Guidelines

The Highland Athlete Travel Award Scheme

The Highland Athlete Travel Award Scheme supports performance athletes from the Highlands with their travel and accommodation costs for eligible training and competition, and with free High Life Highland facility access.

This scheme is funded by **sport**scotland and High Life Highland and is administered locally by High Life Highland. The scheme can only support individuals that are taking part in sports recognised by **sport**scotland (for more info visit: www.sportscotland.org.uk/sport-a-z). We hope it will make a real difference to the support of performance athletes living in Highland.

The overarching aim of this scheme is to improve opportunities for Highland athletes to participate, progress and achieve in sport by**:**

1) Helping to prepare Scotland's best athletes from the Highlands to perform on the national and international stage;
2) Providing financial support for Highland athletes to access high performance expertise and environments in sport;
3) Providing free membership to High Life Highland's sports facilities across, the whole of the Highland region, to assist Highland athletes train for their sport:
4) Helping Highland athletes to consistently achieve selection to national and international NGB programmes and ultimately winning on the world stage.

The outcomes that will be monitored by this scheme are:

- Athletes from Highland gaining National representation (age group / open) in accordance with National Governing Body pathways;
- Athletes from Highland gaining selection to GB World Class (Podium, Podium Potential) funded programs in Olympic / Paralympic sports;
- Athletes from Highland who are currently on a Professional Sporting Pathway;

What do we expect successful applications to demonstrate?

A successful application to the Highland Athlete Travel Award Scheme will demonstrate that:

- There is a need for the funding to support the athlete's training and competition programme;
- The athlete is committed to their training and competition programme;
- The athlete's plans are well thought out and represent value for money;
- The athlete's expenditure can be fully accounted for;
- The athlete's programme will meet the overarching aim and outcomes of this scheme;
- The athlete is committed to fulfil their long-term aspirations and goals to further sporting pathways within higher performing environments.

Who can apply?

An individual who:

- Is a resident within the Highlands;
- Regularly attending training and competition out with the Highland region or that requires a 120-mile round trip within the Highland region;
- Currently selected to compete or train at a national or international level;
- Endorsed by a statement of support from the relevant National Governing Body (NGB);
- Competing within a sportscotland recognised sport.

We cannot support:

- Whole squads or teams, joint applications;
- Sports that are not recognised by **sport**scotland (See link for recognised sports https://sportscotland.org.uk/sport-a-z/);
- Funding for training or competitions that has already happened;
- Late applications that have missed the deadline.

Please note all eligible applicants must operate a bank or building society account in their legal name. Applicants under the age of 18 should use a bank or building society account in the name of a legal parent/guardian.

When should you apply?

Applications must be submitted by 5pm on the deadline date for the relevant funding round:

Funding Round 1:

For eligible travel to training & competitions from 1st April 2027 – 30th September 2027, **APPLICATION DEADLINE 5pm on Sunday 28th of February 2027**.

Funding Round 2:
For eligible travel to training & competitions from 1st October 2027 – 31st March 2028, **APPLICATION DEADLINE 5pm on Friday 3rd of September 2027.**

We will acknowledge your application within 5 working days.

Please note that we are unable to accept incomplete or late applications.

What can this scheme fund?

We will consider funding:

- Travel and accommodation costs for training and competitions out with Highland;
- Travel and accommodation costs for training and competitions that take place within Highland, provided they require at least a 120-mile round journey from an athlete's home address.

What can this scheme not fund?

We will not fund:

- Competition and training fees;
- Conferences and seminars;
- "In kind" non cash costs;
- Equipment and materials;
- Publicity and promotion costs;
- Travel and accommodation costs within Highland for distances less than 120 miles.

How much can we fund?

The Athlete Travel Award Scheme has a total budget of £15,000 for this year. We will be able to fund up to a maximum of £750.00 per athlete or a lower amount, based on estimated travel and accommodation needs. Estimated costs must be reflected in the athlete's application training and competition calendar.

If there are more applicants for funding than money available, the panel will consider:

- The applicant's potential to meet the outcomes of this scheme;
- The applicant's commitment to their competition and training programme;
- The diversity and standard of applications received.

What happens if I am successful?

- If you are successful, you will receive an award offer letter from High Life Highland. You, or your parent or guardian if you are under 18, will need to sign the attached form accepting the award and terms and conditions, and provide details of a UK bank account to receive the funds. Award acceptance forms must be returned by the date stated on the award letter.
- You must comply with award conditions and only use the funding for the purpose(s) set out in the application form.
- If there are any significant changes to your eligibility or the details provided in your application, you must notify High Life Highland immediately.

When will I receive my free HLH membership card?

As a Highland ATAS athlete, once you have accepted your award you can start using HLH facilities by collecting your membership card. Your card can be collected from your nearest Leisure centre once we have received your award acceptance and is valid for 1 year from 1st April 2026 for round 1 athletes or 1st October 2026 for round 2 athletes.

What are the expectations of me as a Highland ATAS athlete?

We ask that you acknowledge High Life Highland, **sport**scotland and the Highland ATAS on any social media, publicity, and marketing materials during your Highland ATAS funding period.

Please note that there are terms and conditions associated with using HLH facilities and your Highland ATAS membership status. These terms and conditions are detailed in the application form and will be in your award letter. The Highland ATAS terms and conditions must be accepted and abided by.

What happens if I am unsuccessful?

We will write to you within **28 days of the closing date,** to inform you whether your application has been successful. The panel's decision is final but if you would like further feedback on the decision to refuse your application, please contact High Life Highland. If you have any feedback on your experience, High Life Highland's Comments and Complaints Process can be seen at https://www.myhighlife.co.uk/complaints/complaints_form.asp

Highland ATAS Facilitator Contact Details

Staff members from the High Life Highland sports team will help to facilitate this process and are available to discuss applications and programme planning prior to completing your application form. Contact details are provided below.

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