

# GREATERSPORT

Governance Statement 2022/23



## Introduction and Governance Structure

Greater Manchester Sports Partnership (GreaterSport) is a Greater Manchester charity. **Our purpose** is to change lives through moving more, sport and physical activity. We play a strategic leadership role in support of [GM Moving](#), the Greater Manchester wide movement, for movement. **Our vision** is to lead, support and connect the Greater Manchester system in creating the conditions to enable Active Lives for All, uniting communities and creating more equal and inclusive places so that people can lead happier, healthier and more fulfilled lives.

We are one of 43 [Active Partnerships](#); a network of system partners working with [Sport England](#) to support the local implementation of their [Uniting the Movement Strategy](#).

The [GreaterSport Business Plan](#) sets out our vision and purpose, our values and the way we work, who we are and what we do. It describes how we support people and partners across the system and outlines our value and contribution to [GM Moving in Action](#), the City Region's strategy for physical activity.

Our [Annual Review](#) tells the 'Story of our Work', highlighting the impact the charity has had in 2022/23.

GreaterSport is a Company Limited by Guarantee, registered in England and Wales. The Company number is [3258930](#). GreaterSport is also a registered charity ([1059115](#)).

Our [Articles of Association](#) are the constitution by which the company is governed.

We place great emphasis on remaining compliant with all statutory, regulatory and contractual requirements, including but not limited to those set by the Charity Commission, Companies House and the Code for Sport Governance.

The [Code for Sports Governance](#) sets out the levels of transparency, diversity and inclusion, accountability and financial integrity that are required from an organization in receipt of UK Government and National Lottery funding from Sport England. It is based on five basic principles of good governance (1) Structure (2) People (3) Communication (4) Standards and Conduct and (5) Policies and Processes. A comprehensive audit was conducted in September 2022 to assess our level of compliance, with a report being submitted to the main Board for review. We have a dedicated and prominent section on our [website](#) to publicly disclose information on our governance, structure, strategy, activities, and financial position.

## Role of the Board

We have a clear governance structure, led by a Board which is collectively responsible for the long-term success of GreaterSport and exclusively vested with the power to lead it. The Board is properly constituted. The Board is made up of a maximum of 12 board members with the core purpose being to:-

- Make high quality decisions to allow GreaterSport to grow its value.
- Be the ultimate decision-making body and accordingly exercise all of the powers of the organisation.
- Be responsible for setting the strategic direction of the organisation and maintain the vision, purpose and values.
- Provide leadership in developing, approving and monitoring the implementation of the [Changing Lives Together Business Plan](#).
- Ensure that the company operates to the highest standards of governance and risk management.
- Complies with its governing document, charity law, company law and any other relevant legislation or regulations.
- Agree strategic priorities for funding and investment and ensure that financial information is accurate, and that controls, monitoring and reporting systems are robust and defensible.
- To provide scrutiny and constructive challenge regarding operational matters (delivery plans, policies, performance)
- Fully support child protection and safeguarding issues.

The statutory duties of GreaterSport Trustees are:-

- To ensure that GreaterSport complies with its governing document (Articles of Association), Charity law, Company law and any other relevant legislation or regulations.
- To ensure that GreaterSport pursues its charitable objectives as defined in its governing document.
- To ensure GreaterSport uses its resources exclusively in pursuance of its objectives.
- To contribute actively by giving firm strategic direction to GreaterSport, setting overall policy, defining goals, setting targets and evaluating performance against agreed targets.
- To safeguard the good name and values of GreaterSport.
- To ensure the effective and efficient administration of GreaterSport.
- To ensure the financial stability of GreaterSport.
- To protect and manage the property of the Charity and to ensure the proper investment of the Charity's funds.
- To appoint the Chief Executive Officer (on recommendation of the Nomination/Remuneration Sub-Committee) and monitor their performance.

## Board Structure and Meetings

The board meets 4 times a year and has an annual Away Day. There are two sub-committees: Nominations & Remuneration and Audit & Risk. Each meets twice a year. They all have their own Terms of References: [Main Board](#), [Nominations & Remuneration](#), [Audit & Risk](#).

Board membership and meeting attendance as of 31st March 2022.

Member	Role and representation	Attendance	Sub-committees	Attendance
Mike Perls MBE	Chair	5/5	Nominations & Remuneration Committee	2/2
Warren Heppolette	Senior Independent Director and Health/Public Sector	5/5		
Rob Mukherjee	Digital/data, Commercial	3/5		
Rob Young MBE	Policy and Strategy, Workforce Development	4/5	Nominations & Remuneration Committee (Chair)	2/2
Sarah Brown-Fraser	Inclusion/Marketing, Equity, EEDI Lead	5/5	Nominations & Remuneration Committee	0/2
Richard Roe	Local Authority, Audit, Risk, Finance	2/5	Audit & Risk Committee (Chair)	2/2
Sally Carr MBE	Voluntary Sector/Inequalities (appointed 23 Jan'23)	1/2		
Katy Calvin-Thomas	Health	4/5		
Daniel Cropper	Legal, Safeguarding Lead	3/5	Audit & Risk Committee	1/2
Sanjay Bhandari	Finance/Risk, Enterprise, Welfare Lead	4/5	Audit & Risk Committee	1/2
Cllr Leanne Feeley	Greater Manchester Combined Authority	4/5		
Steven Pleasant MBE	Local Authority (appointed 23 Jan'23)	2/2		

- In July'22, Graham Whitham resigned from the Board.
- In September'22, Marilyn Comrie resigned from the Board.
- Throughout 22-23, Justine Bromeley (Sport England) attended as an observer.

## Meeting dates

Main Board	Nominations & Remuneration Sub Committee	Audit & Risk Sub Committee
23 June 2022	5th May 2022	17th June 2022
22 September 2022 (including AGM)	1 <sup>st</sup> December 2022	11th November 2022

8 December 2023		
9 February 2023 (Away Day)		
16 March 2023		

All Trustees receive an agenda and board papers at least one week in advance of meetings to help them make an effective contribution at the meetings. Minutes and actions from all meetings are recorded by the Company Secretary and circulated to Trustees after each meeting. Redacted versions of the minutes are published [here](#).

### Financial Audit

GreaterSport undertakes a financial audit on an annual basis. The judgment made in the final report for 2022/23 was:

*We have audited the financial statements of Greater Manchester Sports Partnership (the 'charity') for the year ended 31 March 2023 which comprise the statement of financial activities, the balance sheet, the statement of cash flows and notes to the financial statements, including significant accounting policies.*

*The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).*

*In our opinion, the financial statements:*

- *give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 March 2023 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;*
- *have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and*
- *have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.*

### Equity, Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

The GreaterSport team and board have co-designed a commitment statement and set of ambitions that signify the importance we place on promoting,

embedding and advancing Equity, Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EEDI).

### **Our commitment**

GreaterSport is committed to providing equal opportunities and promoting diversity, irrespective of ethnicity, age, gender identity, sexuality, disability, religion, pregnancy or personal circumstance. We ensure we consider lived experiences and personal circumstance when creating an equitable working environment, by promoting a safe, equal and respectful workplace.

Equality, equity, diversity and inclusion is critical for the success of GreaterSport and the achievement of our vision. We are fully committed to treating all of our employees, job applicants and volunteers equally and equitably. As an employer, we aspire to being a diverse, inclusive and responsible organisation.

We believe in people. We believe that with the right opportunities, everyone should reach their full potential and we believe that moving more, sport and physical activity is a fundamental key to unlocking potential. Our aim is to have a workforce that not only thrives, but also reflects and understands the communities we work for and with, and one which encourages a sense of belonging for our team and partners.

### **Ambitions**

1. To develop and grow workforce (internal and external) EEDI knowledge, understanding, and confidence
2. Greater diversity and inclusion in all its forms on our Board and across the GreaterSport team, so we are more representative of the GM population.
3. An organisation that leads by example. One that celebrates diversity and promotes inclusion and consciously creates a culture which promotes equality and respect.
4. We embed EEDI into all that we do: Our operations, how we interact with one another, our behaviours, and that we meet/exceed all EEDI standards.
5. An inclusive, safe and supportive environment where everyone feels a sense of belonging and is given a fair and equal chance to fulfil their potential and thrive.

### **Evaluation**

The Board, led by the chair, undertakes and maintains in writing a record of an annual evaluation of its own skills and performance and of individual Trustees. The Senior Independent Director conducts the Chair's annual performance appraisal during this time also. A Trustee Survey is completed too, along with a skills matrix which is updated annually.

## Declaration of Trustee Interests

Trustees, staff and volunteers have a legal obligation to act in the best interests of GreaterSport, and in accordance with GreaterSport's governing document, and to avoid situations where there may be a potential conflict of interest. All trustees are asked to declare their interests, and any gifts or hospitality offered and received in connection with their role in GreaterSport.

A Declaration of Interests form is provided for this purpose, listing the types of interest they should declare. This is conducted on an annual basis. Declarations of interest is also a standing agenda item at each main Board meeting.

## Risk Management Review

The GreaterSport Risk Management Plan and Risk Log was reviewed in June and November 2022 by the Audit and Risk sub-committee. The plan is based on guidance from the Charity Commission and includes risks associated with strategic, operational, financial, reputational and legal & compliance. The matrix lays out a philosophy of risk management based on identifying levels of risk, and establishing an appropriate organisational response to risks falling within each level. The placement of each risk within the risk map is calculated by multiplying the Impact of risk score (1-5) and the Likelihood score (1-5) to give an overall risk score. The detail for each risk is contained in the risk management plan, which can be downloaded [here](#).

## Decision making

The Board are in place to make high quality decisions to allow GreaterSport to grow its value. Below are some key examples which occurred in 2022/23.

- Signing off the 2023-25 Business Plan.
- The recruitment of two new Trustees.
- Approval to implement a new Dashboard of Indicators.
- Appointed new auditors.
- Approval of 22-23 budgets.
- Approval of Investment and Reserves Policy
- Agreed to invest reserves into an investment portfolio.
- Approval of Cost of Living Adjustment and annual pay progression awards.

- Decision made to move to an online portal to organise and run Board meetings.
- Set the yearly Board ambitions
  - Continue to make informed decisions.
  - Enhance the relationship between the board and the management, applying healthy challenge.
  - Focus on continuous improvement, being clear on how we judge what success looks like and we present this.
  - Ensure 'inequalities' is front and centre of what we do.
  - Clarify who are our key stakeholders and the strength of these relationships.
  - Continue to learn from and lead nationally.
  - Boost of efforts to bring international best practice into our work.