

**Ireland  
Active**

Leisure, Health  
and Fitness  
Association

# Covid-19 Swimming Pool Grant Workshop

23<sup>rd</sup> October 2020 [updated 31<sup>st</sup> October 2020]

**SWIM  
IRELAND**



**SPORT  
IRELAND**

# Covid-19 Swimming Pool Grant Overview

- ▶ There are approximately 400 swimming pools in the Republic of Ireland across the public/local authority leisure, hotel leisure, private leisure sector, third level etc., the majority of which are publicly accessible.
- ▶ Sport Ireland was allocated €2.5million by the Government in the July Stimulus in order to provide one-off emergency assistance to swimming pools in the Republic of Ireland (Fund).
- ▶ The Fund aims to support publicly accessible swimming pools in response to challenges posed by the Covid-19 pandemic.
- ▶ Sport Ireland has designated Ireland Active to administer and allocate the Fund.
- ▶ The funding will be distributed to swimming pools through an open and transparent application process administered by Ireland Active working in partnership with Swim Ireland.

## What is the purpose of the fund?

- ▶ To contribute towards the costs of reopening and staying open due to challenges of COVID-19
  - ▶ Compensate for some costs
  - ▶ Recognise participation/programmes
  - ▶ Recognise standards

## Who is Eligible to Apply?

- ▶ Based within the **Republic of Ireland**;
- ▶ Publicly accessible (PAYG, paid members, swimming lessons, programmes, hotel swimming pools for guests, pools that are open for public use);
- ▶ Open on or before the Closing Date, save where;
  - ▶ The pool is prohibited from opening due to the operation of Level 4 or Level 5 Public Health Restrictions; or
  - ▶ The pool is closed but intending to open before 31st March 2021
  - ▶ Compliant with legal requirements for operation, including but not limited to, Covid-19 best practice, return to work protocols, general health and safety, public health and safeguarding regulations, and tax compliance.
- ▶ Only one application per swimming pool facility will be accepted

# Who is Not Eligible to Apply?

- ▶ Individuals
- ▶ Swimming pools that are not open on or before the Closing Date, for reasons other than the operation of Level 4 or Level 5 or other Public Health Restrictions, or pools who do not intend to re-open before 31st March 2021
- ▶ Swimming pools that are not publicly accessible

# Timeline

- ▶ Ireland Active will publish the application process on Monday 19th October.
- ▶ Applications will open on **Monday 19th October 2020** (the Opening Date);
- ▶ Applications will close on **Monday 2nd November at 5pm** (the Closing Date);
- ▶ IAA will review applications from **November 3rd until 16th November**
- ▶ The Funding Review Panel (Ireland Active, Swim Ireland & Sport Ireland) will review applications from **17th November to 24th November**.
- ▶ Applicants will be notified of Fund allocation the **following week**
- ▶ Applications received after the Closing Date **will not be considered.**

# Application Form

- ▶ Complete the application checklist prior to starting the application form
  - ▶ As form doesn't allow you to login/logout, and you will need information e.g. expenditure information
- ▶ Ensure that all information is collated as per the checklist
- ▶ Eligible applicants will be scored under the following headings
  1. Swimming pool(s) size [measured in volume];
  2. Costs of operation;
  3. Public access, programmes and participation;
  4. Operational standards
- ▶ There are circa 40 questions to be completed

# Qualifying Costs

- ▶ Costs allocated against the operation and maintenance of swimming pools during 2020 shall be allowed for the purposes of confirming expenditure of funds, for example:
  - ▶ energy costs
  - ▶ chemical costs
  - ▶ water testing costs
  - ▶ COVID-19 compliance costs
  - ▶ Pool plant maintenance costs



# Decision Making Process

- ▶ There will be a three stage process for deciding upon the allocation of the Fund:
  - ▶ The Ireland Active Administrators (IAA) will review all submitted applications and decide which applications meet the Eligibility Criteria;
  - ▶ The IAA will then score all eligible applications by reference to a scoring matrix under the headings mentioned previously;
  - ▶ Those scores will be submitted to a three-person funding review panel consisting of a panellist from (i) Ireland Active, (ii) Sport Ireland and (iii) Swim Ireland (the Funding Review Panel). The Funding Review Panel will review the scores and confirm what funding each applicant will receive, by reference to the weighting of the applicant's score.

The decision of the Funding Review Panel is final.

# Scoring/Size of grants

- ▶ There are four areas for scoring:
  1. Swimming pool(s) size [measured in volume]; 15-20%
  2. Costs of operation; 45-50%
  3. Public access, programmes and participation; 15-20%
  4. Operational standards; 10-15%

The total points scores will be divided into the fund to give an amount against each point and allocated against each applicants own score.

Demographics/location will be looked at in terms of participation.

The amount of the grants will depend on the number of applications received.

## Audit/Evidence gathering

- ▶ Costs will need to be evidenced e.g. energy bill
- ▶ Grants are public money and are subject to Audit by government
- ▶ Sampling of applications will occur for audit purposes also
- ▶ Declarations are confirming that the information provided is correct and you are happy for it to be checked

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# Q & A