



Event Leaders Mentoring Network



Major Events Leadership Support



As UK Sport looks ahead to the next decade, a key focus of this exciting journey is how we win on the global stage. We want our sporting community to be known internationally for its people-first approach. As a sector we must be better at reaching, connecting and inspiring the British public, using the power of sport to deepen our societal impact in communities across the country. Major events are fundamental in providing this platform, both to amplify the inspirational impact of sport but also to support and enable athletes to perform at their very best.

On the world stage, we believe that a key USP of the UK's major events offer is its people – it has a highly skilled, dedicated and loyal network of event

professionals. At UK Sport, we recognise we must invest into and support this network of people who are so integral to our on-going success, and we want to play our part in supporting event leaders in our community. Our vision is for future event leaders to be on the forefront of driving events with purpose, by recognising the values and agendas of those they engage with. The launch of the Event Leaders Mentoring Network, alongside the Event Leaders Programme, aims to harness the expertise of great leaders within the industry to support the development of current and future aspirational Event Directors or Board Members, enabling them to be more effective, purposeful leaders who can strategically and impactfully drive a world-leading events programme for their sport.

Event Leaders Mentoring Network



The need for the Event Leaders Mentoring Network is born out of the recognition that leading an event requires a unique style of leadership and set of skills.

- Events are time-bound and in business terms, relatively short-lived projects, with distinct demanding phases through their lifecycle and multiple stakeholders in play.
- A leader can go from being the only one on board to leading hundreds of people within the space a few months yet must maintain strategic focus whilst managing such rapid growth in a high-pressure environment.
- The industry has a natural progression pathway - operational experience and technical expertise in event delivery is valued and acknowledged and by demonstrating these skills you move up the ladder of responsibility.

- It is also the nature of events that limited time, budget and resource often means little attention is able to be given to developing the 'softer' competencies that are necessary to grow from an expert technical manager to a strategic event leader.

Nevertheless, there are countless experts in the industry and other sectors who have gone through a similar journey and who contribute to making the UK the influential and attractive event host that it is known to be. These experts who are truly successful all show similar characteristics – they believe in the power of sport, are passionate and value-oriented and inspire and build strong, supportive teams.

We are looking for these amazing leaders to mentor a select group of Event Leaders and Event Board Members, which in turn will support the development of the sports event industry, and ensure that events can continue to drive impact and demonstrate the power of sport.

The Event Leaders Mentoring Network aims to

- Offer mentor pairings to the Event Leadership Programme cohort and Event Board Members to support their specific development needs
- Give mentees an expert sounding board outside of their organisation to allow objective, confidential support and advice along their personal development journey.
- Provide mentors an opportunity to share their expertise for the betterment of their mentee and the industry as a whole.
- Offer mentors an opportunity to continue their own personal development journey, as they are asked to reflect and share their personal approaches to leadership and technical expertise.
- Strengthen the major events industry by creating a network of current and future expert leaders who share knowledge and support each other.



Become a mentor

We are looking for experts to become mentors to our future Event Directors and Event Board Members.

We encourage applications if you:

- feel you have good self-awareness, know your own values and recognise your strengths and weaknesses and how these appear in different circumstances
- are passionate about purpose and focused on achieving the best possible outcome
- support and protect those who work with and for you, whilst offering appropriate and stretching challenge
- build cultures of openness and trust by modelling honesty and humility
- have demonstrable experience of working in high-performance related environments
- have a sound understanding of the UK major events sector and the role of UK Sport and National Governing Bodies within it
- have held a leadership role within a major sport event or have experience as a board member
- have a strong track-record in working with a range of individuals in the context of enhancing their performance in their role at work and can demonstrate successful and continued improvement in an individual's performance
- are committed to the principles and ethics of mentoring and continued personal development via self-evaluation, deliberate action and reflection.

Whilst the criteria serves as a guide to those interested in joining the network, we are committed to expanding the reach of our support to ensure we broaden the diversity and experience of the major events industry, and therefore particularly welcome interest from individuals from Black, Asian and other ethnically diverse communities or with a disability. We are also committed to supporting former athletes and we encourage you to contact us to discuss joining the network.



Responsibilities and commitments



As part of the Event Leaders Mentoring Network, you will be part of an exclusive pool of experts available to be paired with a member of the Event Leaders Programme cohort or current Event Board Members.

- Initial pairings for ELP will take place between July and September 2021, however some cohort members may need a mentor further into their development journey
- ELP Mentors will be a key support to the mentee's development plan. As part of the pairing briefing they will be provided with the relevant detail and may be asked to provide feedback at certain points in the process.
- Board Member mentors will be paired based on an ad-hoc basis dependent on requirements
- UK Sport will provide relevant supporting training, documentation, tools and guidance to mentors
- Mentoring can happen virtually or in person and should be at least one hour long
- The first mentoring session should be set up within a month from the point where paired
- Approximately 10 mentoring sessions should occur, but should be mutually agreed between the mentor and mentee based on needs, so flexibility is encouraged
- Mentors will be requested to sign up to a code of conduct to ensure the appropriate confidentiality and ethical approach in their involvement
- Mentors in the network will be encouraged to provide feedback and insight to UK Sport to support the growth of the Network and ELP
- Please note that this is a voluntary role and no remuneration will be offered.

How to join the Network

You can register your interest in becoming a mentor by completing a short online form which can be found [here](#) on the [Event Leaders section of the UK Sport website](#). Expressions of interest can be registered up until 31 May 2021.

UK Sport will then contact you to discuss the process and the network in more detail.

For any further queries, please contact the knowledge transfer team on knowledge.transfer@uksport.gov.uk or call 0207 211 5146



