



Ards and
North Down
Borough Council



Ards and North Down **SPORTS FORUM**

2024-2025

Goldcard

Guidance Notes

2024–2025 Goldcard Guidance Notes

Individuals who have qualified and are **training for a specific event and/or competition**, can apply for concessionary use of leisure facilities within the Ards and North Down Borough, these include:

- Ards Blair Mayne Wellbeing and Leisure Complex
- Comber Leisure Centre
- Portaferry Sports Centre
- Londonderry Park
- Bangor Aurora Aquatic and Leisure Complex
- Bangor Sportsplex
- Queen's Leisure Complex, Hollywood.

Athletes can avail of the following within the Goldcard scheme:

- Gym Facilities
- Swimming Pools
- Health Suite
- Cryo-Spa at Londonderry Park
- Sports Specific facilities e.g. synthetic pitches, sports hall.

Usage of facilities will be subject to availability at the time.

Restrictions

Please note applicants should be aware that there are restrictions in place at each facility according to the individual site's admissions policy, including:

- The Health Suite is for 16+ at Bangor Aurora and 8-15's must be accompanied by an Adult at Ards Blair Mayne.
- There are 'restrictions' for use of the Gym for under 16's and **inductions must be completed.**
- Swimming Pool restrictions apply.

For further information please visit:

[Admissions Policy | AND Leisure \(leisureardsandnorthdown.com\)](https://leisureardsandnorthdown.com)
[Northern Community Leisure Trust \(bangoraurora.com\)](https://bangoraurora.com)

Application Process

Goldcards are available throughout the financial year (rolling), and applications are assessed on a monthly basis.

Completed and signed Application form (in PDF) along with mandatory supporting documentation must be submitted to sportsdevelopment@ardsandnorthdown.gov.uk

Incomplete applications will not be considered and only typed forms will be accepted.

Applicant Eligibility:

Applicants Must:

- Be a resident in the Ards and North Down Borough Council area
- Take part in a Sport affiliated to a Governing Body recognised by Sport NI/Sport Ireland
- Be of amateur status
- Be a member of a recognised elite squad or be ranked within the top 10 in Northern Ireland / Ireland (Elite squad/panel e.g. Ulster, Northern Ireland, Ireland, Great Britain, European and above). This will cover Junior and Senior athletes and be inclusive of those with a disability.
- Be qualified and selected to represent their province/country (i.e. Ulster, N. Ireland, Ireland or Great Britain).
- **Provide a letter from the relevant SNI/Sport Ireland recognised governing body on official governing body paper or official government email statement.**
 - The letter must verify that you are part of a recognised squad or an Individual in preparation for a specific event/competition.
 - The Governing Body letter/email **MUST** state what event/competition details you are preparing for and when the final squad will be announced, if applicable.
- The event/competition must be within 12 months of application being made.
- Not be in receipt of lottery or any other grant that would cover the facility element of training costs.

The extent of use to be at the discretion of the Head of Leisure.

Duration of use:

- Minimum of 6 months training benefit
- If selected for multiple events, or part of a recognised squad preparing for events, Goldcards will be issued for the last event listed, as long as it is detailed on the National Governing Body Selection Letter/Email.

Successful applicants will be provided with an appropriate membership card that must be shown on each visit to a Leisure facility.

Applications received without the accompanying supporting evidence stated on the application form will not be assessed.

Please note that successful applicants may be requested by the Council to attend the promotion of specific sports events/ schemes during the lifespan of the Goldcard.

2024–2025 Goldcard Guidance Notes

For further information or any grant queries, please contact the Sports Development Team on:

Christine Cooke, Assistant Sports and Recreation Development Officer
Tel: 0300 013 3333 ext. 40338 / 07741 235231

Emma Wightman, Assistant Sports and Recreation Development Officer
Tel: 0300 013 3333 ext. 40253

Emma Hingston, Sports and Recreation Development Officer
Tel: 0300 013 3333 ext. 40326 / 07920 187819

The Ards and North Down Sports Forum Grant Guidance Notes and Application Forms are available on: Ards and North Down Borough Council Website:

[Grants and Funding | AND Leisure \(leisureardsandnorthdown.com\)](https://www.ardsandnorthdown.gov.uk/grants-and-funding)

or by emailing: sportsdevelopment@ardsandnorthdown.gov.uk

Post Application Process

Following submission of applications, the following process will be completed:

