

Sports Aid Grant for Athletes with Disabilities 2025-2026

Eligibility Criteria and Guidelines

The Direct Financial Support (DFS) Scheme’ grant levels and funding criteria are subject to change, pending the outcome of the DFS Scheme review being conducted.

Competition/Category	Elite A	Elite B	Elite C
	Annual Grant	Annual Grant	Annual Grant
	\$84,000	\$50,280	\$25,320
Paralympic Games	Medallist (minus-one rule)	4 th – 8 th (minus-one rule)	
IPC Events • World Championships • World Cup Finals			
Asian Para Games	Medallist and top 1/3	4 th – 8 th and top 1/3	1 st – 8 th and top 1/2
Non-IPC Events • World Championships • World Cup Finals			
• Asian Championships • Virtus Global Games • World Games • National Games for the Disabled • World Cup Series		Medallist and top 1/3	4 th – 8 th and top 1/3
• Virtus /IPC Sanctioned Events • Special Olympics (Overall results)			Medallist and top 1/3

Remarks (1) “Minus-one rule” means the athlete/team must have beaten one competitor/team in the event.

A. General Guidelines

1. Applications for Sports Aid Grant for Athletes with Disabilities are made on an annual basis. Applications must be endorsed by the respective National Sports Association (NSA) and submitted to the HKSI before the deadline
2. Categories of grants will be based on the performance of the applicant in the previous two calendar years, if the result has not been used for previous grant eligibility criteria.
3. Results achieved from demonstration events would not be considered.
4. “Minus-one rule” will be applied to results achieved at Paralympic Games, IPC World Championships, and World-level events (e.g. IPC World Cup Finals) which require qualification.
5. Results should be achieved by athletes who were representing Hong Kong at international events with a minimum entry of four countries/regions.
6. Athletes receiving grants should meet the three-year residency policy and hold a valid Hong Kong Identity Card.
7. For athletes not fully meeting the required level of performance, but fulfilling either one of the following three conditions, the same results could be considered for support for a further 12-month period maximum:

- 7.1 Documented injuries, illness, and/or pregnancy, preventing training or competitions
- 7.2 Lack of equivalent events due to the intervals of the relevant major competitions (i.e. Paralympic Games, Asian Para Games, World Championships, Asian Championships), on the condition that athletes must have taken part in at least one other competition during the year
- 7.3 Athletes fulfilling ALL the following considerations:
 - (a) Pre-requisite: Recommended by the relevant National Sports Association and Coaching Supervisor
 - (b) Athletes with track record (meet either one of the following):
 - (i) Achieved top eight positions in the Asian Championships/equivalent events in the previous calendar year
 - (ii) Achieved top ten Asian ranking/top 30 world ranking in the previous calendar year

(For the condition 7.3 above, athletes would be granted such approval once in their sporting career and funding for these athletes would be fixed at the standard level, in order to maintain parity within the system.)

8. Athletes' result which has marginally missed out the "top one-third" rule by only one entry in the competition, could be considered for support under the related category. However, athletes applying to use this condition would only be granted approval once in their sporting career and funding for these athletes would be fixed at the standard level, in order to maintain parity within the system.
9. For team events (e.g. relays), athletes who have taken part in the competition (any round) are eligible for grants.

B. Suspension/Forfeiture/Termination of Grants

1. NSAs could suspend/forfeit/terminate grants for athletes if:
 - Athletes cannot fulfill training/competition requirements
 - Misconduct/disciplinary problems of the athletes
(Please refer to Annex I, showing an example of Disciplinary Procedures)
 - Athletes withdraw from the Elite Training Programme
2. One month's notice will be given to the athlete in general, with respective NSAs' endorsement.

C. Appeal Procedure

For Adjustment of SAGD Categories

- Step 1: In case of queries on the SAGD Category, athletes should approach the respective NSA to understand the situation.
- Step 2: If athletes wish to make an appeal, it should be applied in writing via the respective NSA to the High Performance Administration Department of the HKSIL before the designated deadline. Appeal cases will be reviewed by the HKSIL Board.
- Step 3: The decision of the HKSIL Board will be final.

D. Performance Assessment

1. Performance appraisal reports for all grant recipients have to be submitted twice a year, one interim report in October (for April to September) and a full-year report in the following April.
2. Coaching Supervisors will complete the standard report form which will be endorsed by the respective NSAs.

E. Payment Method

1. Grants will be paid to athletes in four installments, i.e. April, July, October and January of the following year.

Updated in September 2024

Example of Disciplinary Procedures

