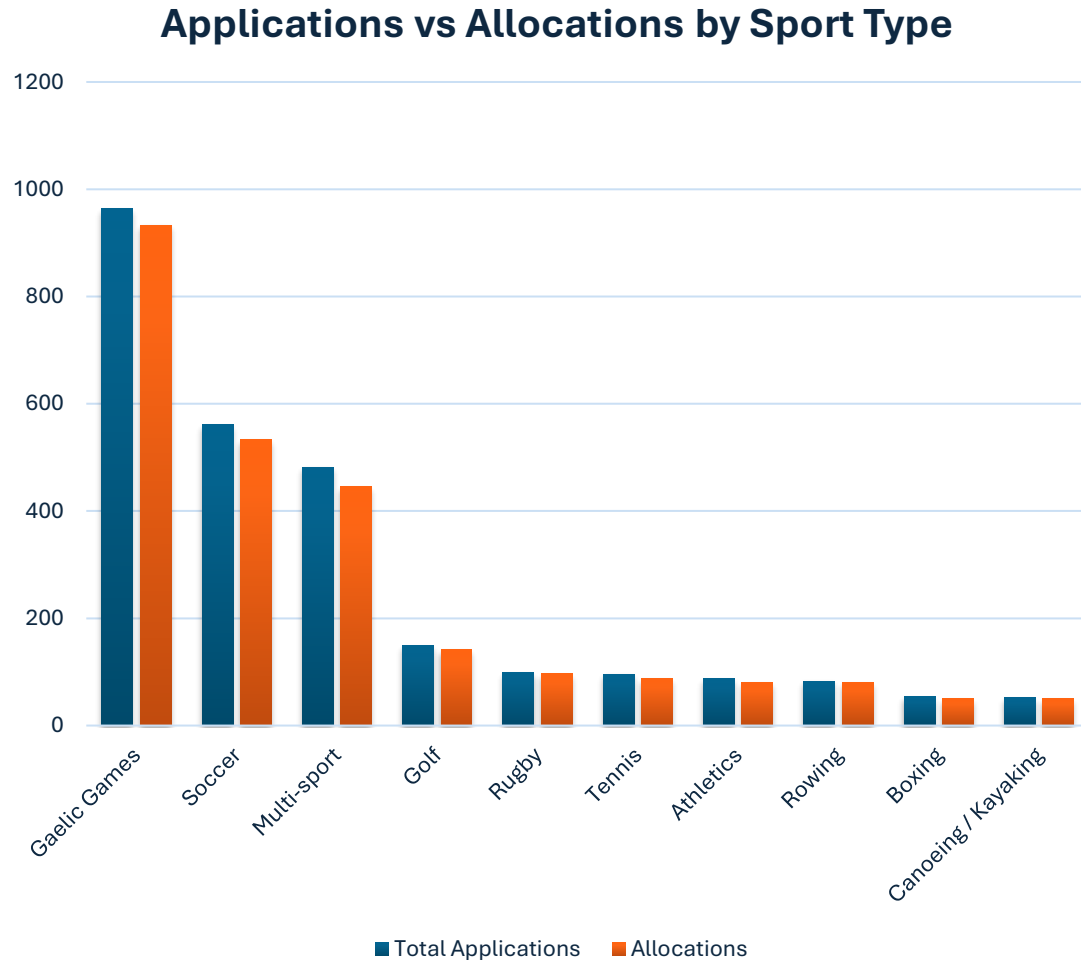
- Tier 1: **€250,000 to €550,000**
- Tier 2 (new): **€550,000 to €750,000**, for local authorities and NGBs only

What makes a Regional Application?

- Multi-sport or multi-use facilities shared by two or more clubs
- Two or more clubs from the same sport sharing a facility
- Local authority projects, including swimming pools
- 3rd level college facilities, made jointly with a local club
- Single-club exceptions: 6+ lane running tracks, NGB regional centres of excellence, League of Ireland clubs
- **New Tier 2:** full-size multi-sport artificial pitches, led by a local authority or NGB and shared by two or more NGBs



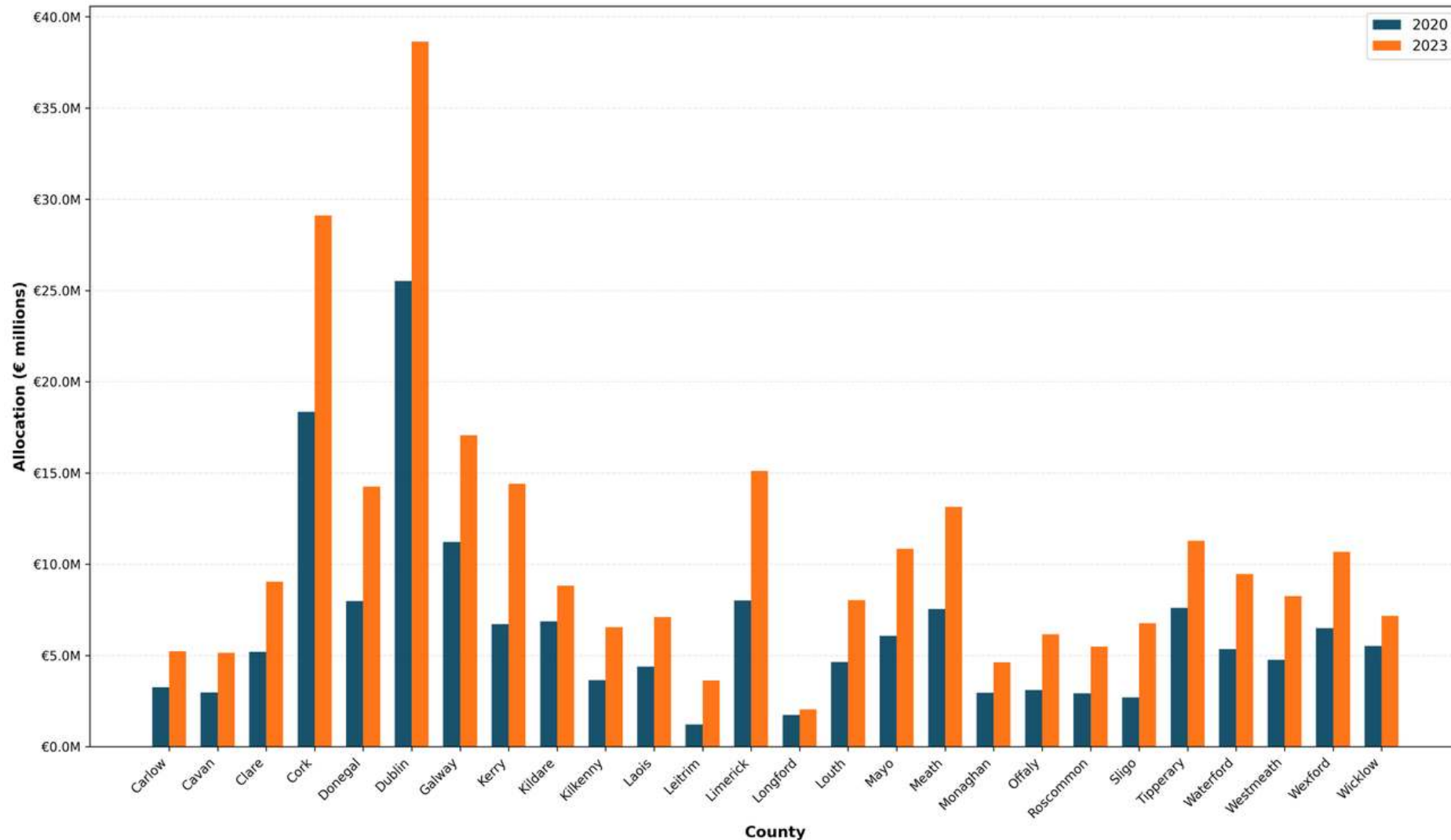
Community Sport Facilities Fund 2023



- In 2023, over €277 million was allocated to 3,048 sporting projects under CSFF.
- 94.73% success rate for all applications.
- 78.64% allocation rate of funds requested.
- The 2023 local applications were assessed using the Pobal Deprivation Index as the primary calculation factor, thus ensuring disadvantaged areas were prioritised.
- Cricket 33 applications & 31 allocations
- €1.83m applied for, €1.39m allocated.
- 93.9% allocation rate for cricket application.
- Average allocation of c. €45k

Community Sport Facilities Fund 2020 vs 2023 Allocations (County)

Community Sport Facilities Fund
Grant Allocations by County: 2020 vs 2023



Community Sport Facilities Fund 2018-2023 – Cricket Leinster

All cricket projects in Leinster.

Round	Applications	Allocations	Success rate	€ applied for	€ allocated	Allocation rate	Average grant
SCP 2018	16	13	81%	€736,107	€291,229	40%	€22,402
SCEP 2020	19	19	100%	€498,767	€453,212	91%	€23,853
CSFF 2023	24	22	92%	€1,447,071	€1,140,257	79%	€51,830
All 3 rounds	59	54	92%	€2,681,945	€1,884,698	70%	€34,902

Community Sport Facilities Fund 2023 – Cricket Leinster by County

County	Apps 2018	Apps 2020	Apps 2023	Grants 2018	Grants 2020	Grants 2023	€ allocated 2018	€ allocated 2020	€ allocated 2023
Dublin	11	13	15	8	13	15	€243,871	€377,057	€877,058
Westmeath	0	1	1	0	1	1	-	€3,864	€121,456
Kilkenny	0	0	1	0	0	1	-	-	€55,230
Louth	0	0	1	0	0	1	-	-	€50,073
Meath	1	1	1	1	1	1	€12,002	€5,750	€21,086
Carlow	1	2	2	1	2	2	€549	€23,050	€8,556
Offaly	0	0	1	0	0	1	-	-	€6,798
Laois	1	1	0	1	1	0	€3,803	€30,494	-
Wicklow	1	1	1	1	1	0	€26,650	€12,997	-
Wexford	1	0	0	1	0	0	€4,354	-	-
Kildare	0	0	1	0	0	0	-	-	-
Total	16	19	24	13	19	22	€291,229	€453,212	€1,140,257

Eligible & Ineligible Funding

Community Sport Facilities Fund (2026) Does Fund

- Natural and artificial pitches, tracks, courts and MUGAs
- **LED** floodlighting only
- Security fencing, ball-stop netting, goalposts and dugouts
- Hurling walls, handball courts and padel courts
- Dressing rooms, showers and toilets
- Sports halls, gyms, fitness rooms and clubhouses
- Disability access modifications
- **NEW:** Spectator stands, fixed or modular (max €40,000)
- **NEW:** Swimming pools
- Non-personal sports equipment, defibrillators and timing equipment
- Any other project that is sporting in nature and increases participation

Community Sport Facilities Fund (2026) Does Not Fund

- For-profit clubs or organisations
- Non-LED lighting, including replacement bulbs
- Car parks, roads, footpaths or landscaping
- Children's playgrounds
- Bars, kitchens, offices, function rooms or accommodation
- Works already started before a conditional offer of funding
- Professional fees: design, legal, feasibility
- IT, office equipment and passenger vehicles
- Routine maintenance, including resurfacing pitches funded in the last 10 years
- Schools, ETBs or colleges applying without a local club
- Loan repayments, or buying or leasing land or buildings
- Energy projects the SEAI will fund

What Cricket Clubs Typically Apply For

Capital

- Artificial (non-turf) pitches and practice wickets
- Fixed practice nets and ball-stop netting
- Square and outfield development, drainage, irrigation
- Pavilions, dressing rooms, showers and toilets
- LED floodlighting and fixed scoreboards
- Spectator stands (max €40,000)

Equipment (up to €70,000)

- Portable nets and ball-stop netting
- Covers, sight screens and portable scoreboards
- Rollers and mowers (max €40,000 every 5 years)
- Storage containers, defibrillators, first aid
- Non-personal kit only: no club-branded wear

Being Grant Ready

Being Grant Ready – Be Methodical

Don't bend your project to fit a fund. Design the right project, then find the right fund.

- Every funder wants clear answers to:
 - What is the need, and can you evidence it?
 - Who will use it, including people not taking part today?
 - What difference will it make?
 - Does it complement local facilities, or duplicate them?
- Know the objectives and score yourself against the criteria.
- Filling in the form is the last step, not the first.



Being Grant Ready for CSFF – Project First, Form Last!

Start with your club's need, not the fund. A project bent to fit a scheme rarely scores as well as a genuine one.

Every strong CSFF application answers four questions:

- **The need** – What's the gap, and can you evidence it? (waiting lists, members turned away, unsafe or outdated facilities)
- **The people** – Who will use it, and who's missing out today? (women and girls, older people, people with disabilities, disadvantaged areas)
- **The difference** – How many more people will take part, and how often? Participation carries roughly 70% of the marks
- **The fit** – Does it complement what's already nearby rather than duplicate it, and who else could share it?

Being Grant Ready for CSFF – tell the story!

Assessors read hundreds of applications. Give them a clear, convincing story they can score.

Start with the story:

- **Your club** – Who are you, and who will this project bring through the door? (real numbers, real groups, real examples)
- **Your ambition** – What do you want to fund? Be ambitious, but realistic
- **Your case** – Why should your project be funded over another? (evidence, partnerships, shared use, local support)

Then make it deliverable:

- **Where** – Do you own or lease the site, and is planning permission in place or not required?
- **How much** – What's the total cost, how much will you seek from CSFF, and how will you fund the rest? (savings, loans, with evidence)
- **When** – When will the work be complete, and are you ready to start?

A strong story wins attention. A deliverable project wins funding.

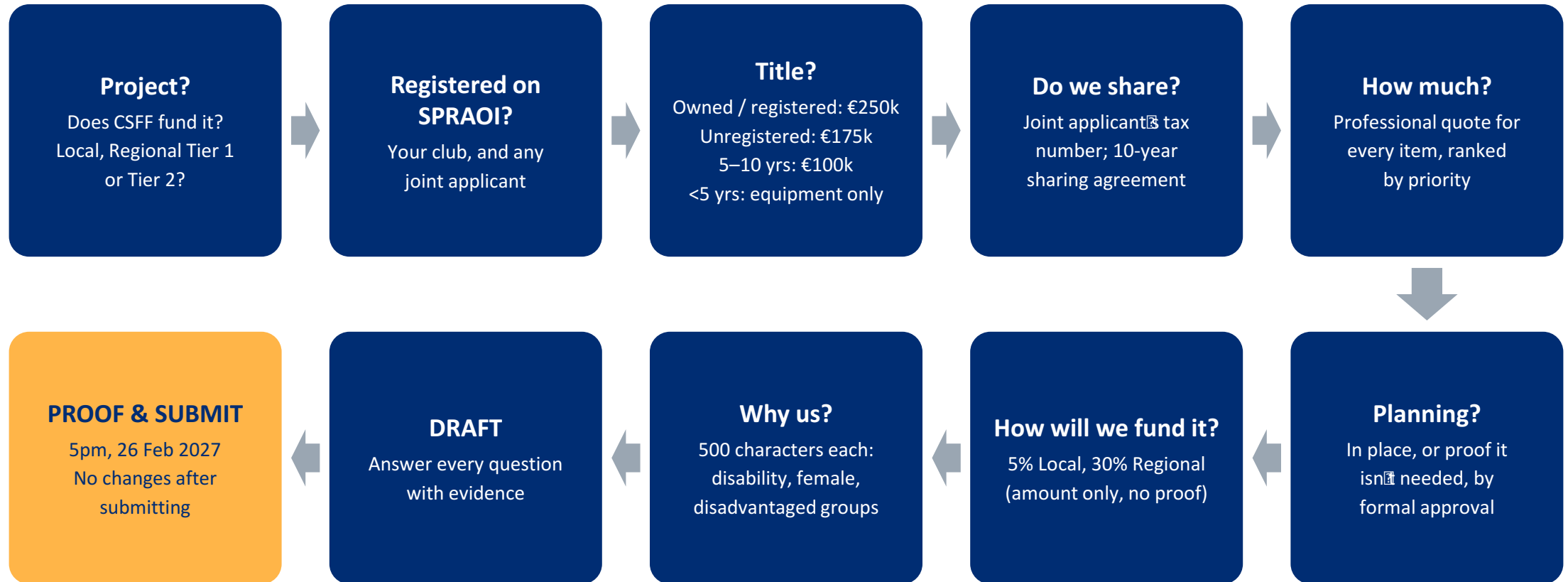


Being CSFF Grant Ready - Project Plan

- **Grant type?** Capital, equipment or both? Local or Regional?
- **Registered on SPRAOI?** The new portal replaces OSCAR
- **Title or lease?** Years remaining set your maximum grant
- **Costings ready?** A quote for every item, ranked by priority
- **Match funding?** How will you fund the balance?
- **Lead applicant?** Joint bids need a genuine partner
- **Who benefits?** Disability, female, disadvantaged groups
- **Who manages delivery?** Contact, governance, long-term running
- **When?** Planning in place, no works before approval
- **Procurement?** Three comparable quotes at approval stage



Being Grant Ready for CSFF (Based on 2023)



- *Registration opened 28 Sept 2026*
- *Applications opened 19 Oct 2026*
- *Deadline 5pm, 26 Feb 2027*

Application Process & Scoring

SPRAOI Homepage

 **SPRAOI**

[Sign in →](#)

[Home](#) [Guidance](#)

Welcome to SPRAOI

Sports Programme Registration and Application Online Interface

The 2026 Community Sport Facilities Fund is open for applications from 9am on Monday, 19 October 2026 to 5pm on Friday, 26 February 2027.

In order to apply for funding you must be registered as a user and your organisation must be registered.

[Register →](#)

Important!

SPRAOI is not supported on mobile phones or tablets.

Please use a PC or laptop only when accessing SPRAOI.

①

Guidance

Find answers to your questions. Browse various guidance and access support.

[View guidance →](#)

[Guidance](#) [Privacy notice](#)

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Department of Culture,
Communications and Sport

Points to Note.....

Name and Contact details
of Primary User is vital!!!

Schools must be partnered
with a sports club who are
registered on SPRAOI

2into3

SPRAOI – Sign in & User Registration

[Home](#) [Guidance](#)

[Home](#) > [Sign up](#)

Sign in

Sign in with your email address

Email Address

Please enter your Email Address

Password

Please enter your password

[Forgot your password?](#)

[Sign in](#)

User Registration Details

Please provide the following details:

Email Address

[Send verification code](#)

[Password requirements](#)

New Password

Confirm New Password

First Name

Last Name

Contact Number

Role

Confirm Agreements

 **SPRAOI**

[Home](#) [Guidance](#)

[Home](#) > [Sign up](#)

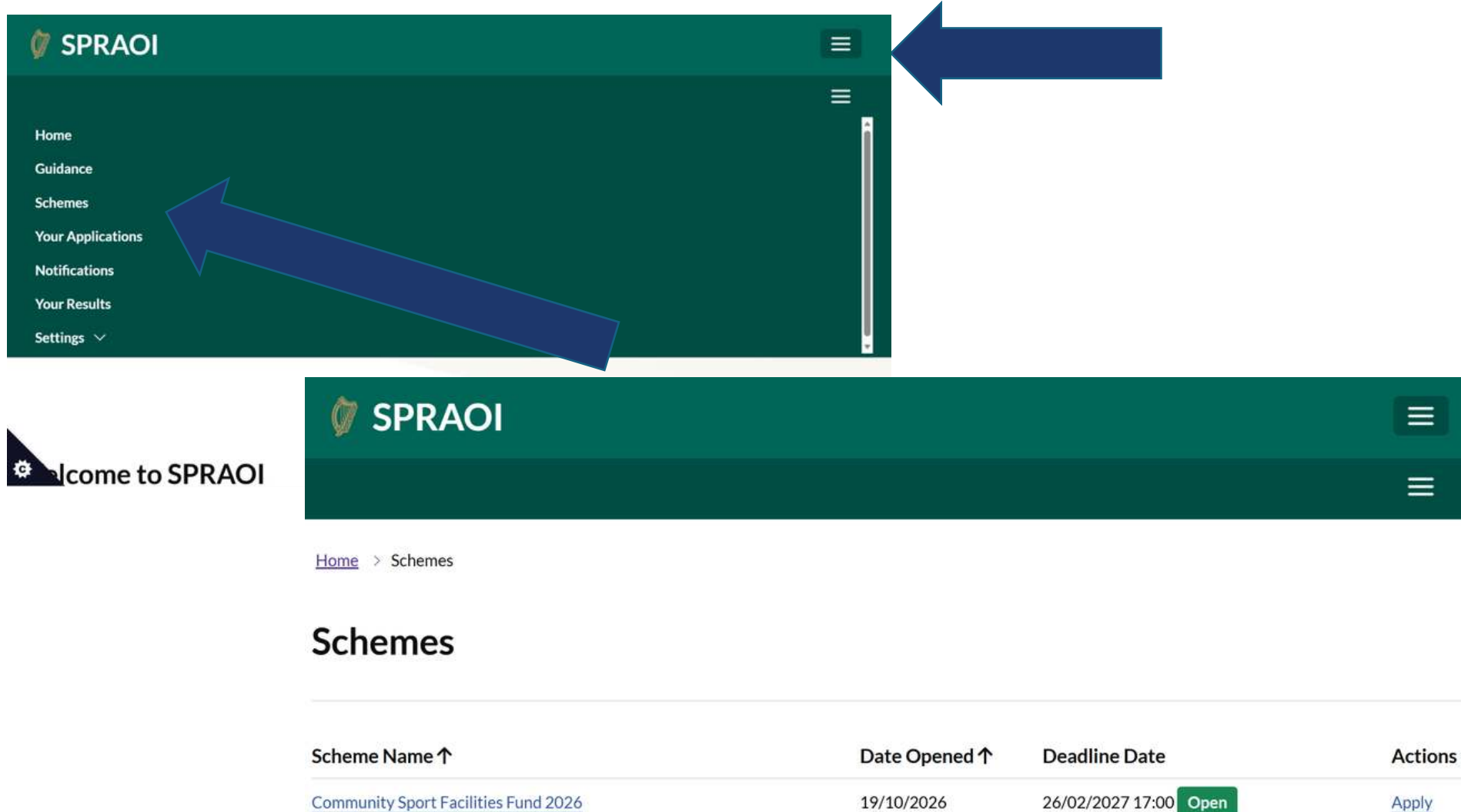
[Back](#)

Enter the verification code from your authenticator app.

Enter your code

[Verify](#)

SPRAOI – Once You Are In



The screenshot displays the SPRAOI web application interface. At the top, there is a dark green header with the SPRAOI logo and a hamburger menu icon. Below the header, a sidebar navigation menu is visible on the left, listing: Home, Guidance, Schemes, Your Applications, Notifications, Your Results, and Settings. A large blue arrow points from the right towards the top right corner of the application, specifically towards the hamburger menu icon in the header. Another large blue arrow points from the left towards the 'Schemes' link in the sidebar navigation menu.

Below the sidebar, the main content area shows a welcome message: "Welcome to SPRAOI". Below this, there is a breadcrumb trail: [Home](#) > [Schemes](#). The main heading is "Schemes".

Below the heading, there is a table with the following columns: Scheme Name ↑, Date Opened ↑, Deadline Date, and Actions.

Scheme Name ↑	Date Opened ↑	Deadline Date	Actions
Community Sport Facilities Fund 2026	19/10/2026	26/02/2027 17:00 Open	Apply

SPRAOI – CSFF 2026 Application Portal

[Home](#) > [Schemes](#) > Community Sport Facilities Fund 2026

Community Sport Facilities Fund 2026

The Community Sport Facilities Fund is the primary vehicle for government support for the development of sports and physical recreation facilities and the purchase of non-personal sports equipment throughout the country.

The application deadline for the Community Sport Facilities Fund 2026 is 5pm on 26 February 2027. No late or partial applications will be accepted after this deadline.

Please ensure that you click “Submit Application” once all sections are fully complete. You cannot amend your application once it has been submitted.



Please click on this [link](#) to confirm that your organisation membership details are correct.



Please click on this [link](#) to confirm that your organisation details are correct.

- 1 Application Details
- 2 Costings
- 3 Sharing of Your Facilities
- 4 Declarations
- 5 Review and Submit

CSFF 2026 Overall Scoring – Factors Under Consideration

Scoring factors in the 2026 guide

#	Factor	What's new for 2026
1	Socio-economic disadvantage	New Pobal Radial Deprivation Model scores the wider area a facility serves, not just its address
2	CSFF funding in the past 10 years	Preference for clubs without significant recent grants
3	NEW: Previous grants not drawn down	Clubs with pre-2023 grants still not drawn down may score lower
4	Other priorities	People with disabilities, National Swimming Strategy, under-invested sports, marginalised communities

Final scoring to be approved by the Minister. The 2023 weightings are our best guide.

What the form asks

- Who will benefit
- People with disabilities
- Female participation
- Disadvantaged and minority groups
- Sustainability
- Sharing with other organisations

- *Allocations aim for a good spread across areas and sports, including sports that have been under-invested in.*



Participation & Who Benefits – The Who, What, Where and Why!

What the SPRAOI form asks (500 characters each)

Question on the form	What to show
Which sporting or community groups will benefit?	All user groups, in your club and outside it
How will you encourage people with disabilities to take part?	Specific programmes, access and partners
How will it increase female participation?	Teams, numbers and targets
How will you encourage disadvantaged and minority groups?	Outreach, fees and partnerships

The Who, What, Where and Why!

- Participation is still the heart of the Fund's objectives
- 500 characters per answer, so every word counts
- Use numbers: members now, and growth expected
- Describe current facilities and the gap this project fills

- *Membership fees are now an eligibility test: annual and entrance fees must each be under €1,500.*



Making the Case for Cricket

Female participation

Show growth in women's and girls' teams, with numbers and targets

New & minority communities

Many clubs have strong links with new communities: evidence it

Under-invested sports

A listed 2026 priority: make the case for cricket's facilities gap

Sharing

Schools, other clubs and off-season use by other sports all count

Each of these has its own 500-character question on the SPRAOI form. Use real numbers, real groups and real examples.

Sharing of Facilities

What's required in 2026

- The form asks: do you currently share your facilities? List each group
- Joint applications need a sharing agreement that:
 - Lasts at least 10 years (down from 15)
 - Gives each party at least 20 hours a week, all year
 - Sets only reasonable fees for the partner club
- Signed licence agreements needed if funding is offered

Why it matters

- Sharing is one of the Fund's five objectives
- Any group outside your own sport counts, e.g. yoga or Pilates
- Regional grants depend on it: two or more clubs or NGBs
- Start the conversations with partners now

- *2023 guide: 1 point per group shared with, up to 3 (or 20+ hours). Not yet confirmed for 2026.*



Socio-Economic Disadvantage – NEW Pobal Radial Deprivation Model

NEW: Pobal Radial Deprivation Model

2023

- Scored on a single point: your catchment index

2026

- Scores the wider community a facility serves, not just its address
- The guide states this gives clubs "the most beneficial score"

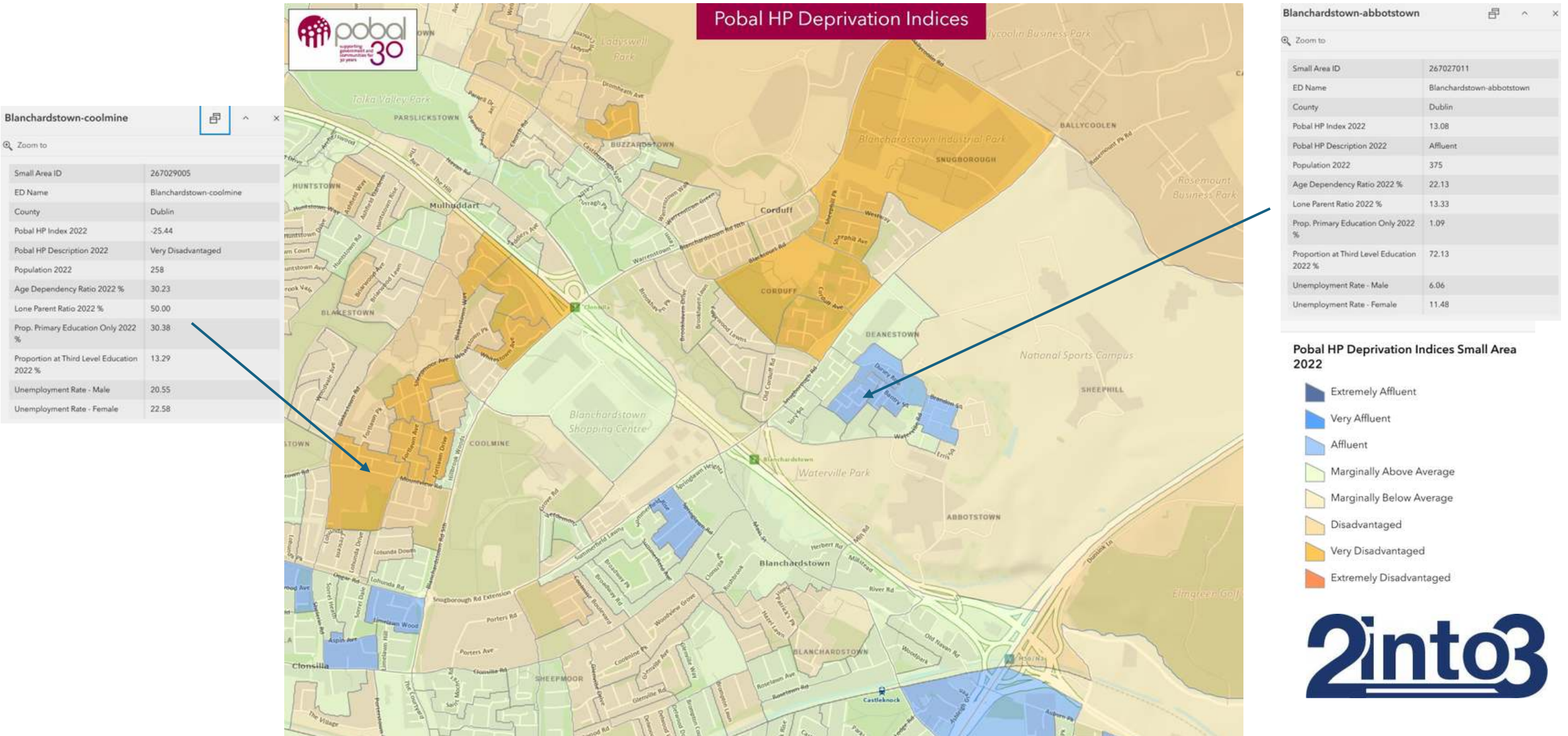
What to do

- Your catchment is where your users come from, not just where you're based
- The model is new, so don't rely on your 2023 score
- Back it up in the disadvantaged-groups question
- Priority for marginalised communities, e.g. shelters, men's/women's sheds

- *Listed first among the 2026 scoring factors, so likely to remain a major part of the score.*
- Utilise Pobal Maps (Example on next slide)



Level of socio-economic disadvantage in the area - Pobal Deprivation Index - <https://maps.pobal.ie/WebApps/DeprivationIndices/index.html>



Technical Merit & Sustainability

Getting it right at application stage

- A professional quote or estimate for every item, with date and amount
- Only items with a quote will be considered
- Rank items by priority on the Costings page
- Planning permission, or proof it isn't needed, at formal approval
- Three comparable quotes needed at formal approval
- No amendments after submission; no late or partial applications

Sustainability (1,000 characters)

- Low-carbon building methods and materials
- Waste management plan for building work
- Microplastic-free infill on artificial surfaces
- No fossil-fuel boilers
- Link to the Sustainable Club Programme toolkit

Key Conditions of Funding

Accessibility

- All projects must be accessible to people with disabilities
- Capital projects must follow the 7 principles of universal design
- All gym equipment funded must be accessible

You also agree to

- Stay open to new members: 10 years (capital), 5 years (equipment)
- Comply with the Equal Status Acts and Children First Act 2015
- Declare no conflicts of interest
- False information can mean repayment and being barred

Own Funding – What's Changed

2026 at a glance

	Local	Regional
Max grant rate	95%	70%
Minimum own funding	5%	30%
Proof at application	Not Required	Must Demonstrate

Key points

- Proof of own funding is no longer needed when applying
- The form still asks for your total own funding
- Regional projects must show they can fund the 30%
- Own funding isn't listed as a 2026 scoring factor

Previous CSFF Funding & Undrawn Grants

Two factors for 2026

1. CSFF funding in the past 10 years

- Clubs without significant recent grants get preference

2. NEW: Undrawn funding

- Clubs still holding grants from before 2023 that haven't been drawn down may score lower

What you can do

- You can't change your funding history
- You can draw down outstanding grants before the deadline
- Large past grants (over €650k) may need a legal charge on title

- *2023 guide: 13 points for €0–€4,999 received, down to 0 for over €250,000. Not yet confirmed for 2026.*



CSFF Documentation Required

At application (SPRAOI)

- Club and any joint applicant registered on SPRAOI
- A professional quote or estimate for every item, with date and amount
- Title details: folio number or landlord and lease years (no proof yet)
- Total own funding figure (no proof needed)
- Joint applicant name and Tax Registration Number
- Names of groups you currently share with
- Declarations: terms and conditions, FOI, data protection

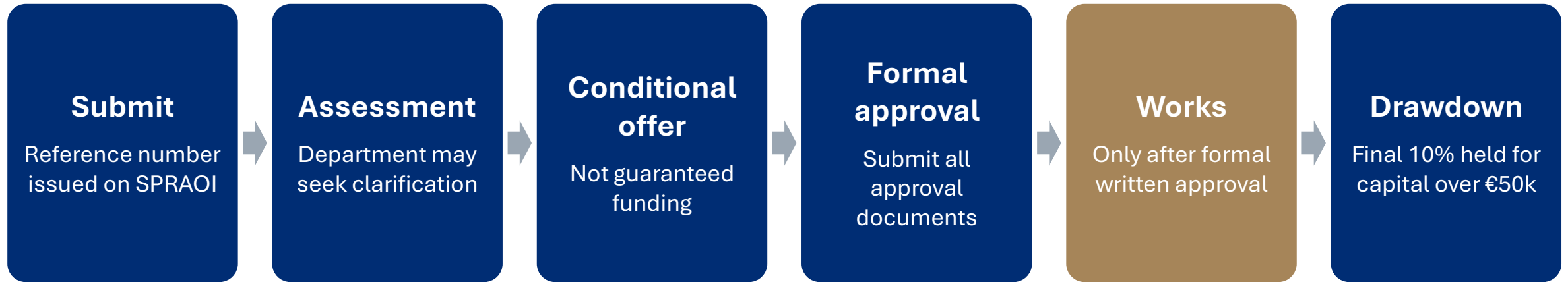
At formal approval

- Three comparable quotes per item
- Evidence of title or a lease with 10+ years remaining
- Final planning permission, or confirmation it isn't needed
- Sharing agreement (if applicable)
- Grant Agreement / Declaration, incl. no conflict of interest
- Proof the SEAI won't fund (energy projects)
- Any legal charge or covenant completed

- *Final 10% of capital grants over €50k: completion certificate, grant signage and a Local Sports Partnership letter.*



After You Apply



Don't

- Start works, sign contracts, place orders or spend money before formal written approval
- Treat a conditional offer as guaranteed: it can be reduced once title is checked

CSFF Common Pitfalls



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