Grassroots to Gold

Program Guidelines

10 September 2026

DELIVERING FOR QUEENSLAND

Queensland Government

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The Department of Sport, Racing and Olympic and Paralympic Games (the department) will provide and pay for qualified interpreting services for customers who are hearing impaired or have difficulties communicating in English. Please contact the department if you require interpreting services.

1. What is the Grassroots to Gold Program

The Grassroots to Gold program aims to support eligible young athletes, coaches and officials to progress on a development pathway by providing financial assistance to help alleviate the costs associated with attending state, national and international events. Young Queenslanders aged 10-18 years who are required to travel to compete, coach or officiate have three tiers of assistance, depending on the level of competition they or their team are selected for.

2. Objective

To provide financial assistance to young athletes, coaches and officials selected to attend state, national and international level events to enhance development pathways for Queenslanders.

3. Funding Available

Eligible athletes, coaches and officials may apply for funding assistance for up to two (2) events each financial year across any event tiers (applicants can apply for two events of the same tier). Funding can be applied for as soon as they, or their team, have officially been selected to attend the event, up until six (6) months after the event start date.

The following subsidy amounts are available under the three event tiers:

Event date	State or State School event	National or National School event	International event
Events commencing on or after 1 July 2026	$500	$600	$800

4. Athlete, Coach and Officials Eligibility

4.1 Who can apply?

Applicants eligible to apply for support are those who, at time of application:

- have been selected for or have attended to compete, coach or officiate (such as a referee, technical official or scorer) at an eligible Queensland State or Queensland Representative State School event, Australian National or Australian National School event or International event occurring on or after 1 July 2026;

- have their selection/attendance at the event confirmed by the relevant event selector or event organiser* for their sport or activity;
- are a current resident of Queensland;
- have not already been approved (or have submitted an application that is pending approval) under this program for attendance at two events (to either compete, coach or officiate) with event start dates within the same financial year;
- are at least 10 years of age and under the age of 19 years on the start date of the event; and
- are attending an event which is located at least 125 kilometres road distance (one-way) from their place of residence.

* The event selector/organiser is Queensland Representative School Sport, School Sport Australia or the State or National Level sport or active recreation organisations.

Applications will be assessed in the order received by the department until the program budget has been exhausted. Approved applicants must be selected for (at time of application), and attend events, except for reasons outside of their control including (but not limited to) event cancellations, illness and injury.

4.2 Who cannot apply?

Examples of who are **NOT** eligible to apply are:

- individuals who do not reside in Queensland at time of application;
- any organisation or group incorporated or otherwise;
- children aged under 10 years and adults aged 19 years and over on the start date of the event;
- individuals selected as a shadow player or training partner who are not required to attend the event;
- individuals completing multiple event trips each less than 125kms one-way;
- individuals who do not supply selection documents that meet departmental requirements (Section 7.1); and
- individuals submitting multiple applications under this program for the same athlete, coach or official for attendance at the same event (for example, where an athlete competes in an event and also officiates).

5. Eligible Events

Event nominations can only be provided by the relevant event organiser directly to the department.

- School events are submitted by Queensland Representative School Sport or School Sport Australia.

- All other events are submitted by the relevant State or National level sport or active recreation organisation.
- If an event is not on the eligible events list, please contact the relevant event organiser to request they submit their eligible events to the department.

Eligible events under the subsidy:

- must be a Queensland State Championship, Queensland State School Championship,
- Australian National Championship, Australian National School Championship, or International Championship
- must require participants to have undergone a selection/qualification process to attend or provide a pathway for athletes (e.g. selection to compete at the nationals undertaken at the state event)
- each event organiser or selector is allowed a maximum of one (1) event per tier (state, national and international), per age group, division and discipline, each financial year.
- must be for a sport or activity that is considered eligible by the department. The department will consider a number of factors when determining eligibility for this program, including the level of physical activity involved.

The following events are not eligible:

- local or regional championships, training squads and development camps, ongoing seasonal competitions, ongoing series, friendship or invitational events
- State level events not located in Queensland and National level events not located in Australia, except where the relevant event organiser has confirmed that there is no equivalent pathway event for the specific tier within Queensland/Australia
- multiple events for the same sport or activity in the same discipline and the same age group, except where the sport or activity conducts their event in multiple rounds
- events that do not lead to pathways for athletes, coaches or officials
- school events where there is an existing non-school event for that age group (with the exception of events nominated by Queensland Representative School Sport or School Sport Australia)
- events submitted after the event start date.

Events that are cancelled, postponed or relocated by the event organiser will not negatively impact approved applicants, if, at the time of application, the eligibility requirements were met.

The department's website has a list of Eligible events. Future events listed are subject to change.

Events can be updated quarterly by the event organiser. Please contact the event organiser directly if there are discrepancies with online information.

6. What is the application process?

Applicants who have been officially selected for an event listed on the eligible events list may apply up until six (6) months after the event start date. Please allow a minimum of eight (8) weeks for processing and payment of approved applications. Late applications are those made more than six (6) months after the event start date and are not eligible.

To apply for the subsidy, the applicant or their parent/guardian (if under 18) must be registered as an individual in the Sport Grant Registration Portal (GRP).

Please note, the GRP is **not compatible with mobile devices**, including tablets. All applications must be made from a desktop or laptop computer. If further assistance is required to complete the online application, email SRSGRPortal@sport.qld.gov.au or call 13 QGOV (13 74 68).

Applications must be submitted using the online application form.

6.1 Required documentation

Applicants will be required to provide documentation clearly demonstrating selection with their application. All documentation must be clearly identified as being sent from or published by the event selector or event organiser and may include website, letterhead, signature block or Facebook page, which shows the following:

- confirmation that the athlete, coach or official has been selected to the team/role
- event details (such as event name, start date of the event and location of the event).

Multiple documents or evidence can be provided to confirm the required information where the required information is not included in one source.

If all required documentation is not provided to demonstrate selection, the application will be deemed ineligible. Eligible applicants will be required to resubmit an application with required documentation. The department may, at times, request further documentation from the applicant, or seek to verify information with the relevant event selector or event organiser.

7. How will applications be assessed?

Applications will be assessed against the applicant eligibility (refer to Section 4). It is expected that the department will receive more eligible applications than can be funded with the available resources. The department will assess applications in the order they are received.

Applications can take a minimum of 8 weeks to process from time of submission to payment. Applicants will be notified of the assessment outcome via email. Please allow up to 10 business days from receipt of approved advice for a payment to clear with your banking institution.

7.1 Application process and conditions

Submitting an application does not guarantee that the application will be approved and subsidy provided. The department reserves the right (at the department's sole discretion) to refuse an application, not assess an application or not approve funding, for any reason, irrespective of whether the eligibility and assessment criteria have been met. The department's decision in relation to an application or the process is final.

The department reserves the right, at any time, to:

- cancel or vary the assessment process

- close early, suspend, stop or extend the operation of the program or the application process
- vary the program, including the proposed terms and conditions or funding and/or these guidelines
- consider or reject an application received after the closing date and time
- consider an application submitted other than in accordance with the requirements of the
  application process, including accepting a non-conforming or incomplete application
- determine whether an event or applicant meets the eligibility criteria, and other requirements set out in these guidelines and should be deemed ineligible
- change the allocation of funding available under the Program, the eligibility criteria or the types of event or applicants that will be considered.

Any action taken to close early, suspend, stop or extend the program will be notified on the program website.

The department may, at its discretion, request information or documents from an applicant or any other person in order to consider and/or verify the accuracy of an application.

The department will retain all documents submitted and will not return these to the applicant. The applicant agrees that they will not make any public announcement or advertisement in any medium in relation to the process or the program without the prior written consent of the department.

Applicants accept the risk, responsibility and liability connected with submitting an application and will not make any claim in connection with a decision by the department to exercise or not to exercise any of its rights in relation to the application process. The application and participation in the application process does not constitute an offer or an invitation to make an offer under the application process. It also does not indicate an intention by the department to enter into any form of legal relations with any party. Nothing in this application process amounts to any process contract and in making the application available and conducting this application process, the department expressly excludes any process contract arising.

8. Approval process

All applicants will receive written notification of the outcome of their application. Applicants accept the Grassroots to Gold Terms and Conditions when submitting their online application form. The Terms and conditions are also available on the Queensland Government's website.

9. Appeals

Department staff can provide feedback to an applicant that has not been approved, with an initial explanation of the rationale for the decision.

If an applicant is not satisfied with a decision, such as an application not being approved for funding, the grant applicant can request a review of the decision. The request is required in

writing and should be sent to grassrootstogold@sport.qld.gov.au. An appeal can be requested where the applicant believes the decision does not adhere to the program guidelines and/or the department's processing of the application.

The appeals process does not include applicants challenging the program guidelines or seeking variations or exceptions to the program guidelines.

Appeals will only be considered if received by the department within one month from the date of the applicant's receipt of written notification from the department on the outcome of the individual's application.

10. Payments

Payment will be made to the approved applicant's nominated account via Electronic Funds Transfer. Once notified of the assessment outcome, applicants must allow up to 10 business days from receipt of approved advice for a payment to clear with their banking institution.

Please allow a minimum of 8 weeks for processing and payment of approved applications. Late applications made more than 6 months after the event start date will not be eligible.

It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure that bank account details provided in the online application process are correct. If incorrect bank details are supplied and payment is made to an incorrect account, the department may or may not choose to pursue the return of the funds, at the department's discretion. The department is under no obligation to facilitate the return of the funds. The department will not make another payment to the correct account unless the original funds have been returned from the incorrect recipient. If an approved applicant does not receive the funds, they must contact the department at grassrootstogold@sport.qld.gov.au

11. Audit requirements

Approved applications may be subject to an audit from the department. The department will undertake a random audit of approved applicants to ensure that the information provided was accurate and the eligibility requirements were met. Event organisers or selectors may be contacted by the department after an event to verify an individual's selection and/or attendance at the event.

12. Survey and Case Study

Approved applicants will be asked to complete a survey post event. The information within the survey will be used to help the department evaluate the program. Approved applicants may also be asked to provide information to support a case study on their performance journey to promote the outcomes of the program.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

The Department of Sport, Racing and Olympic and Paralympic Games acknowledges Aboriginal people and Torres Strait Islander people as the traditional custodians of the lands and waterways.

We respectfully acknowledge and recognise Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' connection to country as an integral element of identity, culture, customs, and the rich diversity within their communities.

We offer our respect to the Elders past, present and future and recognise their ongoing connection to Country and community over thousands of generations, and the significant contributions they continue to make to Queensland where we live, work and play.

We are committed to strengthening partnerships with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, communities and organisations in our journey to enrich lives and communities. We aim to build a stronger, culturally safe, and inclusive workforce, ensuring our policies, procedures, and governance reflect genuine respect for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures and contribute to delivering quality services for all Queenslanders.