

**MOVING FORWARD. TOGETHER.
AG BOGADH AR AGHAIDH. LE CHÉILE.**

DELIVERING SPORT FOR ALL





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The Fianna Fáil Plan for Sport

- 1. Increase activity in sport and exercise by tackling participation gaps**
- 2. Use our education system and school facilities to promote sport**
- 3. Introduce new models to fund sport including increase to betting levy**
- 4. Create a new fund to support football academies and foster young talent**
- 5. Build on Olympics success by increasing High Performance supports**

Introduction

Sport holds a special place in Irish life promoting health and wellbeing, fostering participation and instilling national pride in our people. Fianna Fáil has always backed sport recognising its unique power to bring together people, families and communities - from high performance level down right down to our grassroots.

In the last Government, Fianna Fáil Ministers oversaw the two largest ever Sports Capital programmes benefiting clubs, groups and schools in communities in every county in Ireland. The National Sports Policy and the recently published Sports Action Plan set ambitious targets to increase participation in sport and in particular to tackle the participation gaps that exists across our society. We have a target of 60pc of our population involved in active participation each week by 2027, with the current rate of participation at 47pc. Fianna Fáil's Sport For All policy sets out a series of achievable and realistic measures to reach and go beyond this goal.

We are also eager to build on the phenomenal success Ireland has enjoyed on the international stage by supporting our high performance athletes, completing the development of the Sport Ireland campus and making Ireland a world class destination for hosting major sporting events.



Growing sport by tackling participation gaps

Getting more people involved in more regular exercise and physical activity is our number one goal – and we are especially determined to address participation gaps for particular groups including people with a disability, people from different backgrounds as well as ending the gender gap in sport.

We will implement a range of measures to better incentivise people to get active and make sport more accessible, working in partnership with Sport Ireland and all stakeholders across our sporting landscape.

If returned to government, Fianna Fáil will:

- Set up a €250m Parks and Pitches fund to acquire land for new parks and playing fields, particularly in city and urban settings.
- Increase Sport Ireland Core Funding for sports clubs to increase the participation levels by people with disabilities.
- Introduce a tax credit on gym membership and explore other options to encourage active participation in sport and exercise.
- Implement the New National Swimming Strategy by investing in pools and swimming facilities allowing everyone an opportunity to swim.
- Appoint a Sport Ireland Disability Lead.
- Increase funding to enable individuals with disabilities to participate in a wider range of sports.
- Promote research and development of initiatives that support participation and excellence in sports.

Promoting sport through our education system

Fianna Fáil recognises the critical role schools and our education system play in getting children and young people exercising and being active every day.

Through investment in the Department of Education and the Sports Capital programmes, schools have developed incredible facilities which should be utilised to their full throughout the school day and in the evenings for local clubs and groups. We want to more closely integrate education and sports policy and will deliver greater investment of sports in primary and secondary schools.

If returned to government, Fianna Fáil will:

- Set up a new dedicated PE Hall Fund in co-operation with the Community Sports Facilities Fund to provide specific new Physical Education facilities to schools.
- Increase the number of schools offering Physical Education as a Leaving Certificate exam subject.
- Establish a new School Yard Fund for surface works and equipment.



Funding our sporting ecosystem

The National Sports Policy committed to doubling funding for sport by 2027. This target was delivered two years earlier by Fianna Fáil in Budget 2025 with a total allocation of €220m. We know targeted investment is essential to grow participation and to fulfil our ambitious goals for our sporting ecosystem at all levels. The Budget also outlined new tax measures to benefit sports bodies which we will advance.

The Sports Capital Programme, now the Community Sports Facilities Fund, has transformed the quality of sports equipment and infrastructure in towns and villages in every county and we want to enhance this programme further. Increasing the betting levy has the potential to generate significant revenue for the State which can support a new era of capital investment in sport.

If returned to government, Fianna Fáil will:

- Increase capital funds to develop multisport facilities in communities that can be shared by various local sports clubs.
- Allow approved sports bodies to create long-term Strategic Development Funds for capital investment in facilities, removing the requirement that the proceeds of donations (and associated tax relief) be tied to a specific approved capital project
- Extend charitable status to National Governing Bodies and Local Sports Partnerships on an opt-in/opt-out basis.
- Increase the Betting Tax Levy from 2% to 3%, with a portion of the additional yield to be allocated for the development of sports infrastructure.
- Strengthen efforts to seek business and philanthropic funding for high performance sport to complement state funding.

High performance sport

Irish teams and athletes performing on the world stage lift the nation and instil an incredible sense of national pride. The 2024 Summer Olympics were Ireland's most successful ever and it is no coincidence this came about following record levels of investment in our athletes over the Olympic and Paralympic cycle.

To achieve our full potential, our sportspeople need access to world class facilities and high quality coaching. Fianna Fáil also recognises the enormous opportunities that exist in developing football academies to nurture young football talent in this country and create a pathway for players to achieve their full potential.

If returned to government, Fianna Fáil will:

- Complete the development of the National Sports Campus in Blanchardstown.
- Proceed with the National Velodrome and Badminton Centre, as well as the new National Cricket Stadium.
- Create a Next Generation Fund to support football academies.
- Provide dedicated funding to support and train high-performance coaches.



Ireland as a host for major international sporting events

Fianna Fáil ministers led the development of our country's first ever Major International Sports Events policy which is a blueprint setting out the economic and social objectives that should be pursued in the sporting events we want to host here. Such events have the potential to bring enormous tourism, cultural and sporting benefits as well as inspiring future generations to get involved in sport.

If returned to government, Fianna Fáil will:

- Support Limerick in its hosting of the Ryder Cup in 2027.
- Bid for The Open and the AIG Women's Open at Portmarnock Golf Club.
- Support Euro 2028 to ensure that it leaves a positive legacy in terms of both promoting Ireland and developing active participation in sports.





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