

MOVE Conference

Good Governance in Grassroots Sport

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Areas to cover

- Background/context
- Defining good governance
- The principles of good governance and their implementation
- Final thoughts

A changing landscape for sport

- Growing grassroots participation
- Competition for participants between sports
- Increasing government intervention/funding
- The challenge of maintaining volunteers/participation levels

A changing landscape for sport

- Greater interest/expectation in governance
- Shifting demographics – inclusivity policies
- Increase in propensity to pursue legal claims
- Social Media/access to organisations

A changing landscape for sport

- Corruption/criminal law risks
- Relationships with public entities
- The risk to sports autonomy
- European competency post Lisbon
- Generational issues

Overarching principles

- The importance of culture
- Developing trust and good governance
- Build complementary relationships with public bodies
- Transparency, accountability, democracy and inclusivity

Defining Good Governance

“The framework and culture within which a sports body sets policy, delivers its strategic objectives, engages with stakeholders, monitors performance, evaluates and manages risk and reports to its constituents on its activities and progress including the delivery of effective, sustainable and proportionate sports policy and regulation”.

The Principles of Good Governance

- Good Governance definition can be satisfied by the application of 10 basic principles
- Flexibility
- Proportionality
- Sports specific
- Cost effective
- Simple

Clarity of purpose/objectives

- Clarity on role, function and objectives
- Identify and communicate goals
- Set out vision and strategic plan
- Generate consensual approach
- Apply monitoring/oversight capabilities

Code of ethics

- Develop binding code for all members etc
- Embrace full range of ethical practices to inform conduct/culture of the sports body
- Focus on integrity, equity, transparency/appreciation of acceptable conduct
- Apply implementation/enforcement protocol

Stakeholder identification and roles

- Involvement of stakeholders is key
- Minimum standards for stakeholder representation should be in place
- Commitment from stakeholders
- Formalise stakeholder's roles/ responsibilities to avoid conflict

Democracy and minimum standards

- Clear organisational framework
- Known decision making organs
- Clear and known procedural rules
- Role and rights of members must be clear
- Minimum democratic principles for appointment to decision making bodies should be communicated

Minimum democratic principles

- Free, fair and regular elections
- Broad stakeholder consultation/representation
- Clarity of role/powers of President or Chair
- Code of conduct for decision makers

Minimum democratic principles

- Appropriate levels of inclusivity/diversity
- Minimum competence standards to be set
- Fixed terms of office to apply
- Credible/transparent voting process
- Publicise decisions wherever possible

Effective Management

- Promote efficiency through delegation
- Use technical and/or expert committees
- Clear lines of responsibility should exist
- An effective Board structure should be in place with financial oversight responsibilities

Judicial/disciplinary procedures

- Establish a bespoke proportionate judicial/disciplinary framework
- Adopt a separate judicial/disciplinary code
- Adjudicators should be impartial
- Adjudicators need relevant skills/expertise
- Create an appropriate appeal framework

Inclusivity and youth engagement

- Be inclusive - represent diverse nature of society/sport
- Should embrace gender, race, sexuality, disability, age or otherwise
- Select from widest possible talent pool
- Implement /monitor robust inclusivity strategy
- Engagement with youth groups/IT critical

Statutes, rules and regulations

- Make public statutes, rules and regulations
- Consult on amendments
- Evidence based consultative approach is recommended
- Utilisation of websites is helpful
- Broad engagement to be encouraged

Accountability and transparency

- Establish accountability standards
- Clear oversight – act within powers
- Proportionate checks/balances
- Use performance indicators
- Implement fit for purpose internal controls, data protection policies and financial management strategies

Accountability and transparency

- Clear financial authorisation limits
- Formalise contracts in legally enforceable form
- Financial information in line with applicable laws/auditing standards and made public
- Production of an annual report promotes transparency in all activities
- Document funds/financial distributions

Accountability and transparency

- Identify, assess, control, manage/mitigate risk
- Adopt optimum legal structure and appropriate insurance arrangements
- Develop suitable confidentiality protocols and media communication arrangements
- Promote external/internal communication and staff/volunteer CPD

And finally...

- Create culture of good governance, not just rules
- Do not ignore the human dimension
- Explore new communication mechanisms
- Avoid disconnects (participant/generational)
- Adopt a longer term view