

Annual Governance Statement 2023-24

1 Scope of Responsibilities/background

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 *Principles of Good Governance for Sport and Recreation* ("The Principles") which replaced the Voluntary Code. These Principles are no longer in use but were used by many of the Alliance's members as a precursor to the Government's Code for Sports Governance, which the Alliance signed up to and became 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.
- Now the **Income Generation WG** [previously a Committee] 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** [whilst technically not a sub-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 the above 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 Chair.

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 CBE OLY.

The Board met six times in 2023, 7 February, 18 April, 25 July, 10 October, 12 December – strategy meeting not required.

The 2024 meetings are scheduled as 6 February, 16 April, 18 July, 5 November and 10 December [strategy meeting].

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 Strategy Support. Recover. Achieve. These are reviewed and updated regularly by the Senior Management 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 strategic risks for the organisation and from 2024 these will include the risks for the IWG 2026 Conference. Once a year the Board will review the register in its entirety including operational risks.

The IWG Steering Committee has established a separate IWG Risk Register which is reviewed by the Finance and Audit Committee at their meetings, with any significant issues 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 and included a target of having 25% diversity among its directors by 2025.

The 2023 Board Recruitment cycle saw Dame Sally Dicketts appointed to fill a casual vacancy in July. Sally filled the vacancy left when Jackie Sebire left the Board; Jackie had left in August 2022 and her new role in the United Arab Emirates had meant that she was unable to give the necessary time to the organisation.

Rupinder Bains was a second casual vacancy who joined the Board in September 2023, filling the role when Helene Raynsford left to join Sport England.


The Alliance's Diversity Inclusion Action Plan (DIAP) was in its draft format and submitted to Sport England for review. The final document would be made available on the website.

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 their next review in 2025.

Signed on behalf of the Alliance



LISA WAINWRIGHT
Chief Executive



JANET BEER
Chair