

GREATERSPORT

Governance Statement 2021/22



Introduction and Governance Structure

Greater Manchester Sports Partnership (GreaterSport) is a Greater Manchester charity committed to changing lives through moving more, sport and physical activity. We play a strategic leadership role in support of [GM Moving](#), the Greater Manchester wide movement, for movement. Our vision is to lead, support and connect the Greater Manchester system in creating the conditions to enable Active Lives for All, uniting communities and creating more equal and inclusive places so that people can lead happier, healthier and more fulfilled lives.

We are one of 43 [Active Partnerships](#); a network of system partners working with [Sport England](#) to support the local implementation of their [Uniting the Movement Strategy](#).

GreaterSport is a Company Limited by Guarantee, registered in England and Wales. The Company number is 3258930. GreaterSport is also a registered charity (1059115).

Our [Articles of Association](#) are the constitution by which the company is governed.

We place great emphasis on remaining compliant with all statutory, regulatory and contractual requirements, including but not limited to those set by the Charity Commission, Companies House and the Code for Sport Governance.

The [Code for Sports Governance](#) sets out the levels of transparency, diversity and inclusion, accountability and financial integrity that are required from an organization in receipt of UK Government and National Lottery funding from Sport England. It is based on five basic principles of good governance (1) Structure (2) People (3) Communication (4) Standards and Conduct and (5) Policies and Processes.

Role of the Board

We have a clear governance structure, led by a Board which is collectively responsible for the long-term success of GreaterSport and exclusively vested with the power to lead it. The Board is properly constituted. The Board is made up of a maximum of 12 board members with the core purpose being to:-

- Make high quality decisions to allow GreaterSport to grow its value.
- Be the ultimate decision-making body and accordingly exercise all of the powers of the organisation.
- Be responsible for setting the strategic direction of the organisation and maintain the vision, purpose and values.
- Provide leadership in developing, approving and monitoring the implementation of the [Changing Lives Together Business Plan](#).
- Ensure that the company operates to the highest standards of governance and risk management.
- Complies with its governing document, charity law, company law and any other relevant legislation or regulations.
- Agree strategic priorities for funding and investment and ensure that financial information is accurate and that controls, monitoring and reporting systems are robust and defensible.



- To provide scrutiny and constructive challenge with regard to operational matters (delivery plans, policies, performance)
- Fully support child protection and safeguarding issues.

The statutory duties of GreaterSport Trustees are:-

- To ensure that GreaterSport complies with its governing document (Articles of Association), Charity law, Company law and any other relevant legislation or regulations.
- To ensure that the GreaterSport pursues its charitable objectives as defined in its governing document.
- To ensure the GreaterSport uses its resources exclusively in pursuance of its objectives.
- To contribute actively in giving firm strategic direction to the GreaterSport, setting overall policy, defining goals, setting targets and evaluating performance against agreed targets.
- To safeguard the good name and values of GreaterSport.
- To ensure the effective and efficient administration of GreaterSport.
- To ensure the financial stability of GreaterSport.
- To protect and manage the property of the Charity and to ensure the proper investment of the Charity's funds.
- To appoint the Chief Executive Officer (on recommendation of the Nomination/Remuneration Sub-Committee) and monitor their performance.

As of 31st March 2022, membership of the Board is as follows. Biographies are available [here](#).

Member	Role and representation	Sub-committees
Mike Perls	Chair	Nominations & Remuneration Committee
Warren Heppolette	Senior Independent Director and Health/Public Sector	
Rob Mukherjee	Digital/data, Commercial	
Rob Young	Policy and Strategy, Workforce Development	Nominations & Remuneration Committee (Chair)
Sarah Brown-Fraser	Inclusion, Marketing, Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Lead	Nominations & Remuneration Committee
Richard Roe	Local Authority, Finance	Audit & Risk Committee (Chair)
Marilyn Comrie	Voluntary Sector/Inequalities	Audit & Risk Committee
Katy Calvin-Thomas	Health	
Dan Cropper	Legal, Safeguarding Lead	Audit & Risk Committee
Sanjay Bhandari	Finance/Risk, Enterprise, Welfare Lead	Audit & Risk Committee
Cllr Leanne Feeley	Greater Manchester Combined Authority	
Graham Whitham	Voluntary Sector/Inequalities	Nominations & Remuneration Committee



- In June 2021, Jen Mossop-Scott stepped down from the Board.
- In June 2021, Graham Whitham joined the Board.
- Justine Bromeley (Sport England) attends as an observer.

The board meets 4 times a year and has an annual Away Day. There are two sub-committees: Nominations & Remuneration and Audit & Risk. Each meets twice a year. Terms of References for both can be found [here](#). In 2021/22 Board and sub committees met on:

Main Board

24th June 2021
23rd September 2021
9th December 2021
10th February 2022 (Away Day)
17th March 2022

Nominations & Remuneration

6th May 2021
25th November 2021
21st February 2022

Audit & Risk

20th May 2020
11th November 2020

All Trustees receive an agenda and board papers at least one week in advance of meetings to help them make an effective contribution at the meetings. Minutes and actions from all meetings are recorded by the Company Secretary and circulated to Trustees after each meeting. Redacted versions of then minutes are published [here](#).



Financial Audit

GreaterSport undertakes a financial audit on an annual basis. The judgment made in the final report for 2021/22 was:

In our opinion the financial statements:

Give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as of 31 March 2022, and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended; have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Equality and diversity

GreaterSport is committed to providing equal opportunities and promoting diversity, irrespective of ethnicity, age, gender, sexuality, disability, religion or personal circumstance. We believe in people. We believe that with the right opportunities, everyone should reach their full potential and we believe that moving more, sport and physical activity is a fundamental key to unlocking potential. Equality, Diversity and Inclusion is critical for the success of GreaterSport and the achievement of our vision. We are fully committed to treating all of our employees, job applicants and volunteers equally. As an employer, we aspire to being a diverse, inclusive and responsible organisation. Our aim is to have a workforce that reflects and understands the communities we work alongside.

Evaluation

The Board, led by the chair, undertakes and maintains in writing a record of an annual evaluation of its own skills and performance and of individual Trustees. The Senior Independent Director conducts the Chair's annual performance appraisal during this time also. These reviews complement a skills matrix which is updated annually. An external evaluation of the board was carried out between January and March 22. A report was filed concluding that:-

The board is performing

- Strongly in terms of its relationship with the wider environment
- Strongly in terms of the relationship with the Executive
- Strongly in terms of its relationship with itself
- Board composition is strong
- Behaviours inside the boardroom are positive
- Key areas of governance process score highly



Declaration of Trustee Interests

Trustees, staff and volunteers have a legal obligation to act in the best interests of GreaterSport, and in accordance with GreaterSport's governing document, and to avoid situations where there may be a potential conflict of interest. All trustees are asked to declare their interests, and any gifts or hospitality offered and received in connection with their role in GreaterSport.

A Declaration of Interests form is provided for this purpose, listing the types of interest they should declare. This is conducted on an annual basis. Declarations of interest is also a standing agenda item at each main Board meeting.

Risk Management Review

The GreaterSport Risk Management Plan and Risk Log was reviewed in May and November 2021 by the Audit and Risk sub-committee. Inlight of the Covid 19 pandemic, the plan was reviewed and amended to reflect associated risks. The plan is based on guidance from the Charity Commission and includes risks associated with strategic, operational, financial and reputational risk, along with legal & compliance. A copy of the plan can be viewed [here](#).

