



Ards and
North Down
Borough Council



Ards and North Down
SPORTS FORUM

**Gold Card Scheme
Guidance**

Individuals who have qualified and 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 Blair Mayne Wellbeing and Leisure Complex, Comber, Portaferry, Londonderry Park, Bangor Aurora Aquatic and Leisure Complex and Queen's Leisure Complex Holywood. 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 and centre Covid 19 restrictions/protocols in place.

Applicant Eligibility:

- Be a resident in the Ards and North Down Borough Council area
- Take part in a sport listed by Sport Northern Ireland / Sport Ireland through the UK Sports Council's recognition policy / Sport Ireland'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 / 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 specific event selection letter from the relevant SNI/Sport Ireland recognised Governing Body on official Governing Body headed paper or official Governing Body email statement.

Facilities to be included within the Gold Card scheme:

- Gym Facilities
- Swimming Pools
- Sports Specific facilities e.g. synthetic pitches, sports hall

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 /Ireland ranking of 10 or above.
- The concession will cease on the day after the specified event(s).
- If selected for multiple events, Gold Cards will be issued for the first event listed and can then be extended accordingly upon request by the applicant.

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 accompanying supporting evidence stated on the application form will not be assessed.

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.

How to Apply:

The Ards and North Down Sports Forum Grant Guidelines and application forms are available through:

- 1) Ards and North Down Borough Council Website:
<https://www.leisureardsandnorthdown.com/sports-development/sports-forum>

or

- 2) Email: sportsdevelopment@ardsandnorthdown.gov.uk

Completed applications (along with the required documentation) must be sent to sportsdevelopment@ardsandnorthdown.gov.uk

Applications are only deemed as being "Received" upon email confirmation from the sports development team.

For further information, please contact the Sports Development Team on:

Emma Hingston, Sports and Recreation Development Officer
Tel: 07920187819

Craig Connor, Assistant Sports and Recreation Development Officer
Tel: 0774898389

Email: sportsdevelopment@ardsandnorthdown.gov.uk