BASKETBALL ENGLAND

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Date/Time: 28th April 2026 @ 10:00

Location: Sport and Recreation Alliance, London

Paul Blanchard (PB)
Born Barikor (BB)
Chris Walsh (CW)
Joel Baynes (JB)
Brandie Deignan (BD)
Sandy Gill (SG)
Katie Simmonds (KS)
Danny Williams (DW)
Tom Marchesi (TM)

Executives:
Nigel Walker (NW)
Helen Penn (HP)
Tom Newman (TN)
James Diamond-Jones (JDJ) joined for item no. 7
Pete Griffiths (PG) joined for item no. 9, 10 & 11
Rob Fairley (RF) joined for item no. 9 & 10
Marc Dring (MD) joined for item no. 10
Patricia Fairclough (PF) joined for item no. 11
Sam Messam (SM) joined for item no. 12
Steve Bucknall (SB) joined for item no. 12
Adi Fawcett (AF) joined for item no. 6

Apologies:
Egemen Onen (EO)

Note Taker:
Karen Bailey (KB)

Apologies:
Board Member

Note Taker:
Executive Assistant

Item No. 1 – Apologies for Absence

Apologies were noted from a Board Member. It was also noted that a Board Member had stepped down from the Board, and the Board wished to express thanks for their commitment, dedication and service during their tenure on the Board.

Item No. 2- Declaration of Conflicts of Interest

There were no conflicts of interest that had not been previously disclosed.

Item No. 3 – Minutes & Action Tracker

The Board approved the minutes of the AGM held on 12 February 2026 and the Board meeting held on 26 February 2026 as accurate records. Progress against the Action Tracker was reviewed and noted.

Item No. 4 CEO Update, Strategic Health Dashboard and Risk Register

The Interim CEO provided an overview of current activity, including the Strategic Health Dashboard and Risk Register, which were noted by the Board.

Key risk updates covered leagues and competitions staffing, membership growth, safeguarding reporting, regulatory compliance, finance, staff turnover, commercialisation opportunities, and the ongoing FIBA/Commonwealth Games sanctions risk.

Actions Agreed
It was agreed that the Interim CEO would review the risk ratings and ownership for FIBA and CWG related risks on the Risk Register.

Item No. 5 Finance

The Finance Lead provided an overview of the financial position. Grants had been secured, with further Sport England, GB Internationals and Commonwealth Games funding expected imminently.

Subject to receipt of pending funds, the 12-week cash position was positive, with no immediate concerns. The forecast indicated a near break-even position and an improvement on the previous year.

Outcome: The Board approved the 2026/27 budget. The AFR Committee update was noted, including the insurance policy review and the ongoing Sedulo complaints process.

Item No. 6 EDI Status Report – EDI Lead joined the call

The EDI Lead updated the Board on delivery progress. Nineteen of 25 Year One actions had been completed, with four actions deferred to Year Two due to HR capacity constraints. A Year Two delivery plan would be presented at the next Board meeting.

The Women & Girls Plan was noted, with activity to focus initially on Slam Jam supported by improved data insights. The Board also discussed the proposed Gender Policy review and agreed to defer approval of the consultant appointment pending further options and cost benchmarking.

Action: The Interim CEO would discuss the Gender Policy review proposal with relevant leads and bring a revised proposal to the Board in July 2026.

Action: The Board Chair would discuss further EDI training with the Board.
The EDI Lead left the meeting.

A proposal to establish a Safeguarding Board Subgroup was discussed to provide strategic oversight and a critical-friend function. Terms of reference would be developed for further consideration.

Minor amendments to the Appeals Process were noted, reflecting the cessation of the British Basketball Federation and allowing flexibility to refer appeals externally where appropriate.

Outcome: The Board approved the updates to the Appeals Policy once the amendments had been incorporated.

The Safeguarding Lead left the call.

Following a robust recruitment process, including stakeholder engagement and Sport England consultation, the preferred candidate was recommended for appointment. The Board agreed to proceed subject to final terms, commencement arrangements and an appropriate communications plan.

Outcome: The Board approved the appointment of the candidate to the post of CEO.

Item No. 9 NBL Rules and Regulations – Competitions Leads joined the call
The Board reviewed proposed regulation amendments reflecting the introduction of PlayHQ, operational learning, and the removal of references to the former British Basketball Federation.

Key changes included transfer restrictions, disciplinary framework reforms, provisions for national team clashes, digital licence checks via PlayHQ, and minor drafting clarifications.

Outcome: Following discussion and clarification of implementation processes, the Board approved the proposed regulatory changes for the 2026/27 season.

Item No. 10 Membership and Team Entry Fees – Membership Lead joined the call
The Board considered the updated membership proposals, noting further development through AFR and consultation with Regional Chairs.

Consultation feedback was positive, with Regional Chairs indicating support and clear understanding of the proposed changes.

Outcome: The Board approved the Membership and Team Entry Fees proposals.

The Competitions and Membership Leads left the call.

Item No. 11 Regional Update – Regional Chair joined the call
The Board received an update on regional activity, including volunteer awards, Sport England Movement Fund support, consultation on membership pricing, Local League Standards, regional webpages, and progress towards Tier 1 Code compliance.

The Board thanked the Regional Chairs and noted improved collaboration between Regions and Basketball England. The Regional Chair and Competitions Lead left the call.

Item No. 12 Talent Window Proposal – Talent Leads joined the call
The Board considered a proposal to introduce structured Talent Windows within the competition calendar to reduce clashes, support pathway activity and improve planning.

The approach was recognised as supporting talent development, national team activity, participation events and major competitions.

Action: It was agreed that the Talent Leads would continue consultation with the Competitions Team and relevant stakeholders.

Outcome: The Board approved the proposed Talent Windows approach.
The Talent Leads left the call.

Item No. 13 GB Consultation Update

The Interim CEO updated the Board on the ongoing GB consultation process. Three meetings had taken place, with progress made despite complex stakeholder discussions.

UK Sport had confirmed funding for the 3x3 LA qualification programme and requested a roadmap by 30 June 2026, with permanent GB governance arrangements agreed by 31 December 2026 and implemented by March 2027.

A GB Delivery Subgroup was being established to support operational delivery and shared decision-making.

The Board noted the need to develop the roadmap and maintain alignment across stakeholders.

Governance and Funding Update
The Board noted progress in stabilising GB arrangements, with Basketball England continuing as the accountable body for GB funding and financial oversight through to at least 31 March 2027.

UK Sport and Sport England confirmed satisfaction with current financial management arrangements. Regular updates would be provided as developments progressed.

Sub Committee Notes and Actions

EDI, AFR and Nominations Committee matters were covered under the relevant agenda items. No further updates were provided from the People Committee, Commercial Committee or Advisory Groups.

Item No. 19 Governance Update

The Board noted completion of the Chair appraisal and an update on the forthcoming Sport England Governance Review, which was progressing as planned.

Internal governance reviews showed continued improvement, with succession planning through the Nominations Committee noted as an area for further development.

The Board noted that a Board Member had agreed to undertake a detailed review of the constitution and any implications arising from potential GB governance changes, and thanked them for this work.

Item No. 20 Any Other Business

The Board thanked the Interim CEO for their leadership, commitment and support during a challenging period and transition.

Forward planning for future Board meetings was discussed.

The October Board meeting was scheduled for 15–16 October in Loughborough, including a stakeholder dinner.

The July Board meeting was scheduled for 16 July, with Manchester suggested as a potential location to support staff engagement.

Board members were invited to attend the London Regional face-to-face meeting on 27 June, with attendance optional.

The Board noted the importance of careful internal and external communications during the CEO transition.

Item No. 21 Date of Next Meeting

The Mid-Year Review and Board meeting were scheduled for 16 July 2026.

End of meeting at 13:24