

# Outdoor Skateparks:

## Funding Criteria Guidelines

These guidelines have been created by **sportscotland** in response to the growth in extreme sports which has seen a rejuvenation of the skatepark as a centre for sports participation.

The guidelines are based on a concrete skatepark of around 1000 square metres, which we consider to be minimum appropriate size for a strategic approach to the development of skateboarding and other associated activities as a sport in Scotland.

This type of facility will normally be located in main centres of population. Facilities serving rural and small communities will usually be of a different scale and construction and although many of the following guidelines will apply each such proposal would have to be assessed on its own unique merits.

In order to be eligible to compete for **sportscotland** funding, skateparks should adhere to the following points:

Should provide evidence that prospective users have been consulted with regard to the site, design and operation of the facility.

Should be designed by a competent and reputable specialist, be constructed from concrete with features allowing skateboarders, BMX riders and in-line skaters of all ages and abilities to be able to participate.

Should comply fully with British Standard BS EN 14974:2006: Facilities for users of roller sports equipment – Safety requirements and test methods

Should be floodlit. This will allow a greater usage times.

Should be complete with litter bins, seats for participants and spectators, secure bike racks and surrounded by a one metre high fence with appropriate measures to control access. e.g. gates, animal grids.

Should be managed by a User Group. The Group would act as a self-policing force and contribute to coaching and fundraising. The Group should contain members representing the various disciplines, age groups, parents, youth and community groups and, possibly, the local police community worker. A representative of the local authority could also be included as that individual can act as a conduit to and from the council.

Should be within 50 to 100 metres of a sports or community facility, which is staffed during the majority of times the skatepark is open. This will allow for informal supervision, especially if no members of the User Group are present at the skatepark. The sports or community facility can also provide

toilet facilities, a public phone, first aid facilities and storage for protective gear and simple maintenance equipment (brushes, etc).

Should be within 250 metres of both public transport and secure parking and afford easy access for emergency vehicles and personnel.

Should be subject to a Risk Assessment to identify the risks associated with operating a skateboard park. This assessment should be used to implement appropriate control measures at the design/installation stage and create a management policy for the facility. The risk assessment should be documented, signed and dated and reviewed annually, unless changes take place – at which point a review should be carried out. The assessment should at least cover such aspects as access/egress, falls/collisions, noise, violence/aggression, vandalism and maintenance.

Should be inspected by an independent body or qualified inspector upon completion and at least once a year thereafter. The inspections should follow the recommendations of RoSPA. The latter body can also carry out these inspections. Daily, weekly and yearly inspections/maintenance should also be carried out as indicated earlier in this paper.

Should have Public Liability cover of at least £2,000,000. RoSPA recommends a minimum of £5,000,000 and **sportscotland** should follow this latter recommendation.

Should have appropriate signage. The signage should cover such topics as location of nearest telephone and toilets, the maximum number of users, any restrictions (lower age limits, permitted activities, etc), protective gear must be worn, no dogs, no alcohol, etc. The sign should also note that 'all users do so at their own risk'.

CCTV may also be installed but this sensitive matter should be fully discussed with representatives of the User Group.

As there is currently no governing body for skateboarding, the operators of the facility will commit to becoming members of the recognised governing body when that body comes into being.

The skatepark operator will also be required to set up a structured skills development programme with particular emphasis on beginners. The operator should also be required to set up programmes aimed at increasing the number of females and ethnic minorities participating in the sport.

For facilities in smaller centres of population, the following should be adhered to:

- The area for the park should be a minimum of 36m x 18m. This would allow conversion of the area to a multi court at some future point.

- The area should be surrounded by a one metre high fence with appropriate measures to control access. e.g. gates, animal grids and we recommend that ducting is provided to allow the necessary cabling should the installation of floodlighting be a future requirement.
- Whilst concrete is still the preferred construction material other materials may be considered for park in smaller centres of population.
- All other requirements that apply to large parks will also apply to smaller.