

CLUB ASSIST FUND INFORMATION & GUIDANCE

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1. What Is It?

The MotorSport New Zealand Club Assist Fund has been established to provide financial support to MotorSport New Zealand affiliated clubs to deliver projects that strengthen and grow motorsport at a grassroots level.

Each funding year, the Fund focuses on projects that align with MotorSport New Zealand's strategic priorities. For 2026, priority is given to projects that increase participation in existing events and enhance the quality of event delivery.

The Fund supports projects that:

- increase participation in motorsport
- enhance the quality of club events and activities
- reduce barriers to entry, without directly subsidising fees or travel (see Section 6)
- align with MotorSport New Zealand's strategic priorities

2. 2026 Fund at a Glance

- Total fund: \$100,000
- Grant size: \$500 - \$5,000 per club, per application (GST inclusive)
- Application windows: 2 per year
- Who can apply: All MotorSport New Zealand-affiliated clubs, current and in good standing
- Application process: Fast, easy application via the MotorSport New Zealand website - most applications take about 15 minutes

MotorSport New Zealand may approve partial funding of an application to ensure funding can be distributed across as many clubs as possible.

3. Who Can Apply

Applications are open to MotorSport New Zealand affiliated clubs that are current members and in good standing at the time of application.

Applications must be submitted by the club and authorised by its committee.

4. What Can Be Funded

Examples of eligible projects may include:

- Initiatives designed to attract new participants to existing events
- Programmes that lower barriers to entry for new or returning competitors (through underlying event costs - see Section 6)
- Promotional or engagement activities that grow participation
- Equipment, resources, or services directly linked to delivering participation growth and quality event outcomes
- Loan equipment (e.g. helmets, overalls, safety gear) that clubs can reuse across multiple events and competitors

- Volunteer or official training that builds lasting club capability

Funding must be clearly defined, time-bound, and relate to an event during 2026 or within 6 months of the application date.

Funding will only be provided for specific, identifiable cost items and must be supported by a supplier quote, or reimbursed on presentation of an invoice following delivery of the project.

5. What the Fund Will Not Support

The Fund will not support:

- Competitor travel subsidies (fuel, flights, accommodation, or any travel-related payment made to a competitor)
- Entry fee subsidies (paying, reducing, or refunding a competitor's event entry fee)
- MotorSport New Zealand fees or charges (licences, permits, affiliation fees, or any other MotorSport New Zealand fee paid on behalf of a club or competitor)
- Retrospective costs (expenses already incurred for past events)
- Ongoing operating costs not linked to a specific project (e.g. power, insurance, website hosting, general admin)
- Cash prizes, prize money or prizes
- Projects that do not demonstrate a clear benefit to participation, growth, or the quality delivery of an existing event

See Section 6 for guidance on reducing cost barriers for competitors within these rules.

6. Guidance: Reducing Cost Barriers for Competitors

Section 5 confirms that competitor travel subsidies, entry fee subsidies, and MotorSport New Zealand fees/charges are not eligible for Club Assist Fund support. This section is about what your club can do instead - the Fund can still play a real role in making events more accessible, just not by paying those costs directly.

Why direct subsidies aren't the answer

Travel and entry fee subsidies benefit one competitor, at one event, one time - the cost disappears the moment the event ends. MotorSport New Zealand fees and charges are a cost that MotorSport New Zealand itself sets, so funding them from the Club Assist Fund does not create any new value for the club or the sport. None of these leave the club with anything it can reuse.

How to reduce cost barriers instead

Travel and entry fees are usually made up of costs the club is already carrying to run the event - venue hire, marshalling, timing, signage, insurance-related event costs, and marketing. If your club wants to make an event more affordable or attractive to enter, apply for funding toward those underlying costs rather than the fee itself. Reducing what it costs the club to run the event gives the committee room to lower entry fees on its own terms - and the equipment or service funded remains a club asset for future events.

Example: instead of applying for an "entry fee subsidy" of \$2,000, a club could apply for \$2,000 toward venue hire or timing equipment for the same event. The competitor experience is the same, but the funding creates a reusable outcome rather than a one-off refund.

7. Consider the Lasting Impact of Your Application

Applications that have a lasting impact - benefiting multiple events, competitors, or volunteers over time - will have a greater chance of funding being awarded than applications that benefit a single, one-off event.

For example, venue hire for one event benefits that event only. A club-owned loan pool of helmets and overalls benefits multiple competitors across multiple events for years to come. Simply subsidising entry fees is not a sustainable or targeted use of the Club Assist Fund, because the benefit ends as soon as the event does.

When completing your application, briefly describe how long the benefit of your project is expected to last and how many events, competitors, or volunteers are likely to benefit from it.

Example cost	Who/what benefits	Likely funding strength
Venue hire for a single event	One event	Lower - one-off benefit
Loan pool of helmets/overalls	Many events, many competitors, ongoing	Higher - reusable, benefits multiple people over time
Marshalling equipment (flags, radios, signage)	Every event the club runs going forward	Higher - reusable club asset
One-off event marketing campaign	One event	Lower - but may still be worthwhile if it grows the entry field or attracts new participants
Training/accreditation for volunteers or officials	Ongoing - skills stay with the club	Higher - builds capability the club keeps

A one-off, event-specific cost is not automatically ineligible - some events genuinely need a one-off investment to run well, and that can still be a strong application. But where a club has a choice between a one-off cost and a reusable alternative that achieves a similar outcome, the reusable option will generally be viewed more favourably.

8. Travel Costs for Volunteers

Travel subsidies will not be considered for competitors under any circumstances (see Section 6).

Travel costs may be considered for volunteers, but only where there is a clear, wider benefit to motorsport and/or the club, for example, travel costs for a specialist trainer or educator brought in to run a workshop, or for a volunteer travelling to gain an accreditation that benefits the club's ongoing capability.

Where a club wants to support the travel costs of its own volunteers (rather than bringing in an outside specialist), the Club Assist Fund is not the right mechanism for this directly. Instead, consider applying for funding toward another eligible cost the club would otherwise have to cover itself - freeing up the club's own funds, which the club can then choose to put toward volunteer travel support.

9. Application Windows

There are two application windows each year.

- Window 1 (2026): opens Saturday 23 May, closes 5pm Tuesday 30 June 2026
- Window 2 (2026): opens Monday 31 August, closes 5pm Sunday 4 October 2026

Application opening and closing dates are published on the MotorSport New Zealand website and communicated directly to clubs. Applications must be submitted within the advertised window to be considered. Late applications will not be accepted.

10. How Applications Are Assessed

Applications are assessed in two stages:

1. Eligibility and completeness review by the MotorSport New Zealand office
2. Final funding decisions made by a MotorSport New Zealand appointed committee, based on recommendations from the office

Funding assessment will consider the following:

- Alignment with the current MotorSport New Zealand strategic focus on growth and participation
- Whether the request falls within the prohibited categories in Section 6 (applications that do will not proceed)
- The likely lasting impact of the project, per Section 7
- Clarity and feasibility of the proposed project
- Certainty of costs, supported by either a written quote or reimbursement via invoice
- Value for money relative to the scale of impact
- Demonstrated ability to deliver the proposed outcomes

11. Funding Decisions and Notification

Funding decisions are final.

All applicants will be advised of the outcome following completion of the assessment process. Successful grants will be published by MotorSport New Zealand for transparency and to share examples of good practice across the club network.

12. Conditions of Funding

Clubs receiving funding agree to:

- Use the funds solely for the approved initiative
- Deliver the project as described in the submitted and approved application
- Provide a short post-project report outlining outcomes and impact (simple template supplied)
- Participate in sharing learnings or success stories where requested

Failure to meet these conditions may affect eligibility for future funding rounds.

13. Measuring Success

The success of the Club Assist Fund is measured by:

- The number of clubs supported
- The extent to which funded projects support MotorSport New Zealand's strategic objectives
- Evidence of increased participation in events, activities, or engagement resulting from funded initiatives
- The extent to which funded projects deliver a lasting, reusable benefit to the club (new for 2026)
- The quality and completeness of post-project reporting provided by funded clubs

14. Is My Idea Eligible? A Quick Self-Check

Your idea is likely eligible if you can say yes to most of these:

- Our club is a current MotorSport New Zealand–affiliated club
- The funding is new (not something we've already paid for)
- The funding is for an underlying event cost - not a direct travel or entry fee subsidy
- The funding will help attract new entrants into our existing events, or improve event quality
- The funding is for something specific (not ongoing operating costs)
- The funding has a lasting or reusable benefit beyond a single event, where possible
- The funding is toward an event in 2026 (or within 6 months of this application date)
- The amount we're requesting is between \$500 and \$5,000
- Our club committee has endorsed the application
- We're happy to provide a short report on what the project achieved

Your idea is unlikely to be eligible if:

- It is a travel subsidy for a competitor
- It is an entry fee subsidy or waiver
- It covers a MotorSport New Zealand fee or charge
- The costs have already been incurred
- The funding would be used for general club operating expenses
- The funding is mainly about cash prizes or prize money
- The idea doesn't clearly support participation or event quality
- The project can't realistically be delivered with volunteers or available resources
- The project has already received funding from MotorSport New Zealand for the same purpose (unless clearly justified)
- The project is not clearly defined or does not have a specific, identifiable outcome
- The project is not linked to a specific event or cannot be delivered within the required timeframe

Still not sure?

- If your idea helps fill the entry field of an existing event, without subsidising travel or entry fees directly, you should apply.
- If your funding will improve the quality of an existing event, or leave your club with a reusable asset, you should apply.
- If in doubt, contact Angela Gadsby (angela@motorsport.org.nz) before applying - happy to help clubs frame a strong application.
- Full details and applications are available via the MotorSport New Zealand website.

15. Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Club Assist Fund?

The Club Assist Fund is a MotorSport New Zealand funding programme designed to support affiliated clubs to deliver practical projects and initiatives that strengthen participation and grow motor sport at a grassroots level.

Who can apply?

Any MotorSport New Zealand–affiliated club that is current and in good standing may apply. Applications must be endorsed by the club's committee.

What is the funding focus for 2026?

Priority is given to projects that help fill the entry field and strengthen the quality of existing events, delivered in a way that has a lasting benefit to the club wherever possible.

How much funding can our club apply for?

Clubs can apply for grants between \$500 and \$5,000 per application. Funding may be partially allocated so that more clubs can be supported across the funding year.

How many funding rounds are there each year?

There are two application windows each year. Application dates are published on the MotorSport New Zealand website and shared directly with clubs.

Can we apply for a travel subsidy for our competitors?

No. Competitor travel subsidies are not eligible for Club Assist Fund support. See Section 6 for guidance on funding the underlying event costs instead.

Can we apply to subsidise entry fees?

No. Entry fee subsidies are not eligible. Consider applying for the costs that make up the entry fee - such as venue hire, marshalling, or event marketing - which can allow the club to keep entry fees lower on its own terms. See Section 6.

Can we apply to cover MotorSport New Zealand fees or charges?

No. MotorSport New Zealand fees and charges are not eligible for Club Assist Fund support.

Can we get funding to help our volunteers travel to an event?

Generally no. Travel costs are only considered for volunteers where there is a clear, wider benefit to motorsport or the club - for example, a specialist trainer or educator travelling to deliver a workshop. See Section 8 for how to approach volunteer travel support otherwise.

What types of things can be funded?

Eligible project funding may include:

- Participation initiatives aimed at attracting new or returning competitors
- Items that help deliver a quality event
- Entry-level engagement activities
- Practical, club-led projects that deliver participation or growth outcomes
- Promotion, marketing, or outreach activities aimed at attracting new participants
- Equipment or resources directly linked to increasing participation or improving event delivery, especially where reusable across multiple events
- Introductory or "have-a-go" initiatives designed to attract first-time participants
- Initiatives that reduce financial, logistical, or access barriers for new participants - through underlying costs, not direct fee or travel subsidies

Funding must be clearly defined, achievable, and delivered within the funding year (or within 6 months of the application date).

What won't be funded?

The Club Assist Fund does not support:

- Competitor travel subsidies
- Entry fee subsidies
- MotorSport New Zealand fees or charges
- Costs that have already been incurred for past events
- General club operating expenses
- Cash prizes or prize money
- Projects that do not clearly support participation or help deliver quality events
- Projects that are not clearly defined or do not have a specific, measurable outcome
- Funding requests that are not supported by clear and verifiable costs
- Projects that fall outside the specified funding timeframe
- Projects that have already received funding from MotorSport New Zealand for the same purpose (unless clearly justified)

Do we need to be a large club to apply?

No. Clubs of all sizes are encouraged to apply. The Fund is designed to support a wide range of clubs and ideas, including smaller clubs with practical, well-targeted projects.

How long does the application take?

Most clubs should be able to complete the application in about 15 minutes, provided the project budget and funding request are clear.

How are applications assessed?

Applications are reviewed by the MotorSport New Zealand office to confirm eligibility and alignment with the funding focus. Final funding decisions are made by a Board funding sub-committee, based on recommendations from the office.

Can our club receive partial funding?

Yes. MotorSport New Zealand may offer partial funding where this allows more clubs to receive support, or where a reduced amount is appropriate for the project scope.

When will we find out if we are successful?

All applicants will be notified after the assessment process for each application window has been completed. Indicative timeframes are provided upon receipt of your funding application.

Do successful clubs need to report back?

Yes. Clubs that receive funding are required to provide a short post-project report outlining what was delivered and what impact the funding had, including how long the club expects the benefit to last.

Will successful funding initiatives be shared publicly?

MotorSport New Zealand may publish successful outcomes from funding to promote transparency and to share good practice and ideas with other clubs.

Who can we contact if we have questions?

If you're unsure whether your idea is suitable - including whether a cost counts as a travel or entry fee subsidy - contact Angela Gadsby, angela@motorsport.org.nz, before applying. She is happy to help clubs understand the Fund and put forward strong applications.

If we're unsure, should we still apply?

Yes. If your funding request will help fill existing events or deliver a quality event - without directly subsidising travel, entry fees, or MotorSport New Zealand charges - you are encouraged to apply.

16. Further Information

Full details on application dates, forms, and supporting material are available on the MotorSport New Zealand website.

For questions regarding eligibility or the application process - including whether a specific cost is fundable - clubs should contact Angela Gadsby, angela@motorsport.org.nz, before submitting an application.