



Ards and  
North Down  
Borough Council



Ards and North Down  
**SPORTS FORUM**

**2022-2023**

**Goldcard**

**Guidance Notes**

## 2022–2023 Goldcard Guidance Notes

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, these include:

- Ards Blair Mayne Wellbeing and Leisure Complex
- Comber Leisure Centre
- Portaferry Sports Centre
- Londonderry Park
- Bangor Aurora Aquatic and Leisure Complex
- Bangor Sportsplex
- Queen's Leisure Complex, Hollywood.

Athletes can avail of the following within the Gold Card scheme:

- Gym Facilities
- Swimming Pools
- Health Suite
- Cryo-Spa at Londonderry Park
- Sports Specific facilities e.g. synthetic pitches, sports hall.

**Usage of facilities will be subject to availability at the time and centre Covid 19 restrictions/protocols in place.**

### Application Process

Goldcards are available throughout the financial year (rolling), and applications are assessed on a monthly basis.

**Completed and signed Application form** (in PDF format) along with mandatory supporting documentation must be submitted to [sportsdevelopment@ardsandnorthdown.gov.uk](mailto:sportsdevelopment@ardsandnorthdown.gov.uk)

**Incomplete applications will not be considered. Applications are only deemed as being "Received" upon email confirmation from the sports development team.**

### 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

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- Qualified and selected to represent their province/country (i.e. Ulster, N. Ireland, Ireland or Great Britain).
- **Provide letter from the relevant SNI/Sport Ireland recognised Governing Body on official Governing Body headed paper or official Governing Body email statement** which verifies that you are part of a recognised squad in preparation for a specific event/competition. The Governing Body letter/email **MUST** state what event/competition details you are preparing for and when the final squad will be announced. The event/competition must be within 6 -12 months of application being made.
- Not be in receipt of lottery or any other grant that would cover the facility element of training costs

### **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, Goldcards will be issued for the first event listed and can then be extended accordingly, upon request by the applicant.

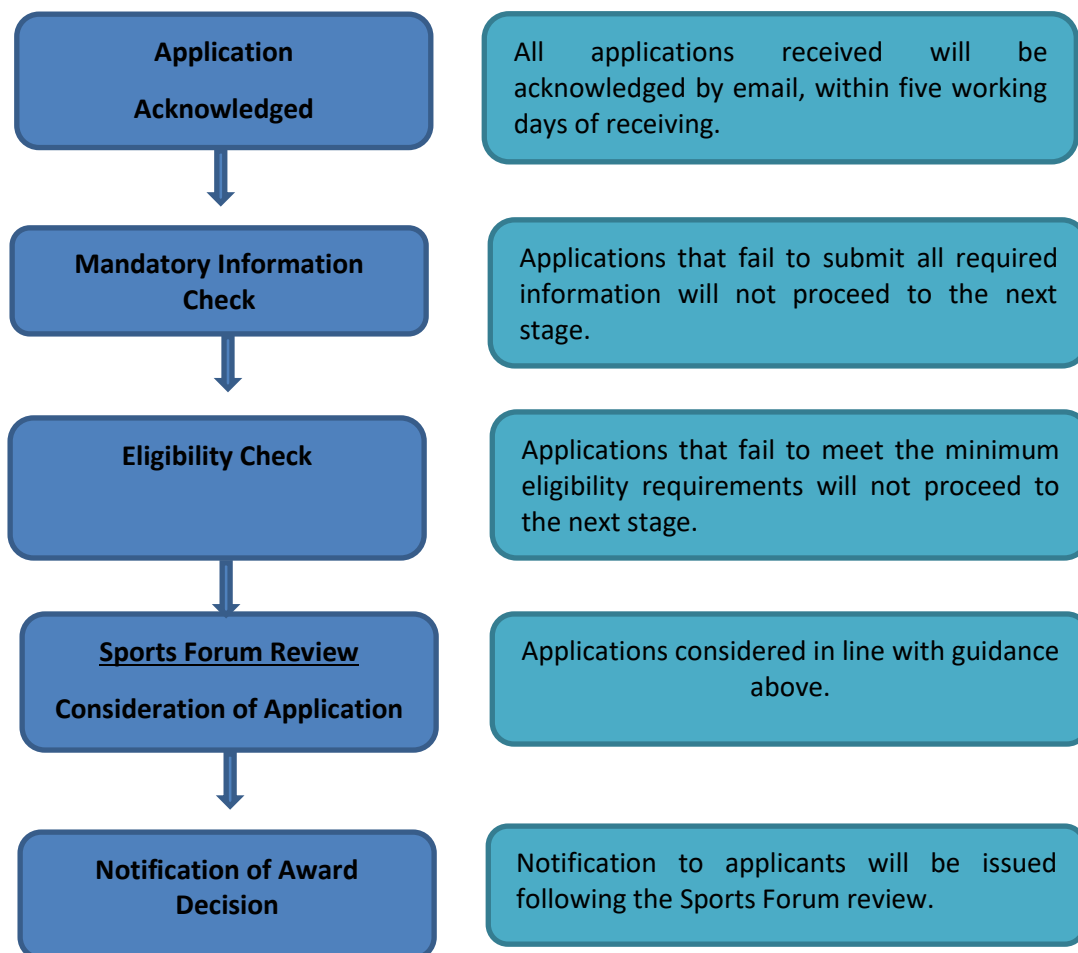
Successful applicants will be provided with an appropriate membership card that must be shown on each visit to a Leisure facility.

**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 Goldcard.

## Post Application Process

Following submission of applications, the following process will be completed:



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

Emma Hingston, Sports and Recreation Development Officer  
Tel: 07920187819

Christine Cooke, Assistant Sports and Recreation Development Officer  
Tel: 07741235231

The Ards and North Down Sports Forum Grant Guidance Notes and Application Forms are available on: Ards and North Down Borough Council Website:

<https://www.leisureardsandnorthdown.com/sports-development/resources>

or by emailing: [sportsdevelopment@ardsandnorthdown.gov.uk](mailto:sportsdevelopment@ardsandnorthdown.gov.uk)

