



ICC WOMEN'S T20  
**WORLD CUP**  
ENGLAND & WALES 2026



# COUNTY GRANTS FUND 2026

**GUIDANCE NOTES  
FOR CRICKET CLUBS**





## 1. ABOUT THE SCHEME

- 1.1 The County Grants Fund aims to support ECB affiliated Cricket Clubs, which are actively engaged with women's cricket, girls' cricket and/or disability cricket, to create welcoming environments or to provide enhanced playing or changing facilities, in an effort to increase the number of women's, girls' and disability cricket teams, and to achieve the game's vision to become the most inclusive team sport (Inspiring Generations 2025 – 2028).
- 1.2 Priority will be given to applications from Clubs with an established women's section, a girls' section, and/or offer disability cricket, or are participating in the following specific ECB programmes in 2025/2026:
  - Girls' Only Dynamos Cricket
  - Dynamos Cricket for Girls' Activation Clubs
  - Disability Cricket Champion Clubs
  - Disability Premier League Registered Hosts
- 1.3 The scheme is funded by the England and Wales Cricket Trust (EWCT), a wholly owned charitable subsidiary of England and Wales Cricket Board Limited (ECB) and will run for three years between 2026 - 2028.

## 2. ELIGIBILITY

- 2.1 Clubs must deliver cricket for at least one of the following target groups:

**Women's Cricket:** a minimum of one women's team playing a minimum of three competitive soft ball or hard ball fixtures in league, friendly, indoor or outdoor cricket in 2025/2026, as recorded on Play-Cricket.com.

**Girls' Only Cricket:** a minimum of one girls' team playing a minimum of three competitive soft ball or hard ball fixtures in league, friendly, indoor or outdoor cricket in 2025/2026, as recorded on Play-Cricket.com.

**Girls' Only Dynamos Cricket:** Clubs delivering a Dynamos Cricket programme specifically for girls in 2025/2026, as registered on ClubSpark.

**Dynamos Cricket for Girls Activation Clubs:** Dynamos Cricket for Girls delivered by Clubs which have been selected by their Recreational Cricket Board (RCB) or Cricket Foundation (CF) to deliver Dynamos Cricket for Girls in 2025/2026 that specifically leads to the creation of girls' teams at the selected Clubs, as registered on ClubSpark.

**Disability Cricket:** a registered Disability Champion Cricket Club or a registered host for the Disability Premier League in 2025/2026.

2.2 As a minimum, Clubs will need to have the following:

- Affiliation to ECB\* via the local Recreational Cricket Board (RCB) or Cricket Foundation (CF) in England and Wales
- A Constitution, Articles of Association or equivalent governing document
- Valid Buildings, Contents and Public Liability Insurance
- Security of Tenure – Freehold, Leasehold or Rental agreement (minimum one year)
- A bank account in the Club's name
- Financial accounts from the Club's last budget year
- Club Safeguarding Officer (fully compliant on ECB Safe Hands Management System)
- Adoption of the ECB Safe Hands Policy
- Adoption of the ECB Anti-Discrimination Regulations
- Additional documentation may be requested depending on the project type, i.e. Planning Permission, Landlord's Consent, Building Regulations, Site Plans etc.

*\*Includes Clubs affiliated to ECB nationally, via the African Caribbean Cricket Association (ACCA) or National Asian Cricket Council (NACC).*

2.3 Clubs may apply for up to one grant per ECB budget year (which runs from 1 February - 31 January). Clubs will not be able to apply for a second grant for the same project before 2028.



### 3. PROJECT THEMES

- 3.1 Clubs should choose **one** project theme only. It is expected that some projects under the Creating Welcoming Environments theme may include more than one **related** project type (listed below) so linked packages will be reasonably considered (i.e. a social space project may also incorporate elements of digitising).
- 3.2 Clubs can apply for funding towards the purchase of relevant products or materials (new only), and associated professional labour costs, under the following project themes:

#### **Creating Welcoming Environments:**

- Social Space – furniture / flooring / patio / decking / heating / glazing
- Female / Disabled Toilet Facilities – sanitaryware / vanity units / tiling / flooring / baby-changing units / mirrors / hand dryers
- Catering – kitchen units / professional catering equipment & appliances / barbecues
- Arrival and Access – disabled access / exterior lighting / signage / car park
- Digitising – WiFi hardware (excludes subscription fees) / TVs / PA or Music systems / Electronic Point of Sale (EPOS) equipment / Electronic Scoreboards (only if part of a wider digitisation project)

#### **Enhanced Playing Facilities:**

- ECB Approved Non-Turf Match Pitch (min 30m)
- ECB Approved Non-Turf Practice Facility (min 26m)

*All NTP projects, including refurbishments, must come with a full warranty from the supplier for a named ECB Approved NTP System.*

#### **Enhanced Changing Facilities:**

- Changing room refurbishment and/or extensions
- Individual shower spaces with drying areas
- Improved toilet provision – sanitaryware / vanity units / tiling / flooring
- Grooming points – mirrors / hand dryers / hair dryers
- Personal possession lockers

### 4. INELIGIBLE PROJECTS

- 4.1 Any project already funded by an ECB/EWCT Grant or Loan. For the avoidance of doubt, this does not prevent a Club from applying for an EWCT Interest Free Loan in accordance with [Section 6.4](#).
- 4.2 Purchases of reconditioned or second hand goods or materials.
- 4.3 The grant may not be used to fund professional fees, such as:
- Legal fees
  - Architect and/or surveyor fees
  - Planning
  - Third party consent

## 5. AMOUNT OF GRANT

- 5.1 Each application will be assessed on a case-by-case basis.
- 5.2 Clubs can typically apply for between £1,000 (minimum) and £15,000 (maximum) per application.
- 5.3 For larger scale Enhanced Changing Facilities (projects over £30,000), grants up to £50,000 will be available. These projects will be required to meet Sport England Accessible and Inclusive Sports Facilities Design Guidance – Section D (see link in [Section 13](#)).
- 5.4 The grant **cannot** be used to retrospectively fund projects (see [Section 9.6](#)).
- 5.5 The amount of grant offered may differ from that requested by the Club. Each RCB / CF has a pre-determined budget so the amount of funding they allocate may vary.

## 6. PARTNERSHIP FUNDING

- 6.1 Partnership funding is the difference between the total project cost and the amount of grant. It can be sourced from Club funds, other grant bodies or sponsorship etc.
- 6.2 There is no minimum level of partnership funding required from the Club, although partnership funding is welcomed and may positively influence the decision made by your RCB / CF.
- 6.3 In-kind contributions can be included as partnership funding where they can be demonstrated / evidenced (by accurate valuation of donation of materials or labour).
- 6.4 Partnership funding may also be provided by way of an EWCT Interest Free Loan. A Club can choose to apply for a joint grant and loan as part of the online application.
- 6.5 Excluding Section 6.4 (above), the scheme cannot be partnered with any other ECB / EWCT capital funding grant programme.

## 7. KEY DATES

- The scheme will be open to applications from 1 February - 30 September 2026 (or until the funding runs out, if sooner).
- All projects must be completed and the grant claimed by 31 January 2027.
- In exceptional circumstances, and at EWCT's discretion, the end date may be extended for larger scale Enhanced Changing Facilities (projects over £30,000).

## 8. PLANNING YOUR PROJECT (PRE-APPLICATION)

- 8.1 Careful thought should be given to the planning and timing of the project before starting the application process. Consideration should be given to when projects can be scheduled, in particular, non-turf projects outside the playing season may be affected by adverse weather conditions during late autumn to early spring.
- 8.2 Whilst some projects can be completed quickly, others may take many months to plan and deliver. The RCB may defer a project until the following budget year, if it decides that it is not the right time for a project to be delivered, or when the current annual budget has been fully allocated.
- 8.3 For projects with a total project cost up to and including £24,999, Clubs are required to submit 'like-for-like' quotations (or tenders) from two different suppliers. For projects of £25,000 and above, a minimum of three quotes will be required.
- 8.4 Official quotations (or tenders) can be obtained by contacting the supplier(s) direct or, if for standard purchases, EWCT will accept a screenshot from a supplier's website. Please note that hyperlinks and/or generic lists produced by the Club are not acceptable.
- 8.5 All quotations must be legible and contain the following information:
- Supplier Details.
  - Date of quote (no more than 6 months old).
  - For Enhanced Playing and Changing Facilities projects, full details of the proposed project should include specifications, dimensions, total project cost and if the price is inclusive or exclusive of VAT.
  - Where VAT is being charged, please check the supplier has a VAT Registration Number shown on the quote. If the supplier is not VAT Registered, it cannot charge VAT.
  - Where multiple options or additional extras are offered, the Club needs to highlight its preferred choices on the quote.
  - If purchasing items direct from a website (especially when purchasing multiple different items from the same supplier), all items should be added to the 'shopping basket' facility, which will provide a breakdown of the type, size, quantity and price of each item required, including any delivery fees, discounts and VAT (where applicable).
- 8.6 It is in all Clubs' interest to shop around for quotations prior to submitting an application. The cheapest option may not necessarily be the best for the Club's needs. Choose items that offer the best value for money and are robust enough for heavy usage, such as furniture, flooring, professional catering equipment and appliances etc.
- 8.7 The amount of grant offered will be based on the nominated preferred quotation(s) submitted by the Club. This information will be written into the Grant Offer Letter (Contract). If a Club subsequently changes the preferred quotation(s) or supplier(s) without notifying the EWCT, the Club may need to re-apply and the grant offer may be reduced or withdrawn in its entirety (see [Section 10.4](#)).

8.8 Projects that include changes to the external appearance of a clubhouse or require groundworks are likely to require planning permission. Cricket Clubs are classified as 'non-domestic premises' and most permitted development rights do not apply. In such cases, the Club must contact the local planning authority to obtain written confirmation of whether planning permission will be required or not. If planning permission is required, the process can take on average 12 weeks for a decision.

Examples of projects likely to require planning:

- Installation of a new or extended non-turf match pitches or practice facilities
- Replacement doors and windows (in a conservation area)
- New or extended patio / decking areas
- Exterior signage (including boundary advertising)
- Electronic scoreboards
- Car parks
- Building extensions

8.9 A list of useful resources to assist with planning your project can be found in [Section 13](#).



## 9. THE APPLICATION PROCESS

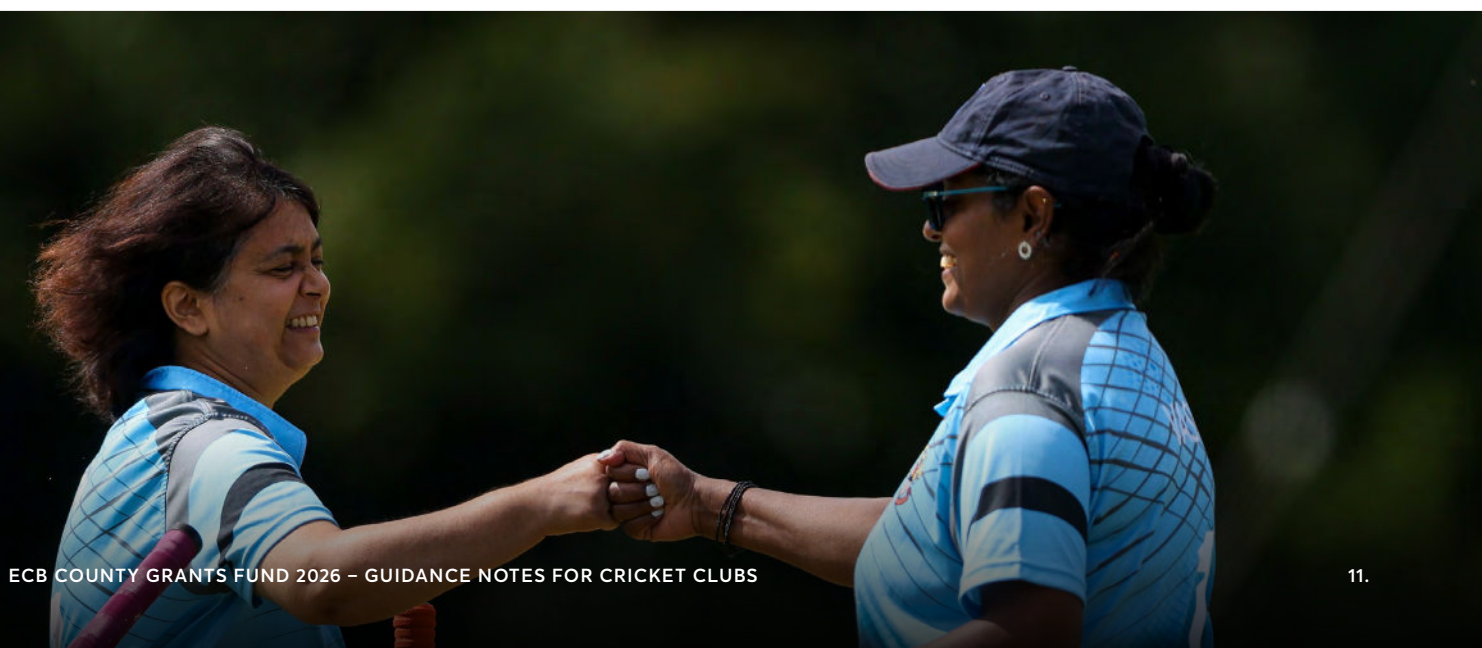
- 9.1 Access to the application is via the online Investment Management System (IMS) at <https://ims.ecb.co.uk>.
- 9.2 The Club will need to identify two contacts (authorised signatories) to act on its behalf for the duration of the project:
- Contacts must be authorised to enter into and sign contracts on behalf of the Club.
  - The key contact will be responsible for completing the application process and signing and accepting the terms and conditions of the Grant Offer Letter.
  - The second contact will be responsible for countersigning and accepting the terms and conditions of the Grant Offer Letter.
  - Contacts must have reasonable IT skills, have access to a personal email address and set up a personal user account on IMS.
  - Contacts should not share the same home address, email or phone number.
  - To avoid any potential conflict of interests, contacts should not be an employee of the ECB, RCB, CF or Professional Cricket Club (PCC).
- 9.3 New user account details will need to be verified by the local RCB, usually within seven days. Once verified, the designated key contact will be able to start the application process.
- 9.4 The key contact will be required to complete a brief Expression of Interest (EOI) form, which requests basic information about the proposed project. This can then be submitted to the RCB for initial review. If the project receives in principle support from the RCB, the Club will be given access to the full application process.
- 9.5 On completion of the full application, it should be submitted to the RCB for assessment within 30 days. The RCB may refer the application back to the Club for further information, if required. Once the RCB is satisfied with the application, it will be forwarded to EWCT for final approval and processing.
- 9.6 Clubs must not proceed with their project until they have received, signed and returned the Grant Offer Letter to EWCT. If a Club is subsequently found to have commenced the project before receiving the Grant Offer Letter, the funding will be withdrawn (see [Section 6.4](#)).

## 10. IF AN APPLICATION IS SUCCESSFUL

- 10.1 The Grant Offer Letter will be issued by email, usually within 30 days of receipt of the Club's completed application.
- 10.2 To accept the terms and conditions of the grant, the two contacts (authorised signatories) will be required to electronically sign and return the Grant Offer Letter (using the DocuSign process) within 30 days of receipt.
- 10.3 Once EWCT has received and accepted the signed Grant Offer Letter, the Club may commence the project.
- 10.4 Any changes to the project specification or supplier(s) after the Grant Offer Letter has been accepted must be notified to EWCT immediately as this may affect the amount of grant. Failure to notify EWCT may result in the revised project being ineligible and the grant being reduced or withdrawn in its entirety.
- 10.5 All projects must be completed and the grant claimed before the 31 January 2027, unless agreed otherwise in writing by the EWCT. In exceptional circumstances, and at EWCT's discretion, the end date may be extended for larger Changing Facilities projects (over £30,000).
- 10.6 Clubs will be required to complete the claim process on IMS and may submit multiple claims (minimum £1,000 per claim), throughout the duration of the project, or submit one final claim on completion. Each claim must be supported by invoices/receipts at least equal to the value of the claim submitted, up to the value of the final project cost.
- 10.7 In exceptional circumstances, and at EWCT's discretion, a pro-forma invoice(s) may be submitted ahead of completion. Any Club that submits a pro-forma invoice with a claim will be required to complete a reconciliation on completion of the whole project, where they will need to upload any outstanding VAT invoices.
- 10.8 Payment will be made direct to the Club's designated bank account, usually within 10 working days of receipt of each claim.
- 10.9 The Club shall immediately on receipt of the funds from the EWCT pay those sums received to the relevant supplier(s), if it has not already done so.
- 10.10 The Club will provide an initial Post Project Review on the impact of the project, after completion. This will include, without limitation, photos of the completed project, outcomes, numbers impacted, publicity etc., and any other information reasonably requested by, or on behalf of, EWCT.
- 10.11 A number of Clubs will be asked to provide further annual reviews (for up to 3 years) on the impact of the grant depending on the project type, i.e. enhanced playing facilities projects will be asked to measure any increase in the number of women and girls playing cricket.

## 11. WARRANTIES AND WAIVERS

- 11.1 The grant is offered is on an understanding that the information provided within the application is correct. The EWCT reserves the right to request further evidence from the Club to support this information, if necessary, at any stage during the process.
- 11.2 The grant is offered on the understanding that the conditions of the scheme are met. The EWCT reserves the right to withdraw a grant in whole or in part if it considers that the conditions of the scheme or the conditions set out in the Grant Offer Letter have not been met to EWCT's satisfaction.
- 11.2 Where final expenditure is less than the quotation on which the award is based, and as set out in the Grant Offer Letter, the EWCT reserves the right to reduce the grant or to withdraw the grant in entirety.
- 11.3 All awards will be granted by the EWCT in its absolute discretion. Not all applications will be successful even if all criteria set out above are met.
- 11.4 EWCT is not under any obligation to consider any proposal or application that it may receive and reserves the right to defer or reject an application it considers does not comply with these terms.
- 11.5 EWCT reserves the right at any stage to change any or all requirements for qualification for a grant and/or any terms and conditions relevant to the award of any grant to any Club.
- 11.6 This guidance note sets out an outline of the application process and requirements to be fulfilled by a Club prior to, or as a condition of, the award of a grant by the EWCT. This guidance is correct as at the date on which it was printed.
- 11.7 Neither these guidance notes nor any other information supplied by the ECB/EWCT (or its officers or agents) constitutes a contract or an offer which is capable of acceptance by any Club with the exception of the Grant Offer Letter. These guidelines do not contain any representation upon which any Club is entitled to rely at any time.
- 11.8 ECB/EWCT (and its officers or agents) will not be responsible for any costs, losses or expenses which Clubs or any other parties incur in the preparation and submission of applications or in complying with any of the mandatory requirements set out in this guidance note.



## 12. CONTACTS

- 12.1 If in any doubt about the eligibility of a project, in the first instance Clubs should contact the local RCB or CF for advice at [www.ecb.co.uk/county-cricket-boards](http://www.ecb.co.uk/county-cricket-boards)
- 12.2 For strategic or technical advice, please contact [facilities@ecb.co.uk](mailto:facilities@ecb.co.uk)
- 12.3 For all other queries regarding the fund or the online Investment Management System (IMS), please contact [grantmanagement@ecb.co.uk](mailto:grantmanagement@ecb.co.uk)

## 13. USEFUL RESOURCES

### 13.1 **Creating Welcoming Environments Guide**

<https://www.ecb.co.uk/play/club-support/welcoming-environments>

### 13.2 **Enhanced Playing Facilities**

- ECB Approved NTP Systems & Suppliers List
- ECB Guidance for the Provision & Installation of Non-Turf Cricket Pitches & Net Cage Facilities

<https://www.ecb.co.uk/play/club-support/facility-management>

### 13.3 **Enhanced Changing Facilities**

- Developing a Project – From Conception to Completion

<https://www.ecb.co.uk/play/club-support/facility-management>

#### **Sport England Guidance**

- Accessible & Inclusive Sports Facilities Guidance (see Section D)

<https://www.sportengland.org/guidance-and-support/facilities-and-planning/design-and-cost-guidance>

- Making a Planning Application for your Sports Project

<https://www.sportengland.org/how-we-can-help/facilities-and-planning/planning-for-sport/sports-club-planning-application-guide>

### 13.4 **EWCT Interest Free Loan Scheme**

<https://www.ecb.co.uk/play/club-support/club-funding/interest-free-loan-scheme>



## 14. PROCESS FLOW CHART

Access to the application will be via the online Investment Management System (IMS) at <https://ims.ecb.co.uk>.

Clubs will need to identify two contacts (authorised signatories) to act on their behalf for the duration of the project. Both contacts will need to create a personal user account on IMS (if they have not already done so).

The RCB/CF will assess the full application within 30 days of submission. Once satisfied with the application, it will be forwarded to ECB for final approval and processing.

If approved, a Grant Offer Letter will be issued by email, usually within 30 days of receipt.

To accept the grant, the two contacts (authorised signatories) need to electronically sign and return the Grant Offer Letter (using the DocuSign process) within 30 days of receipt.

On receipt and acceptance of the signed Offer Letter by ECB, the Club may proceed with the project.

Projects must be completed and the grant claimed before the 31 January 2027, unless agreed otherwise in writing by the EWCT. In exceptional circumstances, and at EWCT's discretion, the end date may be extended for larger Changing Facilities projects (over £30,000).

Clubs may submit multiple claims (min £1,000 per claim), throughout the duration of the project, or submit one final claim on completion. Each claim must be supported by invoices / receipts at least equal to the value of the claim submitted, up to the value of the final project cost. In exceptional circumstances, the ECB will accept a pro-forma invoice(s) ahead of completion. Any Club that submits a pro-forma invoice(s) with a claim will be required to complete a reconciliation on completion of the project, where they will need to upload any outstanding VAT invoices.

Payment of the grant direct to the Club's designated bank account will usually occur within 10 working days of receipt of the claim and invoices / receipts. The Club shall immediately on receipt of the funds from the EWCT pay those sums received to the relevant supplier(s), if it has not already done so.

All Clubs will be asked to provide an initial post-project review on the impact of the project, after completion. This may include, without limitation, outcomes, numbers impacted, photos, publicity etc., and any other information reasonably requested by, or on behalf of, EWCT.

A number of Clubs will be asked to provide further annual reviews (up to 3 years) on the impact of the grant depending on project type, i.e. Enhanced Playing Facilities projects, to measure any increase in the number of women and girls playing / participating in cricket.



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