



Olympic Federation of Ireland Athletes' Commission

2023 Make A Difference Athlete Support Scheme

This document outlines the purpose and details of the application process for athletes to apply for support on behalf of targeted individual coaches, training partners or sport science support staff under the 'Make a Difference Athlete Support Scheme', facilitated through the Olympic Federation of Ireland's Athletes' Commission and supported by the Team Ireland Make a Difference Golf Fundraiser.

Introduction

The Olympic Federation of Ireland Athletes' Commission, has established a support scheme to provide financial support to coaches, training partners, or other sport science service providers, where a clearly defined 'make a difference' benefit can be shown for athletes who are targeting qualification for the Paris 2024 or the Milano Cortina 2026 Olympic Games. Applications will be made by athletes directly and will be enhanced where an application is made with a supporting letter from the relevant performance director.

Funding will be available of up to €10,000 per athlete application to assist with costs within the daily performance environment. A total amount of €65,000 will be distributed directly to athletes through this scheme. The scheme is designed to support athletes by supporting those who can directly impact on Olympic performance at these events, including coaches, sparring or training partners and sport science service providers.

Financial assistance through this scheme, while targeted to support athletes, is provided over and above the funding the OFI will provide to support costs associated with sending athletes and teams to compete in Olympic events and support provided to members through National Federation Discretionary Grants and Olympic Solidarity Projects/Programmes funding.

2023 Make a Difference Athlete Support Scheme

Athlete Eligibility

- Contender for nomination to the Games of Paris 2024 (Summer) or Milano Cortina 2026 (Winter) in individual or team disciplines.

Olympic Events

The events eligible for support under this scheme are the Paris 2024 Summer Games and the Milano Cortina 2026 Winter Games and funding must be spent and accounted for prior to December 2023.

Expenditure

Funding under the scheme is for support of the athlete in the 'sport specific' daily performance environment.

For purposes of definition, the daily performance environment is deemed as when and where the athlete is engaged in programmed and purposeful training. This may be home or abroad, or before or during a period of preparatory training or major competition.

Areas of expenditure can include:

- Coaching grant or costs
- Sport science and medicine performance support i.e. medical, physio etc.
- Training / Sparring partner costs

Funding Principles

The following core principles apply to this Make a Difference Scheme:

1. Each athlete may submit one application to a maximum value of €10k.
2. While not mandatory, applications will be enhanced through a supporting letter from the athlete's performance director.
3. OFI AC grant funding will be distributed as a preference directly to the service provider (e.g. coach, sport science support, training / sparring partner) but this approach will be reviewed on a case by case basis subject to the details provided in the application.
4. Funds granted must be used by the recipient in full and for the intended purpose only.
5. Expenditure is to be linked to the daily performance environment and should align to the set of objectives as outlined in the athlete's / team statement of intent.
6. This funding will be focused on supporting the 'performance journey' of the athlete, understanding that each athlete is faced with a different set of circumstances, varying needs and may not gain selection for the Olympic Games.
7. The OFI will work closely with other stakeholders within the high-performance system, in particular the performance directors of each sport, to ensure alignment to existing support schemes and in establishing objectivity and transparency in the process of assessing applications.

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8. Acknowledgement of support and the role the OFI plays (and will play in the current and future Olympic cycles) should be communicated clearly to the athlete applicant and those in receipt of support to demonstrate the practical, value added impact it has to Olympic sports in Ireland.

Application Process

Eligible athletes are invited to apply for the Make a Difference targeted athlete support scheme under the core principles and the assessment criteria.

Applications will be reviewed by a specially appointed OFI Athletes' Commission assessment panel which will also include representatives of the OFI and Sport Ireland personnel.

Assessment Criteria

A weighted assessment criterion will be applied to all applications under the following headings:

Criteria	Key Consideration	Weighting
<i>Targeted Athlete / Team</i>	Does the athlete have a realistic chance of participating and/or impacting positively in the Olympic Games	30%
<i>Planned Outcome</i>	What are the planned outcomes for support and how will these will be measured	30%
<i>Impact</i>	How will the support deliver a short-term impact for the athlete and within the sport	30%
<i>Accountability</i>	What processes are proposed to be put in place to assure the funds are used for the sole purpose and intent of the scheme	10%

Schedule

Applications for funding are invited to be submitted electronically by athletes, using the form below by **5.00pm on 12 January 2023**. Late applications will not be accepted.

Conditions of Funding

The OFI will oversee the proper use of funds and may review the performance environment of an athlete at any time, to ensure the agreed target outcomes and objectives are in line with the original application.

Each successful applicant will submit a progress and final report, and any required or supporting evidence to ensure that the OFI can monitor the execution of the support scheme.

The reporting requirements will be agreed with each athlete applicant upon awarding of the funding.

Recipients of grant funding must:

- Provide the OFI with all necessary information and supporting documentary evidence related to the use of the allocated funds and the implementation of the project/programme for each athlete.
- Use the funds made available solely for the purpose outlined in the application process.
- Inform the OFI immediately in the event of an issue in relation to the implementation of the project/programme.
- Assist the OFI in the monitoring and overseeing the implementation of the project/programme and respond in a timely manner to requests for reports.
- Acknowledge support of the OFI Athletes' Commission and be available for announcements, media days and any PR/Media coverage of the project/programme.



Olympic Federation of Ireland Athletes' Commission

2023 Make A Difference Athlete Support Application Form

Athlete Name	
National Federation	
Sport Discipline	
Contact Details	Email address: Mobile phone number: Address:
Eligibility (tick all that apply)	OFI Long List for Paris 2024/Milano Cortina 2026 [<input type="checkbox"/>] Sport Ireland level carding [<input type="checkbox"/>] Not carded [<input type="checkbox"/>]
Athlete Intent	Completed the below forms [<input type="checkbox"/>]

Statement of Intent and Objectives

Athletes must complete this section

Athlete Intent:

What competition performance and selection outcomes are you looking to achieve in 2023?

What is your intended use for the Make a Difference Fund with regard to your performance support?

Describe how this fund will make a difference to your performance and desired outcomes in 2023?

Athlete Signature _____

Performance Director Signature _____

Date _____

Athlete Support Application Project Evaluation Criteria

Targeted Athlete (Please summarise how this performance support demonstrates a clear link to an Olympic focus. Provide additional documents as required)	
Planned Outcome (30%) (Please summarise the planned outcomes and how they will be measured. Provide additional attachments as required.)	
Impact (30%) (Please indicate how the performance support fund will provide a short term impact for the athlete. Provide additional attachments as required.)	
Accountability (10%) (Please provide details of the processes that will be used to ensure the funds are used by the athlete for the sole purpose of the scheme)	

This form must be completed by either the athlete, or the National Federation Performance Director.

Additional Attachments

Please indicate which, if any, of the following documents are attached to the application	Attached
National Federation Performance Director cover letter	
Athlete statement of intent	
Evidence of Sport Ireland Carding status	
Olympic Focus criteria – individual event/discipline	
Planned Outcome criteria additional material	
Sustainability criteria additional material	
Accountability criteria additional material	

We, the undersigned, certify that the information provided in this application is accurate and true and that the National Federation Board and/or Executive Committee have reviewed and approved this submission.