**UK Sport ChangeMakers Fund**
Policy and Application Form

The ChangeMakers Fund (the “**Fund**”) is an integral part of the broader ‘ChangeMakers’ initiative - a collaborative effort involving The National Lottery’s Operator, Allwyn, Team GB, ParalympicsGB, and UK Sport. The Fund's primary goal is to provide athletes with the financial resources needed to initiate or expand their social impact initiatives.

The Fund is designed to eliminate financial barriers, enabling all athletes, regardless of their prior experience in social impact work to leverage their platforms for driving positive change within communities. By offering the necessary resources, the Fund empowers athletes to launch and scale projects that are authentic and meaningful to them, aligning with UK Sport’s broader mission of inspiring and uniting the nation through sport.

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| **Purpose of the Fund** | 1. The Fund has been created to provide financial support to Eligible Athletes, enabling them to engage in or expand their social impact initiatives.
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| **The Award** | 1. The Fund is structured into two distinct awards:
	1. “**Try it**” – This award will support Eligible Athletes who have a plan to leverage their platforms for driving positive change within communities (corresponds to the social impact definition in para 7(a)) and wish to test its viability and potential impact. Under this category, twenty (20) grants of up to £500 each are available.
	2. “**Scale it**” – This award will support Eligible Athletes or Eligible Organisations that have a social impact initiative and require a larger amount of funding to scale the delivery and impact of their work. Under this category, four (4) grants of up to £10,000 each and ten (10) grants of up to £5,000 each are available.
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| **Eligibility**  | 1. For the purposes of the Fund, Eligible Athletes are defined as one of the following criteria:
	1. Athletes in receipt of a UK Sport Athlete Performance Award (“**APA**”) at any level.
	2. Athletes who are a member of the World Class Programme (“**WCP**”) but are ineligible for an APA due to means testing.
	3. Athletes supported by their National Governing Body, who receive Progression or National Squad funding from UK Sport.
	4. Athletes who have transitioned away from criteria a-c above since 31 October 2023.

All athletes listed in (a) – (d) above, must be at least 18 years old and one of the criteria listed in (a) – (d) above must apply to the athlete by 31 October 2024 in order to be considered eligible to apply for the Fund. For the avoidance of doubt, this does not include athletes who are suspended by their NGB.  |
|  | 1. For the purposes of the Fund, an Eligible Organisation is defined as follows:
	1. A not-for-profit organisation, defined as either a private company limited by guarantee, a registered charity, a community interest company or a charitable incorporated organisation; and
	2. A for-profit organisation, defined as either a private limited company, a public limited company, a limited liability partnership, a sole trader, a partnership or social enterprise, provided that the award will be used exclusively for non-profit making activities;
	3. An organisation with a verifiable and direct association to an Eligible Athlete (as defined in paragraph 3), for example, (for example where the Eligible Athlete is the founder, co-founder or CEO). For the avoidance of doubt, this will not include an athlete who has an association with the organisation such as an ambassador role.

An Eligible Athlete will be required to evidence this criteria in their application. The final decision on fulfilment of this criteria is at the discretion of UK Sport. 1. Any misrepresentation or misconduct by the Eligible Athlete and/or Eligible Organisation will adversely affect the athlete’s eligibility under the UK Sport Eligibility Policy. This misrepresentation or misconduct may include, but is not limited to, providing false information or engaging in actions that undermine the integrity of the Fund or the reputation of UK Sport and/or the National Lottery.
2. Applications from Eligible Athletes who are currently under investigation will be reviewed by the ChangeMakers Panel on a case-by-case basis in conjunction with the UK Sport Integrity Team.
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| **Assessment Criteria**  | 1. Once an application has been received, the ChangeMakers Panel shall ensure that the athlete and/or the organisation are eligible for the ChangeMakers Fund and then review the application on a case-by-case basis against the following criteria:
	1. The proposed activity meets UK Sport’s definition of social impact

At UK Sport, social impact is defined as *“a positive, lasting change on people, communities or the planet as a result of proactive intervention”* which possesses the following characteristics: * Makes a difference that goes beyond inspiration
* Emphasis on repeat engagement and activity, i.e. not a “one-off”
* Is outcome-led, focusing on the long-term effects of the activity such as changes to wellbeing, rather than just the direct results of the activity such as the number of people engaged
	1. The proposed activity aligns with the three UK Sport Impact Areas

UK Sport Impact Areas: * Physical & Mental Wellbeing
* Equality, Diversity & Inclusion
* Environmental Sustainability

For the avoidance of doubt, UK Sport, at its discretion, may consider applications that align to impact areas and themes not listed above.* 1. There are no issues/concerns with the proposed budget
1. The ChangeMakers Panel will use the following scoring criteria in their assessment:

1 – Very Poor. The response clearly fails to meet the criteria detailed in the question and exhibits clear and significant omissions.2 – Poor. The response satisfies only some of the criteria detailed in the question.3 – Satisfactory. The response satisfies the criteria detailed in the question.4 – Good. The response fully and successful meets the criteria detailed.5 – Excellent. Exceptional response that meets or exceeds all criteria detailed in the question. Full and relevant evidence is provided to support the response. |
| **Application Process** | 1. The application is a simple one-step process. To apply the Eligible Athlete will need to complete either the Try It or Scale It Application Form and return it via email to athlete.support@uksport.gov.uk.
2. If you require a more accessible format and/or support with submitting your application, including the option to provide a video statement or voice message, please contact athlete.support@uksport.gov.uk.
3. Applications open at 12pm on Friday 16th August 2024 and close at 5pm on 31 October 2024. We will not accept any applications after the window has closed unless there is a prior agreement. If you have personal challenges meeting the window deadline, please email athlete.support@uksport.gov.uk during the application window.
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|  | 1. Depending on the number of applications received, UK Sport shall endeavour to respond to all applications by 20 December 2024 and payments will be made by 10 January 2025.
2. Once a decision has been made, UK Sport shall communicate the decision to the athlete by email. Once the athlete submits the application, the athlete will automatically be bound by the terms of this UK Sport ChangeMakers Fund Policy (as amended from time to time).
3. Investment decisions are made at the sole discretion of UK Sport. In exercising that discretion, UK Sport will take into account the criteria listed above, but may also take into account any other factors it considers relevant and apply such relative weight to the various factors as it deems appropriate. UK Sport reserves the right to amend any of the criteria set out within this Policy and/or suspend or terminate applications for the Fund.
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| **General** | 1. Any athlete who receives an award will be required to fulfil UK Sport monitoring and evaluation requirements, including but not limited to, progress updates, financial reporting, submitting photographs, participation in interviews or surveys, summary of learnings and engaging in social media posts.
2. UK Sport’s decision on awards is final and there is no appeals process.
3. The athlete’s APA will not be affected by applying for or receiving the award. Any award amount will not be counted towards the means testing calculations of the APA.
4. UK Sport shall treat any supporting evidence on a confidential basis and will process all personal data in accordance with the Privacy Policy for Athletes published on the UK Sport website. UK Sport will not use or disclose the supporting evidence without an athlete’s prior written consent unless it is required to by law, the information is already in the public domain or where it is required to be shared with other Sports Councils and/or the Department of Culture, Media, and Sport, solely to assist in the review of an application.
5. UK Sport reserves the right to inform the athlete’s NGB that the Athlete has made an application to the Fund. However, UK Sport would encourage applicants to proactively engage with the available support structures within their sports prior to application, referencing this as part of their application.
6. UK Sport takes the offence of fraud (including theft, corruption, and bribery) seriously. Any athlete who receives an award from UK Sport must implement appropriate measures to manage the award responsibly. This includes keeping receipts and maintaining accurate records, whether the recipient is an Eligible Athlete or an Eligible Organisation. Where any instance of fraud, misrepresentation, false statement, or an attempt to defraud, occurs UK Sport will take action, including bringing a case against the Athlete to the UK Sport Eligibility Panel or reporting to the police.
7. This is the July 2024 version of this Policy, and this Policy is subject to change in any potential future applications.
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| For general queries about the ChangeMakers Fund,please email athlete.support@uksport.gov.ukFor support or guidance around completing the application,please contact your Performance Lifestyle Practitioner or Performance Director. |
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