THE IRISH SPORTS COUNCIL

AN CHOMHAIRLE SPORÁIL

NGB SUPPORT KIT

Chapter Eleven

OTHER SUPPORTS

11. Other Supports

Introduction

This section lists a number of external bodies that the Irish Sports Council has worked with and developed a relationship with that could be a good asset for your NGB. These bodies are community-based organisations that can provide professional assistance in many areas of your business.

11.1 Department of Arts Sport & Tourism

The Department was formed in June 2002 and its mission is:

"to contribute to the economic, social and cultural progress of Irish society and the enrichment of its quality of life through promoting sustainable tourism; encouraging excellence in sporting and artistic achievement; facilitating greater access to sport and the arts; and preservation of our cultural inheritance".

The Department is primarily a policy-making Department in the three sectors of Arts, Sport and Tourism.

Arts

- Formulation, development and evaluation of policy and structures to promote and foster the practice and appreciation of the creative and interpretative arts and to encourage the development of the Irish film industry;
- Enabling the national cultural institutions, as integral elements of the national culture, to preserve, protect and present for the benefit of present and future generations our moveable heritage and cultural assets.

Sports

- Formulation, development and evaluation of sport policy (the implementation of which in the main is a matter for the Irish Sports Council);
- Overseeing major sports projects, including the National Aquatic Centre at Abbotstown; developing proposals for the provision of a national stadium; the administration of the Sports Capital and the Local Authority Swimming Pool Programmes.

Tourism

- Facilitating the continued development by the tourism industry of an economic and environmentally sustainable and spatially balanced tourism sector, through formulating monitoring and reviewing a range of supporting policies and programmes, particularly within the framework of the National Development Plan and North/South Co-operation.

11.2 Local Sports Partnerships

Rationale of the Local Sport Partnerships

The Irish Sports Council (ISC) has recognised that the partnerships are an excellent mechanism for delivering recreational sport to local people. Key tasks that the partnerships are involved in include: -

- Increasing facility usage
- The consolidation of work carried out to date
- The creation and implementation of plans for long term local sports development
- The establishment of a sustainable structure to assist all those involved in local sports development to face the associated challenges - e.g. recruiting and managing volunteers, quality training, etc

Functions of the Local Sport Partnerships

The three main functions of the LSPs are:

- Information - establish a consultative forum, initiate research, compile a sports directory and database, and identify needs and resources to form the basis of local planning
- Education - provide quality opportunities for education and training at local level, provide training courses targeting volunteers, and provide access to sport specific courses through the NGBs of sport
- Implementation - develop a strategic plan for local sport, appoint a professional administrator, secure related support services, select participation programmes for LSPs modified to suit local needs, increase the impact of national programmes delivered locally, market and promote sport

Role of the Local Sport Partnerships

The key aims of the LSP are to increase participation in sport, and to ensure that local resources are used to best effect. Some of the outcomes we seek are:

- Club development
- Volunteer training
- Enhanced planning of sport at local level
- Local directories of sports bodies & facilities
- School, club, community and NGB links
- Increased levels of local participation, especially amongst specific target groups such as older people, girls & women, people with disabilities, unemployed people, and those who live in identified disadvantaged communities

Membership of the Local Sport Partnerships

All those statutory bodies, organisations and groups operating in local areas with a responsibility for or interest in sports development should be invited to participate in the LSP. The involvement of the Vocational Education Committees (VEC), city and county councils, Health Service Executive (HSE), FÁS, universities, colleges, Institutes of Technology, commercial companies, sports' clubs, NGBs and community groups in the partnership will be important

Proposed Structure

The LSP will lead the consultative forum which will represent the views of all local groups. The LSP will be established as a substructure of a local authority with its priorities decided in consultation with its constituent members. This structure will also ensure that all funding made available to the LSP can be dedicated solely to work in the sports sector. The Board of Directors of the LSP should be made up of representatives of those agencies regarded as key influencers in local sports development. The LSP will employ the Local Sports Coordinator and will set the priorities for the work of this officer

Local Sports Coordinator

The Local Sports Coordinator is employed by and reports to the Board of the LSP. The functions ascribed to the LSP will form the basis of the work of this professional, and therefore their work will revolve around the functions described as information, education and implementation. Each LSP will decide on the priorities to be assigned to the Coordinator's work, but in general their role will be the coordination of the planning process for the LSP, and the overseeing of the agreed plan. The Coordinator will also act as secretary to the LSP, facilitate meetings of the LSP Board, and liase closely with the ISC to act as a conduit for information between national and local developments. The Coordinator will be responsible for the implementation of the local sports strategy, encompassing elements such as education programmes and local participation initiatives.

LSP Contacts

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11.3 Volunteering Ireland

Valuing Volunteering... Be inVOLved - Join Today!

Volunteering Ireland has promoted, supported and facilitated voluntary action in Ireland since 1997. They were Ireland's first Volunteer Centre.

Mission

Volunteering Ireland promotes high quality voluntary activity, by encouraging organisations which involve volunteers to adopt good policy and practice, and by acting as a link between such organisations and individuals who wish to undertake meaningful voluntary work.

Aims

- To promote volunteering to the general public, the media and policy-makers
- To support organisations wishing to implement good practice in their involvement of volunteers
- To match individuals who wish to volunteer with organisations which offer suitable volunteering opportunities

Ethos

Volunteering Ireland is a professional and efficient not-for-profit organisation; independent, non-party political and non-sectarian. The organisation are people-centred and inclusive, responsive both to the needs of those who volunteer and those who work with volunteers. They are outward-looking, seeking to work collaboratively with people and organisations from all sectors of the community. Their activities are socially and environmentally responsible. They are flexible and they evaluate their operations on an ongoing basis to respond to the changing environment in which they operate.

Benefits of Membership

- Discounts on training courses, conferences, workshops, publications, advertising
- Priority access to their placement, training and information services
- Volunteering Matters monthly e-newsletter, free placement of information on your organisation in the e-newsletter
- Voting Rights at general meetings
- Right to stand for election of the Board of Directors
- Right to advertise your membership of Volunteering Ireland
- Knowledge that Volunteering Ireland is working on your behalf to improve the status and conditions of volunteering in Ireland

For further information on Volunteering Ireland please contact:

Volunteering Ireland
Coleraine House
Coleraine Street
Dublin 7
Telephone: (+353 1) 872 2622
Facsimile: (+353 1) 872 2623
Email: info@volunteeringireland.ie

Opening Hours

- Monday to Friday 09:00 to 13:00 and 14:00 to 17:00
- Closed weekends and Bank / Public Holidays

11.4 Boardmatch

What Is It?

Boardmatch Ireland is the unique new and free service that matches nonprofit boards with skilled and experienced volunteers.

Overview

Boardmatch Ireland was established in 2005 and aims to support the development of the voluntary and community sector (the nonprofit sector) by strengthening boards and management committees. Boardmatch do this principally through this free web-based matching service, which matches people willing to volunteer their skills at a board level, with organisations needing additional skills on their boards.

Boardmatch have developed a new volunteering model, to which there are three key pillars:

- Candidates: people willing to volunteer their skills, experiences and time to work on a nonprofit Board
- Organisations: nonprofit (community and voluntary) organisations who are seeking additional skills at board level and who will use Boardmatch as one of their board recruitment methods
- Businesses: the business and professional sector who see in this new model of volunteering a key leadership development opportunity for their staff, and who will promote nonprofit board membership across their organisations, particularly at emerging leaders in their businesses, and encourage staff to volunteer through Boardmatch.

How Boardmatch Works

These three pillars combine in the principal service offered by Boardmatch - a free web-based matching system. The matching process is straightforward:

- Individuals (candidates) register and create a profile listing their relevant skills and experiences; the particular areas in which they are interested (e.g. Theatre, Youth, Environment etc.) and the time they have available per month for voluntary Board work
- Nonprofit Organisations register and create a profile describing their organisation and the skills and experiences required for the board positions for which they are recruiting. Matching is initiated by either the candidate or the organisation, and produces a corresponding shortlist of the organisations or candidates most closely matching on preferences, skills and time
- The matched profiles are viewed online. Where the candidate or organisation sparks interest, initial contact between the organisation and candidate is made via the website, where one invites the other to view their profile
- If the interest is mutual, contact details are exchanged and further contact is arranged by the organisation and candidate
- Candidates and organisations interview each other, and do their required 'due diligence'. Where there is mutual agreement, the candidate joins the board of the organisation - much like a job interview process.

Over 50 matches have been made since the service started in July 2005, with over 400 candidates registered since then. Some comments from users to date:

"Boardmatch is a fantastic opportunity for those who have always wanted to make a positive contribution in the voluntary sector but do not know where to start. It really does open up a whole new world".

- **Matched Candidate**

"As a small community and voluntary sector organisation, it can be sometimes difficult to find Board members with specialist expertise who can add value to your organisation and its activities. That's where Boardmatch came to the rescue. From the time I logged onto the site and registered my organisation details, the service seemed to operate in a seamless fashion. Within minutes I had details of five suitable candidates to fill the position of Financial Advisor to our Board. I subsequently met with two of the candidates and invited one to come on board. The insight and advice that this person brings is invaluable and is already influencing the strategic direction of the organisation. I cannot recommend the service offered by Boardmatch highly enough and I will continue to use them for future Board vacancies."

- BOND, Dublin

If you are interested, register with Boardmatch, either as an Organisation seeking additional skills at Board level, or as a Candidate willing to volunteer your skills to a Board. If you are a business or professional association, Boardmatch would be very interested in talking with you about integrating Boardmatch into your leadership development processes. Contact Boardmatch if you would like any further information at info@boardmatchireland.ie

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e: info@boardmatchireland.ie

11.5 Age & Opportunity

The Go for Life Programme aims to increase participation among older people in recreational sport activities. The Programme is administered by Age and Opportunity, and overseen by a Steering Group comprising representatives of the Irish Sports Council, Age and Opportunity, the Federation of Active Retirement Associations, the Irish Senior Citizens Parliament and the National Council on Ageing and Older People.

In 2008, the Irish Sports Council provided €700,000 under the Programme. Over 700 groups nationwide shared an allocation of €350,000 under phase seven of the Go for Life National Grant Scheme for Sport and Physical Activity for Older People. The national grant scheme is just one element of the Go for Life programme and complements the other main strands in the programme - the Active Living programme and the Sports Participation programme.

For further details please visit the Go for Life website or contact them directly at Telephone: 01-805-7733, Email: gfl@mie.ie or Website: http://ageandopportunity.ie/go-life

11.6 Acknowledgements

The Irish Sports Council would sincerely like to thank all of the contributors who have donated their resources and information to help in the creation of this Support Kit. Your input has been extremely helpful in contributing to this document. Special mention must go the all National Governing Bodies of Sport and Local Sports Partnerships in Ireland who have generously shared examples of their work for others to see and learn from.

We hope that sportspeople all over Ireland will benefit from the information contained within this Support Kit. With your help, you have contributed to the improvement of sport in Ireland. Thank you all very much.

11.7 Disclaimer

This draft has been provided as guidance material only and is not to be viewed as a required framework but rather a guidance document to assist applicants in the development of their own Policy and Operating Procedures Manual. As this draft is a generic template, it cannot be considered specific to your organisation. It is therefore the responsibility of your organisation to adapt this document accordingly.

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