SPORT INVESTMENT PROGRAM FRAMEWORK

GOVERNMENT OF BERMUDA

Ministry of Tourism & Transport, Culture & Sport

INTRODUCTION

Participation in sport and recreation is a fundamental part of Bermudian life. Beyond the physical and mental health benefits, sport fosters social connection, unity, and national pride. The Department of Sport & Recreation is dedicated to enhancing sport and recreation at all levels and recognizes that properly funded National Sport Governing Bodies (NSGBs) are essential for the growth, sustainability, and success of sport in Bermuda.

This framework outlines the guiding principles, strategic priorities, and funding categories that form the foundation of the Sport Investment Program (SIP), aligning all investment decisions with the goals of the National Sports Policy (2022–2027).

VISION

To cultivate a thriving and inclusive sport and recreation landscape that supports the development of athletes, coaches, officials, and programs, while fostering national pride and long-term sustainability for Bermuda's sporting community.

INVESTMENT OBJECTIVES

The Department invests in NSGBs to:

- Support long-term sustainability and capacity-building
- Increase participation across all demographics
- Improve athletic performance at national, regional, and international levels
- Strengthening pathway structures from grassroots to elite performance
- Aligning sport development with national policy objectives

GUIDING INVESTMENT PRINCIPLES

Our investment principles guide strategic planning, funding allocation, partnership development, and performance evaluation:

1. **Participant Focused**
   Investments prioritize meaningful outcomes for participants across all levels of sport. Special emphasis is placed on engaging underrepresented groups, including women and girls, seniors, persons with disabilities, and other marginalized populations.

2. **Robust and Transparent**
   The Department will maintain full accountability and transparency in all investment

processes. Clear connections between each investment, its intended outcomes, and alignment with the National Sports Policy will be demonstrated.

3. **Invest Smart**
   Resources will be allocated where the greatest value and impact can be achieved. This includes identifying programs that demonstrate measurable outcomes, scalability, and long-term sustainability.

4. **Partner with Integrity**
   The Department will foster constructive, transparent partnerships with NSGBs. Our commitment includes not only funding but also strategic support, guidance, and shared responsibility for improvement.

5. **Learn and Improve**
   Performance will be monitored and reviewed regularly. Funding may be increased for programs that exceed expectations or withdrawn from those that consistently underperform. Evidence-based decision-making will be used to drive continuous improvement.

SIP INVESTMENT CATEGORIES

Funding through the SIP will be directed toward the following core areas:

A. **High Performance**
   Support for senior and junior national teams, elite athletes, and pathway programs that help Bermuda achieve **National Sports Policy Objective #2:** achieving sporting excellence at regional and international levels.

   Eligible Areas:

   - National team training and competition
   - Athlete travel and accommodation for sanctioned events
   - Performance analysis and support services
   - Elite talent development initiatives

B. **Junior Development & Programming**
   Support for grassroots and youth development programs designed to increase sport participation, engagement, and foundational skills, thereby ensuring long-term growth and sustainability of NSGBs.

   Eligible Areas:

   - Grassroots and school-based programming
   - Youth outreach and retention initiatives
   - Development clinics and skill-based camps
   - Equipment and facility rental for youth programs

C. Coach & Official Development
Support for the education, certification, and professional development of coaches and officials. Quality leadership is critical to maintaining standards, ensuring safety, and supporting athlete performance.

Eligible Areas:

- Local and international coaching/officiating certification
- Course fees and travel for educational events
- Mentorship and leadership development initiatives
- Technical official equipment and resources

MONITORING, REPORTING, AND ACCOUNTABILITY

To ensure effective and responsible use of public funds, all NSGBs receiving SIP investment must:

- Submit a detailed budget and financial report outlining the use of funds
- Demonstrate alignment with the Letter of Offer and stated outcomes
- Report on achievements, challenges, and measurable progress
- Cooperate in periodic program reviews and evaluations

Failure to meet expected outcomes or reporting obligations may impact on future funding.

CONCLUSION

The Sport Investment Program is a key driver in the development of sport in Bermuda. By aligning funding with national priorities and performance outcomes, and by fostering strong partnerships with NSGBs, the Department of Sport & Recreation aims to build a sustainable and inclusive sport ecosystem that reflects the pride, passion, and potential of Bermuda.

For further guidance or information on the SIP process, please contact the Department of Sport & Recreation.