

Summary Minutes of a Meeting of the UK Athletics Board of Directors

13 July 2022, Starting at 10am online via Teams

Present:	Attendees: Ian Beattie (IB) - Chair Anne Walfula Strike (AWS) David Abrahams (DA) David Ovens (DO) Jennifer Thomas (JT) Marilyn Okoro (MO) Mark Munro (MM) Mike Whittingham (MW) Peter Crawshaw (PC)
Observers:	Andrew Heyes (AH)
In attendance:	Chris Moss (CM) Corrie Pope (CP) – note taker Lee Dakin (LD) Ryan Murphy (RM) Mark Draisey (MD)
Apologies	Stephen Perks (SP) Wendy Sly (WS) Jason Gardener (JG) Jack Buckner (JB) Cherry Alexandar (CA) Liz Birchall (LB)

1. Welcome and Attendees

IB welcomed everyone to the meeting

2. Apologies

Apologies were received from SP, WS, JG, JB, CA, LB

Business Items



3. Declarations of Interest

No additional declarations of interest.

4. Minutes

Previous Minutes were approved.

Board live action tracker – update from Executive and various items closed.

For Discussion

5. CEO Report

- MM led the Board through the CEO report included in the Board pack. He summarised updates, and information relating to day to day operation of the business, including in relation to the following areas:
 - Governance
 - Performance
 - Trans Inclusion Project Group
 - Development
 - Event Strategy and Events Update
 - European Championships 2026
 - Commercial
 - Communications
 - UKAD Assurance Framework

The Board discussed these issues and asked questions of MM.

6. Governance – conflict of interest

MD presented a paper that provided the Board with the details of a new conflict of interest policy and the associated declaration form and the register of interest. Completion of the form(s) would be an annual action, formally registered and updated.

The Board discussed the policy and what constitutes a conflict of interest.

The Board **APPROVED** the policy.

7. Transgender Inclusion – next steps

MM provided an update on the distribution of the position paper. The paper had been discussed at the CEO forum and circulated to HCAF CEOs and Chairs for communication to their respective boards. MM and [redacted] (SERC member) had offered to meet with the boards of HCAFs to answer questions or queries. World Athletics and UK Sport have received copies. The paper was

discussed with Standards, Ethics and Regulations Committee (SERC) last week and they supported the Board's position.

8 BDO Audit action plan

The Chair updated the Board on activities taken since the receipt of the BDO report. These included meeting with UK Sport to discuss the number of actions and level of detail included in the report. Regular meetings were being held with UK Sport.

The Board **APPROVED** the BDO action plan.

BDO Action Plan to be a standing agenda item until completed.

9 Financial Planning

MD share the accounts in the revised format. Confirming that this format will be used moving forward and circulated when the Board do not meet. Those figures presented are for the year up to the end of May 2022. Finances were discussed by the Board.

MM updated on progress being made in securing commercial deals and building on existing partner arrangements. This was discussed by the Board.

MD confirmed that an advert would be placed for a Chair for the Audit Committee. The aim was to have them appointed by the end of September 2022.

For Information

10 WCP Selection Planning

Update provided by MM.

11 Performance

MM confirmed that the staffing restructure around the head coach role had been communicated. The appointment of a Technical Director had been confirmed and announced with a confirmed start date of 1st September. Two additional event group roles were being advertised and work continued with BCC on the Innovation Centre.

Athletes and supporting staff have arrived in Eugene in readiness for the World Athletics in Eugene. It was reported that some staff and athletes had been affected by USA visa process.

The Board discussed the philosophy of how the team was chosen, discussing the merits of taking a developing team or a team focused on winning medals. It was acknowledged this was a mixed team

in Eugene with some developmental athletes and some experienced athletes who are expected to be in the medal zone.

It was agreed that there should be a future meeting of the Board specifically on the topic of team size philosophy once the new Technical Director was in post.

The Board discussed how we support athletes at different levels and it was confirmed this was being reviewed and a key role for the incoming Technical Director.

12 Safeguarding

AM circulated an update prior to the meeting and led the Board through the paper.

13 Events, Competitions and Commercial

MM lead the Board through the slides that highlighted the series of events that had been both delivered and planned. Future major event bids would also include UK para and junior events. It was acknowledged that future events would need to consider budget and personnel resources.

The Board expressed a wish to see more para events taking place.

Discussions with UK Sport remained positive around our 10 year plan. The EA2026 bid process was ongoing with a final review panel meeting in November.

The Board highlighted the financial issues some para-athletes face when they receive funding that affects their benefit payments. This was a government policy that unfairly disadvantaged para-athletes. It was acknowledged that that UKA could attempt to influence policy along with national agencies and other NGBs.

RM provided an update on commercial progress.

The “where it starts” campaign was launched and had received high levels of engagement.

The Board approved of the “where it starts” campaign as it prompted local athletes which would encourage the public to support their local stars. It was acknowledged that not all athletes were social media savvy.

14 Governance

- UK Sport – previously discussed in the meeting.
- BDO report – previously discussed in the meeting.
- UK Members Meeting



IB reported on the recent Members meeting held in Manchester in June 2022. MM and the management team had provided updates and it had been helpful to have the management team in attendance. The meeting had been positive, and the information well received.

15 AOB

The Board discussed implementation of anti-doping rules for events run by schools.

The Board discussed recent matters in the press.

The Chair and Board sent their best wishes to our teams, all the athletes, coaches and all who are involved in the forthcoming events.

Meeting ended 1pm

16 Date of Next Meeting

Tuesday 18th October – location to be confirmed.

