

**Westminster Media Forum policy conference:
Next steps for the UK sports sector - funding, governance and widening participation**

Timing: Morning, Tuesday, 12th May 2026

Taking Place Online



**WESTMINSTER
MEDIA FORUM**

Draft agenda subject to change

- 8.30 Registration
- 9.00 **Chair's opening remarks**
Baroness Sater, Co-Chair, All-Party Parliamentary Group for Sport and Physical Activity
- 9.05 **'Assessing key issues for governance across the sports sector in the UK'**
Craig Beeston, Manager, Sports Governance Academy Programme, The Chartered Governance Institute
Questions and comments from the floor
- 9.30 **'Investing in community tennis facilities to drive participation growth'**
Oliver Scadgell, Managing Director, Tennis Development, Lawn Tennis Association
- 9.40 **Considerations for funding distribution and the use of investment in grassroots facilities**
criteria and process for accessing the new grassroots facilities funding | meeting strengthened governance and safeguarding standards | demonstrating inclusive participation and community benefit | capabilities and support needed to meet governance and safeguarding expectations | balancing national priorities with local delivery | scope for local flexibility within national funding and governance frameworks | future of multi-sport hubs and shared facilities | local approaches to planning, funding and managing facilities, including maintenance responsibilities | supporting long-term use beyond initial capital investment
Senior representative, grassroots organisation
Senior representative, partnerships
Senior representative, local authority
Senior representative, investment
- 10.00 Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.25 **Strategies for improving financial resilience - revenue models, governance standards and sustainability**
developing resilient funding models for grassroots sport | role of governance standards in supporting long-term sustainability | inclusive facilities and widening participation | interaction between capital and revenue funding for long-term maintenance | approaches to financial planning and meeting transparency requirements across the system | role of national sports bodies in supporting financial resilience | climate resilience and environmental sustainability
Amy Gardner, Director, Sport and Participation, British Cycling
Kuldeep Kaur, Director, Finance and Operations, England Hockey
Senior representative, grassroots organisation
Senior representative, commercial
Senior analyst
Questions and comments from the floor
- 11.15 **Chair's closing remarks**
Baroness Sater, Co-Chair, All-Party Parliamentary Group for Sport and Physical Activity
- 11.20 Break
- 11.30 **Chair's opening remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian
- 11.35 **Taking forward key recommendations from the UK Sport Councils' Safe Sport Report**
Senior representative, sport council
- 11.45 **Safeguarding and sector regulation - developing trust, improving diversity and widening participation**
strengthening safeguarding culture across sport | supporting effective oversight and assurance | what organisations need to have in place to meet safeguarding expectations in practice, including clubs and national governing bodies | developing a robust complaints and resolution function | how accountability mechanisms may need to develop across clubs, local networks and delivery partners | expectations on diversity and inclusion | tackling online abuse | priorities for the Women's Sport Taskforce on equal access, online abuse and facilities | developing a diverse and representative community | next steps for diverse leadership within national governing bodies and grassroots organisations
Geraldine Costello, Director, Governance and Safe Sport, British Gymnastics
Lereesa Easterbrook, Senior Associate, Bird & Bird
Steve Swinyard, Head, Safeguarding and Welfare, Newcastle United Football Club
Mark Gannon, CEO, UK Coaching
- 12.05 Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.30 **The way forward for financial distribution to support sector resilience**
Senior commentator
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.55 **Chair's and Westminster Media Forum closing remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian
Thomas Howard, Westminster Media Forum