Gamegear Grant Call Application Document

RESEARCH CALL

On behalf of Gamegear Holdings (ABN 684 505 600), Connectivity Traumatic Brain Injury Australia is pleased to call for proposals to conduct a Trial to evaluate the efficacy of the Gamegear Headgear using NIA technology (Nodal Impact Attenuation) in reducing the incidence and/or severity of concussion in adult athletes.

One proposal will be selected to conduct a Project to perform a Trial, with funding provided of $400,000 per annum, for two years, totalling $800,000.

Purpose of the Trial

The Trial must be designed to:

(i) determine whether the Gamegear Headgear using NIA technology reduces the incidence of concussion in athletes relative to athletes not wearing a helmet, and

(ii) determine whether the Gamegear Headgear using NIA technology reduces the severity of symptoms following concussion, relative to athletes not wearing a helmet.

The Project to perform the Trial must include the following required components:

- Assessments of male and female adults and possibly school age athletes in elite and semi-professional leagues in multiple sports including, but not limited to NRL, AFL and Rugby Union. The successful Project must include a range of cohorts of athletes in the study design.
- Power analysis that indicates that the Trial will be powered with adequate numbers of participants to achieve the purpose of the Trial.
- A clear and accepted definition of concussion that will enable applicability of the findings across multiple sports and activities.
- Pragmatic outcome measures that are readily applicable in the general population as well as suitable and feasible for the large scale of the Trial.
- A report or draft publication delivered within the two-year timeframe that describes the findings, and the limitations of the data generated.

Proposals will be assessed against the following selection criteria:

- Feasibility of completing the Trial within the designated two-year Project term.
- Inclusion of the required components of the Trial (as outlined above).
- Excellence of study design including (i) aims that will meet the purpose of the Trial (ii) appropriate control cohort/s, and (iii) outcome measures that have the capacity to clearly demonstrate real-world efficacy of the Gamegear Headgear using NIA technology, in line with the purpose of the Trial.
- Clear study plan with milestones designed to demonstrate progression and achievement of project aims, including clear plans for mitigation should challenges arise.
- Clear budget for funding expenditure which enables delivery of the Trial outcomes within the timeline of funding.
- Likelihood of meeting the Purpose of the Trial.
- The track record of the researcher team in delivering outcomes for Projects of a similar nature.

ASSESSMENT AND TIMELINES

Proposals will be assessed by an independent Expert Panel, who will assess against the defined selection criteria.

Proposals are due at 5pm AWST, Friday 10 October 2025. Funding outcomes will be announced in November 2025, and it is anticipated that the Project will start shortly thereafter, with recruitment commencing in early 2026.

Reporting requirements for the Awardee conducting the Project will be managed by Connectivity Traumatic Brain Injury Australia. Second year funding will be contingent upon an annual report describing successful delivery of the milestones for year 1 outlined in the proposal.

OTHER INFORMATION

Gamegear Holdings will work with the successful applicant for access to the Gamegear Headgear using NIA technology for use during the Trial. 300 helmets will be supplied to the successful applicant in February 2026. Further helmets will be made available if required, at the discretion of Gamegear.

Additional information on the Gamegear Headgear using NIA technology can be found on the last page of this document.

SUBMISSIONS

The following information outlines the details you will need to answer and upload with your submission.

Please note that you will need all of this information completed and available to answer and upload at the time of submission.

Items you will need to answer in the submission portal:

- Title of application
- Administering Organisation
- Name and Title of Chief Investigator
- Names and Titles of the first 10 Investigators
- Summary of the approach in lay language (250 word maximum)

Items you will need to upload in the submission portal:

<u>Research Proposal</u>

[5 page maximum to be uploaded pdf, maximum file size 20Mb. Text must be 12 point, standard margins, single spaced. Figures permitted within the total page limit. No appendices accepted.]

Research proposal must address the following:

- How the purpose of the Trial will be met.
- Study design including
    - (i) aims that will meet the purpose of the Trial
    - (ii) appropriate control cohort/s, and
    - (iii) outcome measures that have the capacity to clearly demonstrate real-world efficacy of the Gamegear Headgear using NIA technology, in line with the purpose of the Trial.
- Inclusion of the required components of the Trial.
- Feasibility of completing the Trial within the designated two-year Project term.

Milestones

[1 page maximum to be uploaded as a PDF, maximum file size 20Mb. Text must be 12 point, standard margins, single spaced. Figures permitted within the total page limit. No appendices accepted.]

This Plan must outline milestones designed to demonstrate progression and achievement of project aims, and detail clear plans for mitigation should challenges arise.

Budget

[1 page maximum to be uploaded as a PDF, maximum file size 20Mb. Text must be 12 point, standard margins, single spaced. Figures permitted within the total page limit. No appendices accepted.]

Clear budget for expenditure of the available $800K in a way that enables delivery of the Trial outcomes within the timeline of funding.

CVs of Chief Investigator plus first 10 Investigators

[To be *uploaded as single pdf, maximum file size 20Mb. 2 page maximum per CV. Text must be 12 point, standard margins, single spaced. Figures permitted within the total page limit. No appendices accepted.]*

Details only required for the Chief Investigator and first 10 Investigators. If additional Investigators are to be named, their organisation and role can be included within the pdf. Relative to opportunity, career disruption information is not required as Investigators will be assessed solely on their experience relevant to the conduct of the Trial.

CVs must address the following:

- Experience in delivering outcomes for Projects of a similar nature.
- Top 5 publications of relevance to the Trial.

-ENDS-

PROTECT
PERFORM
PREVAIL

TECHNOLOGY & PRODUCT DESIGN

The NIA system is an innovative impact structure that reduces head acceleration and mitigates concussion risks. Its unique design comprises a network of strategically placed spheres connected by a triangular lattice. These spheres absorb and dissipate impact forces through a combination of progressive deformation, rolling, and sliding.

- How It Works: The NIA system's foam spheres absorb impact forces by allowing controlled deformation and rotational motion. This reduces both linear and rotational acceleration, which are key contributors to concussion.
- Superior to Traditional Helmets: Standard headgear primarily protects against cuts and bruises but does little to mitigate concussion risks. The NIA system addresses this gap by scientifically reducing angular acceleration, the primary cause of brain injuries.
- Independent Testing & Validation: Research conducted by Dr Andrew McIntosh at the NSW Crash Lab confirms that Game Gear's NIA helmets reduce head acceleration by 91-94% compared to leading brands, setting a new benchmark in sports headgear.