

Ards and North Down Sports Forum Grants Programme

Gold Card Application – Use of Council Leisure Facilities by Elite Athletes



Individuals who are training for a specific event and/or competition can apply for concessionary use of leisure facilities within the Ards and North Down Borough. The facilities include those at Ards, Comber, Portaferry, Londonderry Park, Bangor Aurora Aquatic and Leisure Complex, Bangor Sportsplex and Queen's Leisure Complex, Hollywood. Individuals will be able to avail of swimming pool, gym, sports hall and pitches. Usage of facilities will be subject to availability at the time. No advanced booking will be authorised.

All applicants must:

- be a resident in the Ards and North Down Borough Council area.
- take part in a sport recognised by Sport Northern Ireland through the UK Sports Council's recognition policy and be affiliated to a recognised Governing Body.
- be of amateur status.
- be a member of a sports club in Northern Ireland
- be a member of a recognised elite squad* or be ranked within the top 10 in Northern Ireland. (Elite squad/panel e.g. Ulster, Northern Ireland, Ireland, Great Britain, European and above). This will cover Junior and Senior athletes and be inclusive of those with a disability.
- not be in receipt of lottery or any other grant that would cover the facility element of training costs
- provide selection letter from the relevant SNI recognised Governing Body on official GB headed paper or official GB email statement.
- Be in training for specific named events** and/or competitions. (Must provide evidence of selection/qualification for event)

**Elite Squad/panel e.g. Ulster, Northern Ireland, Ireland, Great Britain, European and above.*

***Events would include – Interprovincial Championships, Commonwealth Games, European Championships, World Championships, Olympic Games. (It does not include events below Interprovincial Level).*

Please note that successful applicants may be requested by the Council to attend the promotion of specific sports events/ schemes during the lifespan of the gold card.

Facilities to be included within the scheme:

- Gym Facilities
- Health Suites
- Swimming Pools
- Sports Specific facilities e.g. synthetic pitches, squash courts (subject to availability)

The extent of concessionary use to be at the discretion of the Head of Leisure.

Duration of free use:

- The concession is only valid while the athlete remains a member of a recognised squad or holds an individual Northern Ireland ranking of 10 and above.
- The concession will cease on the day after the specified event(s).

Successful applicants will be provided with an appropriate membership card that must be shown on each visit to a Leisure facility.

Applications received without the accompanied supporting evidence stated on the application form **will not be assessed.**

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Section 1 – Personal Details

Name	
Address	Postcode:
Telephone	Home: Mobile:
Email	
Date of Birth (if under 18)	
School/College/ University attended	

Name for correspondence	(Please complete if different than applicant)
Address for correspondence	Postcode

Section 2 – Sport

Which squad(s) are you currently training with		
	Please tick	Age/level eg Under 16, Senior Squad etc
Ulster		
Northern Ireland		
Ireland		
Great Britain		
Other (please specify)		

Please name the events you are training for		
Name of Event(s)	Date(s)	Venue

Name the sports club you are currently a member of	
Contact person within club Name Contact Number Email	
Name of Governing Body	
Contact person within the Governing Body Name Contact Number Email	

Section 3 – Training Facilities

What training facilities do you wish to use? (Please tick)									
Gym		Health Suite		Pool		Pitches		Track	
Which training venue do you wish to use? (Please tick)									
Portaferry Sports Centre									
Comber Leisure Centre									
Ards Blair Mayne Wellbeing & Leisure Complex									
Aurora Aquatic and Leisure Complex (Bangor)									
Bangor Sportsplex									
Queens Leisure Centre (Holywood)									
How often do you wish to use these facilities? (Please tick)									
Daily		Weekly		Other (please specify)					
2 – 3 times per week		Less frequently							
Preferred Training Venue to collect Gold Card? (Please tick)									
Bangor Aurora		Queens (Holywood)		Comber LC		Ards BMWLC		Portaferry SC	

Section 4 – Funding

Are you receiving funding assistance from any other source? (Please tick)		
Yes	No	
If yes, please provide information below		
Name of organisation/funding body providing assistance	Nature of Assistance E.g. amount of funding, facility use	Duration of Assistance E.g. one off payment, 3 year agreement

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Section 5 – Document Checklist

Please ensure the following documents are attached to your application

Document required	Attached
Letter of selection/qualification for event	
Evidence of ranking or squad selection	

Section 6 – Declaration

I declare to the best of my knowledge the information provided within this application is correct.
 I declare I am of amateur status and am a member of a recognised elite squad or am ranked within the Top 10 in Northern Ireland for my sport.
 I declare that I will complete a Grant Report Form after my event and will acknowledge the funders in all publicity.
 I declare that the Council will be notified immediately of any additional finding not declared in this application.
 I am willing to support the Council promote specific sports events/schemes during the lifespan of the Goldcard, if requested to do so.
 It is understood that monies will only be paid out on the production of all, receipts.
 Any grant funding deemed ineligible or not spent will be re-payable to Ards and North Down Borough Council.

Signed: _____ Date: _____
 (to be signed by parent/guardian for applicant under 18 years)

Once completed, please send the application along with the required documentation to the following address:

Ards and North Down Sports Forum
Sports Development
Ards and North Down Borough Council
Londonderry Park
Portaferry Road
BT23 8SG

Or by email: sportsdevelopment@ardsandnorthdown.gov.uk

DATA PROTECTION

Ards and North Down Borough Council values your right to personal privacy. We at all times try to be open about the reasons why we collect, hold and use your personal information. We collect information about you in order to fulfil our statutory obligations and provide you and other people with services. Some of the information we gather may be used to help us provide you with improved services. We at all times aim to comply with the Data Protection Principles, ensuring that information is collected fairly and lawfully, is accurate, adequate, up to date and not held any longer than necessary. If your personal data needs to be used for purposes other than those mentioned, we will contact you to seek your consent. You have a right to see information held about you (with a few exceptions allowed for in the Data Protection Act 1998). If you wish to see any personal information held on you please put your request in writing, stating clearly who you are and what information you would like to see to the address below. A fee is chargeable up to £10.00 which covers the cost of gathering, copying and redacting the data.

Freedom of Information

Ards and North Down Borough Council is subject to the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. This Act came into operation on 1st January 2005. Applicants should be aware that the information provided in the completed application document could be disclosed in response to a request under the Freedom of Information Act.

The Council will proceed on the basis of disclosure unless an appropriate exemption applies. No information provided by applicants will be accepted "in confidence" and Ards and North Down Borough Council will not accept liability for loss as a result of any information disclosed in response to a request under the Freedom of Information Act.

Ards and North Down Borough Council does not have a discretion regarding whether or not to disclose information in response to a request under the Freedom of Information Act, unless an exemption applies. Decisions in relation to disclosure will be taken by appropriate individuals in Ards and North Down Borough Council having due regard to the exemptions available and the Public Interest. Applicants should be aware that despite the availability of some exemptions, information may still be disclosed if the Public Interest in its disclosure outweighs the Public Interest in maintaining the exemption. Applicants are required to highlight information included in the application documents which they consider to be commercially sensitive or confidential in nature, and should state the precise reasons, why that view is taken. In particular, issues concerning trade secrets and commercial sensitivity should be highlighted. Applicants are advised against recording unnecessary information.

In accordance with the Lord Chancellors Code of Practice on the discharge of public functions, Ards and North Down Borough Council will **not** accept any contractual term that purports to restrict the disclosure of information held by the Council in respect of the contract or grant process save as permitted by the Freedom of Information Act. The decision whether to disclose information rests solely with Ards and North Down Borough Council.

Ards and North Down Borough Council will consult with applicants, where it is considered appropriate, in relation to the release of controversial information.