



**Minutes of the UK Sport Board Meeting held
On 21 May 2025
10 South Colonnade, London**

Present

Chair Rachel Baillache

Attendees: Sally Bolton
Annie Panter
Martyn Worsley
Maureen Campbell
Ismail Amla
Chris Pilling (item 5 onwards)
Rupen Shah
Baroness Tanni Grey-Thompson
Kelly Sotherton CEO British Elite Athletes Association (item 6.1)

Observers John Dowson UK Sports Institute
Laura Denison DCMS
Nick Webborn Incoming UK Sport Chair

Apologies Chris Boardman

UK Sport Staff: Sally Munday Chief Executive
Simon Morton Director, Events, Sporting System and External Affairs
Sophie Du Sautoy Director of Strategy and Business Enabling
Kate Baker Director of Performance and People
Krystle Sargent General Counsel and Head of Legal and Integrity
Jo Jones Athlete Support Lead (item 6.1)
Robert Morini Head of Sporting System (item 6.2)
Stuart Pickering Head of Performance Partnerships (item 7.1)
Kevin Woolnough Head of Performance Investment Strategy (item 7.2)

Board Secretary: Jo Curtis EA to CEO (minutes)
Jordana Wicks EA to Chair

1. Introduction and Apologies for Absence

Katherine Grainger's term as UKS Chair ended on 25 March and RB was appointed as Interim Chair from 26 March. Prior to the meeting it was confirmed that Nick Webborn had been appointed as UK Sport Chair with his term commencing on 22 May. RB therefore chaired the meeting with NW attending as an observer.

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting, noting apologies had been received from CB.

The Chair noted that there was no update on the new Sport NI Chair Gavin Boyd being confirmed by DCMS as the NI representative on the UKS Board and therefore NI were not represented at this meeting.

DCMS was represented by Laura Denison.

UKS Legal was represented by Krystle Sargent.

The Chair acknowledged that it was JD's final UKS Board meeting after 10 years sitting on the Board (firstly as a Non-Exec Director, then as an observer in his current role as UKSI Chair from which he was imminently departing). It was noted that Emma Boggis will become UKSI Interim Chair from July and will attend the July UKS Board meeting.

2. Declarations of Interest

Members were reminded of the need to declare their interest in any items and to remove themselves from such decision making when required.

The following conflicts were noted:

- JD did not receive the papers and would step out of the meeting for item 7.1 'UKSI Performance Support Taskforce Update'.
- AP noted potential conflicts with regards to items 6.2 and 8.1 but it was agreed that these were non-material, and she could stay in the room for both discussions.

3. Chair's Introductory Remarks

The Chair formally opened the meeting and shared some reflections on her time as Interim Chair.

4. Approval of the Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 17 March 2025 were approved as a true record of the meeting.

5. Matters Arising and Executive Team Report

The Chair handed over to SMu to elaborate or answer any questions on content from the Executive Team Report.

SMu firstly asked members of the Exec Team to give updates on matters within specific sports that they believed the Board should be aware of.

Board were then asked to formally approve the following items, which they agreed to:

- **Updated UKS Board Terms of Reference / Scheme of Delegation**
- **Eligibility Panel Appointments** – Chairs (Clare McAuslane and Tapan Debnath), Independent Members (Ruth Spratt and Alice Deering) and Board member (Maureen Campbell) and agreement to update the EP terms of reference to allow “up to 15 members” from the existing “9 members”
- **Recognition of British Taekwondo as the National Governing Body for Olympic/Paralympic Taekwondo.**

6. Grow a Thriving Sporting System

6.1 BEAA Annual Report to UKS Board

JJ and KSo joined the meeting for this item. JJ began by introducing KSo and explaining how they had been working together since KSo began her role as CEO earlier in 2025. KSo then spoke about her background and her motivations coming into the role. She shared her observations from her first 4 months in post and described the LA cycle objectives for the BEAA and more specifically over the next 12 months. KSo then invited Board to share reflections and questions, and a rich discussion followed.

JJ and KSo left the meeting.

6.2 System Master Planning Update

RM joined the meeting and SMO introduced this item, which was to update Board on SMP progress, the purpose of the workstreams and provide further detail of the financial implications of the project through the LA Cycle. Board felt the programme had the right level of ambition but wanted UK Sport to accelerate the pace of change and drive this more purposefully across the system. They suggested that activity be prioritised and sequenced and agreed that communication around SMP progress be enhanced with key stakeholders. A new System Reform Governance Group was discussed and Board agreed they were supportive of 1-2 members joining this to support with the progression.

7. Keep Winning and Win Well

7.1 UKSI Performance Support Taskforce Update

JD left the meeting for this item and did not receive the papers.

SP joined the meeting. KB explained the purpose of the item and what was required of Board.

KB and SP gave Board a presentation which included details of a draft Strategy on a Page for Performance Support, principles for the final strategy and operating model, and strategic plays which were under consideration.

Board then discussed and gave their feedback on the emerging proposition for system performance support, and shared what further information they required to enable them to reach a decision on the final recommendations which would be shared at the July Board meeting for approval.

SP left the meeting.

7.2 French Alps Investment Cycle

JD rejoined and KW joined the meeting.

KB explained that the purpose of this item was to update and seek Board approval for the process and communication key messaging for the French Alps Investment Cycle and the draft provisional planning positions for sports. At the February meeting, Board confirmed its desire to continue pursuing success in winter sport, but agreed to revisit this position during the investment process based on whether it could be achieved in a way that reflected UK Sport's aim of a more connected and collaborative system. Following up from this agreement, SMu and SMO updated on their recent discussions with some of the Winter Sport Chairs. **KB and KW then talked through the process and comms key messaging and Board approved these. Following on from this Board discussed each sport's headline provisional planning position and approved these.** They then discussed the continuity of investment for Winter Development Sports.

KW left the meeting.

8. Inspire Positive Change

8.1 FIFA Women's World Cup / EURO 2028 Investment

SMO talked Board through the two approvals required relating to the FIFA Women's World Cup and EURO 2028 investment.

Board approved UK Sport entering into a grant agreement with the FA to provide financial support towards a bid to host the 2035 FIFA Women's World Cup, subject to: (a) confirmation from DCMS that UKS will receive a commensurate amount of additional exchequer funding from DCMS for that purpose and (b) a robust staffing plan supported by additional resource that doesn't adversely impact UKS's existing responsibilities.

Board approved UK Sport entering into grant agreements to provide financial support to the UK's EURO28 seven host cities subject to confirmation from DCMS that UKS will receive a commensurate amount of additional exchequer funding from DCMS for that purpose.

9. Updates from HCSC, UKSI and DCMS

The Wales and Scotland HCSC Chairs and UKSI and DCMS Observers gave updates from their organisations.

10. Minutes and Information Papers

Board noted following minutes from the most recent Panel meetings:

- Major Events Panel – 3 March 2025
- GARC – 12 March 2025
- Euro 2028 Oversight Group – 22 April 2025

11. AOB

The Chair thanked Board members for advising their availability for online Environmental Sustainability Training which has been scheduled for June and requested for a member to assist with some pre thinking / help in shaping the session.

The Chair formally thanked JD for his service to the UKS Board.

SMu thanked RB for acting as Interim Chair for the past two months.

Date of next meeting: 17 July 2025