



## 2026 Sport Grant Programme

# Endorsers Guide

**Last updated:** December 2025

This guidance document assists both RAF Sport Association endorsers and non-Association endorsers when endorsing applications to the RAF Central Fund Individual Sports Grant Programme.

These tips and requirements have been produced based on common concerns and frequent issues raised. Endorsers are not liable for purchases made by individuals through our Sports Grant Programme, please refer to our Policy for further information on liability.

### 2026 Application Deadline

Completed forms must be returned to [sportsgrants@rafcf.org.uk](mailto:sportsgrants@rafcf.org.uk) no later than **Wednesday 30 September 2026**.

This is a hard deadline; any applications received after this date will not be considered.

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# 1. General Endorsement Requirements

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## 1.1 Who can endorse applications?

Applications must be endorsed by the **appropriate RAF Sport Association Chair** or their **delegated representative(s)**, except where:

- No recognised RAF Sports Association exists for the sport; or
- The Association does **not** endorse **Development** or **Station-level** applications.

In these cases, endorsement must come from:

- A **Sqn Ldr or above**, or
- An **OF3 equivalent** if no Sqn Ldr+ is available.

## 1.2 Are self-endorsed applications permitted?

No. Endorsers cannot endorse their own applications.

## 1.3 Who should submit the endorsed application?

The endorser must submit the completed form directly to [sportsgrants@rafcf.org.uk](mailto:sportsgrants@rafcf.org.uk) with the applicant copied in.

If the applicant submits it themselves, they must include the endorsement email trail.

# 2. Eligible Sports for Non-Association Endorsement (Development Level Only)

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Non-Association endorsers (Sqn Ldr+) may approve Development-level applications for the Sports listed at 2.1.

They may also endorse any sport with no RAF Sport Association.

## 2.1 Sports that do not require Association endorsement for Development Level grants:

- Athletics
- Cricket
- Cycling
- Football
- Golf
- Hockey
- Netball
- Rugby Union
- Triathlon
- Weightlifting

All applications for RAF Representative level or higher, or for sports outside this list, must be endorsed by the recognised RAF Sport Association (available at Annex A).

### 3. Endorser Process (All Endorsers)

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#### 3.1 Timely Endorsements

All endorsed applications must be forwarded to [sportsgrants@rafcf.org.uk](mailto:sportsgrants@rafcf.org.uk) by **30 Sep 2026**.

Applicants are responsible for submitting their forms to the endorser early enough for review.

Always copy the applicant into the email when submitting.

No retrospective funding is permitted.

Applicants will receive an automated confirmation email when their application is uploaded for processing.

Applications not received by the Fund (not just the endorser) by 30 Sep 2026 will not be considered.

### 4. Application Form Guidance

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#### 4.1 Items Requested (Section 6)

Applicants should only request items required for the submitted grant period—not a full-year spending.

Every item listed must be checked, therefore unnecessary items, beyond the scope of the eligible maximum award, slow our processing speeds.

Please familiarise yourself with excluded items in the Sports Grants Policy section 2.3 to reduce ineligible requests. The Sports Grants Policy can be found alongside this guide on the Sport Grants section of our website.

#### 4.2 Endorsement Section (Section 8)

Must be completed entirely by the endorser - not pre-filled by the applicant.

All fields must be completed.

For RAF Representative level and above, applicants must provide evidence of their eligibility (e.g., event name and date). Endorsers must also provide evidence that the applicant is RAF Representative level.

Representative-level funding is based on current-year competition level at the date of application, not previous years or predicted future selection.

Top-up grants may be submitted if a Development applicant is selected for RAF representation later in the year (before 30 Sep).

If you cannot endorse an application, please explain why and allow the applicant to revise it.

For any clarifications required on eligibility or the suitability of items, please contact [sportsgrants@rafcf.org.uk](mailto:sportsgrants@rafcf.org.uk)

### **4.3 Endorser's Supporting Statement**

The supporting statement must be tailored to the individual application and must include:

- Confirmation that the items requested are appropriate for the applicant's sport and competing level.
- A statement of the applicant's current competing level, including a summary of any qualifying RAF Representative events.

### **4.4 Submitting Endorsed Applications**

Please email endorsed applications directly to [sportsgrants@rafcf.org.uk](mailto:sportsgrants@rafcf.org.uk), copying in the applicant.

### **4.5 Endorser Checklist**

Before submitting, please ensure:

- ✓ The correct 2026 application form has been used.
- ✓ The applicant's competing level is correct as of the application date.
- ✓ No items or activities have already been purchased.
- ✓ Weblinks, product descriptions, and prices are included for all items.
- ✓ No excluded items (per Section 2.3) appear in the application.

Any questions should be directed to [sportsgrants@rafcf.org.uk](mailto:sportsgrants@rafcf.org.uk).



**ANNEX A:** Sports that **do** require Association endorsement for Development Level grants:

- American Football
- Angling
- Archery
- Badminton
- Basketball
- BLSA (Bobsleigh, Luge & Skeleton)
- Boxing
- Canoeing
- Cresta
- Darts
- Equitation
- Fencing
- Gliding and Soaring
- Hang Gliding and Paragliding
- Ice Hockey
- Judo
- Lacrosse
- Martial Arts
- Microlight Flying
- Model Aircraft
- Motor Sports
- Mountaineering
- Nordic
- Orienteering
- Polo
- Power Kiting
- Power Lifting
- Rowing
- Rugby League
- Sailing
- Small Arms
- Sport Aircraft/Flying Club
- Sports Parachuting
- Squash
- Sub Aqua
- Swimming
- Table Tennis
- Tennis
- Ten Pin Bowling
- Volleyball
- Water Skiing and Wakeboarding
- Waveriders/Surfing
- Winter Sports