

Annual Governance Statement 2022-23

1 Scope of Responsibilities

Our ambition is to demonstrate that we have the necessary governance to maintain a sound system of internal control and support our policies, objectives and strategic priorities.

The Alliance was an early signatory to the Voluntary Code of Good Governance, produced in 2011, and the Board, at its meeting in June 2017, reaffirmed the Alliance as a signatory to the new *Principles of Good Governance for Sport and Recreation* ("The Principles") which has replaced the Voluntary Code. The Alliance also made sure that it was fully compliant with Tier 3 of *A Code for Sports Governance* ("Code") by the end of October 2017. This annual governance statement is prepared to provide you with an update on our work to date.

2 The governance framework of the Alliance

The Alliance Board has six sub-committees:

- **Finance and Audit Committee** to take delegated responsibility on behalf of the Sport and Recreation Alliance Board for overseeing all financial and audit aspects of the Sport and Recreation Alliance and the Sport and Recreation Ventures Ltd [the wholly owned subsidiary of the Alliance] so as to ensure short and long-term viability and integrity and report back – and make recommendations - to the Alliance Board accordingly.
- The **Income Generation WG** is intended to help the Alliance develop diverse revenue streams and manage its relationships with corporate partners and sponsors. In addition, the IG WG will look wider than its Corporate Partners and sponsorship towards Trusts and Foundations for areas of additional income.
- The **Remuneration and Staffing Committee** is established to make recommendations to the Alliance Board on all aspects of the remuneration and terms and conditions of service of the Chief Executive and senior management, maintaining an overview of policy in relation to other members of staff.
- A **Nominations Committee** has the responsibility to ensure that there is an open and transparent process for the selection and recruitment of the Sport and Recreation Alliance Directors, Chair and where appropriate, a new Chief Executive.
- An **Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) Committee** was established early 2022 to oversee and advise the Alliance Board on EDI matters to further improve the Alliance's EDI approach and strategic goals.
- The **IWG Steering Committee** is established to take delegated responsibility on behalf of the Alliance Board for leading and overseeing the delivery of the IWG UK Secretariat within the parameters of funding secured for IWG UK and in accordance with the IWG UK hosting bid and agreed MoU between the Alliance and the IWG.

The Terms of Reference for all these committees can be found on the website. The Finance, Income Generation WG and Remuneration Committees are chaired by one of the Directors and the Nominations Committee is chaired by the Alliance Chairman.

NB the Income and Generation Committee became a Working Group in autumn 2020 and now reports to the Finance and Audit Committee, although the Director with the lead for Income Generation/Commercial experience skills and experience still chairs the Working Group.

The IWG Steering Committee was established in 2022 following the UK winning bid for the Secretariat 2022-2026. The Alliance has three Board members on the Steering Committee but the Committee itself is chaired by an independent person following a recruitment process, currently Annamarie Phelps OBE OLY.

The Board met six times in 2022, 1 February, 26 April, 5 July, 6 September [Strategy], 18 October, 13 December.

The 2023 meetings are scheduled as 7 February, 18 April, 25 July, [Strategy meeting not required], 10 October and 12 December.

Summaries of the Board meetings remain available on the members' area on our website following the meetings, these will include an update on membership, strategy, finance and areas of compliance.

3 Risk Assessment

The Alliance has identified both strategic and operational risks following the production of its new Strategy 2017 – 2021. These are reviewed and updated monthly by the Senior Executive Team (SMT).

The Finance and Audit Committee reviews the strategic risks at their meetings and submit any recommendations or issues to the Board for consideration or back to the SMT to take forward accordingly.

Since February 2020, the Board reviews the risk register in its entirety and debates new risks and reviews current risks at each of their meetings.

The IWG Steering Committee has been asked to establish a separate IWG Risk Register to be reviewed by the Finance and Audit Committee at their meetings, with any significant issues to be referred to the Alliance Board.

4 Board Governance

Since 2017, the Board has been made up of over 25% independent Directors and has not considered any of its Elected Directors as 'independent'. The Nominations Committee has been tasked to ensure that both the diversity of the Board and 'independence' of individual members is considered during Board recruitment to ensure compliance. The Alliance has commenced its own work on its Diversity and Inclusion Action Plan (DIAP) with the assistance of the AGS Consortium which will include work towards having a fully inclusive Board by 2025.

The 2022 Board Recruitment cycle saw a huge turnover for the Alliance. The SID, Tim Jones, and the Director of Finance, Adrian Ruth, had both completed their two terms and had to retire from the Board. Although this was an opportunity for new members, it was a loss of continuity although there had been some succession planning with the appointment of Dave Strain the year before regarding Finances.

Richard Gray from Active Surrey and Katie Fawkner-Corbett, independent, were the newly appointed Directors. Kenny Baillie, British Rowing was re-elected for his second term. Jack Baker was appointed to fill a casual vacancy [left by Cathryn Moses-Stone].

The Alliance had conducted a recruitment process for a new Independent Chair with the assistance of Perrett Laver. Andrew Moss retired in July 2022 and Professor Dame Janet Beer commenced the role immediately, chairing the AGM in September.

Helene Raynsford announced her retirement from the Board at the February 2023 meeting. This meant that the Board was at 10 Directors with two vacancies. The Board will consider how to fill these vacancies in the period 2023-2024.

The Alliance commenced work on its Diversity Inclusion Action Plan (DIAP) which would include a review of the Board's Diversity and action plan.

Finally, the Board continues to review its policies to ensure they remain up-to-date, and we have made several of these available on the website. These include, among others, our Conflicts of Interest, Board Remuneration and Code of Conduct, which will be subject to a review in the summer of 2023.

Signed on behalf of the Alliance



LISA WAINWRIGHT
Chief Executive



JANET BEER
Chair