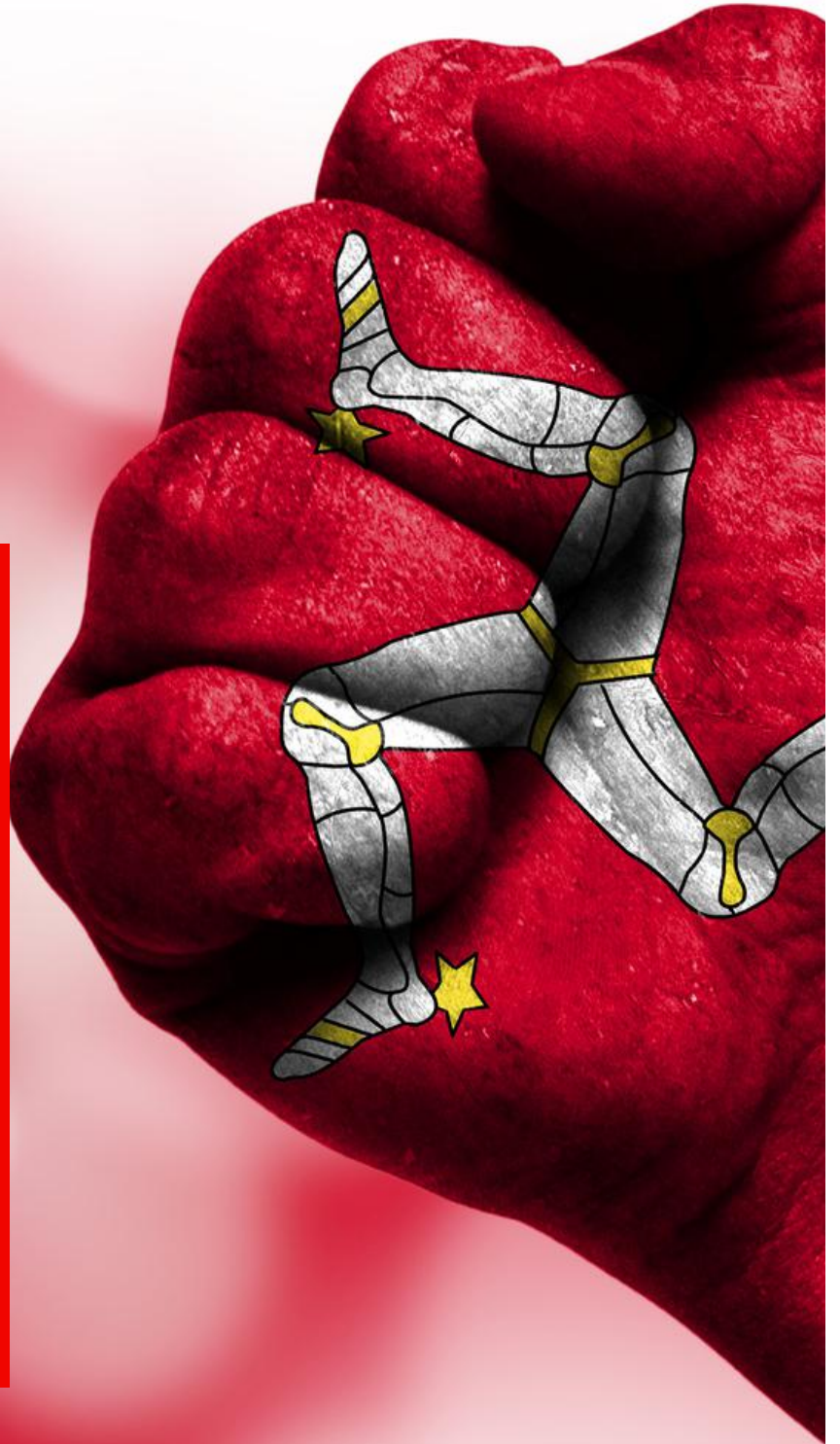




NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2025



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SPORTS LIAISON FUNDING 2025/26

Isle of Man Sport has three main Priorities and Objectives, which it aims to achieve in partnership with the Island's Governing Bodies of Sport, with the overarching vision of enabling our sporting community on the Isle of Man to thrive. These objectives are:

- Increase participation in sport across all levels from grass roots to elite
- Improve and develop coaching, volunteering and officiating to enhance performance across all levels; and
- Improve governance of governing bodies of sport and member clubs

The Sports Liaison Committee (a sub-Committee of Isle of Man Sport) run and manage two key match-funded programmes (up to 50%) for recognised sports to help achieve these objectives - the Support for Sport programme and Sports-Specific Development Officer grant funding.

In 2024/25, the Sports Liaison Committee identified several areas within the above Isle of Man Sport Priorities and Objectives, linked to the Isle of Man Strategy for Sport, that have been prioritised for funding for the last 2 years, as part of the [Sports Liaison Funding Framework and Principles](#). These areas are:

- Initiatives that directly increase participation or improve participant experience in on-Island sport
- Initiatives that directly improve the standard of coaching, officiating or volunteering on the Island (this includes off-Island travel for relevant courses, qualifications and CPD)
- Initiatives that directly improve the governance of Governing Bodies of Sport and their member clubs
- Funding for off-Island travel in relation to participation for individuals or teams attending:

-Recognised International level competition

-Recognised National Governing Body talent pathway activity

Since the inception of the Support for Sport programme in 2019/20, the number of recognised sports has increased from 26 to 29 and this is expected to continue in the coming years.

£204,223

Funding allocated to recognised sports in 2025/26 via the Support for Sport Programme

£66,066

Funding allocated to recognised sports in 2025/26 via the Sports-Specific Development Officer Grant Funding Programme

161

number of initiatives funded via our programmes in 2025/26

29

number of recognised sports supported in 2025/26

ISLE OF MAN GOLF: CHIP AND PUTT PROGRAMME



Isle of Man Golf Union (IOMGU) is the governing body for golf on the Island and one of its key aims is to promote the game to youngsters from all backgrounds. Five years ago, IOMGU created the Chip and Putt programme for the Island's year 6 primary school children and so far have delivered fun sessions to more than 1,000 students in 20 of the Island's primary schools. In addition, the IOMGU also introduced the first Chip and Putt festival (now Primary Schools Golf Festival) in 2023 for all schools that have taken part in the programme.

Isle of Man Sport have supported this initiative through the Support for Sport programme since its inception in 2020, alongside other sponsors such as the Tevir Group and IOMGU is now actively looking for new sponsors to become involved from within the community. If you are interested in finding out how you can support, please contact IOM Golf (details overleaf)! We caught up with Andrew Horne (IOMGU General Secretary) to find out a little bit more about the programme and how people can get involved!



*Primary Schools Golf Festival at the NSC (2024)
(Credit: Andrew Patterson)*

Tell us a little bit more about the IOMGU's Chip and Putt initiative. How did it start and what does it involve?

The Chip and Putt programme which began in 2020 is a great way to introduce children around the Island to the sport and improve their skills. The scheme allows Year 5 and 6 pupils the opportunity to be introduced to the game of golf with a 4 to 6 week programme which teaches them the basic skills of chipping and putting through fun sessions ran by our experienced PGA professional, Andrew Patterson. The programme has evolved and thanks to Isle of Man

Sport, the Golf Foundation and several sponsors through the years, this initiative has been provided free of charge to schools, along with many schools receiving a donation of specialist equipment at the end of the programme, so that golf can be continued on a year-round basis within the school environment to many students.

The long-term aim is to get Chip and Putt into all Primary Schools in order that all school children get the opportunity to discover golf and hopefully progress into a game that all can play from age 6 well into retirement!

What is the Primary Schools Golf Festival and how has this developed?

The Primary Schools Golf Festival (originally Chip and Putt Festival) is a further progression of the Chip and Putt programme and was initially introduced in April 2023 to bring together all the schools that have benefitted from the initiative since its launch. The inaugural event was attended by a UK Golf Foundation representative and took place with just over 40 children taking part and this has grown in



Chip and Putt programme
(Credit: Andrew Patterson)

2024 to nearer 50 primary school children being involved. The event gives local primary schools the opportunity to take part in a fun afternoon of golf and consists of many of the games that are introduced as part of the delivery of the Chip and Putt programme in schools.

In 2024, the festival brought together 6 local schools who each entered teams of between six and eight pupils for two hours of indoor golf games and competition. It featured a variety of putting and chipping games using specific junior golf equipment and is the culmination of the Chip and Putt Programme, with this year's event scheduled for 10th July.

Isle of Man Golf aims to continue introducing and bringing young golfers into the sport and looks forward to expanding the delivery of the Chip and Putt programme and the Primary Schools Golf Festival. For more information on junior golf, contact Andy Patterson on 466996 or Andrew Horne on 201560, or ring your local course for more information about junior training in your local area. You can also contact the IOM Golf Union for more information and details can be found on their website below.

How can someone get involved in golf on the Island?

There are lots of opportunities to get into golf and individuals can contact their local club for further information on memberships and initiatives. Currently, there are a variety of Female Get into Golf initiatives being run at Mount Murray, Port St Mary, King Edward Bay and Peel Golf Clubs. If you're not interested in playing but want to get involved as a volunteer, coach, committee member or official, contact your local club or the Isle of Man Golf Union directly (details below)!

Information on all clubs on the Island can be found here: www.visitisleofman.com/see-and-do/active-and-adventure/golf.


Isle of Man Sport, through the Isle of Man Golf Union and the Support for Sport Programme, have been able to provide some financial support towards the Chip and Putt programme, providing funding towards both the costs of delivering the programme and investment into the equipment provided to schools. Over the last 5 years, Isle of Man Sport have provided over £8,500 towards starting up and expanding the Chip and Putt programme to provide opportunities for over 1,000 young children from 20 local primary schools to try golf.

Want to find out more information or get in touch with Isle of Man Golf? Contact us:

 lomgu.gensec@hotmail.com

 www.isleofmangolf.im

 [Isle of Man Golf - Facebook](#)

 07624 201560



2024 Primary Schools Golf Festival
(Credit: Andy Patterson)

ISLAND GAMES 2025: 20TH ISLAND GAMES



The Orkney 2025 Island Games is due to take place between 12th and 18th July 2025, with up to 24 Islands competing in 12 different sports. The week-long event will see athletes from across the world vying for medals in Archery, Athletics, Badminton, Bowls, Cycling, Football, Golf, Gymnastics, Sailing, Squash, Swimming and Triathlon.

We caught up with Gary and Jill from the Island Games Association of Mann (IGAM), one of Isle of Man Sport's partners, to find out about their preparation for Orkney 2025 Games!

GAMES PREPARATIONS

Tell us a bit more about the preparations for the Isle of Man team attending the Orkney 2025 Games, how long have you been preparing and what does it involve?

Each of the sports teams has a team manager who attends an IGAM meeting every 3 months. It is a pre-requisite of the Association being a Registered Charity/Company and the sports team managers are the voting members of the Company. At these meetings, the Officers of the Company pass on information to the team managers concerning the organisation of the next Games, e.g. travel, accommodation, catering, costs etc.

One year prior to the next Games, the International Island Games Association (IIGA) holds a preview visit on the next host island which includes an AGM. This is where future host islands are selected. Each of the member islands (24 in total) can send two delegates to the next host island where they get an opportunity to view accommodation centres and sports venues etc.

This information is then passed on to our member sports.

During this two year period, the Officers of the Company source and book air charters, accommodation, team kit and assess the travel logistics on the host island.

What will your roles be during the Games themselves?

IGAM will have 5 Officers supporting the team of 180 in Orkney: 2 general team managers, 2 assistant team managers and our team doctor.

The general team managers will meet with all the other Island team managers and members of the Host Organising committee every morning at 7.00am. Information gathered at the meeting is then passed on to each of our Islands' sport team managers. Depending upon our local travel options, the management team splits up to visit our sports to pass on information and support our competitors. Our team doctor is available to visit our competitors at any time of the day/evening.

The last thing each evening is to debrief each other, giving feedback on what has happened during the day's sports and plan for the next day.



*Island Games athletes in Guernsey (2023)
Credit: IOM Government*

ANNUAL REVIEW: 2019-2024

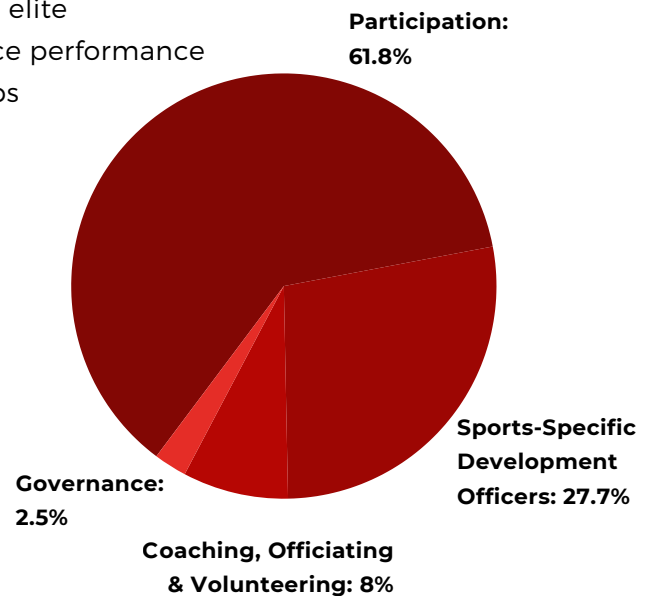


Thanks to all our recognised sports for submitting data via their Your Sport Reviews at the end of 2024, we are now able to build a much better picture of sport on the Island and how the Support for Sport programme has contributed towards Isle of Man Sport's objectives of:

- increasing participation across all levels, from grass roots to elite
- Improving coaching, officiating and volunteering to enhance performance
- improve governance of governing bodies and member clubs

We are pleased to share some of the highlights of the Review and progress that has been made across all 29 recognised sports on the Isle of Man, with the help of the Sports Liaison funding programmes: Support for Sport and Sports-Specific Development Officer grants.

A breakdown of spend across these 3 objectives over the last 5 years can be seen to the right, showing that 72.3% of spend is in relation to funding via the Support for Sport programme, with the remaining 27.7% of spend on the Sports-Specific Development Officer grant funding programme which part-funds roles working towards achieving these objectives within a variety of different sports.



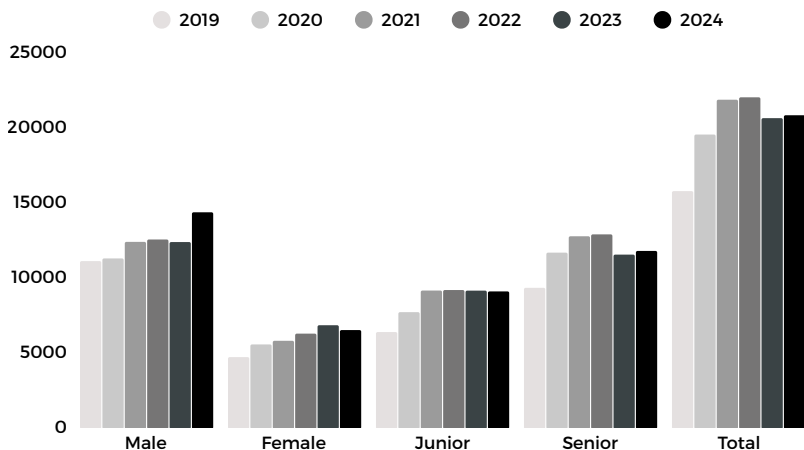
£290,000+
spent on recognised talent development and pathway activity and funding for teams and individuals competing at International level competition over the last 5 years

£122,745
invested in new or upgraded equipment and facility development

OVER £70K
invested towards providing opportunities for people to get involved in sport on the Island

Participation

32%
increase in the number of registered members of sports clubs from 15,708 in 2019 to 20,759 in 2024.



39%
increase in the number of female registered members. In 2019, there was 4,658 which has increased to 6,459 in 2024.

43%
increase in the number of junior registered members from 6,327 in 2019 to 9,032 in 2024.

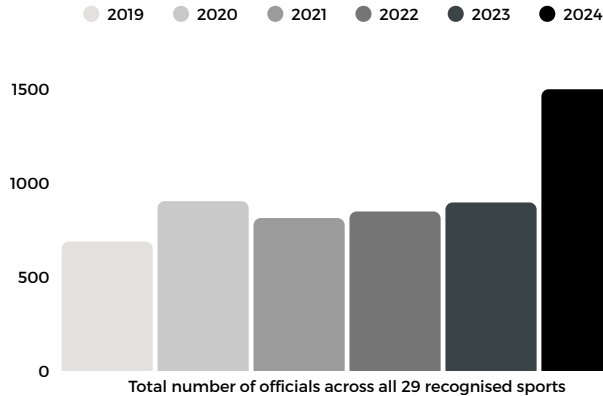
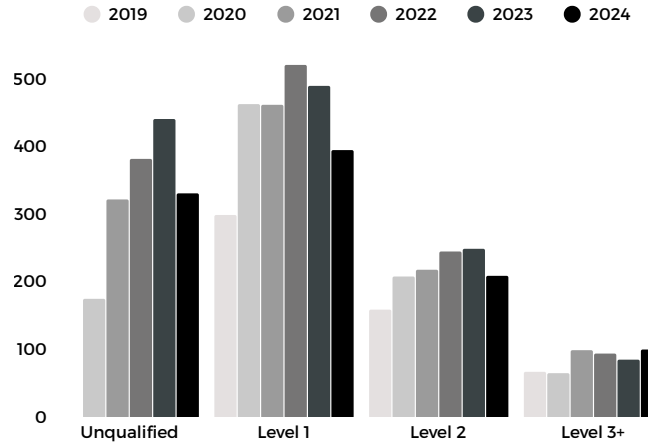
Coaching

Over 30%

increase in the number of qualified coaches at Level 1 or above over the last 4 years.

In 2019, there were 522 qualified coaches, which has risen to 701 in 2024, across all 29 recognised sports. There has also been a 50% increase in the number of highly qualified coaches at Levels 3 or above since 2019.

£77,551
spent specifically towards maintaining and upskilling coaches with recognised National or International Governing Body qualifications and CPD at all levels

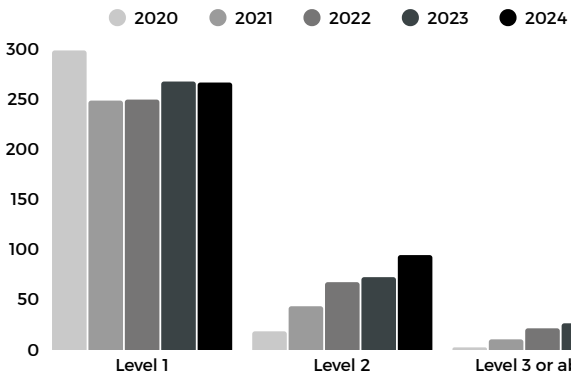


£24,564
spent on supporting officials to achieve and maintain recognised National or International Governing Body officiating qualifications

Officiating

117%

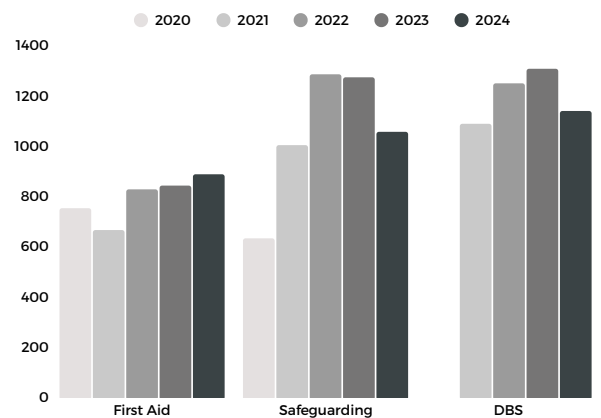
increase in the number of active officials in the last 5 years. In 2019, there were 691 qualified officials overall across all recognised sports, which has risen to 1,502 in 2024



Over quadruple

the number of highly qualified officials.

In 2020, there were 18 Level 2 qualified officials and only 2 officials qualified as Level 3 or higher. In 2024, there are now 94 Level 2 qualified officials and 59 Level 3 (or higher) qualified officials.

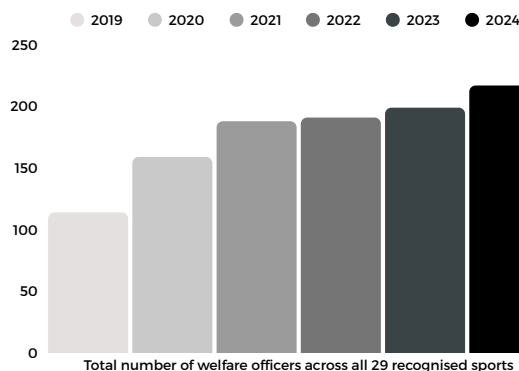


Governance

90%

increase in the number of welfare officers from 114 in 2019 to 217 in 2024.

£19,283
Invested through the Support for Sport programme and in providing the IOM Sport Coach Education Programme at nil cost to all recognised Governing Bodies of Sport



18%

increase in the number of volunteers that are first aid trained, from 752 in 2020 to 887 in 2024.

67%

more volunteers that are safeguard trained. There was 632 in 2020 and this has increased to 1,056 in 2024.

More information can be found in the [Sports Liaison Annual Report](#).

IOM TARGET SHOOTING FEDERATION: PERFORMANCE PATHWAYS



Isle of Man Target Shooting Federation (IoMTSF), the Governing Body for the sport of shooting on the Isle of Man, has had great success at National and International level over the years. Recently, Joshua Holden, was selected to represent GB in the International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) Junior World Cup in May, following progress through British Shooting's Talent Pathway. We caught up with some of the IoMTSF representatives and Joshua to find out a bit more about IoMTSF's performance pathways and future plans .

Tell us a bit more about the current performance pathways and opportunities for junior shooters on the Island.

Junior shooters on the Isle of Man begin their journey at local clubs, learning and testing their skills in league and postal matches. Early off-island experience comes at regional and national opens like the British, Scottish, and Welsh Championships, while the annual NSRA Junior International offers a key stepping stone – a four-day event where the Isle of Man junior team competes against squads from as far afield as South Africa. As performance improves, athletes can represent the Isle of Man at multi-sport events, including the International Island Games and the Commonwealth Games (both proud hunting grounds for Manx shooters' medal success). For those aiming higher, British Shooting's Performance Pathway offers a route to elite development. With commitment, Manx juniors can climb from grassroots to world-class levels.

What is the British Shooting Pathway?

British Shooting's Performance Pathway is a structured system designed to identify, develop, and support talented pistol and rifle shooters, with the ultimate goal of producing world-class athletes capable of competing and winning at major international competitions, including the Olympic and Paralympic Games. The pathway consists of 4 performance tiers, starting out at the Development Academy level for athletes early in their shooting careers but showing potential to progress to higher levels, up to the World Class tier for athletes at or nearing a performance level capable of winning medals at major internationals such as the Olympics and World Championships.



Joshua Holden at the ISSF Junior World Cup

ISSF JUNIOR WORLD CUP

How did you get selected to represent Great Britain and what was the experience like?

After every domestic competition (such as the British Championships) my scores are uploaded to the British Rankings. These rankings alongside other criteria such as developmental potential and suitability for team events are used by British Shooting to select athletes to represent Great Britain at the Junior World Cup.

The event was an amazing experience. Competing for GB for the first time filled me with pride, and travelling to Germany with the team made it even more special. It was a fantastic learning opportunity – competing at that level gave me a real insight into the intensity of international sport and what it takes to perform among the best. Being around such experienced athletes and coaches was invaluable, and I came away with plenty to reflect on. I've already begun refining my approach, particularly in adapting to the differences between domestic and international competition. I'm looking forward to

putting these adjustments into practice and seeing how they shape my performances ahead.

What are your plans for the future?

With medical school and elite sport to balance, I'm optimising my training schedule (focused weekday sessions paired with more intensive weekend work) to keep progressing competitively. My roadmap includes targeted European competitions and another Junior World Cup, building methodically toward my transition to senior level in 2027 – all while ensuring my medical studies remain on track.

What advice would you give to someone interested in getting involved in shooting?

My first piece of advice would be - reach out! Contact your local shooting club, introduce yourself, and let them know about your interest in the sport. The shooting community is full of supportive people who are always happy to help – especially when it comes to welcoming new faces, particularly juniors (under-22s).

PEVERIL RIFLE CLUB

Tell us a little bit more about the recent facility development at Peveril Rifle Club.

Having secured a lottery grant and with the assistance of Isle of Man Sport we have been able to finally add enough to our fund to cover the building of a new clubhouse. This was extended to add a covered firing point to allow for all weather practice on our 25m range for competitors. We're the only facility on Island that can specifically cater for all types of pistol target sports from Olympic disciplines to International Shooting Sport Federation competitions, putting Peveril on a global platform for members to practice.



What are the long term plans for the Peveril Rifle Club facility and how will this benefit shooting on the Island?

We're in the process of getting the range and clubhouse ready for accreditation as an NRA Centre of Excellence. This will position the Isle of Man at the forefront of pistol disciplines in the British Isles, thanks to its excellent training facilities and coaching programs.

Where can I find out more information about shooting or get involved?

More information can be found on our website, including contacts for all disciplines of shooting! Or you can contact the IoMTSF Chair or Secretary by email:



chair@iomtsf.org / secretary@iomtsf.org



<http://www.iomtsf.org/>

Harry Creevy, Chair of the IoMTSF said:



Congratulations to Joshua on earning his first GB cap (representing Great Britain) at the ISSF Junior World Cup in Germany. The experience gained from competing in his first major international event will surely fuel his determination to improve – not just for national competitions but also for future GB selections.

The modernisation of the Isle of Man's shooting ranges continues, with Peveril undergoing a major overhaul of its 25m range, including a complete rebuild of the clubhouse and facilities. Since establishing itself at Slieau Lhost 25 years ago, the club has come a long way from its humble beginnings and its dedicated members deserve great credit. We hope the National Rifle Association (NRA) will grant Peveril prestigious 'Centre of Excellence' status, recognising its high standards in training and facilities.

We'd also like to thank IOM Sport for their continued support, including with our athletes' competition travel and local development initiatives, which help us to nurture talent and grow our sport.



Isle of Man Sport, through the Support for Sport funding programme, have provided over £3,500 towards junior shooters attending British Shooting Performance Pathway training in the UK in the last 3 years, in addition to a further £8,000 since 2021/22 for travel to targeted national and international competitions.

MEZZO ISLE OF MAN SPORTS AWARDS 2024



The Isle of Man Sports Awards, sponsored by Mezzo, is an inspirational evening where the Island's top athletes and officials gather at the Villa Marina to celebrate the sporting achievements and success stories of the year. Many congratulations to all the nominees and the final winners!

The winners of the 2024 Mezzo Isle of Man Sports Awards are:

- Sportswoman of the Year, sponsored by Mezzo - Yasmin Ingham (Equestrian)
- Sportsman of the Year, sponsored by Mezzo - Sir Mark Cavendish (Cycling)
- Under 21 Sportswoman of the Year, sponsored by Newfield - Kaytlyn Adshead (Motorcycling)
- Under 21 Sportsman of the Year, sponsored by Suntera Global - Regan Corrin (Athletics)
- Disability Sportsperson of the Year, sponsored by Standard Bank - Evie Roberts (Equestrian)
- Sports Team of the Year, sponsored by Crowe IoM - Ryan and Callum Crowe (Motorcycling)
- Sports Administrator of the Year, sponsored by Media Isle of Man - Niamh Goddard (Hockey)
- Sports Ambassador of the Year - Billy Harris (Tennis)
- Sports Coach of the Year, sponsored by Duke Travel - Elliot Baxter (Cycling & Motorcycling)
- Veteran Sportsperson of the Year, sponsored by Crowe, Isle of Man - Christa Cain (Athletics)
- The Leonie Cooil 'Courage & Inspiration' Award - Rory Turner
- Lifetime Achievement Award, sponsored by CM Partners - Sir Mark Cavendish
- Sports Leader of the Year, sponsored by Sure - Abigail Harvey
- Achievement on the Isle of Man Award - Nikki Arthur & Orran Smith
- Hall of Fame Recipients - Billy Harris and Ryan and Callum Crowe

WITH THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS:



Missed it?

Check out the highlights of the Awards by clicking on the image or this link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9BhHB7oV2Gg>

You can also view the full Awards online on our Youtube channel and find more information on our social media!



SPORTING CLUB MANX YOUTH GAMES: VOLLEYBALL AND RACE WALKING



The Sporting Club Manx Youth Games (MYG) is the biggest multi-sport event for children on the Isle of Man, organised by Manx Sport and Recreation (Department of Education, Sport and Culture) in conjunction with Governing Bodies of Sport and facilitated by over a hundred volunteers.

This year, 2 new sports were included in the Games for the first time - Race Walking and Volleyball. We caught up with Ollie Lockley (Athletics Development Officer), Jennifer Moret (VBIOM Chair and Head Coach) and Gareth Lloyd (MYG Co-ordinator) to find out a little bit more about the benefits of the Manx Youth Games and how sports can get involved!

CELEBRATION OF SPORT

What is the Manx Youth Games and why is it so important?

The Manx Youth Games gives children the opportunity to try a range of different sports that they might not have experienced and helps break down barriers to access, with weekly sessions taking place across the Island at just £1 a session. This year, 15 sports were involved, with training sessions taking place from January up until the beginning of May, providing a regular opportunity for participation and increasing the likelihood of people continuing in the sport afterwards.

The Manx Youth Games is both the culmination and celebration of this regular training over 4 months, with this year's event taking place on Saturday 10th May 2025.

How do new sports get involved in the Games?

Sports not currently involved in the Games and interested in finding out more information should take a look at the Manx Youth Games criteria available here: [Manx Youth Games criteria](#)

If you would like to discuss the possibility of your sport being included within the MYG, then please get in touch with me, Gareth Lloyd, on 688576 or via email to gareth.lloyd@gov.im.



2025 Manx Youth Games participants at the Opening Ceremony

RACE-WALKING

How did the race-walking event go this year?

It was a great success with 25 enthusiastic children, from Year 2 to Year 10, taking part on the day. The coaching was thoughtfully tailored to suit the different age groups and ability levels, including a fun and engaging mix of activities, from technical drills and race walking games to speed and endurance training. The sessions were led by an experienced coaching team made up of Steve Partington, Tom Partington and Marie Jackson, whose energy and expertise helped make the event both educational and enjoyable. Steve Taylor also contributed valuable guidance on technique and advice on how participants can continue to develop in the sport.

To celebrate their efforts, every child received a certificate, a MYG T-shirt, some well-earned chocolate, and a flyer encouraging them to join a local athletics club to keep their Race Walking journey going!

What are IoM Athletics plans for next year and future Manx Youth Games?

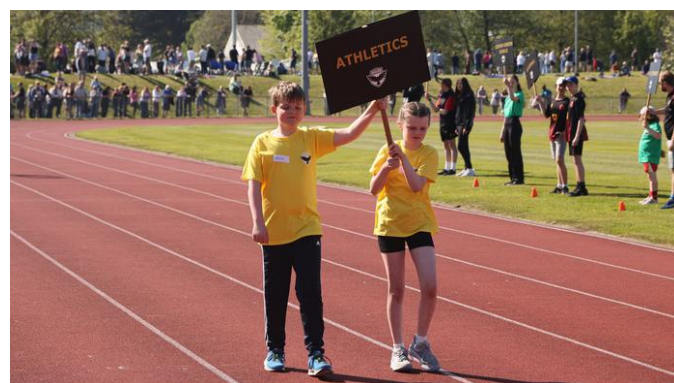
Thanks to a recently organised England Athletics coaching course held here on the Isle of Man, we're excited to soon welcome a group of newly qualified athletics coaches. These coaches will not only strengthen training within the club system but will also play a key role in leading and supporting MYG training sessions. With this added coaching capacity, we're aiming to expand the MYG athletics offering beyond just Race Walking. The goal for 2026 is to include a full range of disciplines -

giving children the chance to try sprinting, hurdling, middle-distance running, throwing, jumping, and more! To make this happen, we'd love to hear from volunteers who are keen to assist coaches during the build-up training sessions and to help out on the big day itself! If you're interested in getting involved, please contact Ollie (Athletics Development Officer) at iomado@hotmail.com.

Are there other routes for young people to get involved in Race-Walking or Athletics outside of the MYG?

If you or someone you know is interested in giving Race Walking a go – or would like to join a local club, train regularly, and perhaps even compete – now is a great time to get started! The Isle of Man Athletics community is welcoming, inclusive, and supportive of all abilities, whether you're a complete beginner or looking to progress in the sport.

To find out more, feel free to contact Ollie (Athletics Development Officer) at iomado@hotmail.com or Steve Partington (Race Walking Coach) at steveandcal@manx.net. We'd love to hear from you!



Want to get in touch with Isle of Man Athletics? Click the links below or scan the QR code:

Website: <https://iomathletics.com/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/222141981200146/>

Email: iomado@hotmail.com

Or for more information about the Manx Youth Games, browse the website below or follow the MYG on social media!



VOLLEYBALL

Tell us about the journey for Volleyball from starting up the sport on the Island to becoming a sport in the Manx Youth Games.

Volleyball on the Island is going through a growth phase at the moment. We have increased participation by approximately 80% in the last 5 years. Initially our growth was mainly through adult membership but as we have grown and with the help of Isle of Man Sport, managed to get coaches trained, we have been able to reach out to younger players. Our U18 girls has quadrupled over the last 2 years and we have started to grow our junior boys/beginners men's programme, which now includes some of the boys who attended the MYG this year.

To grow further we realise that we need to focus on a grass roots approach and MYG has allowed us to reach a much younger audience. We expect to have a beginner programme for girls next season and hope to see some of our MYG participants at that!

What would you say to new sports considering getting involved in the Games?

The Manx Youth Games is a great way for new sports to grow on the island. It is hard to compete with sports that are already well known especially to reach a younger group. The MYG gives your club an equal footing with other sports and allows children to try it without the need to give a huge commitment to a sport they are unsure of.



Why should people get involved in Volleyball and what opportunities are there to take part outside of the MYG?

Volleyball is, in my opinion, the ultimate team game as it requires players to rely on each other which fosters a deep sense of camaraderie between the players. Not only is it fun, it teaches skills like collaboration, trust and communication in a friendly and supportive environment.

The volleyball community on the Island is a diverse and inclusive community with individuals and families making up the numbers of players and it welcomes young and older players into the group. We have beginner and open sessions for adults to come and try as well as beginner sessions for younger players wanting to give it a go. Feel free to come down and try a session before you commit!

Follow our website below for all information on Volleyball Isle of Man including sessions, upcoming matches, and how you can get involved! Also follow us on Facebook and Instagram - links can be found on our website or below.

Want to get in touch with Volleyball Isle of Man? Click the links below or scan the QR code:

Website: <https://iomvolleyball.wixsite.com/vbiom>

Facebook: www.facebook.com/VBIOM/

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/volleyballiom/>

Or for more information about the Manx Youth Games, browse the website below or follow the MYG on social media!



HANDBALL ISLE OF MAN: ENGLAND HANDBALL REGIONAL ACADEMY



Earlier this year Handball Isle of Man (HloM) was designated by their National Governing Body, England Handball Association (EHA), as an England Handball Regional Academy. HloM is now officially part of England Handball's talent development pathway, which identifies and nurtures promising players - typically aged 14-18 - with the potential to represent Great Britain at international competitions, including World, European and Olympic qualifying events.

We caught up with Mick Hegarty, HloM Chair, to find out more about this exciting development for Handball and how people can get involved in the sport!

Tell us a bit about HloM's journey towards achieving this status.

This prestigious recognition is the result of years of dedicated effort to grow the sport across the Island and developing partnerships with Manx Sport and Recreation (MSR) and the Island's 5 High School PE Departments through the Isle of Man Secondary Schools Sports Association (IOMSSSA). Handball has recently completed its 6th year as a Manx Youth Games (MYG) Sport and it is fair to say that this partnership alone has given Handball IoM the solid foundation to increase the number of players year on year and look forward to a very bright future. Several former MYG players will make the step up to the EHA Regional Academy, testament to the importance of how MYG can set young people on the sporting journey of a lifetime.



What is an EHA Talent Pathway Regional Academy and what's involved?

EHA has regional academies at U14 and U16 age groups, which are the first stage of the England Handball performance pathway and focused on development. The aim of the programmes is to provide players with an additional training opportunity, and begin their journey within the performance environment.

If selected for the Academy (which runs from September 2025 to July 2026), players must commit to the following:

- Seven training camps held on the Isle of Man, typically once or twice a month on weekends
- Each session may last a full day (6-8 hours), depending on the schedule and location
- Players are expected to attend regularly, maintain good fitness, and continue training with HloM Futures between camps.

In return, selected players will benefit from:

- High-Performance Coaching: Advanced technical and tactical training from qualified professionals
- Physical Development: Strength training, conditioning, and injury prevention strategies
- Game Analysis & Education: Includes video review, personalized feedback, and education on nutrition, mindset, and athlete lifestyle
- Competitive Opportunities: Up to five off-Island tournaments against other regional and national squads

What does this status as an EHA Regional Academy mean for Handball Isle of Man?

As an EHA Academy, our home-grown players will now have the opportunity to take an important step towards British Handball's Talent Pathway (17+ for girls and 18+ for boys), which aims to produce elite-level athletes for Great Britain's major international competitions. Many former EHA Academy players have progressed through the GB Youth system and are now competing at higher levels. Abroad, some have even turned professional. Ricardo Vasconcelos, GB Men's Head Coach, recognised our Futures Programme as a valuable addition to British Handball's ongoing efforts to discover new talent through schools, helping to shape the future of both the GB Women's and Men's national teams.

Tell us more about the work HIoM are doing in high schools and with the Futures programme.

Our development work spans all 5 high schools on the Island, where HIoM coaches support after-school clubs and competitions. These have culminated in two very successful tournaments for U13 (yr7/8) boys and girls. Plans are in place to add an U14 (yr9) tournament later this year. The IOMSSSA recently commended our contributions to handball development on the Island. The IoMSSSA partnership has also directly contributed to the development of the HIoM Futures Programme, where players who are keen on improving and developing their handball skills can attend weekly training sessions in The Roundhouse. Handball Futures is non-selective - if you are keen, you can join!

To end this season, our Girls and Boys Futures

Squads are going to play in Germany, where handball is the second most popular sport after football and we will be hosted by our new partner -club, SC Arminia Ochtrup.

How do I apply to be part of the EHA Academy on the Isle of Man?

The EHA Academy application process begins with an online registration of interest. The form can be found by clicking the below link: <https://forms.office.com/e/UPfhZMT3HH> or scanning the QR code on the poster below. Players' parents must fill in the online application form with them.

The first Isle of Man Academy Trial session is open to players from school years 7 upwards and takes place on Saturday 28th June between 1pm and 4pm at The Roundhouse in Braddan.

How can I get involved in Handball on the IoM?

For more information about Handball on the Island and to see where you fit into the Handball IoM Talent Pathway, see below:

Primary School pupils:

- Manx Youth Games (ask your Class Teacher about Handball in MYG)
- Listen out for all the information from MSR
- Contact Handball IoM via Facebook

High School Students:

- After School Clubs
- Handball IoM Futures Programme
- EHA Academy (ask your PE Teacher)
- Listen out for all the information from MSR
- Contact Handball IoM via Facebook

Adult Beginners, Returners, Improvers

- Contact Handball IoM via Facebook

ENGLAND HANDBALL

HAVE YOU GOT WHAT IT TAKES TO REPRESENT GREAT BRITAIN PLAYING HANDBALL?

HANDBALL ISLE OF MAN

IS VERY EXCITED TO ANNOUNCE THAT ITS FUTURES PROGRAMME HAS BEEN SELECTED AS AN ENGLAND HANDBALL

TALENT PATHWAY REGIONAL ACADEMY

Register Today

FIRST ACADEMY TRAINING SESSION SAT 28TH JUNE, 1-4PM AT THE ROUNDHOUSE, BRADDAN OPEN TO SCHOOL YEAR 7 UPWARDS GIRLS & BOYS

WINNER

Where can I find out more information or get in touch with Handball Isle of Man?

More information can be found on our Facebook page (below), or you can contact myself by phone or email:



mhiomhandball@gmail.com



07624 271242



www.facebook.com/HandballIoM/

SPORT AID ACADEMY (SAA) AND PERFORMANCE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME (PDP)



As the latest Sport Aid Academy 2023 cohort draws to a close, we caught up with Nikki Arthur (Student-Athlete Development Co-ordinator (SADC) for Isle of Man Sport) to find out more about the Academy and Performance Development Programme.

SPORT AID ACADEMY (SAA)

Tell us a bit more about the Sport Aid Academy.

The Academy was originally launched in September 2015 to provide meaningful support to young athletes (parents and coaches) who were not eligible for Sport Aid grant funding support. It will therefore be the Academy's 10 year anniversary when this cohort begins in September 2025. Suntera Global (formerly SMP Partners) and Newfield have sponsored the Academy for each of the previous 9 years and we are excited to say they have recommitted to the Academy for another 2 years. Isle of Man Sport Aid's ambition is for the Island to be the best talent identification and development community in the world by 2029. The Academy has been a cornerstone of this ambition over the years and will continue to be a central element going forward.

What is the Sport Aid Academy?

The SAA is a place for young people, their parents and coaches to discover, discuss, consider and create the foundational skills and behaviours required to become a World Class sportsman or woman. These are also critical to living a healthy and fulfilling life regardless of what these young people go on to do. This context is important because most of the 2025-27 cohort are unlikely to ever compete on the World stage.



Who is it for?

We welcome nominations for young people who will be in Year 10 or 11 in September 2025. Those who are currently the top performers within those age groups are welcome, as are those who love sport and are committed and hardworking to one or multiple sports regardless of their performance level.

What's involved?

The SAA holds, as a minimum, bi-weekly (term time) sessions for the young people at the High Performance Centre between September 2025 and June 2026. From September 2026 these sessions will become weekly. Within these sessions, young people can access physical preparation support in the gym alongside short workshops aimed at introducing important topics or ideas. These sessions are complimented by 3 community events each year that are attended by both young people and their parents (with an open invite to all coaches). There are also additional opportunities to access further information from exclusive online workshops and podcasts.

How do I apply to be part of the Academy?

Individuals (or their parents) can nominate themselves to be part of the programme by completing the form below by 13th July: <https://forms.office.com/e/sOPHKLWEAk> Each sport/school can also nominate a maximum of 12 people initially. Adding more names will only be possible if there is sufficient room available once all forms have been received. Please contact Nikki Arthur (Nikki.Arthur@gov.im) in the first instance if you believe your sport or school will require more places.

PERFORMANCE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME (PDP)

What is the PDP?

The PDP is delivered through a partnership between Isle of Man Sport and Isle of Man Sport Aid. The programme aims to provide expert advice and support to a maximum of 50 young people (25 in education on-Island and 25 who are either in work or education off-Island) who have ambitions to compete at the top levels of sport and have met minimum performance standards. In most instances, support is for those aged 16+, though access is open to younger age groups subject to performance standards being met.

Our 2024/25 cohort covered several sports including weightlifting, equestrian, badminton, enduro mountain biking, cricket, athletics, road cycling, swimming, hockey, motorbike trials, and triathlon. The 24 performance development athletes received targeted support via 1:1s with the SADC, access to bespoke physical preparation services in the High Performance Centre (HPC), worked with Dr. Rich Sille, sports psychologist, and, if required, received physiotherapy support.

Tell us a bit more about the current PDP cohort.

This year's cohort have been battling for podium places in the UK and Europe, pushed out of their comfort zone attending training camps as far away as China, a number have been selected to compete for Team GB, and all have developed skills to compete at the highest level in their sport. All athletes on the PDP and in education have access to Dual Career support, providing them with skills and academic flexibility to balance sporting and academic progress. Nikki (SADC), the schools, and UCM have been working closely to enable student athletes to manage their time effectively, communicate appropriately with their education institution, and plan around busy times such as exams and high season in sport.

How does an individual get selected for the PDP?

Athletes must be nominated through their Governing Body of Sport. The new cohort will be selected over the summer months, and Governing Bodies should expect communication from Isle of Man Sport in the coming weeks about new nominations for the PDP for 2025/26.

What have people said about the Academy and PDP?

“She loves Sport aid academy and it has such a positive impact on her confidence. We talk regularly how it has helped her decide that sport will be the path she's chooses in her life. Sport Aid Academy has really cemented this decision.”

“The sessions have provided my son with great grounding to take him through to the next stage of his sporting 'career'. He has met a lot of different people which has given him confidence to mix with other kids & teams in UK. At the majority of races he is the only Manx lad in his age group so having that additional confidence has really helped.”

“It has had a huge impact on my performance. Physical preparation is tailored to our needs, which has helped me become more confident in my sport. Additionally, having access to different people, such as psychologists and 1:1 support, has made a big difference in my mindset before a race.”

“Having access to the HPC has massively improved my stamina and strength on the bike, helping me feel more confident on race day. As well as the Tass dual career meetings, which help me understand that I can still progress academically and progress in my sport equally through the scheme.”



SPORTING EVENTS CALENDAR 2025



Isle of Man Sport is pleased to bring you this sporting events calendar from our current recognised sports, highlighting some fantastic opportunities to participate, watch and support local, national and international sport, right here on the Island!

Every effort has been made to ensure that the details are correct, but please check with the event organiser before attending. You can view the full calendar and what's on, along with submitting new events, on our website here: www.isleofmansport.com/whats-on/

JULY				
Rugby	Manx Rugby Summer Beach Series (Weekly)	5th and 12th July (TBC)	Various (TBC)	www.facebook.com/manxrugby
Sailing	MS&CC "Round the Island" Yacht Race	6th July	Ramsey and all Island	www.msandcc.org
Cycling	Tour de Farms 2025	6th July	Isle of Man Creamery, Tromode	Tour de Farms 2025
Motorcycling	Southern 100 Road Races	7th - 10th July	Southern 100 Course, Castletown	www.southern100.com
Golf	Isle of Man Golf Junior Championships	12th July	Mount Murray Golf Club	www.isleofmangolf.im
Motorcycling	Manx National 2-day Trial	12th - 13th July	Various	www.manx2day.co.uk
Sailing	PSCC Keelboat Regatta	13th July	PSCC, Peel	www.pscclm.com
Tennis	IOM Tennis Veterans Championship	12th - 19th July	Castletown Lawn Tennis Club	Tennis Isle of Man
Football	IOMFA Men's Pre-Season Tournament	12 th and 19 th July	The Bowl, NSC	www.isleofmanfa.com
Sailing	IOMYC Dinghy Regatta	19th - 20th July	IOMYC, Port St Mary	www.iomyc.com
Cycling	Gran Fondo Isle of Man	19th - 20th July	Ramsey	www.granfondoisleofman.com
Tennis	IOM Tennis Junior Open	19th - 26th July	Ramsey Lawn Tennis Club	Tennis Isle of Man
Sailing	MS&CC Ramsey to Laxey Race	26th July	Ramsey and Laxey	www.msandcc.org
Athletics	Isle of Man Athletics Track & Field Championships	26th - 27th July	NSC	www.iomathletics.com
Sailing	Laxey Regatta	27th July	Laxey	www.facebook.com/LaxeySailingClub
Golf	Isle of Man Senior Golf Championships	27th July	Ramsey Golf Club	www.isleofmangolf.im
Triathlon	Super Sprint Team Relay Triathlon	27th July	Mooragh Park, Ramsey	www.manxtriclub.com
AUGUST				
Equestrian	The Viking Cup Polo Tournament	1st - 3rd August	Ballacooiley Estate	www.thevikingcup.co.uk
Cycling	Le Dans	2nd - 3rd August	Jurby Racecourse	www.dankneen.shop/le-dans
Tennis	Ramsey Town Cup	7th - 10th August	Ramsey Tennis Club	Ramsey Tennis Club
Motorcycling	ACU British Youth Trials Championship	9th - 10th August	TBC	www.facebook.com/peverilmcc
Athletics	Isle of Man Marathon Championships	10th August	Ramsey	www.isleofmanmarathon.com
Lawn Bowls	National Championships Men's and Ladies Singles Finals	16th August	Onchan Park	www.lawnbowlsiom.com
Lawn Bowls	National Championships Men's and Ladies Pairs Finals	23rd August	Onchan Park	www.lawnbowlsiom.com
Tennis	IOM Tennis Senior and Junior County Championships	23rd - 31st August	Douglas Lawn Tennis Club	Tennis Isle of Man
SEPTEMBER				
Crown Green Bowls	September Crown Green Bowls Festival	1st - 5th September	Nobles Park and various	www.iombowls.com/festival
Sailing	IOM Dinghy Championships	6th - 7th September	IOMYC, Port St Mary	www.iomyc.com
Triathlon	Isle of Man Triathlon Championships	7th September	Mooragh Park, Ramsey	www.manxtriclub.com
Football	IOMFA Women's Pre-Season Tournament	7 th September	The Bowl, NSC	www.isleofmanfa.com
Tennis	LTA Fast4 Open Regional Tour	13th - 14th September	Douglas Lawn Tennis Club	Tennis Isle of Man
Badminton	Isle of Man Badminton Senior Open Championship	13th - 14th September	The Roundhouse	www.iombadminton.com
Athletics	End-to-End Walk	14th September	Point of Ayre (start)	www.endtoendwalk.org
Athletics	Junior Fell Running Championships	20th September	TBC	https://manxfellrunners.org
Gymnastics	Island Gymnastics Championships	27th September	Ellan Vannin Gymnastics Club	Isle of Man Gymnastics Facebook
Squash	Dave Karran Memorial Squash Tournament	TBC	NSC	www.iomsra.com
Equestrian	Manx Horse Council Hunter Trials Championships	TBC	TBC	www.manxhorsecouncil.com
OCTOBER				
Sailing	MS&CC Laser Regatta	11th October	MS&CC, Ramsey	www.msandcc.org
Badminton	Isle of Man Badminton Under 17 Open Championship	18th October	The Roundhouse	www.iombadminton.com
Equestrian	Manx Horse Council Dressage Championships	TBC	TBC	www.manxhorsecouncil.com
NOVEMBER				
Tennis	LTA Fast4 Open Regional Tour	8th - 9th November	Douglas Lawn Tennis Club	Tennis Isle of Man
Badminton	Isle of Man Badminton Under 13 Open Championship	15th November	The Roundhouse	www.iombadminton.com
Athletics	Isle of Man Half Marathon Championships	23rd November	Castletown	www.iomvac.co.uk
Gymnastics	Isle of Man Gymnastics Invitational Competition	29th-30th November (TBC)	TBC	Isle of Man Gymnastics Facebook
Equestrian	Arena Eventing Finals	TBC	TBC	www.manxhorsecouncil.com
Equestrian	Manx Horse Council Showjumping Championships	TBC	TBC	www.manxhorsecouncil.com
DECEMBER				
Hockey	Manx Hockey Association Indoor Finals Day	TBC	NSC	www.mha.org.im
Hockey	Manx Hockey Association Mixed Finals Day	TBC	NSC	www.mha.org.im
Football	IOMFA Railway Cup Final	26 th December	The Bowl, NSC	www.isleofmanfa.com

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Check out the full calendar here:



