



GROWTH AND PARTICIPATION

Youth Player Development Fund

CRITERIA AND GUIDANCE NOTES



Introduction

The Youth Player Development Fund is a £150k fund allocated to support clubs to improve player development programmes for U16 & U18 players (male and female). The fund aims to support clubs to enhance their programmes (at U16 & U18 age groups specifically), with the goal of growing participation and nurturing future professional and international players.

The fund is aligned to the Youth Player Development Framework (YPDF) which can be [downloaded here](#).

Clubs with full youth pathways can apply for up to £14,000 for projects aimed at the U16 & U18 boys' and girls' game, against the following areas;

	Fund Limit	Applications must aim to achieve TWO or more of the following outcomes;
Boys U16 & U18 player development fund	Up to £6k per club	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Increase training time-on-task. 2. Improve access to quality of coaching (team, skills etc) aligned to the Blueprint. 3. Improve access / quality of player physical preparation / S&C.
Girls U16 & U18 player development fund	Up to £6k per club	
People fund	Up to £1k per club	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Improve the leadership of the youth development programme through a Director of Youth Rugby. 2. Improve the quality of prehab and rehab support for players.
Education fund	Up to £1k per club	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Improve players, parents, coaches' knowledge of nutrition, mental skills and leadership

Clubs will need to evidence how this funding will provide additionality to their U16 and U18 programmes, aligned to the Youth Player Development Framework.



Criteria For Application:

Clubs must have the following to be eligible for this fund:

- Full youth pathway (boys and/or girls) with distinct playing groups.
- Youth teams competing in Scottish Rugby National or Regional competitions / conferences.
- Completed Club Development plan in place.
- Physical development programmes for U16 & U18 teams (can be enhanced through this fund).

Additional criteria / Notes:

- Clubs who received Development Environments Funding in Phase 1, 2 or 3 are eligible to apply for the same fund, however different outcomes must be selected.
- Clubs must engage with their regional Rugby Development team before applying.
- Clubs should clearly outline a spending plan for the project.
- Clubs must implement a monitoring system to clearly demonstrate the impact of the project.
- Projects can be part funded by the club and/or other funding partners.
- The fund is for new initiatives, not currently invested in by Scottish Rugby (i.e., Development Officer Agreement).

The closing date for applications is 31st January 2026. Applications submitted after this date will not be considered. Successful applicants will be informed in April 2026.

No claim will be accepted beyond 30th April 2027 and no payment will be made for this fund beyond 31st May 2027.



Example projects/programmes that could be delivered through this funding;

Area	Fund limit	Outcomes	Example Eligible Projects
Boys U16 & U18 player development fund	Up to £6k per club	1. Increase training time-on-task. 2. Improve access to quality of coaching (team, skills etc) aligned to the Blueprint.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coach employment – improving coach quality. Fixed Head Coaches at U16 and U18 age groups. Additional training sessions – facility hire.
Girls U16 & U18 player development fund	Up to £6k per club	3. Improve access / quality of player physical preparation / S&C.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Physical testing sessions and hire of equipment. Individual player development (e.g. 1-1 sessions, IDP).
People fund	Up to £1k per club	1. Improve the leadership of the youth development programme through a Director of Youth Rugby. 2. Improve the quality of prehab and rehab support for players.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Payment for a Director of Youth Rugby to oversee the U16 & U18 programmes and lead the creation/ oversight of a Development Plan Payment for medical personnel to support prehab and rehab
Education fund	Up to £1k per club	1. Improve players, parents, coaches' knowledge of nutrition, mental skills and leadership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Payment of specialist workshops for players, parents and coaches

The fund cannot be used for the following:

- Purchase of GPS units
- Purchase of VEO systems
- Facility upgrades and maintenance.
- Payment for Coaching qualifications or workshop.
- Investment into Development Officer positions which are already funded by Scottish Rugby.

Youth Player Development Fund

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). 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
4. Email Address of key contact
5. I can confirm I have engaged with my regional team before submitting this application
6. Please tick all the funds you are applying for in this application
 - a. Boys U16 & U18 player development fund (Up to £5k per club)
 - b. Girls U16 & U18 player development fund (Up to £5k per club)
 - c. People fund (Up to £2k per club)
 - d. Education fund (Up to £2k per club)
7. Title of project
8. How much are you applying for through this fund?
9. Please provide a breakdown of what the funding will be spend on
10. Summary of proposed project (max 300 words)
11. Dates of project (dd/mm/yyyy – dd/mm/yyyy)
12. Which of the following outcomes does this project meet? (a minimum of 2 required)
13. Please describe how your project will meet the first outcome selected in Question 12 (100 words max)
14. Please describe how your project will meet the second outcome selected in Question 12 (100 words max)
15. Please describe how your project will meet any further outcomes selected in Question 12 (100 words max)
16. Are there any partners/funders involved in the programme? If so, please name the partners/funders and their financial contribution
17. Please outline how this project will impact inclusion and diversity within your club? (max 200 words)
18. How much are you applying for via the Youth Player Development Fund (in total)?
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.



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