

Introduction

A timeframe of two years was allocated by the Sports Liaison Committee as a transition period from the funding model used for Community Key Sports towards the full implementation of the current funding model; 'Support for Sport'.

In order to maximise the impact of Isle of Man Sport funding to provide clear, logical and aspirational pathways for sports to obtain assistance, the Support for Sport framework has been developed. Once fully implemented, this framework will provide a transparent and equitable method for funds to be allocated to sports with an expectation that sports will have accountability for evidencing the use of any funds against agreed priorities and objectives.

All funding provided by Isle of Man Sport via the Sports Liaison Committee is now branded as 'Support for Sport'.

We are about to embark on Year 2.

Transition Year 1: 2019 - 2020

Isle of Man Sport via the Sports Liaison Committee introduced the new framework and invited sports to complete and submit:

- A Charter document;
- A Sports Development Plan (specific to the Isle of Man); and
- Priorities & Objectives for the next 12 months (for 1st April 2019 to 31st March 2020) and associated costs

The aforementioned documentation was to be completed and submitted by governing bodies and sports committees to Isle of Man Sport by the 31st March 2019.

Due to an increased demand for support, it was necessary for the Sports Liaison Committee to introduce a cap to the level of funding which could be allocated to each sport. This was communicated clearly to all sports and it was also highlighted that this cap may decrease in the future if demand for support further increased.

However, during the period from April 2019 – March 2020, Isle of Man Sport managed to ensure that no funding allocated to any sport had been reduced.

Transition Year 2: 2020 – 2021

When it comes to Support for Sport funding applications during this forthcoming year, Isle of Man Sport are now being more specific and are encouraging sports to align their priorities and objectives with those of Isle of Man Sport:

- Increase participation in sport across all levels from grass roots to elite;
- Improve and develop coaching, volunteering and officiating to enhance performance across all levels; and
- Improve governance of local governing bodies and member clubs

Where sports align their own priorities and objectives to those of Isle of Man Sport through the Support for Sport process, successful funding bids are more likely to occur.

Isle of Man Sport will liaise with all sports to ensure that funding is appropriately directed to the agreed priorities and objectives and that those sports are capable of evidencing the accountability for spending such funds.

* The current situation around COVID-19 has impacted upon various factors in relation to sporting activities taking place on the Isle of Man. The current border restrictions have prevented many sporting communities from travelling to and from the Island and the Isle of Man Sport's Liaison Committee will continue to monitor this situation and the allocation of funding for travel in due course.*

Year 3 and Beyond:

The principles of the Support for Sport initiative will be developed and adapted during the forthcoming year to ensure that guidance, support and financial assistance is provided for each individual sport with the maximum impact.

Some governing bodies of sport are well organised and have a clear vision of the future of their sport, therefore for these sports the Support for Sport initiative will provide:

- Education and practical support through workshops and seminars;
- Funding to help with priorities and objectives which align with those of Isle of Man Sport, including specific initiatives such as Disability Sports opportunities;
- Increased liaison to ascertain which initiatives are most successful and could be used as examples of best practice to help develop other sports; and
- Ensuring that allocated funding is used within the financial year*

** All unclaimed funds allocated to sports will be re-directed into other initiatives by the Sports Liaison Committee which could impact upon future amounts granted to the sport*

Whilst there are some very well organised governing bodies of sport on island, it has become increasingly apparent that some sports and their governing bodies are not so well organised. Indeed some member clubs and participants are unaware of the help and support which they could receive from Isle of Man Sport through a well-structured and organised governing body.

Some governing body organisations lack the transparency and therefore fail to effectively communicate to their member clubs the range of support which they could receive.

Isle of Man Sport are therefore developing an education programme consisting of interactive workshops, presentations, examples of best practice and other initiatives with the aim of increasing awareness for all sports of the support which they can access whilst encouraging sports to:

- Identify ways in which they want to develop their sport. These may or may not be aligned with the Isle of Man Sport priorities;
- Apply for Isle of Man Sport funding through Support for Sport to kick start any initiatives to increase participation and performance across all levels; and
- Ensure that proper Governance is in place to protect all individuals involved in their sport from coaches to participants and from volunteers to organisers and committee members.

In order to assist sports with all of the above initiatives, Isle of Man Sport have appointed a Sports Liaison Officer (SLO) to work with all sports whilst developing and fine-tuning the Support for Sport process ahead of applications for 2021 – 2022 being received.

From 2021 onwards, with the guidance of the Sports Liaison Officer, sports will be encouraged more so than ever to focus their applications for financial assistance on those initiatives that impact upon the Isle of Man Sport priorities and objectives for their sport.

It is anticipated that these initiatives will increase the amount of applications for funding assistance therefore all sports should continue to be aware that Isle of Man Sport's financial support may decrease in the future, especially in areas where funding applications do not fit with Isle of Man Sport's own priorities and objectives.

Sports should therefore ensure that they have sufficient internal funds and/or sponsorship in place to finance any ongoing commitments.

The Sports Liaison Committee

June 2020