

# THE SPORTS COUNCILS RECOGNITION POLICY

This policy should be read together with the accompanying documentation published by the Sports Councils, including the 'Recognition Application Guidance' and 'Recognition: Independent Appeals – Rules and Procedures'

## POLICY STATEMENT

This Policy sets out the purpose of Recognition, the basis upon which a Sport is recognised by the Sports Councils and the Criteria upon which the Sports Councils Recognise a National Governing Body as a leading organisation that governs and develops a Sport within the UK, GB or a Home Country.

There is no statutory requirement for the Sports Councils to Recognise Sports or NGBs within any Sport, and Recognition of an NGB does not have a formal definition or status in law. The Sports Councils have chosen to work together to facilitate their work as Sports Councils and to promote fairness, transparency and consistency of approach on Recognition of Sports and NGBs across the United Kingdom.

The Sports Councils will jointly manage this Recognition Policy (and any associated documentation, processes and procedures) to ensure that Sports and NGBs are Recognised fairly and consistently across all Sports Councils in accordance with the Policy.

The Sports Councils expressly acknowledge that each Sports Council acts independently in setting and implementing its own strategy and deciding upon which organisations to invest in, in accordance with its own remit and purpose, taking into account as it may consider appropriate any Recognition under this Policy.

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## 1. DEFINITIONS

For the purposes of this Policy, the following terms have the meanings set out below:

|                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Criteria</b>             | the Eligibility Criteria and the Recognition Criteria.                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| <b>Discipline</b>           | An activity which forms part of the development, governance structure and/or competitive structure of a Sport. For example, skiing is a Sport, while cross-country skiing, Alpine skiing, snowboarding, ski jumping and Nordic combined are Disciplines.    |
| <b>Eligibility Criteria</b> | The criteria set out in section 6.2 of this Policy, all of which an organisation must meet and continue to meet to be eligible to be a Recognised NGB.                                                                                                      |
| <b>Geographical Area(s)</b> | <p><b>Great Britain (GB)</b> – England, Scotland and Wales together.</p> <p><b>Home Country</b> – England, Scotland, Wales or Northern Ireland, singularly</p> <p><b>United Kingdom (UK)</b> - England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, together.</p> |
| <b>Guidance</b>             | The document entitled "Recognition Application Guidance" published by the Sports Councils to accompany this Policy to give guidance to applicants about the Recognition process, as updated from time to time.                                              |

|                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|-----------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>National Governing Body (NGB)</b>                | A leading organisation in a Sport which administers, governs and oversees a Sport on a national basis (either within a Home Country or across Great Britain or the United Kingdom).                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| <b>Policy</b>                                       | This “Sports Councils Recognition Policy” published by the Sports Councils, which sets out the purpose of Recognition, the basis upon which a Sport is recognised by the Sports Councils and the Criteria upon which the Sports Councils Recognise a National Governing Body as a leading organisation that governs and develops a Sport within the UK, GB or a Home Country.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| <b>Recognised NGB</b>                               | A National Governing Body which is Recognised by the Sports Councils (or any of them) as meeting the Criteria under and in accordance with this Policy.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| <b>Recognition</b>                                  | <p>The process used by the Sports Councils to recognise a Sport and/or an NGB as a leading organisation for a Sport, and where relevant, leading the high-performance aspects of a Sport within the UK, GB or a Home Country and which meets the Criteria under and in accordance with this Policy, and “Recognise” shall be construed accordingly.</p> <p>“<b>De-Recognition</b>” is the process by which Recognition of a Sport and/or a National Governing Body is removed by the Sports Councils (or any of them) including where a Recognised Sport no longer meets the definition set out in this policy and/or a Recognised NGB no longer meets the Criteria and/or fails to comply with the principles set out at paragraph 5.1 of the Policy, and “<b>De-Recognise</b>” shall be construed accordingly.</p> |
| <b>Recognition Criteria</b>                         | The criteria set out in Section 6.3 of this Policy, which an organisation must meet and continue to meet to the satisfaction of the relevant Sports Council(s) to be a Recognised NGB.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| <b>Sport</b>                                        | Has the meaning set out at paragraph 2.1 of this Policy.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| <b>Sports Council / Home Country Sports Council</b> | <p><b>Sports Council</b> – The English Sports Council (“<b>Sport England</b>”), The Sports Council for Northern Ireland (“<b>Sport NI</b>”), The Scottish Sports Council (“<b>sportscotland</b>”), The Sports Council for Wales (“<b>Sport Wales</b>”) and The United Kingdom Sports Council (“<b>UK Sport</b>”).</p> <p><b>Home Country Sports Council</b> - Sport England, Sport NI, <b>sportscotland</b> and Sport Wales, as applicable. For the purposes of this Recognition Policy, an organisation’s Home Country Sports Council is the Sports Council whose remit covers the Home Country in which the organisation’s registered office is situated.</p>                                                                                                                                                      |

## 2. RECOGNITION OF A SPORT

- 2.1. For the purpose of this Policy, the Sports Councils Recognise a “Sport” as an activity which meets the definition set out in the Council of Europe’s 1992 European Sports Charter (as revised in 2021):

*“Sport means all forms of physical activity which, through casual or organised participation, are aimed at maintaining or improving physical fitness and mental well-being, forming social relationships or obtaining results in competition at all levels.”*

- 2.2. Further to the definition at paragraph 2.1, Sports Councils will only consider the human physical skill and effort used while participating in sport. Activities such as preparing the field/pitch, taking care of animals, or travelling to the venue are not considered within the definition of participating in a Sport. Activity purely undertaken by animals is not Recognised as a Sport under this Policy. The activity must be done purely for the sake of the Sport itself - not for another reason or primary purpose. For example, gardening involves physical effort, but its goal is to maintain a garden or grow food.
- 2.3. A Sport must be a legal activity in the United Kingdom.
- 2.4. The Sports Councils will decide whether a sport or activity should be Recognised as a Discipline of an existing Sport or Recognised as a separate Sport, either pursuant to an application made under this Policy, or independently.
- 2.5. Recognition of a Sport is separate from and independent of the Recognition of NGBs under this Policy. The Sports Councils acknowledge that at any given time there may not be a Recognised NGB for a Sport and/or Discipline. Similarly, the Sports Councils may continue to Recognise a Sport and/or Discipline even if a Recognised NGB is subsequently De-Recognised under this Policy.
- 2.6. The Sports Councils may cease to Recognise a Sport and/or Discipline if in their reasonable opinion it no longer meets the definition of “Sport” set out at paragraph 2.1 above and/or if it becomes illegal in the United Kingdom or part of it.

## 3. RECOGNITION OF AN NGB

- 3.1. The Sports Councils have jointly decided to work together to establish a system of Recognition of NGBs for the following key purposes:

- 3.1.1. **Furtherance of remit and purpose as Sports Councils and Distributors of National Lottery Funding:** Recognition according to the definition of Sport and the Criteria facilitates the work of the Sports Councils by identifying Sports and/or the leading NGB(s) in a Sport that the relevant Sports Council(s) are likely to liaise with in connection with the Sport;
- 3.1.2. **Consistency:** the establishment of jointly agreed criteria for Recognition, to be applied by all of the Sports Councils in making decisions about whether an NGB is Recognised, whether within one or more Home Countries or across Great Britain or the United Kingdom;
- 3.1.3. **Clarity:** to Sports Councils, organisations, participants in Sport, funding organisations and the wider public of what the UK Sports Councils Recognise as a Sport, which organisations are Recognised NGBs and the meaning of Recognition.

These are the key purposes of Recognition. There may also be supplementary benefits to Recognition, including the raising of standards within organisations and Sports, potential (but not guaranteed) access to funding opportunities, and efficiency in funding and collaboration.

- 3.2. For clarity, the Recognition of an NGB under this Policy:
- 3.2.1. **Does not guarantee funding for any organisation, including a Recognised NGB** (nor does funding awarded to an organisation automatically mean that an organisation is a Recognised NGB). Funding decisions are made independently by each Sports Council according to their own governance, strategy and funding processes, procedures and criteria and organisations

are invited to refer to each Sports Council for further information on funding opportunities and how each Sports Council works with Recognised NGBs;

- 3.2.2. **Is not connected to regulation of any Sport.** The Sports Councils do not have a regulatory function for any Sport;
  - 3.2.3. **Does not constitute approval or endorsement of any operational decisions** or work of a Recognised NGB;
  - 3.2.4. **Does not confer on an organisation any additional authority, status or rights**, other than as expressly set out in this Policy (for example, under paragraph 7.9)
  - 3.2.5. **Does not imply eligibility for, or prioritisation in, UK Sport's high-performance funding programmes**, which are subject to UK Sport's own strategies, governance frameworks and investment processes.
- 3.3. Being part of an international federation of any Sport does not automatically lead to Recognition under this Policy.
- 3.4. NGBs can become Recognised either within a single Home Country (or within several Home Countries) or across the whole UK or Great Britain. In most cases, the Sports Councils will recognise one NGB per Sport in each Geographical Area. However, the Sports Councils acknowledge the following possibilities:
- 3.4.1. a single Sport could have multiple Recognised NGBs e.g. four national Recognised NGBs for the Sport (i.e. one for each Home Country) and a fifth being a UK-wide Recognised NGB with responsibilities for such areas as national competitions or elite athlete development;
  - 3.4.2. a single Sport could have one Recognised NGB for UK/GB;
  - 3.4.3. There can be more than one Recognised NGB in any Home Country or across the UK/GB (as applicable) if more than one organisation is able to demonstrate that it meets the Criteria and, in the opinion of the Sports Councils, it is of a benefit to the relevant Sport to Recognise more than one NGB.

This list is non-exhaustive and is included for illustrative purposes only.

## 4. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Under this Policy, the following organisations / groups have the roles and responsibilities set out below.

- 4.1. **Each Sports Council** is responsible for:
  - 4.1.1. Approving this Policy and any accompanying documentation;
  - 4.1.2. Working together with the other Sports Councils to create, maintain and promote this Policy and accompanying documents (including the Guidance);
  - 4.1.3. Nominating a staff member(s) to the UK Recognition Panel, as described in paragraph 4.3, and provide support as it deems necessary for the work of the UK Recognition Panel and for the Recognition process;
  - 4.1.4. Working together with the other Sports Councils to manage and operationalise the Recognition of Sports and NGBs under and in accordance with this Policy in a transparent, consistent and fair manner, including via the UK Recognition Panel;
  - 4.1.5. In respect of each Home Country Sports Council - managing the Recognition process (including consideration, assessment and decisions on Recognition applications, reviews and De-Recognition) in respect of Recognition matters solely affecting its own Home Country, in accordance with this Policy;

- 4.1.6. Communicating with third parties (including organisations for which it is the relevant Home Country Sports Council) on matters connected to this Policy;
- 4.1.7. Considering and assessing Recognition matters and approving decisions on Recognition under this Policy, including initial checks on Recognition applications, confirmation of approval of Recognition or decision on De-Recognition. Each Sports Council will take decisions under this Policy in accordance with its own decision-making authority;
- 4.1.8. Deciding on and communicating how it works with Recognised NGBs in accordance with its own strategy, policies and procedures (including by way of example only, the handling of any funding applications from Recognised NGBs);
- 4.1.9. Publishing this Policy and any accompanying documentation (including the Guidance) on its website;
- 4.1.10. Publishing a list of current Sports and Recognised NGBs on its website (the Recognised NGBs in its Geographical Area and any UK or GB Recognised NGBs (as appropriate)); and
- 4.1.11. Referring appeals made under Recognition matters solely affecting its Home Country.
- 4.2. **UK Sport's** involvement in the Recognition process and decision-making is limited to Sports and/or NGBs that are part of the Olympic and/or Paralympic programmes at the time of the relevant decision.
- 4.3. **The UK Recognition Panel** is made up of one nominated representative from each of the Sports Councils. The UK Recognition Panel reports to and makes recommendations to the Sports Council(s) in respect of decisions to be made under this Policy. The UK Recognition Panel is responsible for:
  - 4.3.1. Developing, managing, maintaining and implementing this Policy and any accompanying documentation (including the Guidance) and any reviews of this Policy. In doing so, it will apply and implement the Criteria in a manner it best sees fit to achieve the purpose of the Policy in Recognising Sport and NGBs for Sport;
  - 4.3.2. Managing the Recognition process in respect of any Recognition applications, reviews or De-Recognition which affects multiple Home Countries, or the UK or GB, and reporting to the Sports Councils (including making recommendations to the Sports Councils on approval or rejection of Recognition applications and De-Recognition, and communicating with relevant parties);
  - 4.3.3. Keeping appropriate records in respect of (i) the management of this Policy and any accompanying documentation (including the Guidance), and (ii) the Recognition process, including applications, reviews, or De-Recognition affecting multiple Home Countries or for the UK or GB;
  - 4.3.4. Referring appeals made under Recognition matters affecting multiple Home Countries or the UK/GB to an independent dispute resolution service for sport.
- 4.4. **The independent dispute resolution service** appointed by the relevant Sports Council(s) is responsible for managing and resolving appeals lodged by organisations under this Policy.
- 4.5. **Recognised NGBs** are responsible (at their own cost) for:
  - 4.5.1. Continuing to comply with the Criteria as set out in this Policy and as further described in the accompanying documentation, including the Guidance;
  - 4.5.2. Compliance with conditions of Recognition (either ongoing or within any applicable timescale);
  - 4.5.3. Promptly providing to the relevant Sports Council(s) and/or the UK Recognition Panel such information as may be requested from time to time;
  - 4.5.4. Promptly responding to queries and communications from the relevant Sports Council(s) and/or the UK Recognition Panel;

- 4.5.5. Promptly informing the relevant Sports Council(s) of any matter which may constitute a serious infringement of the principles under paragraph 5.1;
- 4.5.6. Co-operating with the relevant Sports Council(s) and/or the UK Recognition Panel in respect of any reviews.

## 5. PRINCIPLES OF THE POLICY

- 5.1. The Sports Councils expect Recognised NGBs to operate with honesty, fairness, and good governance. A Recognised NGB must be built on integrity, a commitment to safety, inclusivity, and support for clean (drug-free) sport. A Recognised NGB must not bring its Sport (or any Discipline within the Sport) into disrepute.
- 5.2. In working jointly or independently, the Sports Councils will apply this Policy fairly, consistently and transparently and in accordance with the published Guidance. However, as independent arms-length bodies, the Sports Councils each have their own strategies and governance and may have different approaches as to their own work with Recognised NGBs (including funding decisions). Reference should be made to each Sports Council for further information on its approach to working with NGBs.
- 5.3. The Sports Councils will keep an up-to-date list of Sports and Recognised NGBs within their Home Country and (where applicable) within the UK/GB, which is available on their respective websites. Each Sports Council will endeavour to keep these lists up to date, but as there may be delays in reflecting changes, no guarantee is given as to accuracy or completeness. The lists are provided for information only and to facilitate the work of the Sports Councils, and any other organisation external to the Sports Councils which relies on such lists does so at its own risk.

## 6. NGB CRITERIA

- 6.1. For an organisation to be a Recognised NGB under this Policy, it must:
  - 6.1.1. accept and adhere to the principles set out at paragraph 5.1, and provide to the relevant Sports Council(s) such information as may be requested in connection with these principles; and
  - 6.1.2. meet all of the Eligibility Criteria set out at paragraph 6.2 (except for paragraph 6.2.3, which may be waived by the relevant Sports Council(s) in exceptional circumstances) **and**
  - 6.1.3. meet and evidence to the satisfaction of the relevant Sports Council(s) all of the Recognition Criteria set out at paragraph 6.3 (except for paragraph 6.3.5 which only applies to organisations seeking Recognition in Northern Ireland and/or UK).
- 6.2. To be eligible to be a Recognised NGB, an organisation must meet the following Eligibility Criteria:
  - 6.2.1. **The organisation must be an independent, not-for-profit legal entity** – the organisation must evidence that it is:
    - 6.2.1.1. an established incorporated legal entity (such as a company limited by guarantee) or (if an unincorporated entity) a registered charity in the relevant jurisdiction, **and**
    - 6.2.1.2. not-for-profit, as explicitly stated in its constitution or incorporation documentation; **and**
    - 6.2.1.3. a self-determining organisation (not owned or significantly controlled by any third party);
  - 6.2.2. **The organisation's geographic remit (as evidenced in its constitution and/or name) must match the Geographical Area in which it seeks/has Recognition.** For example, if an organisation's operational remit is (or becomes) 'GB', it must apply for Recognition in Great Britain under and in accordance with this Policy);
  - 6.2.3. **Prior to the date of application for Recognition, the organisation must have been formally established for at least 2 years.** The relevant Sports Council(s) may waive this

criterion in exceptional circumstances, such as a new Olympic or Commonwealth Sport, or the merger of existing Recognised NGBs;

- 6.2.4. **The organisation must have governance structures and procedures in place to maintain its effectiveness** as an organisation and an NGB;
  - 6.2.5. **The organisation is a member of, or is affiliated to, the UK or GB Recognised NGB and/or the Irish Recognised NGB and/or the international federation** for the Sport (where there is any such organisation); **and**
  - 6.2.6. **The organisation must have a remit across the applicable Geographical Area** (e.g. across all of a Home Country, or across the UK/GB, not just in certain localities (i.e. no county associations));
- 6.3. In addition to the Eligibility Criteria, an organisation must meet the following Recognition Criteria to the satisfaction of the relevant Sports Council(s) to be a Recognised NGB:
- 6.3.1. **The organisation must have a strategic plan in place approved by its Board**, setting out a vision and plan for its Sport and its development as NGB for the Sport and must also have **plans and structures in place (as appropriate for its Sport) to grow and develop its Sport**, including increasing participation, development of coaches, officials, talent and volunteers;
  - 6.3.2. **The organisation must have all appropriate arrangements in place demonstrating that, in the view of the relevant Sports Councils, it is a leading organisation in its Sport.** The Sports Councils expect this to include:
    - 6.3.2.1. a commitment statement within its governing documents relating to clean sport, **and**
    - 6.3.2.2. policies relating to safeguarding, equality, diversity and inclusion, handling complaints; **and**
    - 6.3.2.3. processes to effectively manage conflicts of interest and data protection; **and where applicable;**
    - 6.3.2.4. provision of information relating to safety management.
  - 6.3.3. **The organisation must have a clearly identified membership structure, appropriate to its Sport.** Such structure must have mechanism in place to ensure that members are represented, and membership terms are clear;
  - 6.3.4. **The organisation must have inclusive, open-to-all policies and practices in place** that reflect and represent all members of society;
  - 6.3.5. **Where an organisation wishes to apply to be recognised with jurisdiction including Northern Ireland**, the organisation should demonstrate evidence of how an athlete from Northern Ireland could choose their country of representation for international competition for either an Ireland pathway, or a Great Britain and Northern Ireland pathway, where such options exist. They should also state where and how information about these options is publicly available or promoted.
- 6.4. The Sports Councils will provide further details and information in the Guidance on the Criteria and how these are applied in practice when considering, assessing, and deciding upon Recognition applications, reviews, and De-Recognition.

**The Sports Councils will provide further details and information on all stages of the Recognition process in the Guidance and other accompanying documentation.**

## **7. APPLYING FOR RECOGNITION**

- 7.1. Prior to an organisation making any application for Recognition under this Policy, the organisation must contact its Home Country Sports Council to discuss its planned application and check eligibility for Recognition under this Policy.
- 7.2. An organisation wishing to apply for Recognition under this Policy may:
  - 7.2.1. Request an application form for Recognition from any of the Sports Councils;
  - 7.2.2. Following the initial discussion (per paragraph 7.1), make an application for Recognition to its Home Country Sports Council by completing in full and submitting the application form together with all applicable evidence to the relevant Sports Council. Any such application must state the type of Recognition and the Geographical Area for which Recognition is sought. The Home Country Sports Council will carry out an initial check for eligibility and completeness of the application and reserves the right to reject any applications which are incomplete and/or patently do not meet the Criteria.
- 7.3. An application for Recognition under this Policy will be one of the following types:
  - 7.3.1. Application to be a Recognised NGB of a Sport in a specific Home Country/Countries or in the UK/GB (may also include a previously unrecognised Sport and/or Discipline); or
  - 7.3.2. Application for a change of Discipline in a Sport for which the applicant is already a Recognised NGB in the relevant Home Country/Countries and/or the UK/GB.
- 7.4. An applicant organisation is responsible for its own costs associated with all stages of the Recognition process (including its application, responding to requests for information, participating in any review(s) and if relevant any appeal).
- 7.5. Applications for Recognition under this Policy are considered and assessed in accordance with this Policy and the accompanying documentation (including the Guidance). See section 4 for the roles and responsibilities in this regard. **There is no guarantee that an application for Recognition will be successful.**
- 7.6. The Home Country Sports Council will inform the applicant in writing of the outcome of their application and the reasons for the decision. The potential outcomes of the Recognition application are as follows:
  - 7.6.1. Application is successful. Depending on the type of application, either the applicant organisation becomes a Recognised NGB for the relevant Sport in a specific Home Country/Countries or in the UK/GB; or the change of Discipline is accepted as part of the Sport for which the applicant is already the Recognised NGB;
  - 7.6.2. Application is unsuccessful. Depending on the type of application, either the relevant Sports Councils do not Recognise the Sport and/or the applicant as a Recognised NGB of a Sport; or the change of Discipline is not accepted as part of the Sport for which the applicant is already the Recognised NGB.
- 7.7. If a Recognition application is successful, conditions of Recognition may be applied (either ongoing or subject to a specific timeline), at the relevant Sports Councils' discretion and communicated to the applicant.
- 7.8. If a Recognition application is unsuccessful (including following any associated appeal process), a further application can be submitted provided that the applicant has overcome or addressed the reasons for the unsuccessful outcome of the previously submitted application.
- 7.9. If an organisation is successful in its application to be a Recognised NGB of a Sport, it may use the following statement to communicate:

*“[Organisation] is recognised by [relevant Sports Council(s) OR the UK Sports Councils] as a National Governing Body for [Sport] in [Home Country/Great Britain/the United Kingdom].*

and a Recognised NGB may be permitted to display the logo(s) of the relevant Sports Council(s) in the manner and in accordance with any brand toolkit and/or brand guidelines published from time to time by the relevant Sports Council(s).

## 8. CONTINUING RECOGNITION AND REVIEWS

- 8.1. **A Recognised NGB must continue to meet the Criteria and any conditions of Recognition to the satisfaction of the relevant Sports Council(s) to maintain Recognition.** The Sports Councils reserve the right to De-Recognise an NGB if the organisation is no longer able to demonstrate to the satisfaction of the relevant Sports Council(s) that it meets the Criteria and/or any conditions of Recognition (either ongoing or in accordance with any timescale set by the relevant Sports Council(s)).
- 8.2. **A Recognition review may be undertaken by the relevant Sports Council(s) and/or the UK Recognition Panel at any time.** Recognition reviews may be conducted as part of planned review programme, as a result of audit findings, in response to a reported concern about whether the Recognised NGB is continuing to meet the Criteria or comply with the principles at paragraph 5.1, as a follow-up to a previous Recognition review or for any other reason as determined by the relevant Sports Council(s).
- 8.3. Recognition reviews will be carried out by:
  - 8.3.1. The relevant Home Country Sports Council(s) in respect of a Recognised NGB for a specific Home Country; and
  - 8.3.2. The UK Recognition Panel in respect of a UK or GB Recognised NGB.
- 8.4. As part of a review, the Home Country Sports Council may discuss provisional findings with the Recognised NGB to enable the Recognised NGB to take steps to ensure its continuing compliance with the Criteria before a De-recognition decision is taken. The Home Country Sports Council will then inform the Recognised NGB of the outcome of a Recognition review and the reasons for the decision. The potential outcomes of a Recognition review are as follows:
  - 8.4.1. **Continuing Recognition** where the Recognition review finds that the Recognised NGB continues to meet the Criteria. Conditions of Recognition may be applied (either ongoing or subject to a specific timeline), at the relevant Sports Councils’ discretion.
  - 8.4.2. **De-recognition** where the Recognition review finds that a Recognised NGB no longer meets the Criteria and/or has failed to meet any condition(s) of Recognition, and a decision is subsequently taken to De-Recognise the NGB. Upon De-Recognition, an NGB will be removed from the list of Recognised NGBs.
- 8.5. In addition to carrying out a Recognition Review, the relevant Sports Council(s) and/or the UK Recognition Panel may at any time decide to review and/or De-Recognise any organisation as a Recognised NGB (including where an organisation fails to comply with any of the principles set out at paragraph 5.1. or where such organisation brings its Sport (or any Discipline) into disrepute. Upon De-Recognition, an NGB will be removed from the list of Recognised NGBs.

## 9. DECISION-MAKING

- 9.1. **Decisions concerning Recognition of a new Sport or Discipline** (including outcomes of applications for Recognition and decisions on De-recognition) must be taken unanimously by:
- 9.1.1. All the Sports Councils in the case of Sports on the current Olympic and Paralympic programme; and
- 9.1.2. All Home Country Sports Councils for all other Sports,  
in accordance with the decision-making authority established by each Sports Council with regard to this Policy and taking into consideration any recommendations of the UK Recognition Panel.
- 9.2. **Decisions concerning the Recognition of an NGB** (including outcomes of applications for Recognition and decisions on De-recognition) must be approved by:
- 9.2.1. The Sports Councils in the case of Sports on the current Olympic and Paralympic programme; and
- 9.2.2. The relevant Home Country Sports Council(s) for all other Sports,  
in accordance with the decision-making authority established by each Sports Council with regard to this Policy and taking into consideration any recommendations of the UK Recognition Panel.
- 9.3. Applications, reviews and other information concerning the Recognition process will be shared between the Sports Councils in accordance with applicable data protection laws and regulations.

## 10. APPEALS

- 10.1. An organisation has the following rights to appeal Recognition decisions made about it under this Policy:
- 10.1.1. An applicant may appeal the decision in respect of any unsuccessful Recognition application it has made; and
- 10.1.2. A Recognised NGB may appeal a decision to De-recognise it.
- For the avoidance of doubt, an organisation does not have any right to appeal a decision made under this Policy about another organisation.
- 10.2. Appeals made under paragraph 10.1 above shall be made by the relevant affected organisation in writing to the organisation's Home Country Sports Council within 40 working days following the date of the written notice of decision (issued under paragraph 7.6 or 8.4 (as applicable)).
- 10.3. The Sports Councils will set out full details and information on the appeals process under this Policy (including the grounds for appeal, timelines, and potential outcomes) in the 'Recognition: Independent Appeals - Rules and Procedures.'
- 10.4. The Sports Councils will refer all appeals under this Policy to such independent dispute resolution service as it may appoint from time to time, who will manage and decide on each appeal in accordance with the document referred to in paragraph 10.3 above.

## VERSION CONTROL

**Date Published:** 28 September 2026  
**Review Date:** 28 September 2029

**This policy supersedes all previous versions.**

