

## **Innovation Fund Frequently Asked Questions**

### **1. What areas can the funding be used for?**

The Innovation Fund aims to provide financial help to clubs to support projects around business resilience and future sustainability. The fund is intended to provide essential support to sports clubs and organisations, independent providers and sporting events who have all faced significant challenges.

It is recognised that clubs may now have additional requirements to help generate income, reduce costs and either improve or modify services which, in turn, will support their sustainability over the coming months. The fund is looking for clubs with innovative ideas to further develop and support Bowls in Wales and have a planned approach to recover and strengthen the business, with the ability to adapt and attract additional income sources.

Applicants should be looking at their current operations and what they need to do to adapt and offer the safest and best possible experience for bowlers. The types of areas clubs may wish to consider include business support, provision and improvement of services and any project that would increase access, engagement and secondary income from the local community. However, this isn't a definitive list. All clubs are different and should consider what their individual requirements are.

### **2. Can the fund be used to support any loss of income since the start of the COVID-19 outbreak?**

This should not be considered a fund to replace lost of bowls related income which may include green fees, facility hire, food & beverage. The fund focuses on looking forward and helping clubs and facilities become more sustainable. It is concentrated on current operations to support clubs and facilities to adapt and offer the safest and best possible experience for bowlers. Details of what the funding can be used for can be found within the Club Support & Guidance document (found on BowlsWales website).

**3. Can the Innovation Fund be used for costs already incurred and any loss of income?**

Funding cannot be claimed to cover costs already incurred. The fund is designed to help finance future activities or new aspects of an existing project which can support business resilience and future sustainability of the club. The fund is forward-focused, looking at innovative ideas and should not be considered as a means to make up a shortfall in income or expected future losses. Details of what the funding can be used for can be found within the Club Support & Guidance document (found on BowlsWales website).

**4. When will we learn if our application has been successful and receive funding?**

BowlsWales will notify all applicants with a decision from week commencing 7<sup>th</sup> June 2021. Once notified you will be sent a Service Level Agreement which your club will need to sign and return. On receipt of this, our finance co-ordinator will be in contact to source bank details and undertake financial verifications prior to sending out payment. Payments will start being made during June 2021.

**5. How will financial need be assessed?**

The fund is open to all clubs affiliated to their National Governing Body with consideration given to those who can demonstrate a clear financial need and requirement. It is recognised every club is different, so applicants will be asked to detail to their business to date from a financial perspective. Financial information submitted within the application form will be considered as part of the decision-making process to ensure we can allocate the funding to the applicants who have the strongest financial need. Applicants will also be asked to demonstrate and evidence the proposed impact of the funding and future sustainability on the club.

**6. Will we need to submit any documentation to justify our request?**

No documentation is required as part of the initial application (apart from quotes where necessary). If we feel any additional documentation is required to support your request, we will contact you directly. If you are successful and issued a funding offer, you will be required to complete a Service Level Agreement and confirm you still want to accept the funding. Once returned our Finance Co-ordinator will contact you to source bank details and undertake financial verifications prior to sending out payment.

**7. We have been successful in accessing funding through other sources (Government/Sport Wales), does this make us ineligible to apply?**

No, all affiliated clubs and facilities are eligible to apply for the Innovation Fund. You will be asked what funds you have successfully accessed within the application form and how this funding has supported your business. The innovation fund will not fund any areas that have already been covered under Government Business Support Schemes and any replacing or duplicating other already committed external funds.

This, along with other financial information, will be considered as part of the decision-making process to ensure we can allocate the funding to the applicants who have a genuine financial need.

**8. Can the Innovation Fund be used to contribute to a wider project we are working on?**

Yes, providing the project is focused on supporting business sustainability. The funding should not replace or duplicate other already committed external funds.

**9. Can the fund be used to support staff costs?**

The fund cannot be used to support any retrospective staff costs or contribute towards furlough payments. The fund can be used for additional support, training, education or equipment costs for staff and volunteers which may have come about following the crisis.

**10. If our club is unable to commit to safeguarding or putting in place an Equality & Diversity Policy plus other eligibility criteria, will this make our application ineligible?**

Yes. If your club/facility is unable to make these commitments, we will not be able to progress the application. BowlsWales are committed to ensuring everyone can get involved in bowls and enjoy a safe and fun experience.

**11. How will applications be assessed?**

A comprehensive review process has been put in place. If clubs meet the basic criteria, applications will then be assessed with consideration given to financial need, requirement, impact, and sustainability. Financial information submitted within the application will be considered as part of the decision-making process to ensure we can allocate the funding to the applicants who have a genuine financial need.

**12. Is there any further support available to help us in completing our application?**

Whilst we cannot comment or provide feedback on the strength of your application, BowlsWales General Manager and Development Manager is available to support you on any queries relating to the guidance notes on the application.

**13. If we are unsuccessful will feedback be provided?**

We will look to provide appropriate feedback where possible.