

Going for gold in Los Angeles

PE REVIEW looks at UK Sport's investment in British athletes for the 2028 Los Angeles Olympic and Paralympic Games

Investment in athletes

In December 2024, UK Sport revealed its largest investment to date. £330 million of government and National Lottery funding was allocated to assist athletes in more than 50 sports to help them in preparing for the 2028 Los Angeles (LA) Olympic and Paralympic Games.

A record number of sports were awarded investment, with the aim of winning more medals in LA and in future events. This policy reflected UK Sport's commitment to achieving success in a broader range of sports.

Olympic and Paralympic sports funded by UK Sport's **World Class Programme** include archery and para-archery, athletics and para-athletics, cycling and para-cycling, rowing and para-rowing, and weightlifting and powerlifting. Sports funded at Development Sport level include basketball, skateboarding, surfing, wrestling and goalball.

How does the funding help?

The money invested from 2025–9 will enable British athletes to receive 'world-class' support in the build-up to the Games in the USA. This will include investment in sports science, medicine and coaches.

The funding will help with the costs involved in accessing elite-level training environments and camps and entry into international-level competitions outside of the Olympic and Paralympic Games. The funding will also enable more than 1,000 athletes across 50 sports to receive grants to contribute towards their living costs.

Athlete Performance Awards

Athletes are also funded directly through National Lottery grants, called Athlete Performance Awards (APAs). These are paid directly to the athletes and contribute to their living and sporting costs. Administered by UK Sport, they are aimed at allowing athletes to focus on their sport's high-performance programme to increase their chances of winning medals.

In March 2025, UK Sport announced the launch of an updated APA framework, resulting in an increase in its investment in APAs. The APA budget has grown over the years. For the Tokyo Games, it was £67 million, growing to £74 million for the Paris Games, and is projected to increase to £82 million for the LA Games. With the increased value of APAs at all continuing levels, the 'A-grade' APA for podium-level athletes is now worth £29,000 a year.

Other than APAs, funded athletes in Olympic and Paralympic sports have access to private medical cover through the Athlete Medical Scheme. They can also apply for a Personal Development Award to support their personal and professional development. Let us hope that the 'gold rush' continues in 2028.

Funding levels

Examples of the World Class Programme funding levels for Olympic and Paralympic sports at the Paris and LA Games are shown in Tables 1 and 2. For a full list of the funding, see: <https://tinyurl.com/current-funding-awards>

Table 1 Olympic sports with World Class Programme funding

Sport	Paris funding award (2021–4) (£)	Los Angeles funding award (2025–9) (£)
Aquatics (all)	27,789,527	28,750,000
Archery	2,612,674	2,800,000
Athletics	22,175,520	20,450,000
Boxing	11,557,507	12,450,000
Cycling (all)	29,172,590	30,125,000
Gymnastics	13,143,313	14,175,000
Hockey	13,379,120	14,425,000
Rowing	22,722,008	24,850,000
Sailing	22,348,411	23,950,000
Shooting	6,130,092	6,600,000
Triathlon	7,005,550	7,550,000
Weightlifting	2,270,000	3,450,000
Total	228,108,089	239,300,000

Source: UK Sport

Table 2 Paralympic sports with World Class Programme funding

Sport	Paris funding award (2021–4) (£)	Los Angeles funding award (2025–9) (£)
Boccia	3,551,835	4,275,000
Para-athletics	9,065,401	9,800,000
Para-rowing	3,402,577	3,725,000
Para-swimming	8,386,240	9,175,000
Para-triathlon	4,018,618	4,400,000
Powerlifting	1,769,722	2,150,000
Total	65,617,703	73,875,000

Source: UK Sport

GLOSSARY

World Class Programme UK Sport's initiative to provide a targeted approach to athletes demonstrating high potential in the Olympic and Paralympic sports, by offering the right support and environment to enable them to realise their medal-winning potential.

