

FLEXI-TRAINING SCHEME 2023/2024 – PUBLIC SECTOR TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Public employees who are athletes forming part of the national team under the national organisation rules in all individual sport may be released from work, to train professionally in their sport, for an amount of hours per week as requested by the applicant or as determined by the MOC Interviewing board and approved by SportMalta.

Eligible public service and public sector employees:

- a. Athletes with forthcoming fully approved international sport commitments, in their personal capacity, at the top national level;
- b. Athletes with great promise in their sport and with a great possibility of representing Malta in fully approved international commitments in the near future;

Will be eligible to apply for the flexi training scheme and have the opportunity to train professionally in their sport for an amount of hours requested by the applicant per week or any other amount the interviewing board deems adequate.

This will be determined by the Board following consultations with the association of the particular sport, which is registered with the Regulatory Authority and which organisation is also affiliated with the respective International Sport Organisation.

1. Application Procedure

1.1 The employee/athlete should submit a written request, to participate in the Scheme, addressed to his/her Head of Department.

1.2 The Head of Department is to forward his/her recommendations and comments, should any objections arise on the employee/athlete's request, to the Permanent Secretary responsible for sport and copied to the SportMalta. Approvals shall be done through a letter of recommendation addressed to the SportMalta from the Head of Department, through the Permanent Secretary, which shall be sent to the employee/athlete.

1.3 The employee/athlete shall attach the letter of recommendation mentioned in clause 1.2 above, to the application form which is to be sent to the SportMalta.

1.4 The application shall be submitted by national athletes / athletes with national potential directly to the SportMalta. The application shall have detail including an annual

training schedule of the athlete, endorsement by the employer of the athlete and all the documentation required as per section below and the application itself.

1.5 The SportMalta shall forward the applications to the interviewing board formed by the MOC and the interviewing board shall assess all the applications received. Applicants shall be asked to sit for an interview.

1.6 The National Sports Organisation shall be asked for its recommendations in relation to the applicant's performance and potential and the said recommendations shall be taken into consideration by the SportMalta.

1.7 The Interviewing board shall rank the athletes in accordance with the interview results and decide on whether to grant the number of hours requested by the applicant per week or any other amount it deems adequate.

The selection shall be made based on the below criteria, as approved by the MOC:

Scheme A	Up to 30 hours	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medallist in the last edition of European Championships, Mediterranean Games, European Games, and Commonwealth Games. • Finalist* in the last edition of Olympics, Paralympics, World Championships or any other games/ championships/ cups which are the sole event that gives the world champion title of the said event to the winner. If there are no rounds, the athlete must finish in the top 10 percentile. • During the previous season, the athlete achieved: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ athletics IAAF points – 1100 points or an average of 1080 on 3 valid performances (main event) ○ swimming: points – 820 points or an average of 800 on three races (main event) ○ trap: average of best 3 competitions of 122(men)/ 120 female. One of the events must be an international event. ○ skeet: average of best 3 competitions of 123/ 121 female. One of the events must be an international event. ○ pistol: average of best 3 competitions of 580 male/570female ○ bowling: average of the best 3 competitions 240(men) and 230(female). One of the competitions must be an international competition.
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		<p>Each competition must have a minimum of three games.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ martial arts/racket sports: top 25 in the world rankings or top 10 in European rankings ● World ranking: top 5 in an Olympic Sport and top 3 in non-Olympic Sport. ● European ranking: top 3 in an Olympic Sport and top ranked in non-Olympic sport
Scheme B	Up to 20 hours	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Finalist* in the last edition of European Championships, Mediterranean Games, European Games, and Commonwealth Games. ● Semi-Finalist* in the last edition of Olympics, Paralympics, World Championships or any other games/ championships/ cups which are the sole event that gives the world champion title of the said event to the winner. If there are no rounds, the athlete must finish in the top 25 percentile. ● Medallist in championships/cups with more than 20 participating countries in the event. Event will be scrutinised. \$ ● Qualified by standard (not invitational card) for the next edition of Olympics, Paralympics, Commonwealth Games, European Games, World Championships, or any other games/ championships/ cups which are the sole event that gives the champion title of the said event to the winner. ● During the previous season, the athlete achieved: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ athletics IAAF points – 1050 points or an average of 1030 on 3 valid performances (main event) ○ swimming: points – 800 points or an average of 785 on three races (main event) ○ trap: average of best 3 competitions of 120(men)/ 118 female. One of the events must be an international event. ○ skeet: average of best 3 competitions of 121 male/ 119 female. One of the events must be an international event.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ pistol: average of best 3 competitions of 570 male/560 female ○ bowling: average of the best 3 competitions 230(men) and 220(female). One of the competitions must be an international competition. Each competition must have a minimum of three games. ○ martial arts/racket sports: top 25 in the world rankings or top 10 in European rankings with more than 100 athletes ranked. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Multiple medallists or a Gold Medallist in the last edition of GSSE in individual event ● World ranking: top 10 in an Olympic Sport and top 5 in non-Olympic Sport ● European ranking: top 5 in an Olympic Sport and top 3 ranked in non-Olympic sport.
Scheme C	Up to 10 hours	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Silver or Bronze Individual medallist in the last edition of GSSE. ● Medallist in championships/cups with less than 10 participating countries in your event^{\$} ● During the last season, the athlete achieved: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ athletics World Athletics points – 900 points with legal wind. ○ swimming: World Aquatics points – 625 points ○ trap: average of best 3 competitions of 115(men)/ 113 female ○ skeet: average of best 3 competitions of 117/ 115 female ○ pistol: average of best 3 competitions of 570 male/560female ○ bowling: average of the best 3 competitions 220(men) and 210(female). Each competition must have a minimum of three games. ○ martial arts/racket sports: top 30 in the world rankings or top 15 in European rankings with more than 100 athletes ranked. ● World ranking: top 15 in an Olympic Sport and top 8 in non-Olympic Sport

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • European ranking: top 8 in an Olympic Sport and top 5 ranked in non-Olympic sport.
Scheme D	Up to 5 hours	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medallist in doubles/teams events in the last edition of the GSSE of an individual sport • During the last season, the athlete achieved: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ athletics World Athletics points – 850 points with legal wind. ○ swimming: World Aquatics points – 550 points ○ trap: average of best 3 competitions of 113(men)/ 111 female ○ skeet: average of best 3 competitions of 115/ 113 female ○ pistol: average of best 3 competitions of 560 male/550female ○ bowling: average of the best 3 competitions 210(men) and 200(female). Each competition must have a minimum of three games. ○ martial arts/racket sports: top 50 in the world rankings or top 20 in European rankings with more than 100 athletes ranked. • Medallist in championships/cups with less than 10 participating countries in your event[§] • Qualified by standard (not invitational card) for the next edition of GSSE in the year of the games • Top 50 percentile in the last edition of Olympics, Paralympics, Commonwealth Games, World Championships or any other games/ championships/ cups which are the sole event that gives the champion title of the said event to the winner. • National Champion with more than 5 athletes in the event in the last edition of the National Championships.

All results need to follow the IF rules. Points are based on the last point system published by the IF.

*There must be a previous round

[§] Subject to vetting of the event

1.8 SportMalta shall forward its recommendations to the Permanent Secretary responsible for sport who shall approve or reject the recommendations.

1.9 Following confirmation of approval by the Permanent Secretary, the said rankings shall be published on the SportMalta website.

1.10 Once the rankings are published, the approved athletes shall be required to sign an agreement. Failure to sign the aforementioned agreement shall result in the forfeiture of the grant. Separate agreements shall also be signed by the coach, the national sports organisation and the employer. All agreements must reach the SportMalta within 30 days from publication of results and failure to do so, may result in the forfeiture of the grant.

2. Period of Coverage

2.1 The athletes' training leave should be approved for a period of not more than twelve (12) calendar months. The scheme shall be operational on a yearly seasonal basis (from September to August). The period for Flexi Training Scheme 2023/2024 shall run from December 2023 to August 2024.

2.2 All employees released on this scheme shall retain their public employee status throughout their release. The following parameters shall furthermore apply:

- During the period of release, employees will only be entitled to receive their basic salary. Allowances will be paid on a pro-rata basis. Any Sunday and/or Public Holiday allowances will be forfeited and the employee will be paid the basic salary for the hours spent training under this scheme on a Sunday and/or public holiday.
- During the period of release, employees are regulated by the PSC disciplinary procedures or the disciplinary procedures applicable in the respective entity (in the case of public sector employees), for any misconduct. This is without prejudice to the regulations governing their respective National Sport Organisation and any other conditions stipulated by SportMalta in the flexi-training contract.
- Released employees are not entitled to paid injury leave. They are however, entitled to ordinary sick leave for any injury sustained during the training sessions being undertaken in the period of the release.
- Public employees may not avail themselves of family-friendly measures or any form of special leave concurrent with the Flexi Training Scheme.
- Hours given in this scheme are to be used to train extra sessions over and above the normal training schedule as stated in the application

3. The Permanent Secretary responsible for Sport

3.1 Following recommendations by the Head of Department the Permanent Secretary will have responsibility to authorise/reject the employee/athlete's application to participate in the Scheme.

4. The Head of Department

4.1 The Head of Department should receive the employee/athlete's written request, to participate in the Scheme at least ten (10) days before the closing date for submission of applications to SportMalta;

4.2 The Head of Department, within five (5) days of receiving the employee/athlete's request to participate in the Scheme, is to forward his/her letter of recommendation/objection to the Permanent Secretary;

4.3 If the employee/athlete is accepted to form part and has commenced making use of the Scheme, the Head of Department shall have the right to:

- a) do random spot checks during the training programme
- b) request, and be immediately provided with, any other information (on the athlete and relating to the Scheme) deemed relevant.

5. SPORTMALTA

5.1 The SportMalta, shall have the right to:

- a) delegate the MOC to do random spot checks during the training programme;
- b) to request, and be immediately provided with, medical/fitness tests to certify that the athlete is of an acceptable level of fitness appropriate for his/her sport and according to the set training programme;
- c) to request, and be immediately provided with, any other information (on the athlete and relating to the Scheme) deemed relevant.

5.2 SportMalta may furthermore, monitor the athlete's training and require regular meetings with the athlete, the coach and the MOC.

6. The National Federation / Association (NSO) [1]

6.1 The NSO should be:

- a) registered with the regulatory authority and recognised by the MOC ;
- b) affiliated to or recognised by the respective International Sport Organization.

6.2 At application evaluation stage, the National Sports Organisation shall be asked for its recommendations in relation to the applicant's performance and potential and the said recommendations shall be taken into consideration by the SportMalta.

6.3 Once the employee/athlete is successful with his application, the NSO shall be expected to provide the SportMalta or the MOC upon request with:

- a) full profile of the athlete;
- b) confirmation that the employee/athlete has been selected for the national selection in preparation for events which are organised, approved or recognised by the respective official International Sports Organisation as per MOC approved list (where applicable);
- c) proposed training schedule.

6.4 If the application request for the Scheme is accepted, the NSO has to sign an undertaking, with the SportMalta, that it will;

- a) endorse and approves the reports prepared by the athlete, referenced in 8.2 below.
- b) be fully and totally responsible for the fitness level and medical condition of the athlete all throughout the Scheme;
- c) be fully and totally responsible for the total actuation and supervision of the training programme within the Scheme;
- d) immediately inform the SportMalta, the MOC and the relative head of department should the athlete be dropped from the national selection plans;
- e) inform the SportMalta and the MOC should the athlete face any injury and/or illness;

f) acknowledge the fact that the athlete is sponsored by the government through the Scheme;

g) acknowledge the SportMalta as the NSO's partner and will include the latest SportMalta logo in all its communication material.

7. The athlete's coach

7.1 The coach, entrusted by the NSO, forming part of the Scheme should:

- a) provide a contact telephone number;
- b) be entrusted with the planning and supervision of the employee/athlete during the Scheme;
- c) sign an undertaking with the SportMalta, through the NSO, that he will supervise the training programmes in total correctness and responsibility.

8. The employee/athlete:

8.1 Once the employee/athlete is successful with his/her application, the employee/athlete shall be expected to provide the SportMalta or the MOC with a medical and blood test result if requested.

8.2 The employee/athlete will be informed by the SportMalta of the final decision whether his/her request to participate in the Scheme has been upheld or not.

8.3 The employee/athlete shall be required to:

- a. provide the MOC, by not later than the 27th day of the previous month, with detailed planned schedules, endorsed also by the coach, of the training sessions commencing from the first day of the month, namely;
 - i. a detailed time schedule of the training programme;
 - ii. details of the training facilities to be used by the athlete;
 - iii. details of the content of training;
 - iv. details of competitions (locally or abroad) during the following month.

For the avoidance of doubt, the planned training schedule for the month of February, shall be provided by 27th January.

- b. provide the MOC, within seven (7) days of the following month, a monthly written report, signed by both the athlete and the coach, listing the proceedings of the past month's training scheme, the actual hours of training performed, results obtained in competitions, the progress made and the details of attendance , for each training session.

8.4 The athlete, if accepted to participate in the Scheme, has to sign a contract with the SportMalta undertaking that s/he will:

- a) abide with the Code of Sport Ethics
- b) make no use of illegal substances and/or performance enhancing drugs and/or other doping methods;
- c) undertake any doping tests and update the ADAMS system thereby keeping NADO informed of his/her whereabouts (and submit other information, which includes but is not limited to details on the athlete residence, training venues and times, competition schedule, holiday arrangements etc. as well as a 60-minute time slot between 6am and 11pm where they can be located for testing) as required by NADO;
- d) immediately provide a contact telephone number for quick and easy contact if the need arises;
- e) be available, at all times, to be used by the SportMalta and/or the government for sport promotion purposes;
- f) immediately inform SportMalta and the MOC when s/he is sick and is making use of his/her entitled sick leave;
- g) post on his/her social network profile a photo/video to give exposure to the training performed during the flexi – hours, at least twice a month. The athlete is to include the following hashtags: #flexitrainingscheme @malteseolympiccommittee @sportmaltabeactive
- h) will return back immediately to work with the employer:
 - i. in cases of injury, unless covered with a medical certificate;
 - ii. if dropped from the national selection;
 - iii. when not reporting for training;
 - iv. when not fit for training.

8.5 The approved employee/athlete is to be considered still as an employee[2] of his/her respective governmental department during the training sessions.

9. DEFAULT

9.1 Instances where the athlete is found guilty of:

Unjustified absence for a training session;

a) Illegal doping;

b) Misbehaviour;

c) Lack of respect towards his supervisor/s;

d) Any flagrant action and be suspended indefinitely in his sport capacity;

e) Any other action deemed to be serious in nature;

f) shall lead to an immediate termination of the agreement[3].

9.2 Further to the above paragraph, if in default, through a doping offence / the use of illicit substances and/or drugs, the employee/athlete has to reimburse the government of Malta for all the training hours, allocated to the said employee/athlete, until found guilty of such offence.[4]

9.3 If the NSO fails to inform the SportMalta and the head of department should the employee/athlete be dropped from the national selection, the NSO will incur a fine of double the monetary amount [5] which was paid to the employee/athlete during the default period.

9.4 If the NSO fails to inform the SportMalta and the head of department when the employee/athlete faces injury and/or illness, both the NSO and the athlete will respectively incur a fine of double the monetary amount [6] that was paid to the employee/athlete during the default period.

[1] with whom the employee/athlete is registered.

[2] under the jurisdiction of the Public Service Management Code.

[3] as well as any disciplinary action in accordance with the Public Service Management Code.

[4] without prejudice to further actions taken in accordance with the Laws of Malta.

[5] of the pro-rata payment applicable to the Scheme.

[6] of the pro-rata payment applicable to the Scheme.

Applications for Flexi Training Scheme 2023/202 shall reach SportMalta via email on assistances.sportmalta@sportmalta.org.mt by not later **than Monday 20th November 2023, noon.**