COMMUNITY SPORT FACILITIES FUND 2026 (CSFF)

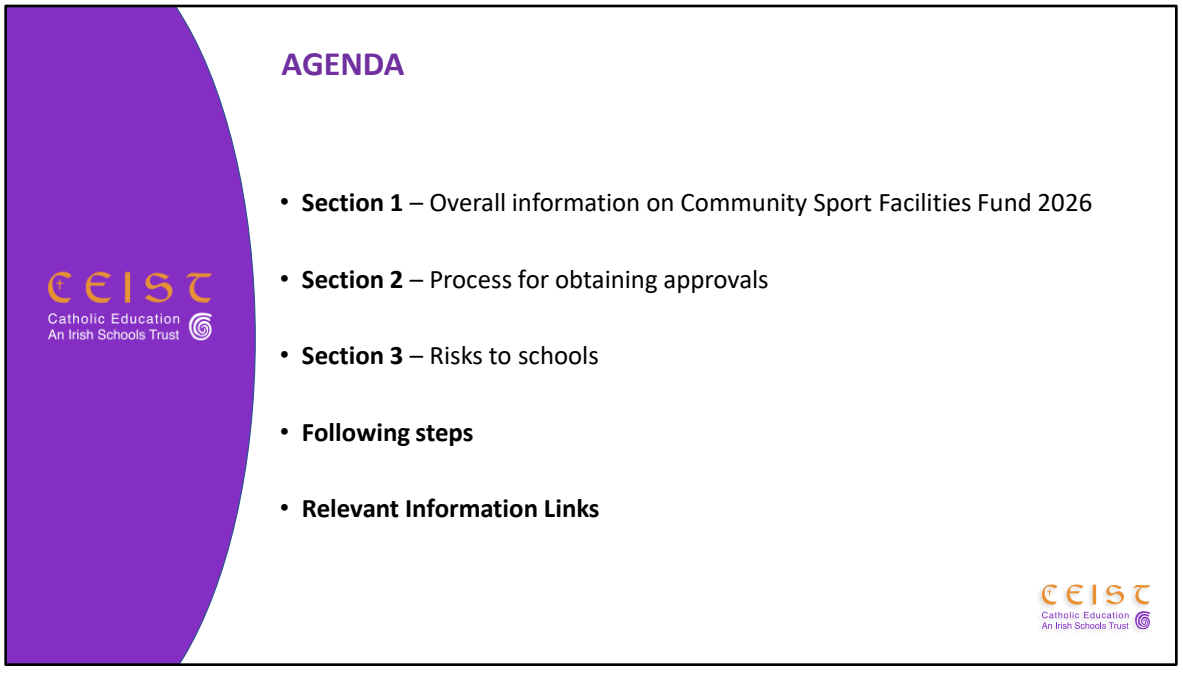


ONLINE BRIEFING SESSION

19th November 2026

Rogi Rusch - CEIST

Paul Keaney - The Educena Foundation



Section 1 - Overview of the Community Sport Facilities Fund 2026
Eligibility requirements, grant levels, joint applications, required documentation, and programme objectives.
Indicative approval timeframes, critical milestones, and application submission deadlines.

Section 2
Steps involved in obtaining approvals (school, patron, and DEY) and preparing a CSFF application.

AGENDA

- **Section 1** – Overall information on Community Sport Facilities Fund 2026
- **Section 2** – Process for obtaining approvals
- **Section 3** – Risks to schools
- **Following steps**
- **Relevant Information Links**

SECTION 1 – OVERVIEW OF THE PROGRAMME

CSFF is the primary vehicle for government support for the:

- Development/refurbishment of sports facilities.
- purchase of non-personal sports equipment.

SECTION 1 – OBJECTIVES OF THE FUND

- Develop high-quality, accessible facilities in appropriate locations and provide equipment to help maximise participation in sport.
- Prioritise the needs of disadvantaged areas and minority groups.
- Facilitate participation in sport by people with disabilities.
- Increase female participation in sport.
- Encourage the sharing of sports facilities.

- Increasing student and community participation, girls' participation and inclusive access
- Climate-friendly and sustainable projects.

SECTION 1 – GUIDE TO REGISTRATION

OSCAR is now SPRAOI

All parties must be registered on SPRAOI:

- Dedicated primary contact
- Sporting club
- School

Guidance on SPRAOI registration available on Sports Capital site



- OSCAR = previous CSFF portal
- SPRAOI = Current CSFF portal
- Details of organisation with active registration on OSCAR migrated to SPRAOI.
- Email invitation sent to complete the registration process on SPRAOI - Primary contact for OSCAR-registered sporting club / organisation

SECTION 1 – GRANT CATAGORIES, AMOUNTS & CRITERIA

Category	Funding Range	Max. rate of funding
Local Grants	< €250,000	95%
Regional Tier 1 Grants	€250,000 - €550,000	70%
Regional Tier 2 Grants	€550,000 - €750,000	70%

Funding range = Capital + equipment

Equipment = max €70,000

Maintenance equipment = max €40,000 every 5 years.

Equipment only = ownership of property not required.

Regional Tier 1 = NGB, Local authorities, two or more sporting club / organisation Multi

SECTION 1 – WHAT CSFF DO & DON'T FUND

Project must be sporting in nature.

Sport definition (Council of Europe):

"All forms of physical activity which, through casual or organised participation, aims at expressing or improving physical fitness and mental well-being and at forming social relationships."

- Works must not have started before current conditional offer.
- Can be the same project funded on previous rounds
- Funded work must deliver a complete, usable project on its own.
- Funds must not be available through the SEAI (except for LED floodlights)

Does not fund partially completed projects.
Applications cannot rely on future funding rounds to become operational

SECTION 1 – TITLE OWNERSHIP REQUIREMENTS

Title ownership, Licence / Sharing Agreement required at formal approval stage (not at application)

Title Status	Maximum Grant
Owns land or Lease 10+ years with Tailte Éireann	€250,000
Lease 10+ years not with Tailte Éireann	€175,000
Lease with 5-10 years	€100,000
Lease with < 5 years No lease	€70,000

Minimum Sharing Agreement period reduced from 15 years to 10 years.



Local sporting club must not be included solely to satisfy eligibility or funding requirements.

Sporting club = one joint application,
cannot submit a separate application under their own name.

Dispute between parties must be resolved independently. Department will not get involved.

Licence / Sharing Agreement – Based on DoEY Guidance - **Procedures on the use of school buildings outside of school hours.** CEIST / Educena working on simplifying process.

SECTION 1 – JOINT APPLICATIONS

- Joint application must have patron approval
- All parties registered on SPRAOI; provide name + Tax Registration No.
- Organisation that holds property title must be the lead applicant.
  - Lead organisation act as project coordinator
  - Designated nominated primary contact will do all dealings with the Department
- Any party withdrawal could trigger refund of the grant.
- DEY will review all applications for schools

DEY will review all applications for schools owned by the DEY or School Patron. Satisfy the DEY future use conditions applying to the site

SECTION 1 – APPLICATION STAGE

Application must include professional quote or pre-tender estimate for each element of the project including equipment.

Document must include date and amount

Acceptable quotations:

- Estimate prepared by technical supervisor (e.g. engineer, quantity surveyor or architect).
- Quote from contractor or supplier.
- Extract from a catalogue or website with prices (equipment only).

No quote = no consideration

SECTION 1 – FORMAL APPROVAL

Documents required at formal approval stage:

- Three comparable quotes for each element of project / equipment
- Evidence of title
- Final grant of planning permission (or confirmation it is not required)
- Licence / Sharing Agreement
- Grant Agreement / Declaration Form
- Energy-efficient grants: proof that the SEAI will not fund the project

Conditional offers of funding is **NOT** guaranteed funding.

Documents not required at application stage, but at formal approval of the grant.

Do not proceed with works, enter into contractual commitments, place orders, or incur any expenditure until formal written approval
Any commitments incurred before formal approval is at school / sporting club's own risk.
Final funding only confirmed at the Formal Approval stage once all required documentation are submitted and verified.

SECTION 1 – FORMAL APPROVAL

Final 10% of capital grant will be withheld until organisation provides:

- Certificate of completion
- Proof that beneficiary sign acknowledging the grant from the Department has been erected.
- Proof that the sporting club is in compliance with a “Sport For All” ethos and diversity / inclusion policies. (letter from relevant Local Sports Partnership)

Applies to grants over €50,000

SECTION 1 – SCORING FACTORS

Factors likely to be considered:

1. Level of socio-economic disadvantage in the area served.
2. Level of CSFF funding received by the organisations in last 10 years.
3. Level of outstanding CSFF funding not drawn down by organisation.
4. Priority may be given to:
   - Projects and Equipment to facilitate people with disabilities
   - Applications that support objectives under the National Swimming Strategy
   - Sports that have been under-invested over the years
   - Sporting equipment in support of marginalised communities (e.g. for use in homeless accommodation, emergency shelters, men's/ women's sheds, etc)

SECTION 1 – NON-COMPLIANCE WITH TERMS & CONDITIONS

Non-Compliance with CSFF Terms and Conditions

The Department treats the submission of false or misleading information very seriously. Any sporting club / organisation that does not comply with the terms and conditions of the Community Sport Facilities Fund may be:

i. subject to inspection;
ii. subject to having its grant withdrawn;
iii. required to repay all or part of a grant; and/or
iv. barred from making applications for a period of time.

All serious breaches of the terms and conditions, as outlined in this document at Appendix 1, will be reported to **An Garda Síochána**.

SECTION 1 – KEY DATES FOR THE PROGRAMME

Milestone	Date
Registration opens	28 September 2026
Applications open	19 October 2026
Application deadline	**5pm on 26 February 2027**
Conditional offers of funding	TBC, before end-2027

- Click “Submit Application”
- No late or partial applications
- No amendments to application once submitted

SECTION 1 – CEIST APPROVAL DATES

	Application Process	Responsibility / Action	Completion Timeline
1	Submit completed CEIST Eligibility Review Questionnaires (Parts A1, A2, B & C)	BoM	12:00 16/Dec/2026
2	Questionnaire assessed by CEIST & Educena, requests for clarifications issued to the BoM	CEIST & Educena	11/Jan/2027
3	CEIST confirms list of applicants permitted to proceed	CEIST	12:00 15/Jan/2027
4	CSFF Application on SPRAOI	BoM	17:00 26/Feb/2027

SECTION 1 – RECAP / SUMMARY

- School must apply jointly with a sports club
  - 10-year License / Sharing Agreement in place.
- School and sports club must be registered on SPRAOI.
- Local grant limit of €250k
  - Value reduced depending on property ownership/lease
  - Equipment ≤€70k
  - Maintenance equipment ≤€40k
- Deadline for last step of application 26/02/2026
  - Consider time for Patron approval and consider timelines involved
- Arrange necessary documentation
- Conditional offers of funding is **NOT** guaranteed funding.

Determine eligibility and amounts
Review the guides and documentation

AGENDA

- **Section 1** – Overall information on Community Sport Facilities Fund 2026
- **Section 2** – Process for obtaining approvals
- **Section 3** – Risks to schools
- **Following steps**
- **Relevant Information Links**

SECTION 2 – STEPS BEFORE APPLICATION

These steps can take time.

- Determine title owner of the land
- Establish any Rights of Way, Wayleaves, Easements above, on or below the land
- Determine statutory approvals (Planning permission)
  - opinion from a suitably qualified consultant
  - Section 5 Declaration

Title ownership = establish who will confirm approval for the application.

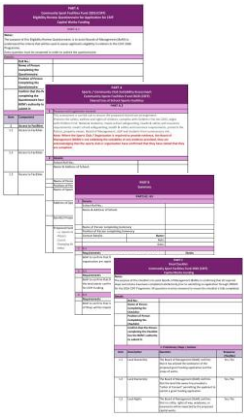
Rights of Way, Wayleaves, Easements above, on or below the land = proposed works cannot impinge on them.

Statutory approvals = planning permission required?
Section 5 Declaration = official ruling from local council on whether the project is exempt or requires full planning permission.

SECTION 2 – CEIST ELIGIBILITY REVIEW QUESTIONNAIRE

Must be submit before Appendix V Part A

- **Part A.1** – Eligibility Review Questionnaire
- **Part A.2** – Sports / Community Club Suitability Assessment
- **Part B** – Register, landowner and Services Approval
- **Part C** – Final Checklist



Part B

BOM obtain written approval from the landowner (Educena or other).

Where the land title owner is not Educena, BOM must obtain land owners permission

Utility / Service Provider approval

if required land title owner requests approval on behalf of the BOM.

SECTION 2 – GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS

- Following public procurement rules
- Calculate charges for use of facilities
  - direct operating costs
  - indirect / overhead costs
  - sinking fund for capital replacement cost
  - Others
- Develop framework for managing facilities' use (School x Club)
- Consider work shortfalls (own funding)
- Application cannot be amended once submitted
- Queries: Send to CEIST. We will advise everybody of the answers.

Following public procurement rules
CSFF guidance advises it for carrying out works.

Queries: We will contact CSFF and advise everybody of answers

SECTION 2 – RECAP

- CEIST's Eligibility Review Questionnaire Forms A to C
- Landowner approval
- Third party organisation approvals – utility services etc.
- Establish statutory approvals requirements
- Review important considerations

Property issues: Rights of Way, Wayleaves, Easements

AGENDA

- **Section 1** – Overall information on Community Sport Facilities Fund 2026
- **Section 2** – Process for obtaining approvals
- **Section 3** – Risks to schools
- **Following steps**
- **Relevant Information Links**

SECTION 3 - RISKS TO SCHOOLS

Project

- All costs not included in quotations, Professional Fees, inflation, contingency etc.
- Delays lead to increasing costs
- Services/bedrock underground increase cost
- Fund retain last 10% of capital project above €50k
- Construction disruption
- Damage to existing facilities
- Defects/incomplete handover
- Contractor failure

Construction disruption
Noise
Dust
restricted access
safeguarding during works

Contractor Failure
contractor insolvency
Defects/incomplete handover

SECTION 3 - RISKS TO SCHOOLS

Operations

- Manage use of space
- Cleaning / Maintenance / Services charges
- Insufficient fund for major renovation or replacement.
- Future school expansion / change of use
- Insurance - community use, injuries, property damage, activities outside school hours, payment of excesses, uninsured losses
- Community impacts

Community impacts
Could restrict usable hours + add expenditure

Floodlight spill
Noise
evening traffic
Parking

SECTION 3 - RISKS TO SCHOOLS

Partnership

- Disagreements
- Dispute over cost payments
- Not fulfillment of contract
- Loss of Sport club volunteers/key officers
- Reduced club demand
- Prolonged non-payment
- Sport club winding down
- Competing activities (required 20hrs / week)

Competing activities:
Exams
school events
extracurricular activities
holiday closures

SECTION 3 - RISKS TO SCHOOLS

Safeguarding and school security

- External users accessing the grounds
- Shared toilets/changing rooms
- Keys and access codes
- Supervision
- Emergency contacts
- Responsibility for opening and securing the site

External users accessing the grounds while pupils are present;

AGENDA

- **Section 1** – Overall information on Community Sport Facilities Fund 2026
- **Section 2** – Process for obtaining approvals
- **Section 3** – Risks to schools
- **Following steps**
- **Relevant Information Links**

FOLLOWING STEPS

If application is successful, follow up instructions can be provided.

- Provisional Allocation
- Formal Approval steps
- How are grants paid (drawdown process).

AGENDA

- **Section 1** – Overall information on Community Sport Facilities Fund 2026
- **Section 2** – Process for obtaining approvals
- **Section 3** – Risks to schools
- **Following steps**
- **Relevant Information Links**

LINKS TO RELEVANT INFORMATION

Sports Capital

https://www.gov.ie/en/department-of-culture-communications-and-sport/services/sports-capital/

SPRAOI - *Sports Programme Registration and Application Online Interface*

www.sportscapital.gov.ie/en-US/

CEIST

https://www.ceist.ie/

Main Consultant Professional Associations

Society of Chartered Surveyors Ireland https://scsi.ie/

Civil/Structural Engineers Ireland (IEI) https://www.engineersireland.ie

& Association of Consulting Engineers of Ireland (ACEI) https://www.acei.ie/

Building Services Engineers Espinet Ireland (IEI) https://www.engineersireland.ie

& Association of Consulting Engineers of Ireland (ACEI) https://www.acei.ie/

Royal Institute of Architects of Ireland https://www.riai.ie/

THANK YOU

Rogi Rusch - CEIST

RRusch@ceist.ie