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Australian Government
Australian Sports Commission



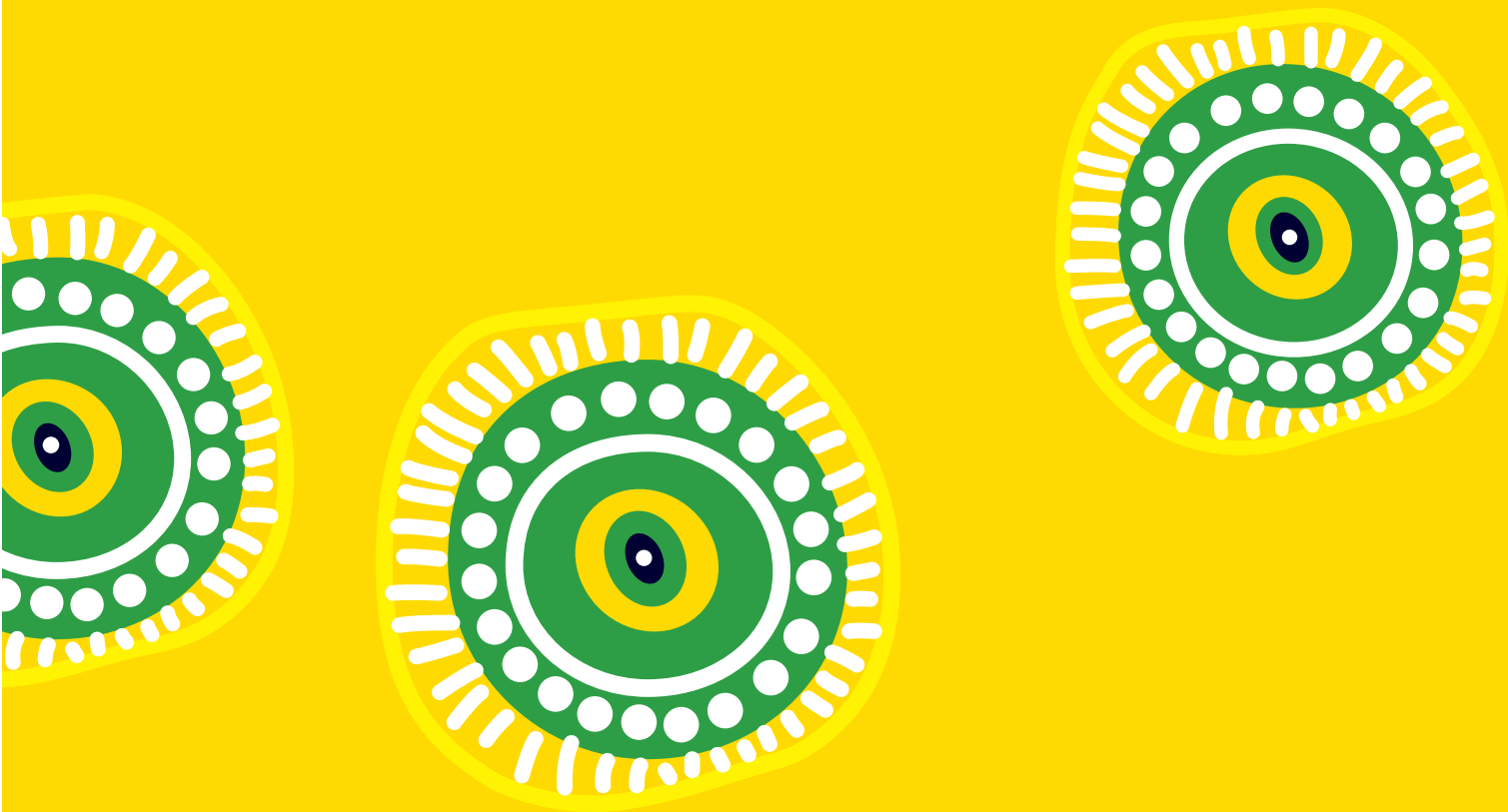
Local Sporting Champions 2026/27 Program

Enquiries:

If you have any questions, contact sportingchampions@ausport.gov.au

Grant opportunity type:

Open competitive



Australian Sports Commission Acknowledgement of Country

The Australian Sports Commission (ASC) acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the lands where its offices are located, the Ngunnawal people and recognise any other people or families with connection to the lands of the ACT and region, the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung people of the Kulin Nation, the people of the Yugambeh Nation and the Gadigal people of the Eora Nation.

The ASC extends this acknowledgment to all the Traditional Custodians of the lands and First Nations Peoples throughout Australia and would like to pay its respects to all Elders past, present and future.

The ASC recognises the outstanding contribution that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples make to society and sport in Australia and celebrates the power of sport to promote reconciliation and reduce inequality.



Contents

1. Program description	4
1.1 Introduction	5
2. Application process	6
3. Grant amount and grant period.....	7
3.1 Grants available.....	7
4. Eligibility criteria	7
4.1 Who is eligible to apply for a grant?	7
4.2 What competitions are eligible?	8
4.3 What competitions are not eligible?	8
5. What the grant money can be used for	9
5.1 Eligible expenditure	9
5.2 What the grant money cannot be used for	9
6. The assessment criteria.....	10
7. How to apply	10
7.1 When can I apply?	11
8. Grant approval.....	12
8.1 Who will approve grants?	12
9. Notification of application outcomes.....	12
10. Successful grant applications.....	12
10.1 How we pay the grant.....	12
11. Announcement of grants	12
12. How we monitor your grant activity.....	13
13. Probity	13
13.1 Enquiries and feedback	13
13.2 How the ASC will use your information	13
13.3 Treatment of confidential information	14
13.4 When we may disclose confidential information	14
13.5 Conflict of interest.....	14
13.6 Privacy	14
13.7 Freedom of information	15



1. Program description

Local Sporting Champions (LSC) is an Australian Government initiative designed to provide financial assistance for coaches, officials and competitors who meet any of the below age guidelines.

- Participants turning 13-18 attending state championships
- Participants turning 14-18 attending state or national championships
- Participants turning 15-18 attending state, national, or international championships

The LSC program commenced in November 2008 and has supported over 125,000 junior sportspeople to achieve their sporting goals.

The Australian Government recognises that junior sportspeople, and their families, find it difficult to meet ongoing costs associated with participating in state, national and international sporting championships. The LSC program aims to support these junior sportspeople to participate at various sporting championships, which they may not be able to without this financial assistance.

The LSC program is administered over four rounds per allocation year (July 1 2026 - April 30 2027), with applications assessed at the close of each round. The timeframes for assessing and outcome notification are determined by the round an application is submitted.

Opening and closing dates and times:

Round 1, 2026-27 Applications:

Open: 12am AEST on Wednesday 1 July 2026

Close: 11.59pm AEST on Monday 31 August 2026

Round 2, 2026-27 Applications:

Open: 12am AEST on Tuesday 1 September 2026

Close: 11.59pm AEDT on Saturday 31 October 2026

Round 3, 2026-27 Applications:

Open: 12am AEDT on Sunday 1 November 2026

Close: 11.59pm AEDT on Sunday 31 January 2027

Round 4, 2026-27 Applications:

Open: 12am AEDT on Monday 1 February 2027

Close: 11.59pm AEST on Friday 30 April 2027

The objectives of the LSC program are to:

- Provide financial support to junior sportspeople to assist with the costs associated with competing at elite or sub-elite level competition.
- Provide financial support through this program to families so that financial considerations are not a barrier for junior sportspeople to continue participating in sport.



1.1 Introduction

These guidelines contain information for the 2026/27 LSC grants. Applicants should thoroughly read these guidelines before filling out an application.

This document sets out:

- the purpose of the LSC program
- the eligibility and assessment criteria
- how grant applications are considered and selected for funding
- how grantees are notified and receive grant payments
- how grantees will be monitored and evaluated
- responsibilities and expectations in relation to the LSC Program.

This grant program and process will be administered by the ASC's Sport Programs and Grants teams.



2. Application process



The grant program opens 1 July 2026 (Round 1), 1 September 2026 (Round 2), 1 November 2026 (Round 3), 1 February 2027 (Round 4).

The grant guidelines will be published on the [ASC's Grants and Funding website](#).



Check eligibility

To be considered for a grant, it is important applicants check the eligibility criteria before submitting an application – refer to section 4.1



Grants close on 31 August 2026 (Round 1), 31 October 2026 (Round 2), 31 January 2027 (Round 3), 30 April 2027 (Round 4).

Complete the application form and address all eligibility and assessment criteria to be considered for a grant.



Eligibility check

We will assess applications against the eligibility criteria. Applications that do not meet the eligibility criteria will not progress to further assessment. You will be notified if ineligible.



Assessment

Grant applications will be assessed against the assessment criteria and shortlisted for approval.



Approval

The Director of Sport Programs will approve the recommended applications



Notification of outcome

Applicants will be notified via email of the outcome of their application.



Payments

Grant payments will be made to successful applicants.



Grant reporting

Applicants may be required to complete an audit, including providing evidence of expenditure e.g. tax invoices, receipts.



3. Grant amount and grant period

3.1 Grants available

In 2026/27, a total of \$7.1 Mill (GST excl.) will be available with \$750 (GST excl.) the maximum funding amount available per grant.

If successful, applicants will receive between \$500 and \$750 towards the cost of attending their nominated championships.

- Base Grant: **\$500**
- Applicants travelling 800km - 1999km to their nominated championships: **+ \$100**
- Applicants travelling internationally or greater than 2,000km to their nominated championships: **+ \$200**
- Applicants residing in a rural electorate: **+ \$50**

Key dates for the application process are as follows:

Activity	Key Dates
Application open and closing times and dates	Round 1, 2026-27 Applications: Open: 12am AEST on Wednesday 1 July 2026 Close: 11.59pm AEST on Monday 31 August 2026 Round 2, 2026-27 Applications: Open: 12am AEST on Tuesday 1 September 2026 Close: 11.59pm AEDT on Saturday 31 October 2026 Round 3, 2026-27 Applications: Open: 12am AEDT on Sunday 1 November 2026 Close: 11.59pm AEDT on Sunday 31 January 2027 Round 4, 2026-27 Applications: Open: 12am AEDT on Monday 1 February 2027 Close: 11.59pm AEST on Friday 30 April 2027
Notification of outcome	Applicants will be notified of the outcome of their application within six weeks after round closing date.

4. Eligibility criteria

4.1 Who is eligible to apply for a grant?

Applicants must meet the following criteria:

- Be an Australian citizen or have been granted permanent resident status, residing in Australia.
- Be turning 13 to 18 years old in the same calendar year of competition and participating as an athlete, coach, or match official in an official state championship endorsed by the relevant Australian Sports Commission (ASC) recognised* national sporting organisation (NSO), national sporting organisation for people with disability (NSOD) or a School Sport Australia member body.



- Be turning 14 to 18 years old in the same calendar year of competition and participating as an athlete, coach, or match official in an official national championship endorsed by the relevant ASC recognised* NSO, NSOD or School Sport Australia.
- Be turning 15 to 18 years old in the same calendar year of competition and participating as an athlete, coach, or match official in an international competition as a member of an official Australian team, representing an ASC recognised* NSO, NSOD or School Sport Australia.
- Those attending a state championship must be living more than 500km from the championships venue and travelling greater than 1000km return to participate in the nominated championships**.
- Have not already received a grant from an application submitted in the same allocation year (1 July 2026 – 30 April 2027).
- Must incur out-of-pocket expenses for the nominated championship equal to, or greater than, the grant amount they are eligible to receive.
- Must not receive a Local Para Champions grant to attend the same championship or competition.
- Applications must be submitted within timeframes indicated in the 'When can I apply?' section of this document.

Note:

*If the recognised NSO or NSOD that endorses your championship becomes subject to non-compliance measures by the ASC, including a change of recognition status, at any point within a round, applicants participating in that sport may be deemed ineligible for the duration of the round/s. Applicants will remain ineligible for the duration of the non-compliance period and will only become eligible at the commencement of the next round (following the resolution of the non-compliance).

A list of recognised NSO and NSODs can be found on the [Australian Sports Directory](#).

** Those attending a national championships or international competition do not need to be travelling a minimum distance to be eligible.

4.2 What competitions are eligible?

The following championships are eligible as per the eligibility criteria:

- An official state championship endorsed by the relevant ASC recognised NSO, NSOD or a School Sport Australia member body.
 - *e.g. Under 14 Netball NSW State Championships.*
 - *e.g. QLD School Sport U19 Boys Cricket State Championships.*
- An official national championship endorsed by the relevant ASC recognised NSO, NSOD or School Sport Australia.
 - *e.g. U15 National Tennis Championships.*
 - *e.g. School Sport Australia 17 & Under National Softball Championships.*
- An international competition as a member of a team, that is representing an ASC recognised NSO, NSOD or School Sport Australia.
 - *e.g. attending the AFF Under 16 Youth Championships in Cambodia as part of the Football Australia team.*
 - *e.g. travelling to Belgium on an international tour as part of the School Sport Australia hockey team.*

4.3 What competitions are not eligible?

Applicants for participation in the following are ineligible:

- Any competition/division or individual event that is outside the specified age criteria.
- A club or state team attending an international competition or travelling overseas.
- Championships delivered by an NSO/NSOD, School Sport Australia or one of their affiliated bodies that are not recognised as the official State Championships or National Championships.



- Development or training squads and camps.
- Ongoing seasonal competitions.
- Local and regional competitions.
- Competitions delivered by organisations not affiliated with an ASC recognised NSO, NSOD or School Sport Australia.

5. What the grant money can be used for

5.1 Eligible expenditure

If successful, the grant must be used on any associated cost for you to attend the nominated championships.

Examples of expenses which are eligible include, but are not limited to:

- competition registration/entry fees/levies
- transport costs (e.g. airfares, petrol)
- accommodation
- transport and accommodation costs for parents/guardians can be accepted where the parent/guardian must attend the championship
- uniform
- sporting equipment

5.2 What the grant money cannot be used for

Examples of expenses which are ineligible include, but are not limited to:

- costs to attend any selection trial for the approved championship
- costs to attend training for the approved championship
- costs not associated with attending the approved championship



6. The assessment criteria

All applications will initially be assessed by the ASC against the eligibility criteria.

If applications exceed the level of available funding, eligible applications will proceed to assessment by the ASC against the selection criteria as follows.

Eligible applications will be assessed and grants will be allocated on a local area basis to facilitate a geographic spread of funding based on the overall number of applications received and the number of grants available.

Applications within a local area will be ranked in order of priority for funding by applying each of the following criteria in order:

1. Level of competition – international events will be prioritised above national events and national events will be prioritised above state events.
2. Distance travelled – applicants required to travel a greater distance to their competition will be prioritised.

Special consideration may apply to applicants from the same local area, who are in the same team and who are attending the same competition, or those attending a competition travelling more than 3,000kms.

7. How to apply

To apply, you must submit an online [application form](#) and provide all requested information to ensure your application can be assessed.

If you are under 18 years of age you must obtain agreement from your parent or guardian to submit an application. You and/or your parent or guardian must read these Program Guidelines and the terms and conditions prior to submitting an application.

To complete an application, you will need:

- your personal/contact details
- details of the championships and event you are attending
- for international events - details of a contact (e.g. coach) from the recognised NSO/D or School Sport Australia to confirm your selection, and a letter of selection
- contact details of your parent(s)/guardian(s)
- personal bank account details for you or your parent(s)/guardian(s)

Applications are to be submitted:

- once you have been selected to attend the championships and your participation has been confirmed; and
- within the relevant round dependent on when the competition is being held.



Please ensure your application is complete and the information is accurate prior to submitting it. Giving false or misleading information is a serious offence under the *Criminal Code 1995* (Cth). The ASC will investigate information provided that is false or misleading and may not consider your application for a grant.

If you find an error in your application after submitting it, you should notify us immediately at sportingchampions@ausport.gov.au. **Please note the ASC may not accept any additional information, nor requests from you to correct your application after applications have closed.**

If you have any technical difficulties using the system, please contact the ASC immediately at sportingchampions@ausport.gov.au. **Please note, the ASC will not accept any late requests to assist with technical issues if the issue has not been reported to the ASC prior to the application closing time.**

If you require further guidance with the application process, are unable to submit an online application or wish to withdraw a submitted application, please contact the LSC team at sportingchampions@ausport.gov.au.

7.1 When can I apply?

Applications can be submitted at any time during a round for competitions that occur within the relevant timeframes below:

Round	Eligible competition dates (Eligible competitions must have at least one day of competition during this timeframe)
Round 1 (Applications open July-August 2026)	Eligible competitions held between 1 April 2026 and 30 November 2026
Round 2 (Applications open September-October 2026)	Eligible competitions held between 1 July 2026 and 28 February 2027
Round 3 (Applications open November 2026-January 2027)	Eligible competitions held between 1 October 2026 and 31 May 2027
Round 4 (Applications open February-April 2027)	Eligible competitions held between 1 January 2027 and 31 August 2027

7.2 Late Applications

Information regarding application open periods (when applications can be submitted) and eligible competition periods are available on the LSC webpage and in the guidelines. The ASC **will not accept** late applications.



8. Grant approval

8.1 Who will approve grants?

The 'Grant Approver' for the LSC program is the ASC's Director of Sport Programs. They will make the final decision as to the grant recipients and funding amounts, after considering the recommendations from the assessment process and the availability of grant funds for the purpose of the LSC program.

Please note that anticipated high demand and the limited total funding available for the LSC program may see unsuccessful applications through the grant approval process.

The grant approver's decision is final in all matters, including:

- the approval of the grant
- the grant funding amount to be awarded
- the terms and conditions of the grant.

There is no appeal mechanism for decisions to approve or not approve a grant.

9. Notification of application outcomes

If successful, you will be notified of the outcome by the ASC and potentially your local Federal Member of Parliament. The ASC will advise you of any special conditions attached to the grant including terms and conditions and timeframes for payment.

Notifications will commence approximately 6 weeks from the close of the application round.

If unsuccessful, you will be notified via email by the ASC.

10. Successful grant applications

10.1 How we pay the grant

Grants will be paid into the bank account supplied in the application

11. Announcement of grants

If successful, your name, state and grant amount will be listed on the ASC website no later than twenty-one calendar days after the date of payment.



12. How we monitor your grant activity

If successful, you may be asked to provide evidence of the use and expenditure of the approved grant through an audit process. Successful applicants will be contacted by the ASC if they have been selected for an audit and will be required to submit appropriate documentation including receipts for expenditure of the grant. The ASC may request evidence of expenditure up to two years after receiving the grant.

13. Probity

The Australian Government will make sure that the grant opportunity process is fair, is conducted according to the published grant opportunity guidelines, incorporates appropriate safeguards against fraud and corruption, unlawful activities and other inappropriate conduct and is consistent with the Commonwealth Grant Rules and Principles.

Applicants should be aware of their obligations under the National Anti-Corruption Commission Act 2022, noting that under the Act grantees will generally be considered 'contracted service providers' [see <https://www.nacc.gov.au/resource-centre/nacc-fact-sheets>].

13.1 Enquiries and feedback

The ASC welcomes your feedback and complaints. All complaints about a grant process must be provided in writing.

Any questions you have about grant decisions for this grant program should be submitted online to [Feedback and Complaints | Australian Sports Commission](#).

If you do not agree with the way the ASC has handled your complaint, you may complain to the Commonwealth Ombudsman. The Ombudsman will not usually consider a complaint unless the matter has first been raised directly with the ASC.

The Commonwealth Ombudsman can be contacted on:

Phone (Toll free): 1300 362 072

Email: ombudsman@ombudsman.gov.au

Website: www.ombudsman.gov.au

13.2 How the ASC will use your information

As the LSC program is funded by the Australian Government, the ASC may share your information with your local Member of Parliament and/or their representatives, and with other government agencies for a relevant Australian Government purpose, such as (but not limited to):

- improving the effective administration, monitoring and evaluation of Australian Government programs;
- research, and
- announcing grant recipients.



13.3 Treatment of confidential information

The ASC will treat the information provided by applicants as confidential if it meets all conditions below:

- It is clearly identified as confidential with an explanation as to why it should be treated as confidential.
- The information is commercially sensitive.
- Disclosing the information would cause unreasonable harm to you or someone else.

13.4 When we may disclose confidential information

The ASC may disclose confidential information to:

- the ASC Board and/or our employees and contractors, (and to other Commonwealth employees and contractors as required) to help us manage the grant program effectively.
- the ASC Board and/or our employees and contractors (and to other Commonwealth employees and contractors as required) so we can research, assess, monitor, and analyse our programs and activities.
- the Minister or Parliamentary Secretary.
- the Auditor-General, Ombudsman or Privacy Commissioner.
- a House or Committee of the Australian Parliament.

The ASC may also disclose confidential information if required or authorised by law, or if someone other than the ASC has made the confidential information public.

13.5 Conflict of interest

Any conflicts of interest, or perceived conflicts of interest can affect the performance of the grant opportunity or program. There may be a conflict of interest, or perceived conflict of interest, if ASC staff, any member of a committee or advisor and/or you or any of your personnel, including sub-contractors:

- have a professional, commercial or personal relationship with a party who can influence the application selection process, such as an Australian Government officer [or member of an external panel]
- have a relationship with or interest in, an organisation, which is likely to interfere with or restrict the applicants from carrying out the proposed activities fairly and independently or
- have a relationship with, or interest in, an organisation from which they will receive personal gain because the organisation receives a grant under the grant program/ grant opportunity.

You will be asked to declare, as part of your application, any perceived or existing conflicts of interests or that, to the best of your knowledge, there are no conflicts of interest.

If you later identify an actual, apparent, or perceived conflict of interest, you must inform the ASC in writing immediately.

Conflicts of interest for Australian Government staff will be handled as set out in the Australian Public Service Code of Conduct (Section 13(7) of the Public Service Act 1999). Committee members and other officials including the decision maker must also declare any conflicts of interest.

13.6 Privacy

The ASC treats your personal information according to the Privacy Act 1988 and the Australian Privacy Principles. This includes letting you know:



- what personal information we collect
- why we collect your personal information
- who we give your personal information to.

Your personal information can only be disclosed to someone else for the primary purpose for which it was collected, unless an exemption applies.

As part of your application, you declare your ability to comply with the Privacy Act 1988 and the Australian Privacy Principles and your intention to impose the same privacy obligations on officers, employees, agents and subcontractors that you engage to assist with the activity, in respect of personal information you collect, use, store, or disclose in connection with the activity. Accordingly, you must not do anything, which if done by the ASC would breach an Australian Privacy Principle as defined in the Act.

13.7 Freedom of information

All documents in the possession of the Australian Government, including those about this grant opportunity, are subject to the Freedom of Information Act 1982 (FOI Act).

The purpose of the FOI Act is to give members of the public rights of access to information held by the Australian Government and its entities. Under the FOI Act, members of the public can seek access to documents held by the Australian Government. This right of access is limited only by the exceptions and exemptions necessary to protect essential public interests and private and business affairs of persons in respect of whom the information relates.

All Freedom of Information requests must be referred to the Freedom of Information Coordinator in writing.

By email: foi.officer@ausport.gov.au



Australian Government
Australian Sports Commission



ausport.gov.au



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