

Pitch Together Fund

Frequently Asked Questions

A partnership between:



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Frequently Asked Questions
November 2025

Thank you for your interest in the ***Pitch Together Fund***.

This FAQ document answers common questions about the fund, the application process, and what to expect if your project progresses. It is designed to support you alongside the Fund Guidance and help clarify key points as you prepare your application.

If you can't find the answer to your question here, please get in touch at enquiries@pitchtogetherfund.co.uk

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What is the Pitch Together Fund?

Pitch Together is a loan fund designed to help hockey clubs improve and develop their facilities, including the development of new or replacement Artificial Grass Pitches (AGPs) and upgrades to supporting amenities such as floodlighting and changing facilities.

The Fund combines affordable finance with tailored support to help clubs deliver high-quality, sustainable facilities that strengthen their long-term resilience and maximise community benefit. A core focus of the fund is on increasing engagement and participation, supporting inclusive access to sport, and delivering positive social value.

Pitch Together aims to support the refurbishment or development of around 60 facilities across England, helping clubs provide welcoming, multi-sport environments for their communities.

What can I use the investment for?

Pitch Together will invest in projects that enable hockey and wider sport and physical activity. Funding will typically support projects that:

- Refurbish or develop Artificial Grass Pitches (AGPs)
- Improve supporting facilities such as LED sports lighting, clubhouses or changing provision

A core objective of the Fund is to protect and enhance social value by increasing participation, strengthening community access and supporting long-term club sustainability.

How much can we apply for?

The typical loan size is between £25,000 and £300,000, though applications outside this range may be considered by exception. Loans will be assessed and offered according to the affordability of each individual applicant and project.

If you are seeking less than £50,000, please note that there may be alternative funding options better suited to your needs, such as community fundraising or small grants.

We expect the average loan to be around £150,000.

How do I apply to the fund?

All clubs wishing to apply must first submit an Expression of Interest. We recommend doing this as early as possible, and you can complete this stage without prior discussion.

Once your Expression of Interest is received, Sporting Assets will contact you to discuss your project and outline next steps. You will either be invited to submit a full application or, if appropriate, offered Capacity building support to help you strengthen your plans before progressing. If your project is not eligible or not quite ready for investment, you will be informed and where possible signposted to other support at this stage.

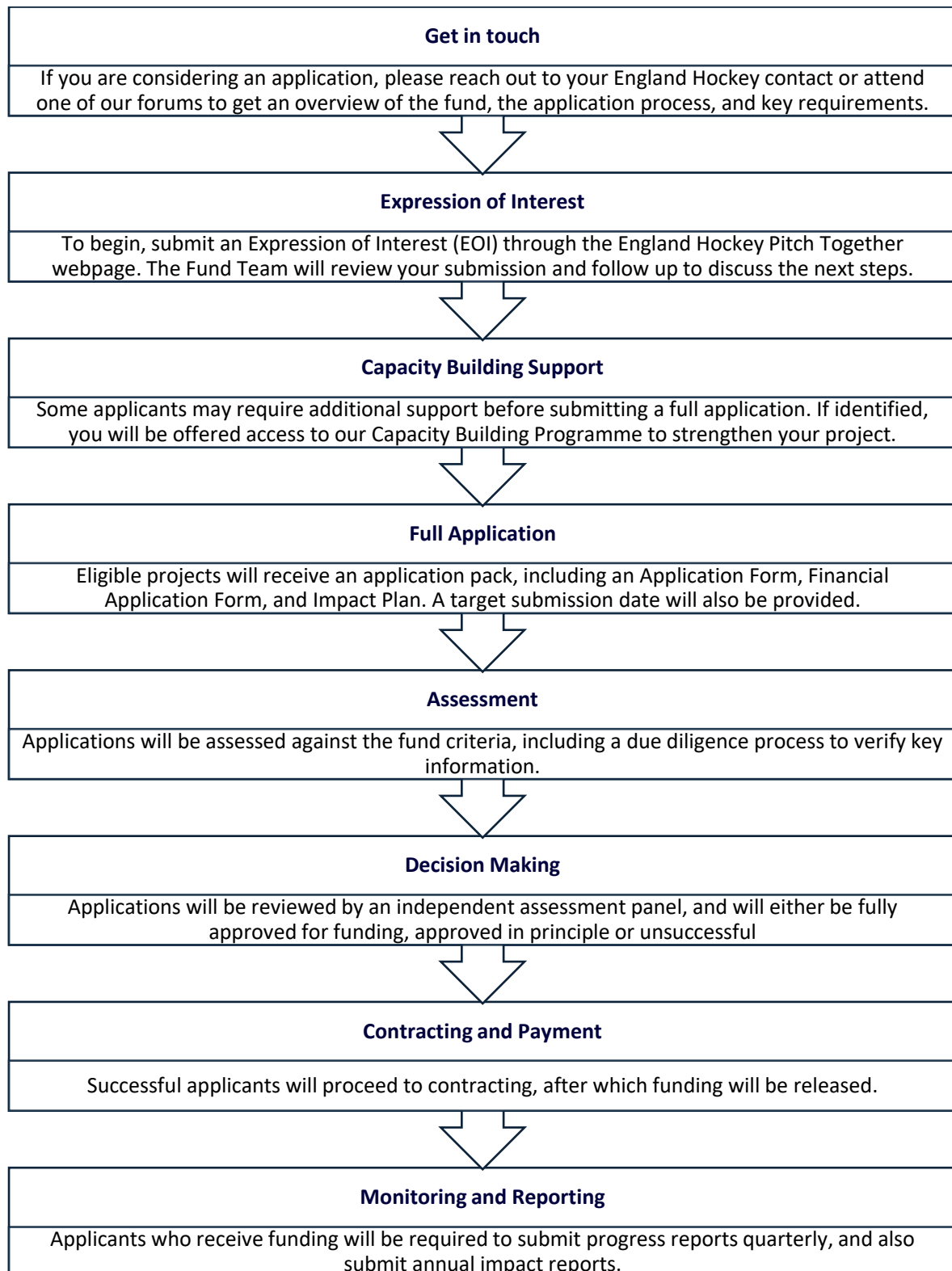
The full application stage requires more detailed information, including an application form, impact plan and financial template. Your Sporting Assets contact will let you know when is most appropriate to complete this stage.

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What is the application process?



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We estimate that from Expression of Interest to contracting and payment will typically take between three and six months. Timescales depend on project readiness and the availability of key information such as financial plans, tenure agreements and planning consents.

Submitting an Expression of Interest early is strongly recommended.

Who will we fund?

To receive investment, applicants must meet the fund's eligibility requirements, including:

- Located in England
- Incorporated legal structure with mission lock, public benefit, and asset lock requirements
- Be, or work in partnership with, a registered England Hockey club as the primary user
- Security of tenure that exceeds the loan duration
- Financial ability to repay the loan responsibly
- A minimum of three independent, non-cohabiting directors or trustees (and an aligned banking processes)
- Appropriate agreements between the applicant and the primary hockey user where relevant
- Clubmark status (or a commitment to achieve this within twelve months)
- A clear plan for participation, community benefit, and monitoring impact

Full eligibility criteria are set out in the Fund Guidance document.

We are a club based at a School Site. Would we be eligible for support?

If your club is based at a school site, we recommend getting in touch with Sporting Assets to discuss your specific situation. We can help you understand whether you or the school may meet the eligibility criteria, and advise on what the next steps could look like.

We are progressing a project jointly (e.g. with a university or local authority). Can we both be applicants?

There will need to be a lead applicant, who must meet the fund's eligibility criteria and will be responsible for repaying the loan. This doesn't prevent the project being developed and delivered jointly. If other parties are essential to the financial success of the project, they will need to be formally connected.

If the applicant is not the hockey club, it is expected that the hockey club will have a formal agreement with the applicant to guarantee usage of the site for the duration of the loan.

We're not incorporated. How do we decide what structure is best for us?

We recommend attending an incorporation workshop if you are unsure which structure is right for your club. Workshops are available through the Clubs Support Programme. If you cannot find one, please email clubs@englandhockey.co.uk and they can advise when the next session will be held.

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Do we need planning permission before applying?

If your project requires planning permission, you can submit an Expression of Interest before securing planning permission. However, planning approval (where required) will need to be in place before we can provide a loan.

We recommend you begin discussions with your local planning authority early in the project. If you are unsure of if planning permission is required, we suggest you contact your planning authority to confirm (please note we may require evidence that you have engaged your local planning authority for confirmation).

Do we need tenure in place before applying?

You can submit an Expression of Interest while tenure arrangements are being finalised. However, to receive loan approval, the lead applicant will need to demonstrate sufficient security of tenure that exceeds the length of the loan term.

If the hockey club is not the site holder, there must be a formal agreement in place that guarantees access for hockey delivery.

What are the repayment terms?

The typical repayment term is 7.5 years, with a total term of up to 8 years including a 6 month capital repayment holiday.

How are loan repayments calculated?

Loan repayments are calculated using the agreed loan amount, a fixed interest rate of 6% and the repayment term. After any capital repayment holiday (during which only interest is payable), repayments are made in fixed monthly instalments that include both interest and capital. A full repayment schedule will be provided as part of the loan agreement.

A 2% arrangement fee applies and is applied at source. The net amount you receive at drawdown will therefore be the loan amount less the arrangement fee.

For example, if your approved loan amount is £150,000, the arrangement fee will be £3,000. The loan drawdown would be £147,000 to your club. The full loan value of £150,000 will be used to calculate repayments.

Can we repay the loan early?

Yes. You can repay the loan early without penalty. Early repayments must be made in amounts of at least 20% of the total loan, and you must give notice before doing so.

Deadline for applying

There are no deadlines. The Fund accepts Expressions of Interest on a rolling basis. If your Expression of Interest is successful, you will be provided with a target submission date.

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What happens after I submit my Full Application?

Once you submit your full application, your Sporting Assets contact will keep you updated throughout the assessment process and whilst undertaking the assessment will likely be in touch with further requests for information.

Your application will be reviewed through a consistent and transparent process, including review by an Assurance Review Panel and an independent Investment Committee.

If your application is successful, you will receive an Offer Letter setting out the details of the investment, including the loan amount and any conditions that must be satisfied before funds can be drawn.

Once you accept the offer, you will receive the legal agreements for review and signing, we recommend seeking independent legal advice before signing.

What if our application is unsuccessful? Can we reapply?

Yes. If your project is not taken forward, we will explain why. You may be able to reapply once the issues identified have been addressed.

Where appropriate, Capacity building support may be offered to help you strengthen your proposal.

Are there any accessibility or inclusion requirements?

Yes. Projects should demonstrate how they will support inclusive access to hockey and wider sport, including groups who are less active. Facilities should meet appropriate accessibility standards and provide safe, welcoming environments for all users.

What is an Impact Plan and what do we need to include?

The Impact Plan helps you set out how your project will support hockey and wider community activity, who will benefit and how you will measure this over time. A template will be provided which will ask you to outline:

- Current and future participation in hockey
- Any other sports or activities that will benefit
- Volunteer numbers and roles
- How representative and engaged your club is within your local community
- Partnerships and groups you currently work with and would like to work with
- Actions and resources needed to deliver your plans over the next three years

The template will also help you think about how you will monitor and evidence the impact of your investment.

You do not need to have all the answers straight away. Your England Hockey Club Development Manager can provide guidance and help you complete the template. If you are unsure who to speak to, please email clubs@englandhockey.co.uk

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What financial information do we need to provide?

As part of the full application, you will need to complete the financial template and provide supporting documents that demonstrate your organisation's financial position and ability to repay the loan. This will normally include:

- Full Statutory Financial Accounts for the last 3 years, including the profit and loss statement and balance sheet for each 12-month period
- A completed financial template, including cash flow forecasts
- Details of any existing loans or financial commitments

The financial template helps us understand your planned income and expenditure, how the loan will be repaid, and your financial resilience during the project and beyond.

If you need support completing the financial template, please contact Sporting Assets at enquiries@pitchtogetherfund.co.uk and we can direct you to an online forum where clubs can ask questions and access support.

Capacity Building Programme

Projects may be eligible for support through the Capacity Building Programme. This may include advice and practical support with:

- Financial and business planning
- Facility operation and programming
- Impact planning and monitoring
- Fundraising and grant searches

Capacity building support will be assessed and offered following an Expression of Interest.

Can we get support from England Hockey?

Yes, support is available and we strongly encourage you engage with England Hockey to help develop your project. Help is available from both the Facilities Development Managers and the Club Development Managers. This may include help with conversations with local authorities, or support with ClubMark or the Impact Plan.

If you are unsure who your FDM or CDM is, please contact clubs@englandhockey.co.uk with your club name and the type of support needed, and the team will direct you to the right person.

Do we need all partnership funding in place before applying?

No. You can submit an Expression of Interest at any stage. However, to receive an investment decision following a full application, you will need to demonstrate your full funding package and clear timelines for securing any remaining funds.

Capacity building support may also be available to help identify additional sources of grant funding or develop fundraising plans.

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Can loan funds be used as partnership funding?

Loan funds can be used to match the Pitch Together Fund, but the combined borrowing must be affordable, meaning you must be able to make repayments on both loans. In some cases, the other debt may also need to be subordinated to Pitch Together meaning the loan is repaid ahead of other loans.

Can we receive grant funding from Pitch Together?

Pitch Together provides loan finance, however for projects involving the disposal of an existing AGP grant support may be available to contribute to the expected additional cost of recycling. The grant is offered to ensure pitches are not disposed of via landfill or other disposal routes.

Will the loan be secured?

Loans are typically unsecured. Security may be requested in specific circumstances where risks cannot be mitigated through other means. The Fund will not require personal guarantees.

Common scenarios where security may be requested include:

- Low projected cash reserves
- Existing debt
- Recent financial stress
- Significant step change in future income assumptions

All security requirements will be discussed with applicants in advance.

Pitch-specific projects

If you are undertaking a pitch project, please review the Pitch Procurement Guidance.

What reporting is required once we receive funding?

Clubs receiving a loan must provide periodic financial and impact reporting. This may include financial templates, annual accounts, and data on participation and community benefit. Templates and reporting deadlines will be communicated to clubs during the contracting period.

Reporting helps monitor progress and ensures the right support is provided at the right time.

Contact

For any queries about eligibility or the application process, please contact:

enquiries@pitchtogetherfund.co.uk

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