



CRICKET
AUSTRALIA

AUSTRALIAN CRICKET **INFRASTRUCTURE FUND**

2025/26 Funding Guidelines



FUND OVERVIEW

Cricket Australia, in partnership with State and Territory Cricket Associations, is committed to developing high quality facilities that provide a welcoming environment for all players, officials, volunteers and fans.

The Australian Cricket Infrastructure Fund (ACIF) provides funding for community cricket facility projects, with a focus on growing participation, promoting accessibility and inclusivity and delivering upon Australian Cricket's strategic priorities.

Following the development of the National Community Cricket Infrastructure Strategy (NCCIS), Australian Cricket will utilise the ACIF as the funding program to facilitate the successful delivery of NCCIS objectives and targets. The NCCIS provides a clear framework to guide the planning and development of ACIF projects in strategically important priority areas across Australia.

The ACIF will contribute approximately \$5 million in 2025/26 into community facility projects, representing Cricket's continued commitment to infrastructure funding.

The ACIF is open to all clubs, associations, schools, councils and cricket facility managers, acknowledging the important role that these partners play in providing facilities for community cricket across Australia.

FUNDING CATEGORIES

The ACIF provides funding in the following two categories:

Category	Funding Amount	Types of Projects	Maximum Grant Amount
Community Cricket Infrastructure Grants — Minor	\$500 — \$15,000	Pitches, practice facility refurbishment, minor change facility/pavilion refurbishment, supporting infrastructure (e.g. shade/shelter)	Up to 50% of the total project cost
Community Cricket Infrastructure Grants — Major	\$15,001 — \$40,000	New practice facilities*, significant oval upgrades, sports lighting, change facility/ pavilion upgrade, major refurbishments	Up to 50% of the total project cost

Note 1: Australian Cricket reserves the right to propose an amended funding amount based on the proposed outcomes of the project and available funding.

Note 2: Grants from the ACIF are subject to GST. If your club/organisation is registered for GST, you will be paid the grant amount, plus GST. If your club/organisation is not registered for GST, you will be paid the grant amount only (no GST applies). Please take this into consideration when calculating your funding request.

FUND OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the ACIF are to:

- Improve the provision and quality of cricket infrastructure across all levels of community cricket in line with Australian Cricket's strategic priorities
- Create inclusive and accessible environments for cricket participants and the broader community
- Collaborate with all levels of government and funding partners to invest in strategic cricket infrastructure priorities.

Applications for more than \$40,000 will be considered on a case-by-case basis under the Strategic Cricket Infrastructure Funding category. In addition to aligning to ACIF funding conditions, projects under this category will generally be multi-faceted, provide a broad regional benefit for cricket and/or be recognised in an existing strategic planning document (e.g. State Cricket Infrastructure Strategy, Local Government Master Plan, Open Space Strategy etc).

Contact the Infrastructure Manager (or equivalent) in your state or territory to discuss any proposals for Strategic Cricket Infrastructure Funding.



TIP

Prior to submitting any new/upgraded practice facility applications, it is recommended you contact your State/Territory Infrastructure Manager (or equivalent) to discuss your project's scope, overall cost and potential funding amount.

FUNDING CONDITIONS

Projects submitted to the ACIF must meet the following conditions:

Align with Cricket Australia's [Community Cricket Facility Guidelines](#)*

Projects must be able to demonstrate alignment with Australian Cricket and state/territory strategic infrastructure priorities

Applications must relate to permanent facility development or upgrade projects. Equipment, temporary facilities and/or planning projects are not generally eligible for funding

Cricket lighting projects (outdoor and indoor facilities) must align with AS 2560.2 (Australian Standard for cricket lighting).

New/upgraded synthetic pitches (including centre pitches and training net pitches) must include junior cricket pitch markings in line with Cricket Australia's recommended guidelines

Retrospective proposals will not be supported (i.e. projects that have already commenced)**

Correspondence from the local council or land manager must be provided acknowledging their consent for the project

Adoption of Australian Cricket's Child Safety Framework

Funding beneficiary must provide a post-completion acquittal on the funded project/s

**Please contact your State or Territory Infrastructure Manager (or equivalent) prior to submitting your application if your project does not/is unable to meet recommended facility guidelines.*

***The ACIF does not generally support projects that have already commenced construction, however, should circumstances require prior commencement (e.g. the facility has been damaged and requires immediate rectification works) it is recommended applicants contact your State or Territory Infrastructure Manager (or equivalent) to discuss project eligibility.*

Projects submitted by applicants with the following will be **highly regarded and prioritised**:

- Clear demonstration of how the project will support both the attraction and retention 5–12-year-old participants
- Female teams and participation programs (e.g. aspiration to establish new/additional teams)
- Embedded Australian Junior Cricket Pathway:
 - Woolworths Cricket Blast Program
 - Junior cricket stages 1-3
- Reference(s) to specific environmentally friendly initiatives within project scope and/or methodology

If your project does not meet the funding guidelines, please make contact with your relevant State or Territory Infrastructure Manager (or equivalent) to discuss how we may be able to assist you to develop your project or seek other funding opportunities.

WHAT WILL/WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED FOR FUNDING

The 2025-26 ACIF program is focused on supporting projects that will help attract and grow participation in cricket and delivering upon Australian Cricket's strategic priorities. Providing a safe, accessible, welcoming and fit for purpose environment is central to the ACIF. The table below provides an overview of the types of projects that will/will not be considered for funding:

Primary Supported Projects	Synthetic pitches (including junior cricket pitch markings) Synthetic practice facilities/nets (including junior cricket pitch markings) Inclusive change rooms and supporting amenity upgrades (players and umpires) Pavilions / clubrooms Playing field surface upgrade/redevelopment works (including drainage and irrigation) Lighting (playing field or practice facilities) Turf pitch/table rejuvenation works Turf practice facilities (nets) rejuvenation works Permanent shade/shelter structures Water harvesting Solar panel installation
Secondary Supported Projects	New/additional turf pitches/table New/additional turf practice facilities (nets) Storage facilities (\$15,000 maximum grant amount) Permanent scoreboard structures* (\$15,000 maximum grant amount) Synthetic pitch covers**
Non-eligible projects	Sporting equipment e.g. temporary nets, stumps, turf pitch covers Field of play fencing Sight screens Temporary facilities e.g. temporary shade, temporary storage Projects that have already commenced construction*** Routine maintenance works and/or maintenance equipment e.g. rollers, mowers Facilities that have been previously funded (unless delivering a new facility component/separate stage of works) Projects where works have been covered by insurance Facilities with none or limited public use Projects unable to demonstrate how they will support the overall growth of community cricket

*Funding for permanent scoreboard structures will only be considered if the project:

- Can clearly demonstrate community cricket participation growth outcomes
- Has partner funding (e.g. local Council, co-tenant club/sporting code)
- Has the appropriate IT functionality (and power supply) to support Cricket's scoring requirements (including PlayHQ compatibility)

**Synthetic cricket pitch covers will only be funded if linked to a new/upgraded synthetic cricket pitch project.

***The ACIF does not generally support projects that have already commenced construction, however, should circumstances require prior commencement (e.g. the facility has been damaged and requires immediate rectification works) it is recommended applicants contact your State or Territory Infrastructure Manager (or equivalent) to discuss project eligibility.

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

The ACIF assessment criteria provides a framework for assessing infrastructure projects. Applicants should ensure all assessment criteria is addressed when submitting an application.

No.	Criteria	Weighting
1	The proposal aligns with both Australian Cricket and State/Territory Strategic Infrastructure Priorities	30%
2	The project specifically supports increased participation in cricket, particularly in priority segments such as 5–12-year-olds, women and girls and culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) community members	30%
3	The project's scope and methodology is well defined	20%
4	The proposal demonstrates support by partners, including local government and other land managers, and confirms financial contributions	15%
5	The project delivers a strong return on investment	5%



Deakin West Oval Synthetic Practise Facility
Winner of the 2024-25 Cricket Australia Community Facility Project of the Year: Minor Category
Image Courtesy of Cricket ACT

HOW TO APPLY

Applications to the ACIF must be submitted to your relevant State or Territory Cricket Association via an online application form. Your State and Territory Association will announce when the ACIF is open for applications.

The level of documentation expected to be provided with your application varies for minor and major funding categories. The minimum documentation in addition to the completed application form is:

- Minor category – cost estimate/quote, photos of the existing facility, consent from the local council/land manager
- Major category – plans/design documentation, cost estimates/quotes, photos of the existing facility, letters of support, confirmation of funding sources, consent from the local council/land manager

Applications that don't provide the minimum required documentation will not be considered for funding. For further information, contact your relevant State or Territory Infrastructure Manager (or equivalent):

State / Territory	Name	Email	Website
Australian Capital Territory	Lauren Coates	Lauren.Coates@cricketact.com.au	www.cricketact.com.au
New South Wales	Cara Doyle	Cara.Doyle@cricketnsw.com.au	www.cricketnsw.com.au
Northern Territory	Tim Shaw	Tim.Shaw@ntcricket.com.au	www.ntcricket.com.au
Queensland	Tom Gibson	Tom.Gibson@qldcricket.com.au	www.qldcricket.com.au
South Australia	Andrew Edwards	AEdwards@saca.com.au	www.saca.com.au
Tasmania	Alison Turner	Alison.Turner@cricket.com.au	www.crickettas.com.au
Victoria	Callum Dean	CDean@cricketvictoria.com.au	www.cricketvictoria.com.au
Western Australia	Brodie Green	Brodie.Green@wacricknet.com.au	www.wacricknet.com.au

It is a condition of funding that all projects submitted to the ACIF align with Cricket Australia's **Community Cricket Facility Guidelines**.



Artie Smith Oval

Winner of the 2024-25 Cricket Australia Community Facility Project of the Year: Major Category

Image Courtesy of Shoalhaven City Council



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Revised August 2025