



Facilities Fund

Guidelines

2026



Opening Date: Monday 20th July 2026

Closing Date: Monday 17th August 2026

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Northern NSW Football Facilities Fund Guidelines

Background to Football in Northern NSW

Football is the most widely played sport in Northern NSW, with over 102,000 registered participants surpassing the combined participation numbers of all other football codes.

Community football continues to grow strongly, with a particularly notable increase in female participation. Following Australia and New Zealand's co-hosting of the FIFA Women's World Cup in 2023, and the AFC Women's Asian Cup 2026 this upward trend is expected to continue.

Beyond participation, football plays a significant role in local communities, delivering economic, health, and social benefits. An independent report values the sport's annual contribution to the NSW economy at over \$519 million.

Despite these benefits, football continues to face significant challenges, particularly in accessing quality facilities. Many venues are outdated, overused, or in poor condition, with facility demand regularly exceeding supply. While ongoing advocacy and investment have resulted in substantial upgrades, numerous facilities still fall short posing risks to the sport's sustainability and future growth.

About the Northern NSW Football Facilities Fund

The **Northern NSW Football Facilities Fund (the Program)** is an initiative by **Northern NSW Football (NNSWF)** to assist affiliated football clubs in securing funding to improve the quality, safety, accessibility, and availability of football facilities.

Clubs are encouraged to collaborate with local stakeholders, including councils, schools, businesses, and other community organisations, to enhance their project outcomes.

Program Aims

- Increase participation in football.
- Improve safety and security across facilities.
- Strengthen community engagement through football.
- Enhance the football experience for all stakeholders.

If a proposed project is located on land not owned by the club, applicants must provide written consent from the landowner. For council-owned or managed land, this includes a letter of support, lease documentation, or formal confirmation of council approval.

Strategic Alignment

This Program directly supports the **2024–2026 NNSWF Strategic Plan**, specifically under the “Enjoyable Football Experience” pillar. It aligns with the strategic priority to:

“Support clubs and enhance facilities to increase the capacity of the game.”

Program Objectives

Applicants must demonstrate how their proposed project addresses one or more of the following objectives:

Objective	Example Projects
1. Provide more opportunities for more participants to play football, more often.	Development of additional pitches, drainage, field resurfacing, irrigation installation
2. Improve the football experience for players, referees, coaches, and volunteers.	Upgraded field lighting, improved referee amenities, expanded club storage
3. Upgrade facilities to better accommodate women, girls, and participants with a disability.	New or upgraded changerooms, accessible toilets and showers, improved access paths
4. Address safety and security issues.	Field or perimeter fencing, security lighting, secure storage areas

Applicants **are only required** to complete the sections of the application relevant to the objective(s) their project supports.

Development Consent Requirements

Applicants must provide one of the following:

- Evidence of approved development consent from the relevant local council (e.g. Development Application).
 - Written landowner consent or lease documentation from the council.
 - Written confirmation that development consent is not required for the proposed works.
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Funding Available

- **Maximum grant per project:** \$100,000
 - **Minimum grant:** \$10,000 (minimum project cost: \$20,000)
 - The Program may fund up to **50% of the net total project cost**.
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Applicant Contributions

Applicants must contribute at least 50% of the total project cost. This contribution may come from:

- Club funds. (May include third party sponsorship or private funding)
- Federal, State, or Local Government funding.
- In-kind support such as volunteer labour or donated materials.
- Tax-deductible donations via registration with the Australian Sports Foundation (ASF).

Clubs may submit more than one application if applying for different projects.

Evidence of Contributions

Applicants must provide proof that their contribution has been secured. Acceptable documentation includes:

- Bank statements or loan agreements.
 - Letters from council confirming financial support.
 - Itemised list of volunteer or in-kind contributions.
 - Grant approval letters.
 - Letters confirming third-party sponsorship or funding.
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Eligibility Criteria

Eligible Applicants

- Football clubs affiliated with NNSWF or one of its six Member Zones.

Ineligible Applicants

- Unaffiliated clubs or individuals.
 - A-League Men and Women clubs.
 - Government departments or agencies.
 - Local Government Authorities.
 - Private academies or non-sanctioned organisations.
 - Individuals.
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Ineligible Projects

The following project types are not eligible for funding:

- Land purchases.
 - Projects requiring but lacking development consent.
 - Routine maintenance or wear-and-tear repairs.
 - Equipment purchases (e.g. balls, uniforms, goal post, electronics).
 - Rent or general occupancy costs.
 - Feasibility studies or design-only stages.
 - Projects not primarily for football purposes.
 - Projects that are already underway or completed.
 - Projects unable to be completed within two years.
 - Administrative overheads or wages.
 - Application preparation costs.
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Assessment Process

Each application will undergo an initial eligibility review to ensure:

- The applicant meets all eligibility requirements.
- The application is complete and submitted on time.
- The project complies with Program objectives and scope.

Eligible applications will then be assessed and scored based on the following criteria:

1. Clear demonstration of the need for the project.
2. Alignment with at least one of the Program Objectives.
3. Capacity and experience to deliver the project (partnerships strengthen this case).
4. A reasonable and cost-effective project budget.
5. Support from the club's Member Zone and local council.
6. Compliance with registration requirements on the Play Football platform, including adherence to child safety policies and Working with Children Check legislation.

Final funding decisions are made by the **NNSWF Board**, based on recommendations from the **NNSWF Facilities Fund Committee**.

Application Process

How to Apply

1. Read these Guidelines in full to ensure eligibility.
 2. Complete the [online application](#) form. (A PDF version is available upon request for preparation purposes only).
 3. Submit the completed application by **5:00pm on the closing date**.
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Notification and Payment

- Applicants will receive email confirmation upon successful submission.
- All applicants will be notified of their outcome in writing.
- Details of successful projects will be published at northernnswfootball.com.au.

Funding Disbursement

Grant payments will be made upon:

- Signing of a funding agreement.
- Submission of a tax invoice (plus GST where applicable).

Organisations without an ABN must submit a **Statement by a Supplier** form.

Form available here: [ATO – Statement by a Supplier](#)

Project Reporting and Acquittal

Within **60 days of project completion**, successful applicants must submit:

- A financial acquittal.
- A project completion report.
- Before and after photographs of the facility.

Failure to submit the required documentation may result in ineligibility for future NNSWF funding opportunities.

Project Completion Deadline

All funded projects must be completed within **two years** of the date the funding agreement is signed.

Insurance Requirements

Applicants employing staff must meet legal obligations under the **Workplace Injury Management and Workers Compensation Act 1998 (NSW)**.

Disclaimer

- Submission of an application does not guarantee funding.
 - All application-related costs are the responsibility of the applicant.
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Privacy Policy

NNSWF complies with the **Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998**. All personal information collected is stored securely and used solely for the purposes of application assessment and communication.

Applicants must ensure that any individuals named in the application are informed of how their information will be used.

Disclosure of Information

If an application is successful, NNSWF may publish the following details for promotional purposes:

- Project name and location.
 - Project description.
 - Grant amount.
 - Applicants contact information.
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Declaration by Applicant

Applications must be submitted by an authorised representative of the club, such as the President, CEO, General Manager, or a committee member with delegated authority.

Further Information

For advice or assistance, please contact:

Gary Fisher

Government Relations Manager

 gfisher@northernnswfootball.com.au

Ross Hicks

General Manager, Member Services

 rhicks@northernnswfootball.com.au

 Phone: (02) 4941 7200

Additional facility resources: www.footballfacilities.com.au