

It's Game On as Youth Scotland supports youth groups across Scotland in the 2026 Summer of Sport

The £20 million Scottish Government investment will help young people across Scotland get involved in sport and activities

Youth Scotland is excited to announce it has secured funding, facilitated by **sportscotland**, to deliver sport and activities for children and young people across Scotland as part of the 2026 Summer of Sport.

The £20 million initiative, funded by the Scottish Government and facilitated by **sportscotland**, will offer young people aged 3 to 26 the opportunity to get active and maybe try something new.

Chief Executive of **sportscotland**, Forbes Dunlop, said:

“At **sportscotland**, we believe that sport has the power to strengthen communities and change lives. The 2026 Summer of Sport campaign, made possible by Scottish Government investment, is a great example of what can be achieved when partners come together with a shared ambition to make sport more inclusive and accessible. We're proud to play our part in helping more young people enjoy the benefits of being active as we celebrate a fantastic summer of sport.”

This summer, it's game on, and the 2026 Summer of Sport is a unique opportunity for communities across Scotland to embrace the excitement of sport, inspired by the 2026 FIFA World Cup and the 2026 Commonwealth Games, both of which will showcase Scotland on the global stage and inspire young people to take part, get active and begin their own journey in sport and activity.

As part of the 2026 Summer of Sport, Youth Scotland is working with **sportscotland** and partners across the country to ensure these opportunities are available to everyone, regardless of background. The funding will enable the delivery of activities designed to help young people develop healthy habits, build stronger social connections, and foster a lifelong love of movement.

Chief Executive for Youth Scotland, Mike Strang, said:

“Thanks to the 2026 Summer of Sport, we're able to provide more opportunities for young people in Scotland's communities. By supporting our member groups across the country, Youth Scotland will help young people who face barriers to participation to access inclusive, free or low-cost sport and physical activity in places they know and trust.

The programme will combine targeted Activate grants – the next in our series of small grants to support grassroots youth work – with Youth Scotland's membership support, co-ordination and wider youth leadership and training offer to increase participation and

create sustained pathways into community sport. This support will be focused on groups working in areas of deprivation and rural communities, helping to strengthen local Summer of Sport plans, build on existing community provision and reach young people who are not currently engaged.

Through this investment, we are delighted to support community-based youth groups to have a great 2026 Summer of Sport – Game On!”

To find out more about the 2026 Summer of Sport, visit: sportscotland.org.uk/2026

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Notes for Editors:

About Youth Scotland:

We are the largest national youth work organisation in Scotland, supporting 116,979 young people, 2,430 youth groups and over 12,348 youth workers. Youth Scotland has been around since the early 20th century and has a diverse membership network – from small rural youth groups to large urban projects. The common goal that we all share is better outcomes for young people.

Our membership network is made up of local youth groups of all sizes, Area Associations and Youth Scotland staff who can provide support and training on a range of youth work topics. We are proud of the varied, universal youth work our network delivers and the innovative solutions our members create in an ever-changing youth work landscape.

[Website](#) | [social media](#)

Media contact:

Youth Scotland

Kevin Turner

Communications Manager, Youth Scotland

kevin.turner@youthscotland.org.uk

About sportscotland:

sportscotland is the national agency for sport. It is a non-departmental public body, responsible through ministers to the Scottish Parliament. It is a National Lottery Fund distributor and is governed by National Lottery distribution rules.

sportscotland invest Scottish Government and National Lottery resources to build a world-class sporting system for everyone in Scotland.

Is e spòrsalba am buidheann nàiseanta airson spòrs. 'S e buidheann poblach neo-roinneil a th' ann, cunntachail tro na ministearan do Phàrlamaid na h-Alba. Tha e na riaraidhe air Maoin a' Chrannchuir Nàiseanta agus air a riaghladh le riaghailtean riarachaidh a' Chrannchuir Nàiseanta.

Tha spòrsalba ag inbheisteadh stòrasan Riaghaltas na h-Alba agus a' Chrannchuir Nàiseanta gus siostam spòrs aig ìre chruinneil a thogail do gach neach ann an Alba.

About the 2026 Summer of Sport:

The 2026 Summer of Sport will provide children and young people across Scotland the opportunity to get active in their local communities through events and activities hosted by schools, clubs, sporting bodies and local authorities. Free and low-cost opportunities will be provided with investment from the Scottish Government and delivered by sportscotland, as the excitement of the FIFA World Cup, Commonwealth Games and more inspires a generation to get involved in sport and physical activity.

The Summer of Sport forms part of a wider £20 million Scottish Government investment in sport and physical activity across Scotland, including:

- £15 million for the Summer of Sport, providing free and low-cost sport and activities for children and young people.
- A universal learn-to-swim offer for every primary school child in Scotland, that will continue beyond 2026, backed by initial year-one investment of £2 million.
- A £2 million 'Celebration of Football' fund, aligned with the FIFA World Cup, using the power of Scotland's national game to change lives through football.
- A £1 million 'Health in the Community' campaign targeting areas with low activity levels to become and stay active.