

Assistance Scheme for Paralympic Sport and Para Sport Equipment

This scheme is a collaboration between Sport Malta and Malta Paralympic Committee, supported by the Ministry for Education, Sport, Youth, Research and Innovation.

For any queries, please contact Malta Paralympic Committee via email on info@paralympic.mt

June 2026

1. APPLICATION TIMELINE AND PROCESS

Application Form and Supporting Documentation

Applications must be submitted using the prescribed application form (**Type A - Athletes** or **Type B – Clubs** or **Type C - Schools**). Forms may be completed online or completed, signed, scanned in pdf. and emailed to info@paralympic.mt.

The application form should be completed and accompanied by:

- (i) an official quote or invoice from the supplier of the equipment¹;
- (ii) technical specifications and photos of the equipment;²
- (iii) declaration by the applicant that the prosthesis or other sport equipment/assistive device is necessary and can be used in the sport(s) concerned;³
- (iv) letter from coach/club representative;⁴
- (v) recommendation letter from physiotherapist/occupational therapist (*optional*).

Notes

- 1. Applicants are encouraged to submit multiple quotes from alternative suppliers, indicating the reasons for any preferred supplier, considering relevant factors such as the relative cost, quality, whether the supplier is recognised as an official supplier by the sport international or federation, compliance with sport specific technical standards or requirements, personal adaptations required and other factors. For the avoidance of doubt, it is **not** mandatory to submit more than one quote from one supplier, as it is acknowledged that certain equipment is limited in supply and/or requires highly personalised adaptations.
- 2. Stock photos or similar and technical specifications provided by the supplier.
- 3. Since not all prosthesis or other devices/equipment are usable in sports (for example, prostheses with electronic components are generally not allowed, or appropriate for use, in

competitions), the applicant should ensure that the proposed prosthesis or other devices/equipment conforms with the requirements and regulations of the sport and can be used by the applicant in international competitions organised by the international governing body the sport (for example, World Para Swimming or World Para Athletics). The declaration should state that the athlete has researched this aspect, and that the equipment can be used in sports competitions. If in doubt, the athlete is advised to obtain written clearance from the international governing body responsible for the sport and attach it to the declaration. In exceptional circumstances, and subject to availability of funds under the scheme, an application can also be made to purchase prosthesis or other devices/equipment which can be used in training but not in competition. Such requests should be sufficiently justified and supported by expert opinions.

4. Letter should confirm that athlete: (i) has been a member of the club and active in the sport for a minimum of six (6) months; (ii) has been regularly attending training sessions; and (iii) provide details of the typical training week of the athlete.

Application Timeline

Applications open	1 st July 2026
Applications close	31 st July 2026
Applications reviewed by Sport Malta and Malta Paralympic Committee Joint Evaluation Board	1 st week August 2026 to 14 th August 2026
Applicants notified of results of applications	Week commencing 24 th August 2026
Order for equipment to be confirmed by successful applicants, and final invoices issued.	<i>It is important that all invoices to be presented for payment are issued with a date in 2026. Applicants are encouraged to confirm the order with the supplier promptly from being notified of the outcome of their application.</i>
Invoices to be received by SportMalta	30 th September 2026

The Joint Evaluation Board may request additional information and/or documentation from applicants. Decisions of the Joint Evaluation Board are final and binding.

Subject to approval in the annual budget of Sport Malta, the intention is for calls under this scheme to be opened in subsequent years, on an annual or half-yearly basis.

2. ELIGIBLE EQUIPMENT AND ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

Eligible Equipment

The following is a **non-exhaustive list** of eligible Paralympic Sport and Para Sport equipment (**Eligible Equipment**) for training and/or competition purposes:

- prosthetic limbs or equipment (including customised footwear for prosthesis or foot impairments, etc.)
- sport wheelchair
- adapted seats
- adapted riggings and fittings (for example, for bicycles, ERGs, etc.)
- adaptive gripping aids (example, used in rowing, archery, wheelchair basketball, etc.)
- equipment for cardiovascular and/or strength & conditioning training purposes (example - adapted indoor bikes, ERGs, or other machines, etc.)
- adapted training gear or adapted official competition apparel
- equipment to aid visually impaired athletes (such as tappers, audio equipment, etc.)
- communicative devices for athletes with hearing impairments

Important: the equipment must be needed and used for **sport purposes** (i.e., training and/or participation in competitions) only. Equipment that may be required or used only for recreational, medical or other reasons shall **not** be eligible under the scheme.

Eligible Costs

The eligible costs shall be those costs included in the official quote and final invoice for the Eligible Equipment submitted with the application (and may include costs relating to spare parts, add-ons and/or modifications) (**Eligible Costs**).

Eligible Athletes or Sports Clubs

The scheme is open to:

- (i) athletes with an eligible physical, visual and/or hearing impairment (**Eligible Athletes**);
- (ii) inclusive sport clubs offering training to Eligible Athletes in an Eligible Sport (**Eligible Sport Clubs**).

Eligible Athletes

An athlete must meet the following general eligibility criteria:

1. Athlete has an eligible physical, visual and/or hearing impairment:

Applicants should refer to the general eligibility criteria for athletes with an eligible impairment as established by the International Paralympic Committee (IPC). Please refer to the list of 10 eligible impairment types on: <https://www.paralympic.org/classification>.

Where appropriate, other impairments that are substantially similar to the eligible impairments on the IPC list may be considered at the discretion of the Joint Evaluation Board.

If the applicant is in doubt on the eligibility or otherwise of the physical, visual or hearing impairment in question, the applicant should consult MPC in advance of applying.

2. Minimum training requirement:

Applicants must normally have been active in the Paralympic Sport or Para Sport indicated in the application for at least an uninterrupted period of **six (6) months** prior to the date of the application. This requirement must be supported by a letter from the club/coach of the athlete.

In exceptional circumstances (such as where the athlete has been identified by the MPC or the national sport association or federation as an athlete with high-potential; or such athlete necessarily requires such equipment to increase the frequency and intensity of training and/or compete; or due to medical reasons), the Joint Evaluation Board may consider such athletes to meet the eligibility criteria notwithstanding that the athlete has been active in the sport for less than six (6) months.

3. Athlete is active in an Eligible Sport

The athlete must be active in a:

- a) **Paralympic Sport** on the official Paralympic Games summer programme. The official Paralympic Games summer programme is published by the International Paralympic Committee and is available for viewing on <https://www.paralympic.org/sports>. This may be subject to change from time to time, as determined by the International Paralympic Committee; **or**
- b) **Para Sport** that is not on the official Paralympic Games summer programme but is approved by the Malta Paralympic Committee.

4. Athlete has not been subject to disciplinary sanctions in connection with anti-doping, safeguarding or integrity in sport (i.e., athlete has a clean record), or is otherwise subject

to serious circumstances (such as bankruptcy, criminal conviction, disqualified from holding certain offices, etc.)

Eligible Clubs

In order to promote Paralympic Sport and Para Sport within sports clubs, the scheme is also aimed at supporting sports clubs who offer training sessions to athletes with an eligible physical, visual and/or hearing impairment.

Normally, the club must be affiliated with the relevant national sports association or federation. Clubs must be in good standing and compliant with national legislation on sports organisations and non-profit organisations (i.e., compliant with the Authority for Integrity in Maltese Sport (AIMS), the Office Commissioner for Voluntary Organisations (OCVO), the Malta Business Registry (MBR) and Sport Malta, as applicable). Clubs who are not in good standing, not compliant, or are subject to disciplinary or other sanctions or measures imposed by such authorities or (where applicable) other relevant competent authorities, shall not be eligible under the scheme.

The same rules on Eligible Costs, Eligible Equipment and Eligible Sports apply to applications submitted by sports clubs (**Application - Type B**) or schools (**Application - Type C**). The difference is that any Eligible Equipment for which financial assistance is given under this scheme shall be purchased by, and belong to, the club, rather than an individual athlete. The Eligible Equipment shall be used by the club to enable athletes with a physical, visual and/or hearing impairment affiliated with it to use such equipment for training and/or competition purposes.

Please note:

- i. individual clubs may apply for a maximum amount of up to **€10,000** (amount inclusive of VAT); and
- ii. the maximum commitment under the scheme that may be allocated to clubs, in the aggregate, shall be up to **€40,000** (amount inclusive of VAT).

3. APPLICATION EVALUATION CRITERIA

The Joint Evaluation Board will endeavour to allocate the scheme fairly and as nearly proportionately as possible among approved applications.

In making its determination of the allocation, MPC shall consider a number of assessment criteria and guiding factors, such as:

- (i) whether the applicant is a national and/or international level athlete, who has competed or is expected to compete at national and/or international competitions,

training and/or other events (including but not limited to major championships such as the European Championships or World Championships or Paralympic Games);

- (ii) in the case of competitive athletes, the attainment of seasonal or personal bests (as well as the extent and improvement thereof over time) and frequency and consistency in competing in time trials and Maltese national championships (where applicable), and national or international rankings;
- (iii) whether the applicant has been identified by MPC or a member national sport federation/association as an athlete with high potential for international competitions;
- (iv) whether the Eligible Sport is one that has been identified by MPC as a strategically important Paralympic Sport or Para Sport for Malta. At the date hereof, the following are considered by MPC to be strategically important Paralympic Sports & Para Sports:
 - Para Athletics
 - Para Swimming
 - Para Rowing (indoor and on-water)
 - Para Powerlifting
 - Para Sailing
 - Para Badminton
 - Para Archery
 - Wheelchair Basketball
 - Frame Football
 - Para Boccia
- (v) whether the applicant is a beneficiary of other financial assistance schemes administered by Sport Malta, the International Paralympic Committee and/or other third parties;
- (vi) the critical importance of having access to the Eligible Equipment as a means of enabling the applicant to participate in training/competitions, whether at grassroots or competitive levels;
- (vii) the relative cost of the equipment as a proportion of the total scheme funds available for allocation; and
- (viii) in the case of Eligible Sport Clubs offering training to eligible athletes with a physical visual, and/or hearing impairment:
 - the number of Eligible Athletes affiliated with the club (within the last 12 months);
 - the number of Eligible Athletes who have competed at time trials, nationals, or international competitions or training camps; and/or

- the number of coaches and/or club officials with some form of continued professional development accreditation in Paralympic Sport or Para Sport (such as technical officials, classifiers, or others).

4. PRE-FUNDING OR REFUND BASIS

Allocation per successful applicant

Important: the Joint Evaluation Board cannot guarantee that 100% of the Eligible Costs applied for will be covered via the scheme and the level of financial assistance is subject to the overall budget allocated to the scheme (which may vary from time to time) and the number of applicants. Therefore, the financial assistance under this scheme may, in certain instances, only *partially* subsidise the Eligible Costs applied for, or not at all.

Financial assistance under this scheme may be provided on a pre-funding or refund basis. For the avoidance of doubt, it is also permitted that financial assistance under this scheme may be provided in part on a pre-funding basis and in part on a refund basis, as the case may be.

Pre-funding basis:

Funding is subject to review and approval by the Joint Evaluation Board of the final valid fiscal quote/invoice and supporting documentation, as well as the final € amount to be allocated to the applicant via the scheme. The applicant and the Joint Evaluation Board may agree that this pre-funding will be paid by MPC directly to the supplier in settlement of a deposit and/or remaining balance amount, as the case may be.

Refund basis:

Funding is subject to review and approval by the Joint Evaluation Board of the final valid fiscal quote/invoice and supporting documentation (including proof of payment), as well as the final € amount to be allocated to the applicant via the scheme.

Order for approved Eligible Equipment to be confirmed by 30th September 2026

In all cases, successful applicants must confirm the order for the approved Eligible Equipment by not later than 30th September 2026. It is important that all invoices to be presented for payment are issued with a date not later than 30th September 2026. Applicants are encouraged to confirm the order with the supplier promptly from being notified of the outcome of their application.

5. REPORTING, CONDITIONS OF USE AND RETURN OF EQUIPMENT

Confirmations at application stage:

As part of the application form, applicants will be requested to make the following undertakings and declarations in favour of each of MPC and Sport Malta:

- (i) use the equipment for the intended purpose (being for training and/or competition purposes only);
- (ii) to promptly inform MPC if the equipment is no longer being used for the permitted purpose (either due to the applicant being no longer active in the sport or for any other reason whatsoever);
- (iii) to maintain and upkeep the equipment in good condition (save for ordinary wear and tear) and to use all reasonable care when using the equipment; and
- (iv) to maintain all records (including invoices, receipt, guarantee, user manual, etc.) for a period of up to 6 years from the date they are notified of the outcome of their application and provide a copy to MPC and/or Sport Malta promptly upon request.

Ongoing Reporting:

Successful applicants shall be subject to ongoing reporting requirements, by submitting a **yearly report** to MPC and Sport Malta. The details to be included in the report depends on whether the applicant is an athlete or a club, as follows:

Athletes:

- (i) overview of training programme for the previous 12 months;
- (ii) details of any local or international competitions in which the applicant participated;
- (iii) letter from coach/club confirming regular attendance in training;
- (iv) photographic and videos confirming that the equipment is being used for the intended sporting purpose.

Clubs:

- (i) the number of Eligible Athletes affiliated with the club (last 12 months);
- (ii) the number of Eligible Athletes who have competed at time trials, nationals, or international competitions or training camps;
- (iii) the number of coaches and/or club officials with some form of continued professional development accreditation in Paralympic Sport or Para Sport (such as technical officials, classifiers, or others);
- (iv) photographic and videos confirming that the equipment is being used for the intended sporting purpose; and

- (v) evidence of good standing and ongoing compliance with the applicable registration and ongoing compliance requirements of national legislation on sports organisations and non-profit organisations

MPC may request additional information and/or documentation from applicants at application stage, or thereafter. In addition to the yearly report, MPC may also request proof of regular use and good condition of the equipment, including but not limited to unannounced spot checks and inspections of the equipment.

Return of Eligible Equipment Policy:

MPC reserves the right to request, on demand, that any equipment that is no longer in use by an applicant be promptly returned to MPC.

This policy is based on the principle of ensuring good governance in the use of public funds and equal opportunities to athletes with physical, visual and/or hearing impairments to make use of adapted sport equipment that is necessary or beneficial to their participation in Paralympic Sport and Para Sport.

It is acknowledged that certain Eligible Equipment is highly personalised in nature and may, in practice, only be used by the individual applicant for whom the Eligible Equipment was tailor-made. In such instances, the Return of Eligible Equipment Policy will normally not apply.

6. PROMOTION AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Successful applicants are required to:

- (i) include the logo of **Malta Paralympic Committee** and **Sport Malta** on the equipment financed (in part, or in whole) via the scheme. Use and placement of logos shall be subject to the prior written approval of MPC and Sport Malta; and
- (ii) acknowledge MPC and Sport Malta in any public promotion of the equipment, including any social media posts, articles, press releases, etc., by tagging the official social media pages of Sport Malta and MPC and including the following:

“This equipment was supported via the financial assistance provided by Sport Malta and Malta Paralympic Committee under the Paralympic Sport Equipment Scheme 2026.”
