**Top tips for SCEP**

* One of the key objectives of the SCEP is to increase participation in female participations. The fund will accept those that specifically and only focus on female participation ie… new female changing rooms/toilet blocks.
* 6 criteria will be used to assess the applications in 2023.

1. Evidence that the application will contribute towards increasing participation in sport and/or improve performance.
2. Promoting shared sporting facilities ie… a new 3G carpet on a pitch may be lined out for GAA but can it cater for training for other sports such as rugby (training only), soccer (training only)
3. Deprivation – applicants who are situated in areas which are deprived will receive priority. If applicants aren’t situated in areas of disadvantage, they can highlight how they will link in and work with groups in nearby deprived areas.
4. Technical merits – Ideally, planning permission and all statutory approval should be in place and do not require the ‘second chance’ option.
5. Matched funding – applicants will be expected to contribute a minimum of 5% and additional marks may well be given to those who can contribute more than 5%. However, it is important to ensure that any contributions the club want to make are realistic and do not jeopardise future of club.
6. Those who have received SCEP of over €100,000 in past may well have marks deducted, if demand exceeds supply.
7. Evidence of projects focusing on environmentally friendly and climate adaptation. This may include LED lighting, sensor lighting in clubrooms or eco-friendly drainage systems or water collection tanks to be used elsewhere on site.
8. Population growth focus – Areas which are experiencing population growth and have extra demand for sport will be prioritised as well with regards to applications.

Common pitfalls from last tranche

* Title/access to land appendix not completed due to issues around solicitor not being able to stamp it in time.
* Evidence of how and where the matched funding comes from. There is an appendix for loan commitments and any internal funds contributed need to be evidenced on a bank statement dated from May 2023 onwards.
* Start your application early and make sure you identify areas of note/concern and put actions in place well ahead of deadline.
* If possible ask around your club for people who may have experience in certain fields such as solicitors, architects, contractors. Their knowledge might speed up your bid and help you navigate any bumps along the road.
* Only Local Authorities, Governing Bodies and Education and Training Boards can complete more than 1 application.
* Make sure what you are applying for is ELIGIBLE and on list of what they do fund. If in doubt ask the funder.
* Get your quote/professional estimate out early and make sure you are clear on your specifications. If you can organise a site visit and walk them through what you are intending to apply for.
* Give yourself time to plan, draft and submit – avoid rushing applications as key information may get neglected or forgotten about.