



Inclusive Para Sport Grant

Application Guidelines 2026

1. Introduction

Paralympics New Zealand (PNZ) and Bupa have partnered to support sport and community organisations to promote and deliver inclusive Para sport opportunities across Aotearoa New Zealand.

The PNZ Bupa Inclusive Para Sport Grant programme aims to increase participation and inclusion opportunities for participants in Para sport, while strengthening pathways that may identify future Paralympic potential.

Key objectives of the PNZ Bupa Inclusive Para Sport Grant programme include allocation of funding support to key initiatives or projects that can achieve one or more of the following outcomes:

- Increase participation in Para sport across Aotearoa New Zealand.
- Reduce barriers for potential and existing participants in Para sport including fostering inclusive, sustainable and supportive environments.
- Strengthen pathways for participants and coaches in Para sport from community to Paralympic level.
- Build capability within the sport sector.
- Enhance wellbeing and social inclusion.
- New Zealanders attitudes towards disability have been positively changed.

2. Who can apply?

Applications are invited from the following organisation types:

- National Sports Organisations (NSOs) / National Disability Sports Organisations (NDSOs)
- Regional Disability Sports Organisations (RDSOs)
- Community sport organisations including clubs or associations
- Other organisations linked to providing Para sport opportunities, disability education and awareness

Please note that funded entities must be legally constituted organisations (e.g. incorporated society, charitable trust, recognised education provider, or registered company) and evidence must be provided at the time of application.

3. What can be funded?

Applications must clearly show that the proposed initiative or project supports the objectives of the PNZ Bupa Inclusive Para Sport Grant programme.

Examples of initiatives or projects that could be funded include (*but are not limited to*):

- Pilots involving collaboration between one or more NSO, RDSO, club, community or education organisation;
- Inclusive coaching workshops increasing Para sport literacy, adaptability and experience;
- Try Para Sport day/sessions targeting participants not actively involved in Para sport;
- Para sport activity day/sessions led by trained coaches, with ongoing mentoring support;
- Inclusive sport day that includes disabled and non-disabled students promoting disability awareness and inclusive practices;
- Small equipment grants for adaptive equipment linked to an initiative or project.

Allocated grant funding can be utilised to cover costs in (one or more of) the following areas:

- Para sport initiative or project delivery (e.g., operating costs, venue and/or equipment hire).
- Equipment (only when it is needed as part of the initiative or project, not for individual use).
- Officials and coaches where these are **required** for delivery of the initiative or project.
- Staff who will deliver the initiative or project, where they are not already funded from other sources.

The application must include detailed budget information. Applicants may wish to utilise the budget template provided.

For this round of PNZ Bupa Inclusive Para Sport Grant funding, the initiative or project must be implemented prior to 15 November 2026.

4. What will not be funded?

The PNZ Bupa Inclusive Para Sport Grant programme does not cover:

- Costs of retrospective activities, programmes or events.
- Recreational-based camps or similar.
- Costs associated with representative teams or similar.
- Supporting an individual's Para sport development.
- Upgrade to facilities.

5. PNZ Bupa Inclusive Para Sport Grant programme details

In 2026, the PNZ Bupa Inclusive Para Sport Grant will support an individual initiative or project up to the maximum grant amount NZD \$15,000 (excluding GST).

Grants will be paid by PNZ to successful applicants on an agreed basis in installments as outlined below:

- **First installment:** 70% of approved grant will be paid at an agreed date to support initiative/project implementation as outlined in the agreement between both parties.
- **Second installment:** 30% of approved grant will be paid on receipt of completed initiative/project report aligned to grant programme requirements.

6. Selection criteria

Please note that incomplete or ineligible applications will not be considered.

PNZ Bupa Inclusive Para Sport Grant applications will be evaluated against the criteria in the table below:

Category	Criteria
Reach	Number of participants benefiting from the initiative/project
Alignment	How well the proposed initiative/project addresses and aligns with the Grant programme objectives
Cooperation and partnerships	Engagement with communities and supporting aligned stakeholders to enhance impact
Future environments	Ability to support/encourage the development of environments that foster on-going Para sport participation and development beyond funding period
Geographic or strategic priority	Initiative/projects in regions with limited existing accessibility or potential for high participant numbers

These criteria prioritise initiatives/projects which have the greatest impact in providing Para sport opportunities for participants.

PNZ values the support provided by commercial and funding partners, to deliver a wide range of Para sport initiatives. Please note that successful applications must ensure that there is no commercial conflict in delivering a funded project with any existing PNZ partners.

For the avoidance of doubt, the decision to award PNZ Bupa Inclusive Para Sport Grants is at the discretion of PNZ and Bupa. Please note it is anticipated that funding applications may be oversubscribed.

7. Selection process

Eligible applications will be assessed by an appointed panel, including a Paralympian, and representatives from Bupa and PNZ. An overview of the process is as follows:

1. The panel will assess applications for the PNZ Bupa Inclusive Para Sport Grant against selection criteria and available funding. The panel will consider diversity across sports, regions, organisational types and participant groups when making funding recommendations.
2. PNZ will advise all applicants by email of the result of their application – whether successful or unsuccessful.
3. PNZ will develop investment agreements with successful applicants; this will include delivery expectations and an end-of-project accountability including reporting requirements. PNZ will provide a reporting template to successful applicants.

8. Timeline

Activity	Date
Announcement and call for applications	12 June 2026
Grant information session	22 June 2026
Application deadline	5pm, 15 July 2026
Communication of PNZ Bupa Inclusive Para Sport Grant outcomes	Mid-August 2026
PNZ Bupa Inclusive Para Sport Grant initiative/project implementation	Late-August to Mid-November 2026
PNZ Bupa Inclusive Para Sport Grant initiative/project reporting deadline	4 December 2026

9. How to apply

To apply for a Bupa Inclusive Para Sport Grant, please visit the webpage [here](#).

10. Contact information

If you have any questions relating to the PNZ Bupa Inclusive Para Sport Grant, please contact Kristin Farrell – PNZ Senior Manager, Sport and Pathways – pnzbupagrant@paralympics.org.nz