

MEATH OUTDOORS - CLUB DEVELOPMENT GRANT

Helping Meath Clubs Get More People Outdoors

GRANT CRITERIA

Meath Local Sports Partnership's remit is to increase participation in sport and physical activity, ensuring a broad range of opportunities for everyone in the county to be active.

Meath Outdoors focuses on participation in outdoor recreation activities in the natural environment, such as walking, canoeing, orienteering, angling and open-water swimming. (See appendix attached).

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Outdoor clubs applying for Meath LSP funding must meet the following criteria:

- **Location & Service Area:** The club must be based in County Meath and deliver activities that primarily benefit Meath residents.
- **Club Type:** The club must provide outdoor, physical activity or adventure-based programmes, such as walking, hiking, cycling, running, paddle sports, or outdoor education.
- **Governance & Structure:** Clubs must be properly constituted, with an active committee, club constitution, and dedicated club bank account.
- **Affiliation:** Affiliation with a recognised National Governing Body (NGB) is strongly preferred. Emerging community clubs may be considered where appropriate.
- **Insurance:** Clubs must hold valid public liability insurance and any activity-specific insurance required by their NGB.
- **Safeguarding:** Clubs engaging with children or vulnerable adults must comply with national safeguarding requirements, including Garda vetting and appointment of a Children's Officer.

FUNDING PRIORITIES – (Maximum grant is €1,000 for equipment and €1,000 for training)

Meath LSP will prioritise projects that:

- Increase participation in outdoor sport and physical activity, especially among:
 - Women and girls
 - Older adults
 - People with disabilities
 - Ethnic minorities
 - Low-income households
 - Rural communities
- Improve safety standards within outdoor clubs.
- Support volunteer development, coaching qualifications, and leadership training.
- Enhance accessibility, including adaptive equipment or inclusive programme design.
- Promote sustainable outdoor recreation, including Leave No Trace principles.
- Strengthen club capacity to deliver regular, safe, and inclusive outdoor activity programmes.

ELIGIBLE COSTS

Funding may support:

- Safety equipment (helmets, radios, first-aid kits, visibility gear).
- Outdoor activity equipment (bikes, kayaks, tents, trail-running gear, etc.).
- Coaching, leadership, or instructor training aligned with NGB standards.
- Volunteer development initiatives.
- Programme delivery materials aimed at increasing participation.
- Small-scale equipment storage solutions.
- Adaptive or inclusive equipment for participants with disabilities.

INELIGIBLE COSTS

The following will not be funded:

- Personal equipment for individual members.
- Retrospective purchases.
- Travel to competitions, events, or training.
- Salaries, insurance premiums, or ongoing operational costs.
- Major capital works or infrastructure projects.
- Activities that do not align with Meath LSP's participation and inclusion objectives.

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

Applications will be assessed on:

- Participation Impact: Clear evidence of how the project will increase participation in outdoor activity.
- Inclusivity: Strong plans to engage under-represented groups.
- Club Readiness: Demonstrated capacity to deliver the proposed project within the grant timeframe.
- Safety & Governance: Evidence of appropriate risk management, safeguarding, and insurance.
- Value for Money: Cost effectiveness and long-term benefit to the club and community.
- Sustainability: Alignment with environmental best practice and long-term club development.

GRANT CONDITIONS

- All funded equipment items must be purchased and report submitted before **31st December 2026**.
- Meath LSP will expect all funded training be completed and report submitted by **31st December 2026**.
- Report, receipts and proof of purchase must be submitted to Meath LSP.
- Equipment must remain the property of the club for a minimum of three years.
- Clubs must complete a short end-of-project report.

- Meath LSP may request participation in monitoring or evaluation of activities.

Clubs applying for the Meath Outdoors Club Development Grant are expected to demonstrate good practice in relation to GDPR. This includes handling personal data responsibly, storing information securely, and ensuring that any data collected for programmes, events, or communications is used only for its intended purpose.

Safeguarding remains a core requirement for all funded activity. Clubs should ensure that coaches/leaders/instructors, volunteers, and committee members follow national safeguarding standards, including appropriate vetting, up-to-date safeguarding training, and clear reporting procedures.

Our aim is to support clubs in creating safe, positive environments for children, young people, and vulnerable adults, and we appreciate the commitment clubs already show in this area.

Funded clubs must acknowledge Meath LSP support in their communications and publicity—whether through social media, local press, or club updates—so we can collectively highlight the positive impact of the grant across the community.

Deadline for return of completed application form is **4pm Thursday September 17th 2026**

For further information, please contact Ross Kenny at:

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Phone: 046 9067887 or 087 7144100

APPENDIX

What is Outdoor Recreation?

Outdoor Recreation is defined as those activities that:

- Are undertaken by people in their leisure time -however this can include organised activity through clubs (e.g. coastal rowing club, guided walking group)
- Involve physical human power/effort – however this can sometimes involve equipment (e.g. surfboard, canoe, bike, boat, fins), or passive enjoyment of the natural environment
- Require access to green and /or blue spaces in rural or urban environments
- Are not primarily focused on competitive outcomes
- Sometimes use purpose-built facilities in the natural environment to facilitate participation (e.g. construction of walking, mountain biking and horse-riding trails, development of canoe steps)
- Include play in the natural environment



Important:

Outdoor recreation **does not** include activities that take place outdoors on confined courses or pitches (such as golf, football, show jumping, tennis) or motorised activities (such as quads/scramblers) with the exception of motorised mobility aids.