
International Partnerships Programme

Building and maximising the benefits of international sport partnerships



International Partnerships Programme: Global Reach

The International Partnerships Programme (IPP) is a pioneering UK Sport initiative that helps UK National Governing Bodies of sport (NGBs) build closer, strategic relations with national federations around the world through collaborative partnerships and projects.

An integral part of UK Sport's investment into NGBs' international relations strategies, the IPP helps to ensure the UK has a strong, respected and supportive voice in international sport.

Since 2015 NGBs have engaged in IPP initiatives with over 40 countries and national sport federations worldwide. These initiatives are developed in full consultation and partnership with their respective international sport federations.



Building and Maximising the Benefits of IPP

IPP initiatives are grounded in the establishment of collaborative partnerships between the UK NGB, national sport federations overseas and their respective International Federations (IFs). Successful initiatives should simultaneously enhance the NGBs' reputation and relationship with their IFs and overseas member bodies, whilst contributing meaningfully to the development of their sport globally.

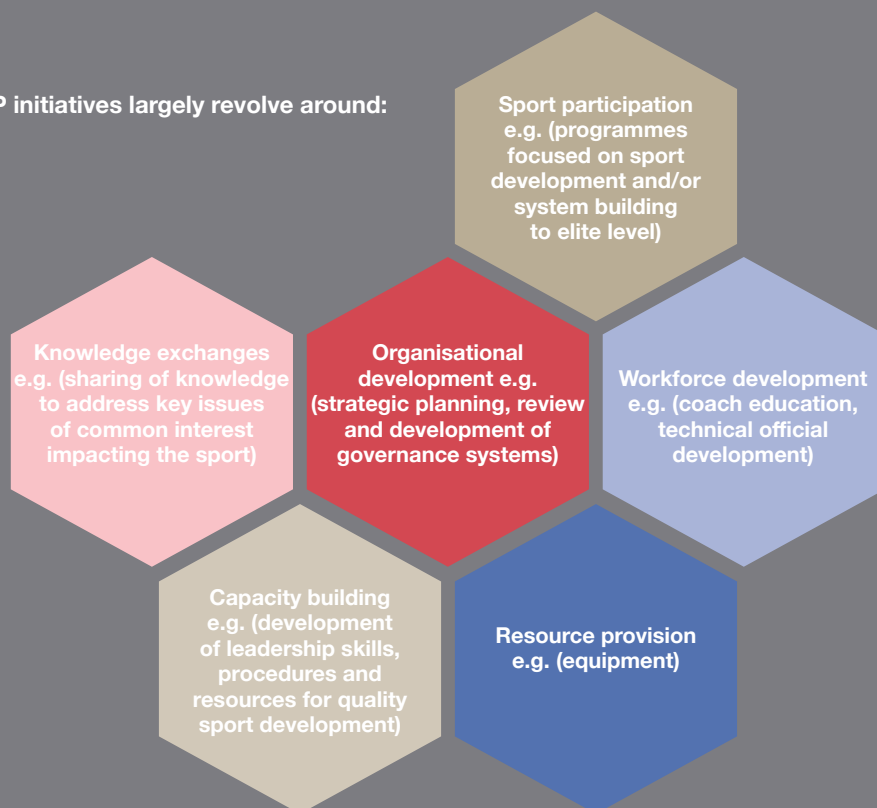
For IPP, we look for initiatives that target outcomes in the following three areas:

Strategic Relations: How will the IPP help the NGB develop or strengthen its reputation and relationships with its respective IF and other member bodies?

Sport Governance: How will the IPP help to strengthen the governance of the sport internationally?

Sport Development: How will the IPP help strengthen and promote the growth of the sport globally?

IPP initiatives largely revolve around:



Building and Maximising the Benefits of IPP

Interested in developing an IPP initiative? UK Sport has long-standing experience of engaging in sport projects, exchanges and relationships with national sport bodies and governments worldwide.

When embarking on an IPP, it is our belief that quality partnership development is founded on the following factors:

1. Sport does not occur in isolation.

Understanding the context you might be working in is key. This often requires a 'scoping' visit to the selected country, where time is first spent getting to understand, learn and become familiar with the local sporting landscape, meeting the sport and relevant stakeholders, and practising plenty of active listening.

2. Strategic collaborative partnerships are key to success.

It is critical for the NGB's international relations, as well as sustainability of any IPP initiative, to engage with the respective IF and continental body to ensure the proposed initiative aligns with, complements and supports the IF's objectives for the global development of the sport and for a specific country and/or region.

3. Culture counts.

Spend time to understand and challenge your own assumptions on the local context, values and beliefs that underpin the country or region you might be working in.

4. Partnerships matter.

When working internationally, be mindful of your approach and the tendency to 'tell others what is right or should be done'. Focus on the identification of mutually achievable objectives and continue to 'check in' with your partner once a project is under way. Whilst it should strategically complement your international relations objectives, the partnership should always be grounded on reciprocal sharing, learning, benefit and growth.

5. Beware of overpromising and under-delivering.

Avoid the tendency to promise too much and be unable to meet expectations. Start small, build rapport and establish trust.

Start small
Build rapport
Establish trust

Case Study 1: Leadership and Excellence in Athletics Programme (LEAP 2017)

Key aim: In support of London's bid for the 2017 World Athletics Championships, deliver an international programme to increase the number of young children accessing appropriate, high quality, inclusive athletic activities.

Working in 10 countries, LEAP 2017 is designed to increase the number of children taking part in organised athletics activities. Working with national athletics federations, UK Athletics and UK Sport deliver a package of training for Tutors and Young Leaders. These Young Leaders (aged 13-18) are then tasked with delivering athletics activities for primary school aged children within their communities. Over 80 Tutors have been trained to date, with several thousand young people subsequently qualifying as a Young Athletics Leader. Moving forward, UK Athletics will invite a small number of Tutors to participate in a Master Trainer workshop. This is designed to ensure the long-term continuation of the programme, and allow the participating athletics federations to embed LEAP 2017 within their existing athletics development activities.



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LEAP 2017 has provided an excellent opportunity to forge strategic and meaningful relationships with a number of national athletics federations. Through the creation of these partnerships, we have been able to work together to deliver a package of athletics development that is both flexible and appropriate to the context in which it is delivered.

Ed Warner
Chair, UK Athletics

Key lesson:

It is essential to develop a flexible programme that can be adapted to each location and based on the needs of the local stakeholders.

Case Study 2: Making Boccia Accessible (MBA)

Key aim: Grow the Paralympic sport of boccia worldwide through a targeted development programme.

The cost of equipment is a significant barrier in starting to play boccia. With significant support from sponsors including UK Sport, Agitos Foundation and Hogan Lovells, the International Federation (BISFed) purchased 450 sets of balls at significantly discounted rates. With the help of experts from GB Boccia, the project has now trained over 50 'Boccia Ambassadors' (whose role is to train other trainers) and delivered the balls to 22 countries. BISFed estimates that the Making Boccia Accessible project will eventually introduce the game to around 10,000 people.

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Partly as a result of the Making Boccia Accessible Project, boccia is one of very few Paralympic sports which is growing. My dream is that in the not too distant future an athlete who was introduced to boccia through the project will qualify for the Paralympic Games. We could not have achieved this success without the generous support of UK Sport.

David Hadfield
BISFed President



Key lesson:

'Training the Trainers' was critical both to gain leverage from limited resources and to ensure that the equipment would be properly used once distributed to sometimes remote parts of the world.

Case Study 3: Boxing in Zambia

Key aim: GB Boxing and England Boxing support AIBA in growing the sport through a six-week international coach placement with 'Team Zambia'.

In response to a request from the International Boxing Federation (AIBA) to help develop the sport in Zambia, GB Boxing and England Boxing coach Mick Driscoll undertook a 6-week placement at the Olympic Youth Development Centre (OYDC) in Lusaka.

Mick was requested to work with the Zambian athletes in the build up to the African qualifiers for Rio 2016. Mick maximised the short period of time by introducing a new training regime and encouraging greater links between the national programme and the thriving club network. As a result of the activity, GB Boxing demonstrated their willingness to respond to requests from AIBA to help develop the sport, and Zambia is more actively engaged in international boxing and see a bright future for the sport in their country.

Key lesson:

To work in partnership with your IF and the local National Federation, so that your IPP complements their objectives in developing the sport



We were delighted to help support the Zambian boxing team prepare for and compete at the African Olympic qualification event. The project hit a number of goals, affording Mick the opportunity to experience a different and challenging coaching environment, supporting the IF in its development objectives and in particular helping to drive up the standards of coaching and training in Zambia.

Matt Holt
CEO GB Boxing

Case Study 4: Sustainable Development in African Rowing and Island Nations

Key aim: British Rowing is a visible presence in supporting Agenda 2020 within the World Rowing Federation, CGF and the IOC to increase its profile and contribute to the quality of rowing development worldwide.

British Rowing works with World Rowing to support the development of sustainable rowing activity across the world. The Coach Education programme goes beyond delivering courses, and focuses on understanding and addressing local barriers to participation.

A small team of Coach Educators led by an experienced Development Officer works across seven countries in East, West and Southern Africa (Uganda, Kenya, Malawi, Zambia, Botswana, Namibia, Nigeria). Alongside the local rowing federations and NOCs they deliver Coaching Assistant courses helping to identify appropriate candidates for further training as coaches and potential Coach Educators to establish

a sustainable coach education system either in-country or across the region.

Seven Level 2 coaches and a regional assessor have been trained so far. Understanding and addressing local challenges are key, such as the development and maintenance of equipment using traditional boats and local resources in Africa; ensuring female coaches support young women in the Maldives to take up the sport; and working with Jamaican coaches in preparing for the Olympic Games.

Key lesson:

To keep your mind and ears open, remain adaptable and pragmatic, and engage with the people who can get things done.



Case Study 5: International Triathlon Development Programme (ITDP)

Key aim: In support of the International Triathlon Union (ITU), British Triathlon aims to make a significant contribution to the development of triathlon by supporting and improving the quality and quantity of coaches in developing triathlon nations.

The International Triathlon Development Programme (ITDP) is an initiative conceived by British Triathlon, with the support and input from key agencies, including the ITU, UK Sport and the Association for Commonwealth Triathlon (ACT).

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The British Triathlon/ ITU coaching programme was amazing and it was a fantastic opportunity for all African Triathlon Union National Federation coaches. The Triathlon South Africa (TSA) leadership were delighted to host this wonderful British Triathlon initiative supported by UK Sport, the ATU and the ITU.

Dr Debbie Alexander
TSA President and ITU Executive Board Member



Case Study 5 continued: International Triathlon Development Programme (ITDP)

June 2013

Formal partnership signed with ITU (official coach development partner, supported by UK Sport)

August 2014

Formal Launch of NEW ITU Coach Education scheme, World Congress, Edmonton, Canada

January 2015

1st Level 1 courses held, St Croix, Egypt, Nepal, Malaysia, Greece, Venezuela, Budapest, and Teipei

March 2016

BTF's ICDP #1 in association with African Triathlon Union Bloemfontein, South Africa

July 2016

BTF Establishes global working group to review NF Accreditation Scheme, on behalf of ITU

August 2016

ICCE/ ITU partnership using QiC Coaching System review tool

November 2016

TU level 2 course Pilots in Japan & Europe

March 2017

ICDP #2: Caribbean Region (more workshops planned in 2017/21)

Case Study 6: Hockey TAP West Africa

Key aim: As part of England Hockey's 2018 World Cup bid, to develop the performance and participation programme for coaches, umpires and players within Ghana and West Africa.

The Targeted Assistance Programme (TAP) West Africa project is a partnership between England Hockey, FIH (International Hockey Federation), UK Sport, Ghana Hockey and the African Hockey Federation. Two years into the four year project has seen a wide range of different activities being delivered. Lack of equipment was identified as a significant barrier to participation within the region. Hockey clubs from across England have donated over 2000 sticks which were distributed at the umpire training and coach education course facilitated by England Hockey and FIH educators. The participating coaches from Ghana, Togo, Burkina Faso, Ivory Coast and Nigeria were able to return home with equipment and knowledge to help them to grow the game in their home countries.

At the FIH Men and Women's World League Round 1 event in Accra, two members of England Hockey staff, travelled to Ghana to support the event and to deliver a workshop on competition and event management for the African Hockey Association as part of the FIH Academy Observer Programme. The Ghanaian delegates were very engaged and were keen to use their learnings for future events in Accra.



This is a fantastic opportunity for England Hockey to use the knowledge, experience and passion of our staff, volunteers, clubs and partners here in England to support the development of hockey within West Africa.

Sally Munday
CEO England Hockey



Case Study 7: International Disability Gymnastics Development

Key aim: Building on a unified philosophy for the inclusion of disabled people in all gymnastic activity.

Supported by the International Gymnastics Federation (FIG), this project has contributed to the profile of British Gymnastics through its work with other national gymnastics federations. The initiative provides education seminars, workshops, resources and the transfer of a philosophy that focuses on the inclusion of disabled people in gymnastics.

To date, the project has influenced the FIG to plan the development of the first ever inclusive content within its own Gymnastics Foundation Educational Programme. Recent work with the Brazilian Gymnastics Federation has consolidated a special relationship between the British and Brazilian federations.

Key lesson:

The culture that exists in Brazil embraces the idea of celebrating people's differences; and so they are very keen to ensure they include everyone in a meaningful way where possible.



Although gymnastics is a consolidated sport in Brazil, there is no official educational programme for coaches that would like to work with disabled people. We were therefore very pleased to have the participation of British Gymnastics in the 8th International Gymnastics for All Forum held in Campinas, Brazil. It was a great opportunity for Brazilian institutions to recognise the importance of this area.

Professor Marco A C Bortoleto
FIG Gymnastics for All Committee Member



Safeguarding Children in Sport

Across all our IPP we work with NGBs and partners worldwide to advocate and implement the International Safeguards, a set of commonly agreed principles and guides that support organisations to create a safe sporting environment for all young participants, in all parts of the world and at all levels of competition.

UK Sport are proud to be among the Founder Members of the International Safeguarding Children in Sport Working Group, which has developed the Safeguards.

The 8 Safeguards

- 01 — Developing your policy
- 02 — Procedures for responding to safeguarding concerns
- 03 — Advice and support
- 04 — Minimising risks to children
- 05 — Guidelines for behaviour
- 06 — Recruiting, training and communicating
- 07 — Working with partners
- 08 — Monitoring and evaluating

Free resources are available to download

www.sportanddev.org/en/learn-more/child-protection-and-safeguarding-sport



At the heart of an International Partnerships Programme

Strategic Partnerships · Collaborate
Inspirational · Relationship-building
Networks · Advice · **Global reach**
Cultural exchange · **Commitment**
Leadership · **Good governance**
Support

For more information about the IPP or UK Sport's International Relations work, please contact:

International.relations@uksport.gov.uk
www.uksport.gov.uk/our-work/international-relations
