

# **GREATERSPORT**

## **Governance Statement 2019/20**

## Governance framework/structure

GreaterSport is a high performing charity passionate about changing lives through physical activity and sport. Our vision is to make Greater Manchester the most active region in England. GreaterSport wholeheartedly commits to working alongside [GM Moving](#) partners in Greater Manchester to realise our collective ambition, providing a united voice and bringing coherence, simplicity and connectivity to the physical activity and sport landscape.

The Board of Directors/Trustees meet throughout the year to oversee the business, strategy and long term planning of the Company. Its core purpose being to:-

- 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 Our Lives Together](#)' strategy.
- 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 a Director/Trustee 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 and 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.

The board meets 4 times a year and also 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 2019/20 Board and sub committees met on:

#### **Main Board**

21st June 2019

20th September 2019 (including AGM)

12th December 2019

6th February 2020 (Board planning day)

20th March 2020

#### **Nominations & Remuneration**

23rd May 2019

21st November 2019

#### **Audit & Risk**

13<sup>th</sup> May 2019

11<sup>th</sup> November 2019

All directors 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 can be accessed [here](#).

The [Articles of Association](#) are the constitution by which GreaterSport is governed. Within this the objects of the Charity are:

(a) to provide people in Greater Manchester and surrounding neighbourhood with facilities for recreation or other leisure time occupation, in the interest of social welfare and with the object of improving the conditions of life of such persons without distinction on the grounds of race, gender, ethnic origin or disability;

(b) to advance the mental and physical health of the community by providing facilities for sport and physical activity and promoting community participation in healthy recreational activities.

They were originally revised in September 2015 in order to comply with legal changes and guidance since the original Articles were written. The current Articles (October 2017) have been revised to comply with 'A Code for Sports Governance' (Sport England/UK Sport).

GreaterSport is a registered charity and a company limited by guarantee and therefore has Trustees and Directors who fulfil a dual-role function. As of 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020, membership of the Board is as follows. Biographies are available [here](#).

<b>Member</b>	<b>Role and representation</b>	<b>Sub-committees</b>
Mike Perls	Chair and Private Sector	Chair of Nominations & Remuneration Committee
Warren Heppolette	Senior Independent Director and Health/Public Sector	
Jen Mossop-Scott	Digital	Nominations & Remuneration Committee
Rob Mukherjee	Commercial, Safeguarding Lead	
Rob Young	Policy and strategy, workforce development	Nominations & Remuneration Committee
Sarah Brown-Fraser	Inclusion, Marketing	Nominations & Remuneration Committee
Richard Roe	Local Authority, Finance	Chair of Audit & Risk Committee
Paula Dunn	Sport	Nominations & Remuneration sub-committee
Katy Calvin-Thomas	Health	
Dan Cropper	Legal	Audit & Risk Committee
Sanjay Bhandari	Legal/Innovation and business growth	Audit & Risk Committee
Cllr Leanne Feeley	GMCA representative	
Justine Blomeley	Relationship Manager for Sport England attends as an observer	

New Trustees were appointed as follows:

- Dan Cropper - July 2019
- Sanjay Bhandari - July 2019
- Cllr Leanne Feeley – September 2019

Eamonn O'Rourke stepped down from the Board in September 2019. Warren Heppolette replaced him as Senior Independent Director. Carol Couse resigned July 2019.

### **Equality and diversity**

GreaterSport is committed to providing equal opportunities and promoting diversity, irrespective of ethnicity, age, gender, sexuality, disability, religion or personal circumstances. The GreaterSport Board, in line with our [Diversity Action Plan](#), has an aim to achieve gender parity. At present 40% are women (5 female, 7 male members). BAME representation is currently at 30%.

### **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 directors. The SID conducts the Chair's annual performance appraisal during this time also. An external evaluation is completed every four years. This occurred in May 2018 and the outcome was very positive. The assessor from [Value Alpha](#) commented

*'For thirty years I have worked with boards and directors the world over, helping them embed high-quality governance to improve organisational outcomes. GreaterSport's board is the best with which I have worked in all this time - it is astonishingly good, even inspirational. It is not only completely focused on adding value, it succeeds in doing so. And, with a new Chair and CEO in place, it looks set to move to the next level'.*

### **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.

### **Code for Sports Governance**

The [Code for Sports Governance](#) sets out the levels of transparency, accountability and financial integrity that are required from any organisation in receipt of public funding. GreaterSport are wholeheartedly committed to ensuring we operate to the highest standards of governance and in doing to comply with all requirements of a Tier 3 organisation. There are no deviations from the Code for Sports Governance document and all relevant points are satisfied.

### **Risk Management Review**

The GreaterSport Risk Management Plan and Risk Log was reviewed in May and November 2019 by the Audit and Risk sub-committee. In light of the Covid 19 pandemic, the plan was reviewed and amended to reflect associated risks in March 2020. 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](#).

### **Charity Commission and Companies House**

Greater Manchester Sports Partnership is a Company Limited by Guarantee, registered in England and Wales. The Company number is 3258930. GreaterSport is also a registered charity (1059115). The Charity Commission Annual Return for 2019/20 was submitted on the 9<sup>th</sup> January 2019 and can be viewed on their website. Both Companies House and the Charity Commission have the Directors/Trustees of GreaterSport listed in accordance with legal requirements.