

Executive Council Meeting

Friday 26th June 2026

Zoom

Minutes

In attendance:

Jonny Pearson	(JP)
Stew Fowlie	(SF)
Ben Graham	(BG)
Ian Lowe	(IL)
Julia Stenhouse-Walton	(JSW)
Liv Stevens	(LS)
Katherine Duncan	(KD)

Apologies:

Chris Sellar	(CS)
Savannah Antoine	(SA)
Bob Wyllie – sportscotland	(BW)

Approx. Timings

- **Welcome, intro and scene setting** (5 min)
 - JP welcomed everyone to the meeting and gave special thanks to LS for her hard work this year.
- **Homologation** (10 min)
 - Apologies for absence
 - As above
 - Conflicts of interest
 - None
 - Minutes of last meeting(s) & matters arising
 - The minutes from the previous meeting in May 2026 were accepted as a true and accurate reflection. The outstanding actions from previous meeting were discussed.
- **Current Context** (20 min)
 - Around the network – verbal updates
 - Institutional perspectives – open forum
 - No comments given
 - SSS Comps (BG), Dev (KD)

BG noted the competitions committee was held after Conference on Friday 12th. Noted the success of the competitions programme this year. Noted survey results regarding Playwaze and events such as college finals. Discussed plans around different ways of connecting in with IAs, and also regarding feeding back into the BUCS competitions programme. IL asked around BUCS changes feedback process, and BG noted some difficulties regarding tracking the feedback that is being submitted & any changes coming in from this. Discussion had on internal feedback structures re BUCS.

KD noted Conference feedback was in general really positive. Difficulties with balancing member best practice offering with those willing to share. Research group is moving at pace, with first meeting in July. Equality Action group ready to launch the action plan. Jordan speaking at membership conference in the summer. Conversations regarding PVG about expectations on SGBs on this in conjunction with institutions. Final big focus for the summer is looking at our role within physical activity for health across the summer, with different delivery plans next year. JP gave thanks to Jordan & Dev team for an excellent conference.

- **Advocacy (SF)** (10 min)
 - Summer of Sport Update

200k to be received from sportscotland regarding the summer of sport programme. 13 projects greenlighted from Unis & Colleges as follows:

- Borders College multi-sport camps and personal wellbeing project
- City of Glasgow 5-a-side project
- Glasgow Clyde ESOL pickleball, cricket and football at Cardonald
- D&A Multi sport project in both Dundee and Arbroath
- DumGal roadshow activity in selected communities
- Fife Street Games festival based out of the Dunfermline Campus
- Stirling University summer camp and transition programme
- RGU summer camp and transition programme
- Edinburgh Napier club training and workforce project
- UHI Perth table cricket and mental health support projects
- Moray swimming for Skills For Life students utilising Moray leisure centre
- WCS multi-sport camps + taster and transition sessions
- West Lothian free inclusive summer sport + transition project in Livingston

There remains some further scope for some late bids from Nescol, NCL, FVC and/ or a residual hardship fund to be met with support. Briefing calls for groups of institutions have been set up. SSS have retained some money from this pot, to help with the project management, and some hasn't yet been allocated with early conversations having already started. Recommendation to exec to hire some external project management support. Early conversations with Sarah Gandon to be had.

- BG asked around potential Summer of Sport funding through SFA, SF notes there is an offer still to be accepted by SSS which covers both summer activity and wider opportunities for the sector.

- **Strong Organisation** (45 min)
 - **Finance (JSW)**
 - Budget 26/27
 - JSW gave an overview on the new proposed budget for 26-27.
 - Grant funding has gone up reflecting increase core sportscotland money & income from SOS
 - Membership income has been a projected 2% increase, with BUCS partnership fee rising 5.1%
 - Programme income has projected to be similar to actuals from this year
 - National squad has agreed to balance, with higher levels of activity
 - Dev income increased in line with SFA funding, but level of spend remains the same and also demonstrates spend from SOS.
 - Slight increase in comps spend
 - Staff bill rises with the additional expense of a prospective new grade 4 employee
 - **Planning for 2026/7 (SF)**
 - Membership Fees Discussion
 - We now have populations stats for 24/25 courtesy of SFC & HESA and are in process of collecting club memberships for 25-26. Globally we aim to replicate membership target from last year and to add 2%. Main changes with institutions with more students, and medium sizes institutions with bigger programmes will also see swings. Still collecting in data from clubs

to be finalised which will be added to the calculation. BG notes communication regarding how this goes out to the membershipⁱⁱ

- **AGM Prep**

- Discussion had on turnover of committee and roles available for voting. JP notes interest to re-run as Chair and position discussed.

- **Closing remarks, future meetings and actions** **(5 min)**

- JP notes thanks for the hard work of all of the committee, and denotes how much he has enjoyed being part of SSS. It has been a fantastic year for SSS, and good luck wished to Liv for her future endeavours.

ⁱ A. Exec approved decision to process with project management support

ⁱⁱ B. Exec approve proposal to increase membership globally by 2%