



COMMUNICATION: IST Performance Pathways Travel Grant – Updated 27 August 2025

In May 2022, Tasmania's only (privately owned) ice rink was sold and closed to be repurposed. With the closest ice rink in Melbourne, and a need for regularity to upkeep skills, motivation and stamina on the ice, travelling interstate to ice skate quickly became an expensive and, for many, unmanageable expense.

In response, Ice Sports Tasmania Inc. (IST) created a focused strategy to raise money for active ice hockey and figure applicants, coaches and officials to provide financial assistance toward travel costs to travel interstate to train, participate and/or compete. Additionally, IST co-ordinated group trips as a mechanism to offer a sense of continuing connection between the travelling ice sports athletes.

From its inception, the IST Performance Pathways Travel Grant was solely financed by community donation – driven by fundraising efforts by the IST Committee of Management. The published eligibility criteria provide a framework for fair access to all funds raised for this purpose. This was successfully applied until 30 June 2024, with over \$20k of funding dispersed to the Tasmanian ice sports community, and to both ice hockey and figure skating athletes and officials.

However, since late 2023, IST noted a decrease in the success of its fundraising efforts. This occurred for a range of reasons including increasing cost of living to regular donors (individuals and businesses) and the uncertain future for the sports locally in Tasmania.

In June 2024, the Tasmanian Government announced its Feasibility Study outcomes and active commitment to support a new ice sports facility in Tasmania. At this time, IST applied to the Active Tasmania Small Grants scheme for funding to boost its capacity to continue financial assistance for Tasmanian ice sports athletes and officials who are travelling interstate to train and compete. This funding is not available to recreation applicants (people who do not travel exclusively to participate in ice sports but may visit a rink whilst on holiday or on otherwise planned travel).

On 1 July 2025, Ice Sports Tasmania Inc. signed a new Deed with Tasmania Government to receive and distribute funding to the targeted group of athletes and officials until 30 June 2026. IST Performance Pathways Travel Grant eligibility criteria (and supporting processes) have therefore been updated to ensure they comply with the Deed agreement and to assist with allocation of funding.

Alongside the requirements of the Active Tasmania Deed, IST is actively encouraging a mindset of skills-based development, continuous learning, and personal achievement across applicants, coaches and officials. This marks a shift from 'staying connected to ice' to a more outcomes/progress focused lens, encouraging skills-based development, continuous learning and personal achievement for applicants.

This approach is aimed at supporting the mental health and wellbeing of our developing and competitive skating community. IST believes having clearly articulated skill development goals can help applicants stay focused and motivated, particularly whilst waiting for a new ice rink in Tasmania.

Eligibility criteria for access to the IST Performance Pathways Travel Grant funding:

- Applicants must be Supporting Members of IST and demonstrate current, active membership with The Figure Skating Association of Tasmania (FSAT) and/or Ice Hockey Tasmania (IHT). Membership status will be confirmed with FSAT/IHT.
- Each applicant can submit a maximum of one application per calendar month, retrospectively seeking assistance toward interstate accommodation and airfares related to participation or officiation in figure skating or ice hockey (see below 'eligible activities').
- Claims are limited to expenses incurred by the athlete or official (not chaperones or companions) during the nominated month and must be received before midnight on the due date.
- Applicants must demonstrate a commitment to a current and developing personal development goal that directly relates to the travel reimbursement claim. Examples include:
 - Participation in, or preparation for a specific competition
 - Acquisition of a new skill level
 - Attendance at a skills-based clinic
 - Coaching or official professional development (including formal 'shadow' arrangements).

The commitment/details of each goal should be recorded in the online application form.

- Eligible activities include
 - organised formal training (i.e. participation in scheduled lesson/s for development of explicit figure skating or ice hockey skills),
 - organised formal skill development (i.e. course, clinic), scheduled competency/accreditation related activities or participation in an ice sports event as an official (i.e. coaching, judge, referee)
 - participating in formal programs (such as camps, clinics or competitions). Evidence of attendance at these activities must be provided within the application process. For example, tax invoice/receipts, formal notice of secured entry and participation in camp/clinic, official notice of judging participation, official notice of coaching development/stand-in arrangements.
- Claims can cover one or multiple activities in the period of the month but must be submitted in the one claim with requested supporting evidence for each trip. For example, if an athlete or official travels twice during one month, and can evidence appropriately, they can combine the two travel dates to reach the maximum claim **amount of \$500 per month**.
- The total available funding pool is capped each month (as set by IST). Applicants should note funding allocations are subject to availability of funds, and amounts approved may be less than the maximum claimable \$500.00.
- Tax Invoices must bear the ABN of the business, be in the name of the skater, or their guardian and match the travel dates claimed.
- Applications for each calendar month must be submitted by midnight on the last day of that month (e.g., Claims for March must be submitted by 31 March). The only exception to this is for claims for expenses incurred during the month of June, which, to assist with payment scheduling during the financial year, are required to be submitted by 5pm 27 June 2026. Late claims will not be considered.

Process for assessing eligibility:

- Applicants must submit each application to IST via an online form (link provided on IST Website), tax invoices for claimed items, and evidence of rink access.
- IST will send an automated written confirmation upon receipt of each application.
- IST will maintain a database of applicants who have submitted claims, verifying current membership with FSAT/IHT as needed directly with the associations.
- IST will assess each application for eligibility as described above
- Funding allocations will be based on IST's monthly maximum or until funds are depleted.
- IST will send remittance advice to eligible applicants who receive funding and an email notification to those who are unsuccessful/ineligible.
- IST will make all decisions regarding eligibility and approval of applications to the IST Performance Pathway Travel Grant. As required, this will include consultation with FSAT and/or IHT on case-by- case basis to ensure the intent of the IST Performance Pathways Travel Grant Deed are upheld.

Group claims

IST acknowledges that athletes or officials may occasionally travel as a group and share expenses such as ice time, coaching sessions, or accommodation. In the instance of a group trip, applicants are encouraged to contact IST via email to discuss their circumstances, and IST will consider these on a case-by-case basis.

Fair Use policy

In line with the grant Deed, this funding is to be utilised by June 30, 2026, with IST ensuring requisite reporting to the Tasmanian Government. IST will determine the maximum monthly amount to reserve for this activity (to ensure the resource is able to be expended fairly over the 12-month period) and will advise FSAT and IHT (the Tasmanian ice sports athletes and officials) when this value has been reached.

Enquiries and Special Consideration

Applicants are encouraged to contact the IST Committee at team@icesportstasmania.com.au if they have any questions about the eligibility criteria.

If an applicant wishes to request special consideration due to exceptional circumstances, they may submit a written request via email to the IST Committee at team@icesportstasmania.com.au. Requests will be reviewed by the IST Committee as part of its regular six-weekly meeting cycle, so applicants should allow sufficient time for a decision to be made before relying on the outcome. Requests for special consideration must include relevant supporting information.

Acknowledgement

Ice Sports Tasmania Inc. is grateful to be supported by the Tasmanian Government through Active Tasmania (Department of State Growth).