



SPÓRT ÉIREANN
SPORT IRELAND

2027 Children's Sport Participation and Physical Activity (CSPPA) Study Research Grant Guidelines

Application Deadline: Wednesday, 12th August 12 Noon

Applicants must use the grant application template for their submission.

Application forms must be submitted to evaluation@sportireland.ie via email before the deadline.

1 Introduction

The Children's Sport Participation and Physical Activity (CSPPA) 2027 Study Research Grant is funded by Sport Ireland, Sport Northern Ireland and the Department of Health with support from the Department of Education and Youth (DEY).

The CSPPA study is complex body of research which covers two jurisdictions in the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland and requires a scientific knowledge and expertise to deliver, especially with regards self-reported physical activity levels in children, device based physical activity analysis and anthropomorphic measurements. The CSPPA study findings are used and benefit a variety of stakeholders including Sport Ireland, Sport Northern Ireland, the Department of Culture, Communications and Sport, the Department of Health, the Department of Education and Youth, the Department of Transport as well as National Governing Bodies of Sport and Local Sports Partnerships.

Sport Ireland is seeking to support an experienced research team to undertake the 2027 CSPPA Study through a competitive research grant process. Applicants are expected to demonstrate scientific excellence, methodological rigour and the capacity to deliver a high-quality nationally representative study. While the grant guidelines specify core requirements necessary to maintain continuity with previous CSPPA waves, applicants are encouraged to apply their expertise and propose enhancements that strengthen the scientific quality and policy value of the study.

Sport Ireland is inviting eligible research organisations and academic institutions to apply for funding to undertake the 2027 CSPPA Study. Applicants must complete and submit the official CSPPA 2027 Grant Application Template.

1.1 Sport Ireland

Supported by the Department of Culture, Communications and Sport, Sport Ireland was established in 2015 as the statutory agency for the promotion and development of sport in Ireland. Increasing participation in sport and physical activity and facilitating research into sport are two of its statutory functions.

1.2 Healthy Ireland

Healthy Ireland is an initiative led by the Department of Health and takes a whole of society approach to improving wellbeing in Ireland. This includes physical activity and other lifestyle factors which can make healthy choices easier for people in Ireland.

1.3 Department of Education and Youth

The mission of DEY is to help children and young people, through learning, to achieve their full potential and contribute to Ireland's social, economic and cultural development. DEY are committed to the principles of continuous improvement, innovation and evaluation which will underpin evidence-based policy development and programme delivery.

2 Background

The National Sports Policy (NSP) 2018 - 2027¹ sets out the public policy framework for the development of sport in Ireland. Its high-level aims include increasing the proportion of adults playing sport from 43% in 2017 to 50% by 2027, and increasing children's active participation in sport and physical activity. The

¹ [National Sports Policy 2018 – 2027](#)

National Physical Activity Framework 2024-2040 (NPAF)² (part of Healthy Ireland) is seeking to increase broader physical activity levels across the population.

Both the NSP and NPAF acknowledge that addressing the socioeconomic, age, disability and gender gradients that exist around participation in sport and physical activity must be central to any efforts to achieve the intended policy outcomes. They also recognise that there are no simple answers, that the factors affecting participation / non-participation vary within and between groups, and that they change over the life course.

As part of its ongoing approach to strategic planning, Sport Ireland³ has committed to increasing participation in sport and physical activity among children, and to monitor participation in this regard. The purpose of the current research is to carry out a follow-up to the 2010⁴, 2018⁵ and 2022⁶ CSPPA studies to help assess the changes in participation in children's community sport, school sport, PE and active travel as well as changes in overall physical activity and sedentarism. The previous studies can be found on the Sport Ireland website here [National Children | Sport Ireland](#). The study will also explore factors influencing participation in sport and physical activity by children.

In addition to informing policy and programme development, the CSPPA study contributes to the national and international evidence base relating to children's participation in sport and physical activity. Applicants are encouraged to identify opportunities for peer-reviewed publications, conference dissemination and broader research impact.

3 Research Objectives

The primary objective of the project is to measure children's participation levels in sport and physical activity at population levels on the island of Ireland in 2027.

The study is a direct follow up to the CSPPA 2010, 2018 and 2022 studies and applicants must demonstrate how their research proposal will produce compatible and comparable methods and findings.

A core requirement of this study is the ability to monitor trends in children's sports participation and physical activity over time. While comparability with previous CSPPA studies is a core requirement, Sport Ireland welcomes evidence-based methodological improvements where applicants can demonstrate that trend analysis and continuity with previous waves will be maintained.

The proposal must include research ethics approval and factor the requirement and timeline into their submission. All research must comply with recognised national and international ethical standards, including but not limited to the Declaration of Helsinki principles, ESRC Framework for Research Ethics (or equivalent), GDPR (EU 2016/679) and Data Protection Act 2018, and Children First Act 2015 and Tusla Child Safeguarding Guidance. Applicants must also:

- Obtain ethical approval from a recognised research ethics committee prior to fieldwork;
- Applicants should specify the consent model proposed and provide ethical justification;
- Ensure anonymisation/pseudonymisation of all personal data;
- Clearly define data retention, access controls, and destruction protocols; and
- Complete a Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA) prior to data collection.

² [National Physical Activity Framework 2024-2040](#)

³ [Sport Ireland Statement of Strategy 2023-2027](#)

⁴ [The Children's Sport Participation and Physical Activity \(CSPPA\) Study 2010](#)

⁵ [The Children's Sport Participation and Physical Activity Study 2018](#)

⁶ [Children's Sport Participation and Physical Activity Study 2022](#)

The fieldwork must be completed between March and May 2027.

The successful applicant will be expected to set up and coordinate a CSPPA research steering group with representation from researchers, Sport Ireland and supporting stakeholders including Department of Health, Sport Northern Ireland and Department of Education. The successful applicant will collaborate with the CSPPA Steering Group in refining and implementing the study design and questionnaire.

All 2027 CSPPA report outputs must be designed to support policy decision-making, monitoring of national targets, and public communication. Outputs should include publication-ready tables, harmonised datasets, and summary indicators aligned with national sports policy and national physical activity framework targets.

The 2027 CSPPA Study comprises three Work Packages, with funding for Work Packages 2 and 3 subject to confirmation from Sport Northern Ireland and the Department of Health respectively. Applicants must submit a proposal covering all three Work Packages. Depending on the availability of funding and the proposed costs, Sport Ireland reserves the right to award funding for Work Package 1 only, a combination of Work Packages, or all three Work Packages. Any Work Packages awarded will be awarded to a single successful applicant.

All responses relating to Work Packages 1, 2 and 3 must be completed in the corresponding sections of the CSPPA 2027 Grant Application Template.

The total estimated maximum grant value for Work Packages 1, 2 and 3 is **€458,000** (inclusive of all taxes, including VAT where applicable).

4 Work Package 1 – 2027 CSPPA Study in Republic of Ireland

Work Package 1 refers to the Republic of Ireland (ROI) CSPPA Study only. Work Package 1 includes the development, administration, analysis and reporting of the 2027 CSPPA survey in ROI for an estimated value **€300,000** (inclusive of all taxes, including VAT where applicable)

4.1 Pupil Survey

The study includes the development of a primary and post-primary pupil survey focusing on measuring moderate to vigorous physical activity (MVPA) and muscle strengthening as they relate to meeting the national physical activity guidelines for children as well as exploring participation levels in the four pillars of children's sport and physical activity, namely: PE, extracurricular sport played in schools, sport played outside of school in clubs, communities or other organised contexts and active travel (walking or cycling to and from school). The survey should also include questions on sport volunteering, sports club membership and sport spectating.

Applicants must demonstrate how findings will be comparable with the data from the previous CSPPA studies. Comparability to other national and international research on children's participation in sport and physical activity is also valued. Applicants should demonstrate how they will prioritise the use of up to date and internationally validated measures of children's physical activity and sports participation where available.

The study questionnaire should include validated and cross study comparable demographic measures on age, year group, student gender, school gender, socioeconomic status, school DEIS status, disability, ethnicity, nationality and location (City, Town, Village, Isolated Location).

Grant applicants should demonstrate how they would collect questions which can be used to analyse factors that affect children's participation. Such factors can range from those which are within the child's immediate sphere of influence or control such as access to screen time, engagement in other discretionary

extracurricular activities, family and peer influences, interests and time as well as broader environmental factors such as access to facilities, school policies and community-based opportunities. The study should include questions that facilitate deeper analysis of the issues that impact children's participation levels highlighted in existing literature and previously commissioned research by Sport Ireland.^{4,5}

The study should both monitor trends in non-participation over time as well as exploring contributory factors influencing drop-out, disengagement and sedentary behaviours. There is a need to understand why children and young people drop out of sport or have never participated and identify types and categories of non-participation. This needs to be understood in terms of experiences, orientations, beliefs, abilities, and preferences of the young people found in those categories.

The survey must be suitable for children with additional needs and translated to Irish and delivered in Gaelscoileanna. Applicants should outline intended survey administration plans to maximise response rates and indicate the target school response rates.

4.2 Teacher/Administrator Survey

The successful applicant will also be required to survey one teacher or administrator from each selected school within the same time frames as the pupil survey. The survey will focus on sport and PE facilities, inter school competitions and barriers and facilitators of sport and physical activity participation rates. Applicants should describe their proposed approach to co-produce the survey in conjunction with the project steering group. Applicants should outline intended survey administration plans to maximise response rates and indicate the target school response rates.

4.3 Sampling Methodologies and Fieldwork

Applicants must demonstrate a suitable random sampling methodology and survey administration protocol for primary and post-primary schools which will:

- Collect 2027 CSPPA survey responses from a large national representative sample of at least 1,000-1,500 primary school children who are in 5th and 6th class and at least 5,000-6,000 post-primary school children who are in 1st to 6th year inclusive;
- Provide national representativeness across key strata, such as region, school type, gender mix, DEIS status, urban/rural classification;
- Provide adequate statistical power for subgroup analysis, such as gender, SES, disability, ethnicity;
- Provide appropriate weighting procedures to account for sampling design and non-response;
- Produce transparent documentation of sampling frames and response bias mitigation strategies;
- Propose researcher administered surveys or a teacher preparation module for researchers to train teachers to deliver the CSPPA Study questionnaires, however evidence of successful implementation of this kind of approach must be provided with the application.

The cluster sampling methodology used in the CSPPA 2022 report⁷ provides a strong reference point. Recommendations from a recent national physical activity surveillance publication⁸ should be considered, such as implementation of new random sampling protocol at each wave of the study.

The primary sampling requirement is a statistically robust and nationally representative sample. Target sample sizes are indicative minimums and applicants should justify any proposed deviations.

Should the applicant provide reasonable evidence for why the methodology should be changed, alternative sampling methods may be considered. It is up to the applicant to provide a rationale for the

⁷ [Children's Sport Participation and Physical Activity Study 2022](#)

⁸ [Surveillance of the physical activity and sedentary behaviour guidelines in the Republic of Ireland: status and recommendations for the future](#)

methodology that will be applied and to outline and explain the issues that may arise and how they will be dealt with as part of their application.

The Work Package 1 Republic of Ireland fieldwork must be completed between March and May 2027.

4.4 Data Collection, Harmonisation, Analysis

Applicants are required to administer 2027 CSPPA surveys to student sample and collect the survey data in a central database. The CSPPA research team must provide regular updates to the CSPPA steering group with regards data collection targets during the three fieldwork months. The application should describe contingency protocols to extend the sampling frame without compromising the representativeness and randomness of the sample should the fieldwork be falling short of the data collection targets.

The 2027 CSPPA database **must** use the same codebook as the [2022 CSPPA data dictionary](#) for similar measures being collected. The CSPPA dataset will be co-owned by Sport Ireland and the successful applicant. Sport Ireland and the successful applicant will be Joint Data Controllers. The successful applicant may also engage Data Processors where necessary. Arrangements will be governed through a Joint Data Controller Agreement and associated data processing agreements. The application should clearly describe what ethics and data processing agreements will be required to ensure GDPR compliance.

Upon completion of data collection, cleaning and testing, the metadata (compliant with DDI standards) must be shared as early as possible with Sport Ireland for ingestion to the Sport Ireland Datalake. The Research team must provide cleaned datasets in .csv and .sav formats, along with fully annotated code, such as SPSS, R, Python, SQL, etc. as used for data cleaning, weighting, analysis and generation of tables or figures.

The research team must produce initial data analysis outputs in tabular form for each sport and physical activity domain broken down by demographic groups to be shared with the 2027 CSPPA study steering group as soon as is possible to assist in understanding the study findings and inform the development of the 2027 CSPPA report. All outputs must be fully reproducible.

4.5 2027 CSPPA Report

The 2027 CSPPA report should be in a similar format to the 2022 CSPPA study report. The report should include an executive summary and chapters on overall physical activity, overall sports participation, community sports participation, extracurricular school sport participation, PE, active travel and contemporary sporting issues. Each chapter should present statistical tables similar to previous reports and discuss differences in sports participation rates by student and school demographic characteristics.

The research team should also produce the tables required for a summary report similar in style to the 2022 summary report.

Sport Ireland will commission the graphic design of these two reports separately to this research grant.

Sport Ireland's datalake can provide school level reports to each participating school if the research team is not in a position to do this.

5 Work Package 2 - 2027 CSPPA Study Extension to Northern Ireland

Work Package 2 is for the extension of the 2027 CSPPA study to Northern Ireland, aligned methodologically to ROI. This extension may require some minor changes to the wording of the CSPPA survey instrument, for example the naming of class, year and DEIS status. The estimated value of Work Package 2 is **€58,000** (inclusive of all taxes, including VAT where applicable)

5.1 Northern Ireland Sampling Methodologies and Fieldwork

The Work Package 2 Northern Ireland fieldwork must also be completed between March and May 2027 for comparability to Republic of Ireland findings.

The Northern Ireland methodology should adopt the Republic of Ireland methods and sampling strategy. Applicants should propose a sampling methodology and survey administration protocol for Northern Ireland which can collect 2027 CSPPA survey responses from a large representative sample of 600-700 primary school children who are in Primary 6 and Primary 7 and 1,800-2,200 post-primary school children who are in Year 8 to Year 14 inclusive.

5.2 Northern Ireland Data Collection, Harmonisation, Analysis and Report Writing

The data collection, harmonisation and analysis will be integrated with the Republic of Ireland databases and analytical methodologies.

The Northern Ireland findings will be included in the 2027 CSPPA report by the addition of a dedicated chapter on Northern Ireland, similar to the 2022 CSPPA report. This Northern Ireland Chapter should include sections on overall physical activity, overall sports participation, community sports participation, extracurricular school sport participation, PE, active travel and contemporary sporting issues. Each section should present statistical tables similar to previous reports and discuss differences in sports participation rates by student and school demographic characteristics.

The inclusion of Northern Ireland will also require the executive summary and concluding chapters to include comparative tables between Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland results with accompanying commentary.

Applicants must demonstrate how cross-jurisdictional comparability will be ensured, including the harmonisation of variables between education systems, alignment of socioeconomic indicators, calibration of sampling weights, and consistency in survey administration protocols.

The research team should also produce a distinct set of tables required for a summary report similar in style to the 2022 summary report for Northern Ireland.

Sport Ireland will commission the graphic design of the main report and Sport Northern Ireland will cover the graphic design costs of the summary report for Northern Ireland.

6 Work Package 3 - Subsample Data Collection of Health, Fitness and Anthropometric Data in Republic of Ireland

Work Package 3 is for the device-based measurement (e.g. accelerometry, or equivalent), anthropometric and physical fitness data collection in a subsample within the Republic of Ireland and/or Northern Ireland. The estimated value of Work Package 3 is **€100,000** (inclusive of all taxes, including VAT where applicable)

Sport Ireland will accept proposals for ROI only or both jurisdictions. Utilising the same schools and pupils in the Republic of Ireland and/or Northern Ireland who are participating in Work Packages 1 and/or 2, a randomised subsample of 1,000-1,500 post-primary school students will be assessed to measure their MVPA using accelerometers or other suitable devices and to understand their health and fitness levels.

The Work Package 3 objectives are to:

- Validate self-reported MVPA and muscle strengthening measures;

- Provide device-based measurements of physical activity;
- Obtain anthropometric and physical test measures as indicators of health and physical fitness; and
- Enable deeper analytical insights into physical activity behavioural patterns.

6.1 Device based measurement of physical activity

Applicants should describe their proposed sub-sampling methodology to select the students to be tested to ensure representativeness of the sample. Applicants should explain how they propose to link the device-based measurements and the survey responses, and how they will track measurement device compliance and attrition rate per participant.

Applicants are invited to propose scientifically justified approaches to device-based measurement of physical activity and health-related outcomes. Sport Ireland is open to a range of technologies and methodologies where appropriately justified. Applications should submit a rationale to justify the proposed approach taken, citing relevant scientific literature where necessary.

Applicants should also consider whether they will propose the use of activity diaries during the monitoring period, to collect contextual data to support interpretation of objective data obtained from the physical activity measurement devices.

6.2 Anthropometric Indicators and Measurements of Health & Fitness

Applicants should indicate what, if any, anthropometric indicators and physical fitness tests they propose to use to measure health and fitness amongst children. The CSPPA 2022 Study reported that 10% of children were overweight and 7% were obese, putting them at a higher risk of developing diabetes, heart disease and certain types of cancer. These figures were lower than those reported in the CSPPA 2018 Study. The CSPPA 2018 Study measured children's body mass index (BMI), aerobic fitness and waist circumference to assess the physical health of children in the study however there is scope to change how children's health and fitness is measured. Focus for this area could include physical literacy and fundamental movement skills as opposed to physical fitness tests for example.

For corresponding anthropometric and health-related measures, applicants must clearly specify the proposed measures which will be collected, such as BMI, waist circumference, aerobic fitness, strength, FMS, and/or physical literacy. Where relevant, justification should be provided for the inclusion (or exclusion) of selected measures. Data collection protocols should be provided, referencing alignment with international standards where possible.

For all proposed objective data as part of Work Package 3, it must be linkable to survey responses, and be delivered in a structured format compatible with the CSPPA dataset. Full metadata and documentation should also be provided, delivered in a manner that is fully compliant with data protection and privacy guidelines.

Applicants must clearly state how the proposed additional Work Package 3 objective measures will be integrated into the final CSPPA report, indicating the primary and secondary measurements that will be reported, and how this relates to informing and measuring national sports policy targets.

Applicants should also describe the roll-out management and administration of the proposed measures in schools and with participating pupils.

7 Indicative Research Timelines and Milestones

Project Milestones	Dates
1. It is anticipated that approximately 8-10 virtual meetings with the CSPPA 2027 Study steering group will be held over the course of the project.	As required
2. Agreement on study objectives, questionnaire, sampling frames and research ethics.	Q3 2026
3. Review of study design, sampling, methodology and ethics approval.	Q4 2026
4. Fieldwork and data collection	March-May 2027
5. Data analysis	Q2/Q3 2027
6. Report of findings including executive summary and technical report for the steering group to review before finalising the report.	Q3 2027
7. Draft and final reports for review by steering group.	Q4 2027
8. Project lead available for project findings report launch event and related press or media inquiries.	Q4 2027/Q1 2028
9. Lodgement of the anonymised CSPPA 2027 data file with ISSDA/Other	Q4 2027/Q1 2028

8 Conditions of study delivery

8.1 Communication and Collaboration

Sport Ireland requires a flexible and responsive line of communication with the grantee to ensure successful delivery of the project. The grant recipient will maintain regular communication with Sport Ireland and respond to requests in a timely manner sufficient to support effective project delivery.

8.2 Other key conditions include (non-exhaustive):

- Compliance with GDPR and the Data Protection Act 2018; completion of a DPIA prior to data collection;
- Compliance with the Children First Act 2015 and Tusla National Guidance; Garda vetting for all personnel with direct student contact;
- Official Languages (Amendment) Act 2021: bilingual public-facing outputs and response-in-language for public communications;
- Insurance: Professional Indemnity €1.5m; Public Liability €6.5m; Employer's Liability €13m (or provide justification for alternatives);
- Ownership: Sport Ireland will co-own the data and outputs; Research team retains background IP; open data deposit to ISSDA and or other open data platform;
- Force majeure/public-health contingency plan for data collection;
- Adherence to the agreed DDI-compliant data dictionary used in CSPPA 2022 Study with all variable/value labels, definitions, weightings and statements. Reproducible analysis code (SPSS, SQL, R and/or Python) used to generate all tables and figures must be provided.

8.3 Project & Account Management

Applicants are required to nominate a Principal Investigator for the duration of the research project who will act as a primary point of contact. Their duties will include:

- Overall responsibility for a good working relationship with Sport Ireland;
- Be familiar, at a high level, with the scope and volume of Sport Ireland's general workload and be aware of any key matters;
- Putting in place and implementing appropriate reporting mechanisms and quality assurance procedures that meet the requirements of Sport Ireland;
- Meet as required with a steering group to review the project and research progress;
- Deal with disputes, complaints, or concerns which may arise;
- Regularly give and receive both formal and informal feedback on the relationship, workloads, progress, suggestions for improvement and cost savings;
- Provide such written reports in relation to the project milestones from time to time required by Sport Ireland;
- Sport Ireland and the successful applicant will act as Joint Data Controllers unless otherwise agreed; the successful applicant will act as Joint Data Controller and may also engage Data Processors where necessary. A Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA) must be completed prior to data collection. Data must be encrypted in transit and at rest, with role-based access control, secure transfer and defined retention/deletion schedules in line with GDPR and the Data Protection Act 2018; and
- Proactively discuss with Sport Ireland innovative ways of improving the way your organisation works with Sport Ireland.

Applicants should ensure that all project management, coordination, and administrative costs are appropriately reflected within the proposed budget. No additional funding will be made available by Sport Ireland for ongoing project liaison or grant administration activities.

8.4 Grant Timelines and Payments

Sport Ireland reserves the right to award funding for Work Package 1 only, any combination of Work Packages 1–3, or all three Work Packages. Applicants must nevertheless submit a proposal covering all three Work Packages to be eligible for consideration.

The grant agreement will last from September 2026 to December 2027. The grant agreement may be extended by three six-month extensions if delays are encountered.

The grant will be provided in five milestone-based instalments for each Work Package awarded, with anticipated dates/timeline provided below:

- 25% on award of grant – August/September 2026
- 25% on approval of instruments and sampling plan – Nov/December 2026;
- 30% on commencement of fieldwork – February/March 2027
- 10% on acceptance of first draft report – September/October 2027
- 10% on delivery of final draft of 2027 CSPPA report and submission of cleaned and harmonised datasets – December 2027

Freedom of Information: information supplied may be disclosed under the FOI Act 2014, subject to applicable exemptions; Applicants should identify any sensitive sections with justification.

9 Requirements of the Grant Application

9.1 Important Application Requirements:

Applicants must use the CSPPA 2027 Grant Application Template provided by Sport Ireland. Applications submitted in alternative formats or with substantial omissions from the template may be deemed non-compliant and excluded from further evaluation.

Applicants must submit proposals for Work Packages 1, 2 and 3. Applications covering only one or two Work Packages will not be considered. Sport Ireland reserves the right to award funding for some or all Work Packages depending on funding availability and overall value for money.

CV's, methodologies and project management protocols that are shared across Work Packages can be written just once but must be referenced in each Work Package, similar to the approach taken in the research grant guidelines.

Applicants should declare any actual/potential conflicts of interest and proposed mitigations.

Applicants must provide:

9.2 Research proposal to include:

- An outline of the contemporary research and policy context in which the 2027 CSPPA Work Packages are being delivered.
- The overall approach to delivering the study;
- Specific methods and approaches to addressing the research objectives, including development of measures, sampling strategies, field work and study administration, data analysis, report writing and research ethics;
- An indication of the key tasks with clearly identified deliverables, milestones and timelines;
- Contingency plans should sample sizes fall short;
- Detail plan to obtain required Garda vetting and safeguarding certification prior to fieldwork, in accordance with the Children's First Act (2015) and Tusla National Guidelines;

9.3 Research Team and Research Management to include:

- Composition of the research project team and their relevant expertise;
- CV's and respective roles of the team members;
- Examples of three previous similar or relevant projects undertaken by the research team;
- The estimated amount of time (expressed in days, based on an eight-hour day) that each team member will spend on the assignment; and
- The reporting and project management arrangements between the research team, Sport Ireland and the project steering group;
- Deliverables and Project timelines;
- Risks and mitigations;
- Please note that references may be requested by Sport Ireland.

9.4 A cost proposal to include:

- The total grant funding requested, in Euro (€), inclusive of all taxes, including VAT where applicable.

- A detailed project budget showing how the requested funding will be allocated across project activities, budget categories, and personnel costs.
 - A breakdown of personnel costs, including the role, time commitment, and associated costs for each project team member.
 - Details of any project-related costs, including travel, equipment, materials, dissemination activities, and other eligible expenditure.
- A clear explanation of the assumptions and methodology used to prepare the budget.

10 Grant Scoring Criteria

Work Package 1 refers to the Republic of Ireland CSPPA Study only with a maximum budget of **€300,000** (inclusive of all taxes, including VAT where applicable)

Work Package 2 is for the extension of the 2027 CSPPA study to Northern Ireland with a maximum budget of **€58,000** (inclusive of all taxes, including VAT where applicable).

Work Package 3 is for the device-based measurement (e.g. accelerometry, or equivalent), anthropometric and physical fitness data collection in a subsample within the Republic of Ireland and/or Northern Ireland with a maximum budget of **€100,000** (inclusive of all taxes, including VAT where applicable).

Maximum Total Grant Award: €458,000 (inclusive of all taxes, including VAT where applicable)

Only applications that address all three work packages and satisfy the mandatory requirements of these guidelines will proceed to scoring. Sport Ireland reserves the right to award funding for Work Package 1 only, any combination of Work Packages 1–3, or all three work packages.

Only applications submitted using the CSPPA 2027 Grant Application Template and addressing all mandatory requirements will proceed to compliance review and scoring.

Each grant application will be reviewed by grant review committee appointed by Sport Ireland. The award criteria below will be applied to each application found to be fully in compliance with the formal requirements of the grant guidelines and confirmed as being valid and responsive.

The successful grant applicant will be identified using the following award criteria:

Award criteria		Weightings	Max. Score Available	Min. Score Required
A	Scientific and Methodological Merit Applicants are required to provide detailed information regarding the proposed research methods to achieve the project requirements listed in the grant guidelines including.			
	• Specific methods and approaches to achieving the research objectives, including development of measures, sampling strategies, field work and study administration, data analysis, report writing and research ethics; • An indication of the key tasks with clearly identified deliverables, milestones and timelines; • Contingency plans should sample sizes fall short;	40%	400	300

B	Detail plan to obtain required Garda vetting and safeguarding certification prior to fieldwork, in accordance with the Children's First Act (2015) and Tusla National Guidelines;			
	Research Team & Track Record Applicants are required to demonstrate the expertise and skills of the assigned researchers and their experience in delivering research projects of a similar scope and scale, including: - Composition of the research project team and their relevant expertise; - Short CV's and respective roles of the team members; - Examples of three previous similar or relevant projects undertaken by the research team; - The estimated amount of time (expressed in days, based on an eight-hour day) that each team member will spend on the assignment; and - The reporting and project management arrangements between the research team, Sport Ireland and the project steering group;	30%	300	200
	Value for Money Applicants are required to outline their Budget proposals for each Work Package separately including a detailed breakdown of personnel costs and project activity costs.	30%	300	200
C	TOTAL	100%	1000	700

Sport Ireland reserves the right to hold clarification meetings with one or more grant applicants. It is anticipated that such clarification meetings, if required, are likely to take place in August or September 2026 either virtually or at Sport Ireland's offices in Blanchardstown (Dublin 15). Applicants are required to ensure that their key personnel are available to attend.

Budget proposals will be assessed on reasonableness, appropriateness of resource allocation, justification of costs and overall value for money. Reviewers will assess whether the funding requested represents good value in relation to the proposed methodology, staffing and expected outputs.

11 Grant Application Deadline and Submission

Applicants must use the grant application template for their submission.

Grant Application deadline is at **12 noon on 12th August 2026**. Late applications will not be accepted.

The completed application template must be submitted to evaluation@sportireland.ie via email before the deadline.

Clarifications and queries: All clarifications must be directed to evaluation@sportireland.ie