



GROWTH AND PARTICIPATION

State School Rugby Fund

CRITERIA AND GUIDANCE NOTES



Introduction

The State School Rugby Fund is up to £300k fund that will create more opportunities for boys and girls within state schools to participate in rugby by developing accessible models of support with targeted investment, within our regions. Clubs and schools working in partnership can apply for either £5,000, £7,500 or £10,000 for a project to increase opportunities for boys and girls within state schools and meet the following outcomes:



Increase the volume of rugby activity for school pupils in Scotland



Increase the number and diversity of pupils involved in the game



Improve the quality of game play



Increase the number of full and alternative game fixtures played by State School teams



Provide stronger links to clubs increasing player and volunteer retention



Support the delivery of the Scottish Rugby Women and Girls Strategy

Criteria For Application:

- Clubs must engage with their regional team before applying.
- Clubs must have a robust working relationship with the Secondary State School that has been aligned to the ASIDE framework by the Region's School Rugby Officer. **This should be a joint application from club and school.**
- Schools must:
 - i. Agree to the programme before the club applies.
 - ii. Have a School Rugby Champion registered on SCRUMS.
 - iii. Dedicated curricular and/or extracurricular time to deliver the programme confirmed.
 - iv. Promote the girls' game, increasing participation and growth of both boys' and girls' rugby.
- The club and school should clearly outline an agreed budget and associated spending / resource plan.
- The club and school must work with their Region's School Rugby Officer to comply with the reporting and monitoring system, clearly demonstrating the impact of the programme across the 6 outcomes articulated above
- Scottish Rugby would encourage programmes to be part-funded by the club or other funders.
- The fund is for initiatives and programme aligned to the ASIDE framework, not currently aligned to 'Schools of Rugby' or Cashback Schools of Rugby.

The closing date for applications is Friday 31st January 2026. Applications submitted after this date will not be considered.

Successful applicants will be informed in February 2026. On award, the successful applicant should work with their Regional Team and School Rugby Officer to setup a project launch meeting where the final programme budget will be agreed. Once completed, the first 50% of the award will be distributed no earlier than August 2026, and the remaining funding will be paid upon evidence of costs. All claims must be completed by May 2027.

Investment and Development Progression

The ASIDE framework:

Before applying, Clubs and their partner State Secondary Schools must engage with their regional team.

This is to familiarise all parties with the ASIDE framework, identifying clearly the programme level and the progression target aligned to the level of funding the applied for. These should be agreed prior to submission.

Scottish Rugby Indicative Investment	Development Stage	Aligned Scottish Rugby Play Programme	Regionally Supported Play Programmes with affiliated Club Links
Supported through School Rugby Champion Resource Pack	Active	Alternative Formats	
£5,000	Starter	AGLV Alternative Format Mid-week festival/ fixtures	
£7,500	Intermediate	AGLV Alternative Format Mid-week festival/ fixtures	
£10,000	Developed	S&Y (Regional) Conference & Cup	
	Excelling	S&Y (National) Conference & Cup	Competition Supported

Programme descriptions:

Rugby Starter Programme - £5,000

This programme is to support with the embedding of Starter rugby programmes in State Secondary Schools. Clubs and schools will work in partnership to deliver the programme to strengthen a working relationship encouraging increased participation and establishing a School to Club transition pathway. **Eligible schools are those where there is supported club provision for rugby activity appearing on the Club's POAP (Plan-on-a-Page) document.**

Intermediate Programme - £7,500

This programme is for schools that have evidenced delivery on the Rugby Starter programme criteria and are seeking to enhance their delivering to enable or support progression to the Intermediate programme level. **Eligible schools are those where there is supported club provision for rugby activity appearing on the Club's POAP (Plan-on-a-Page) and P2A (Plan-to-Achieve) documents.**

Young people will opt into a regular / timetabled curricular and extra-curricular programme that will provide opportunities for engagement by delivering on and off-field sessions that:

- Promote and embed values of the game; leadership, engagement, achievement, enjoyment and respect.
- Increase understanding of the Laws of the game.
- Educate young people about sport nutrition and strength and conditioning.
- Provide opportunities for cross-curricular workshops; numeracy, literacy and nutrition.
- Offer regular playing experience against other schools through Regional State Schools fixtures and festivals.
- Introduce match and individual analysis that could support further curricular progression.

Developed and Excelling Programmes - £10,000

This programme is for schools that have evidenced delivery on the Intermediate programme criteria and are seeking to enhance their delivering to enable or support progression to the Developed and/or Excelling programme levels. **Eligible schools are those where there is supported club provision for rugby activity appearing on the Club's POAP (Plan-on-a-Page) and P2A (Plan-to-Achieve) documents.** Young people will opt into a regular / timetabled curricular and extra-curricular programme that will provide opportunities for engagement by delivering on and off-field sessions that:

- Align to a Youth Volunteering Award (with attainment of the associated SCQF credit points):
 - i. Rugby Ambassadors Award
- Offer access to relevant and appropriate Scottish Rugby courses and qualifications:
 - i. RugbyRight
 - ii. Coaching Essentials qualification
 - iii. ITMO (Introduction to Match Officiating) Qualification
 - iv. Mental Wellbeing eLearning Course
- Regular match and individual analysis of competition fixtures.
- An AGLV (Age Grade Law Variation) aligned playing experience against other schools through Regional fixtures and Regional / National competitions.
- A coaching or leadership experience that supports the delivery of a series of participation fixtures, or a festival event for Primary 7 to S3 pupils as part of a linked T&R (Transition & Retention) plan.

Programme Delivery Guidance:

In addition to the areas of delivery described in the Programme Descriptions, Clubs and Schools considering application to the Fund should familiarise themselves with the following Programme Delivery Guidelines. These should be discussed through a conversation with the Regional Team ensuring all parties (Club and School) are familiar with the relevant programme outcomes. These should be agreed prior to submission.

AREA OF WORK	STARTER PROGRAMME	INTERMEDIATE PROGRAMME	DEVELOPED & EXCELLING PROGRAMME
Programme Leadership	Identified Club POC	Identified Club POC	Identified Club POC
	SRC - School Rugby Champion (Main Contact)	SRC - School Rugby Champion (Main Contact)	Head of Rugby (Teacher)
	Linked Club Community Coach/Development Officer	SRC - School Rugby Champion (Additional Contact)	SRC - School Rugby Champion (Main Contact)
		Linked Club Community Coach/Development Officer	SRC - School Rugby Champion (Additional Contact)
			Linked Club Community Coach/Development Officer
People Development	SRC eLearning Course completed	SRC eLearning Course completed for both contacts	SRC eLearning Course completed for both contacts
	All active coaches registered on SCRUMS	All active coaches registered on SCRUMS	All active coaches registered on SCRUMS
	100% active coaches completed RugbyRight	100% active coaches completed RugbyRight	100% active coaches completed RugbyRight
	100% of active coaches qualified (Coaching Essentials)	100% of active coaches qualified (Coaching Essentials)	100% of active coaches qualified (Coaching Essentials)
		1x Rugby Activators Course delivered	1x Rugby Activators Course delivered
		Delivery of x1 Coaching Essentials courses: 1x for Teachers within the School	Delivery of x2 Coaching courses: 1x Aspiring for Teachers within the School 1x Essentials or Teachers in ASG cluster schools
			Deliver Cross-curricular workshops in the following areas: Numeracy, Literacy and Nutrition.

AREA OF WORK	STARTER PROGRAMME	INTERMEDIATE PROGRAMME	DEVELOPED & EXCELLING PROGRAMME
Rugby Activity	100% of all players registered on SCRUMS	100% of all players registered on SCRUMS	100% of all players registered on SCRUMS
	6-week block of curriculum rugby for S1-S3 pupils (Male and female)	Providing opportunity for S1-S3 pupils (male and female) to opt in to School of Rugby elective within the curriculum timetable.	Providing opportunity for S1-S5 pupils (male and female) to opt in to School of Rugby elective within the curriculum timetable, with a minimum of 2 periods per age group.
	Min 1 Term, extracurricular training programme (Male and female)	Min 2 Terms, extracurricular training programme (Male and female)	3 Terms, extracurricular training programme (Male and female)
	Deliver a T1 intramural event	Deliver a T1 intramural event	Deliver a T1 intramural event
	Min 2x events delivered in Scottish Rugby Schools Week.	Min 2x events delivered in Scottish Rugby Schools Week.	Min 2x events delivered in Scottish Rugby Schools Week.
	Min 1x P7 transition event for ASG primary schools.	Min 1x P7 transition event for ASG primary schools.	Min 1x P7 transition event for ASG primary schools.
	Through Regional fixture and festival programmes, provide appropriate game play opportunities for S1-S3 pupils (Male and female): - Attend min 4x Regional Fixture/Festival events - 100% team sheet compliance for each event.	Through participation in Scottish Rugby Regional programmes provide appropriate game play opportunities for S1-S4 pupils (male and female): - Mid-week AGLV-aligned fixtures - Fixture/Conference participation - 100% team sheet compliance for each fixture	Through participation in Scottish Rugby Regional programmes provide appropriate game play opportunities for S1-S3 pupils (male and female): - Mid-week AGLV-aligned fixtures - Fixture/Conference participation - 100% team sheet compliance for each fixture
			Through participation in Scottish Rugby Regional Conference and Cup Competitions provide appropriate game play opportunities for S4-S6 pupils (male and female): - Conference competition - Cup competition - 100% team sheet compliance for each fixture

AREA OF WORK	STARTER PROGRAMME	INTERMEDIATE PROGRAMME	DEVELOPED & EXCELLING PROGRAMME
Links to Club	Live and visible on sportscotland's MySport platform	Live and visible on sportscotland's MySport platform	Live and visible on sportscotland's MySport platform
	Programme appearing on Club's POAP (Plan-on-a-Page)	Programme appearing on Club's POAP (Plan-on-a-Page)	Programme appearing on Club's POAP (Plan-on-a-Page)
		Programme appearing on Club's P2A (Plan-to-Achieve)	Programme appearing on Club's P2A (Plan-to-Achieve)
			Clear links to a local Community Sports Hub (CSH)
Transition & Retention	School POAP (Plan-on-a-Page)	School POAP (Plan-on-a-Page)	School POAP (Plan-on-a-Page)
		Intro to T&R (Transition & Retention) workshop delivered to players and their parents.	Intro to T&R (Transition & Retention) workshop delivered to players and their parents.
			T&R (Transition & Retention) workshop delivered to the School's Leadership Team.
Programme Monitoring	Programme launch meeting: - Scottish Rugby - Club Programme Lead - School Programme Lead - Community Coach/ Development Officer	Programme launch meeting: - Scottish Rugby - Club Programme Lead - School Programme Lead - Community Coach/ Development Officer	Programme launch meeting: - Scottish Rugby - Club Programme Lead - School Programme Lead - Community Coach/ Development Officer
	Programme reporting to be agreed at launch meeting. Min 1x progress meeting per term diarised	Programme reporting to be agreed at launch meeting. Min 1x progress meeting per term diarised	Programme reporting to be agreed at launch meeting. Min 1x progress meeting per term diarised
		Adherence to monthly reporting through Scottish Rugby DO reporting framework (SCRUMS)	Adherence to monthly reporting through Scottish Rugby DO reporting framework (SCRUMS)
		Through DO SCRUMS reporting framework, provide 2x digital reports: - Mental Health & Wellbeing - Club and School partnership working	Through DO SCRUMS reporting framework, provide 2x digital reports: - Mental Health & Wellbeing - Club and School partnership working

State School Rugby Fund Phase 5

For your consideration and discussion with your Regional Team, a copy of the application questions can be found on Page 9 of this document.

NB* Please consider your answers before starting your application as you can only submit the form once.

If your club and partner school would like to apply to this fund, please use the following link to do so. Please note that applications will only be considered if submitted in this format.

[Application Form Click Here](#)

Data Protection

To the extent that any information provided as part of this application constitutes 'personal data' Scottish Rugby will use and process that information in accordance with its privacy policy, which can be found at scottishrugby.org/privacy-policy. If intending to submit information about an individual which constitutes personal data before doing so you should ensure that the individual is made aware of that fact, the purpose for which it is being provided and has consented to you doing so. The information you provide us will be held on file, which may be paper and/or electronic. We will use this information to process applications and grants, to prepare statistics and to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of grants made.

Additional Terms and Conditions

- i. Scottish Rugby accepts no liability for any consequences, whether direct or indirect, that may arise from the use of a grant, from any requested repayment of a grant, or from any application for a grant being declined.
- ii. In the event that Scottish Rugby is made aware of any inconsistencies or misrepresentations on an application form which lead to the provision of a grant to a club, Scottish Rugby reserves the right to request that such sums are repaid within timescales determined by Scottish Rugby (whether or not the club has already spent such a grant).
- iii. In the event that such timescales are not met, Scottish Rugby reserves the right to deduct any sums owed from any future funding offered by Scottish Rugby, including without limitation the Club Sustainability Fund.

Additional Considerations

Value Added Tax

If the club is not registered for VAT or is not in a position to have the costs zero-rated for VAT purposes (as is sometimes the case for charities approved by HMRC) it is essential that the VAT burden is included in the application costs.

Application Form Questions

1. What Scottish Rugby region is your club in?
2. Club Name
3. Name of key contact at club (please note, this should be the person identified as programme lead)
4. Email Address of key contact at club
5. School Name
6. Current ASIDE Framework level of participating School
7. Name of key contact at school (please note, this should be the person identified as programme lead)
8. Email Address of key contact at school
9. I can confirm I have engaged with my regional team before submitting this application
10. Please select which programme you are applying for:
 - Rugby Starter Programme - £5,000
 - Intermediate Programme - £7,500
 - Developed & Excelling Programmes - £10,000
11. Provide a summary of the programme you will implement to achieve the criteria set out in the above programme - Please include all information relating to curricular, extra-curricular and game play opportunities. (max 500 words)
12. Month during which programme will commence (mm/yyyy)
13. Please outline the total projected costs of this programme
14. Provide a supporting statement from your partner school on how the club and school will collaborate to deliver this programme, demonstrating a commitment to curricular timetabling
15. Are there any additional partners/funders involved in the programme? If so, please name the partners/funders and their financial contribution.
16. Please articulate clear School to Club Transition targets this project will stimulate at your Club? (max 200 words)
17. Please outline how this project will impact Equality, Diversity and Inclusion within your club? (max 200 words)
18. Please outline how this project will impact Women and Girls rugby within your club? (max 200 words)
19. By ticking this box, you are agreeing to all of the terms and conditions outlined and this will be accepted as a formal signature on behalf of the club.
20. By ticking this box, you are agreeing to all of the terms and conditions outlined and this will be accepted as a formal signature on behalf of the school.



SCOTTISH RUGBY

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