



# The Sports Energy Support Scheme (SESS)

## Funding Guidelines & Application Process

### LSPs

#### **INTRODUCTION**

In 2022, the Government provided an additional investment of €35 million to support sporting organisations with the rising energy costs associated with the provision of sport e.g., indoor activity in winter, the provision of outdoor floodlighting etc. To date €19m has been distributed to Sport Ireland Recognised National Governing Bodies of Sport.

A second phase of the Scheme is now open via Local Sports Partnerships.

This phase will target community owned sports facilities which do not currently qualify for TBESS or other Government support schemes through DRCD, Local Authorities etc.

**Clubs or facilities affiliated to Sport Ireland recognised NGBs should access support directly through their NGB.**

General cost of living increases such as rising costs in accommodation, rent, rates or labour costs are not eligible. Fuel costs associated with machinery, vehicles, travel or transport do not qualify.

#### **ELIGIBILITY**

- The Sports Energy Support Scheme (SESS) will contribute to the increased energy costs associated with providing sporting activity only.
- The Eligibility period will relate to increased costs sustained between September 1<sup>st</sup> 2022 and May 31<sup>st</sup> 2023.
- Non Energy related increases are ineligible. These include increased costs in accommodation, rent, rates or labour costs.
- Fuel costs associated with machinery, vehicles, travel or transport do not qualify.
- Pre-existing debts or deficits do not qualify.
- Energy costs associated with non-sporting activity such as bars, restaurants etc. are not eligible under SESS; however, such trading activity may be eligible for support under the Government's Temporary Business Energy Support Scheme (TBESS).
- Organisations applying for support must own/lease the sporting facilities or be the primary utility bill payer.
- The Scheme will be open to Local Sports Partnerships. This is to ensure pre-existing levels of governance and operational assurances exist between Sport Ireland and those in direct receipt of funding.

- The Scheme is aimed at supporting Clubs in the Republic of Ireland only.
- Support will be capped at a maximum of €90,000 (average of €10k per month) for any one club/facility.
- The Scheme **will not cover**:
  - Private/Commercial gyms, pools & sports facilities (These are eligible to apply for TBESS)
  - Local authority facilities
  - School or Third level sports facilities

### **PROCESS & TIMELINE**

- The Scheme formally opens on Wednesday 10 May 2023.
- Sport Ireland will seek submissions from LSPs detailing the estimated increased costs for facilities in their local area.
- LSPs should immediately contact all known facilities to ascertain the estimated increases in energy costs between the periods Sept 2019 – May 2020 and Sept 2022 – May 2023.
- LSPs will collate the information received to inform their overall request to Sport Ireland<sup>1</sup>
- The closing date for applications will be 5pm Friday 26 May 2023.
- Sport Ireland will make an initial assessment on the level of requests.
- Depending on the level of submissions, the outcome of those deliberations (that is the overall level of funding allocation to each LSP) will be communicated to LSPs in July 2023.
- Subject to approval and standard Terms & Conditions, the process of payment will begin thereafter.
- Clubs/Facilities in receipt of funding will need to be in a position to verify their request / increases to their Local Sports Partnership.
- Organisations in receipt of Energy Scheme support funding may be subject to audit as per Sport Ireland terms and conditions.

### **DOCUMENTATION REQUIRED**

LSPs should make a written submission detailing the estimated increased costs for their local network of clubs/facilities. The following information should be included:

- Number of Clubs impacted
- High level description of the type of facilities in the sport – clubs houses, indoor sports halls, floodlights etc.
- Previous Annual Energy Costs vs 2022/2023 Energy Costs. i.e. Sept 2019 – May 2020 Vs Sept 2022 – May 2023.
- The figures submitted should be adjusted to account for non-sporting related energy costs (bars, restaurants etc.). As outlined above, support in respect of such costs may be claimable under TBESS.

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<sup>1</sup> Due to the narrow timeframes involved Sport Ireland acknowledge that it may not be feasible to collate information from all facilities. In this case the responses received should be used to provide an estimate.