



BRITISH ROWING

# Role Description

## Sport Committee Chair

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# SPORT COMMITTEE CHAIR

## Role

Like most sports, Rowing is run largely by volunteers, connected to the governing body through regional representation and through a number of committees with specific areas of focus. These committees come together in the Sport Committee, to ensure their work is aligned with one another and with the strategic goals of British Rowing. The Chair of the Sport Committee, who is *ex officio* a member of the Board of British Rowing, is thus an extremely important one in the sport: he or she ensures effective two-way communication between the committees and the Board, as well as working closely with the Honorary Rowing Safety Advisor and members of the staff of British Rowing.

There are four Sport Committee meetings per year and, sharing responsibility with the Deputy Chair, the Chair attends many of the Standing Committee meetings and, on occasion, Regional Council meetings. The Chair is often approached for discussion by members of British Rowing at events, conferences, by email or telephone contact. There are also four Board meetings per year.

The role offers a high level of contact with the grass roots of the sport from beginner to international level. The scope of the role over coming years will likely expand to include more involvement with fixed seat and indoor rowing.

## Location

British Rowing is based at 6 Lower Mall, Hammersmith, London W6 9DJ

## Appointment process

The Chair of the Sport Committee is elected by the Regional Representatives appointed to represent the ten Regions. The election (if required) will take place at a General Meeting. Nominations for the Chair of the Sport Committee position shall be made in writing, proposed and seconded by Regional Representatives and received by the Company Secretary at least 30 days (28 August 2020) before the AGM which will take place on 30 September 2020.

The nomination form is available from the Company Secretary, who should be contacted by email at [governance@britishrowing.org](mailto:governance@britishrowing.org)

Each Regional Representative may nominate one candidate for election to the post of Chair of the Sport Committee, although there is no obligation to nominate.

## **A. Person Specification**

### **Essential**

- A detailed knowledge of the sport at its grassroots
- Strong communication skills, and the ability to work with people across the sport
- Time to commit to the role

### **Desirable, but not essential**

- A flexible and accommodating approach to managing large and diverse teams
- Experience of running events
- Knowledge of UK corporate governance (since the role includes a seat on the Board). While previous board experience is not essential, a willingness to get quickly up to speed on the governance requirements of being part of a Board is, in the absence of it
- A perspective on diversity and inclusion in the sport would be welcomed

## **B. Responsibilities**

To run the volunteer committees, and act as the interface between them and the Board. As a member of the Board, in liaison with the Board Chair Chief Executive and fellow Board members:

1. Act as a Company Director
2. Act as a Trustee of the sport of rowing, sustaining and developing it for current members and protecting it for future generations of rowers
3. Monitor progress annually against agreed goals and objectives
4. Review the core values of the vision as and when relevant.
5. Monitor performance, financial expenditure, risk and resource allocation against the strategic plan at least quarterly
6. Ensure the maintenance of a sound financial position
7. Build effective relationships with external partners as required by the Board
8. Undertake training as appropriate and participate in an annual Board evaluation process and individual evaluation

The successful candidate will be expected to meet standard board competencies as follows:

1. Build effective relationships with the Chair, fellow Board members and Chief Executive Officer and, where relevant, senior team at British Rowing, ensuring all are committed to the common purpose
2. Be capable of expressing, orally and in writing, ideas and information in ways that are appropriate, accurate and concise
3. Listen to all fellow Board members, ensuring their views are heard
4. Identify opportunities in pursuit of the achievement of British Rowing's vision and strategic goals
5. Follow established principles of UK corporate governance, including the Code of Sports Governance and British Rowing's Code of Conduct

6. Ensure that independent judgement is exercised on issues of strategy, performance, resources and standards of conduct
7. Understand the purposes of corporate governance and management, the differences and relationships between them, and frameworks for assurance and accountability
8. Understand and accept the legal duties, responsibilities and liabilities of being a Director of a not-for-profit organisation

## **Eligibility**

British Rowing is committed to equal opportunities across the sport and is actively encouraging and seeking interest from minority communities. Applications from individuals are encouraged regardless of age, disability, sex, gender reassignment, sexual orientation, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, and marriage and civil partnerships.

## **Background information: Key facts about the organisation**

British Rowing, as the national governing body for the sport, is responsible for the development of rowing in England, and the training and selection of rowers to represent Great Britain. Our role is to maintain the framework that delivers for current participants from the grassroots up to the highest level, as well as to act as Trustees of the sport who must safeguard its past, present and future.

Rowing has a proud history. It has been one of the country's most successful Olympic sports, producing World, Olympic and Paralympic champions from across the UK, and Great Britain's rowers have topped the medal table at the last three Olympic Games. At a grassroots level, over 825,000 row (indoor or on the water) each month, according to Sport England's year one Active Lives survey.

British Rowing's mission is to ensure that the sport thrives for past, current and future members. Our vision is to promote the positive impact of our sport across a broader range of people in the country, while upholding Britain's position as a leading rowing nation. We aim to provide an enjoyable experience for all current participants and to encourage people who have never rowed before – or come from communities which might not naturally consider trying the sport - to get involved.

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