

Isle of Man Sport Recognition Policy 2023

Applicants looking to apply for recognition should read the Recognition Policy in conjunction with the Engagement Application Form, which can be requested from Isle of Man Sport through the contact details provided on our [website](#).

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1. Definition of recognition

a) Recognition is a process that aims to:

- i. acknowledge the status of a Governing Body of Sport (GBS) as a sole organisation that governs a particular sport on the Isle of Man through the common consent of the sport itself
- ii. determine the GBS' responsible for governing the sporting activities that Isle of Man Sport are willing to consider supporting and working with

b) Recognition status does not mean that Isle of Man Sport have approved the internal structures of the Governing Body of Sport, nor are Isle of Man Sport responsible for its operations.

c) Recognition does not in itself grant additional rights, authority or endorsement by Isle of Man Sport. It is not the role of Isle of Man Sport to establish or appoint GBS' or to regulate them. A sports body's membership of a National Governing Body (NGB) or International Federation (IF) does not automatically mean that the body will become recognised by Isle of Man Sport.

d) Recognition status does not necessarily mean that a GBS is eligible to receive funding from Isle of Man Sport. Conversely, the funding of any organisation by Isle of Man Sport does not necessarily mean the organisation is eligible to become recognised. As an example, this may include the Island Games Association of Mann or the Commonwealth Games Association of Mann.

e) The recognition review process checks to ensure that recognised GBS' continue to meet the recognition criteria as set out by Isle of Man Sport.*

*Whilst the recognition review process is designed to ensure recognised GBS' continue to meet the recognition criteria, Isle of Man Sport is not a regulator and it is each GBS' responsibility to ensure they comply with all legal requirements and national or international governing body requirements.

2. Role of recognised Governing Bodies of Sport

a) A GBS is an organisation that governs and administers a sport on either a local or national basis, in the Isle of Man.

b) To become a recognised GBS with Isle of Man Sport, an organisation needs to complete and submit an Engagement Application form and assessment by Isle of Man Sport.

c) A GBS needs to demonstrate that it has an appropriate constitutional structure and that it fulfils a number of roles that a GBS is likely to deliver, in order for it to become recognised.

d) Recognised GBS' are organisations which have shown they have achieved a position of pre-eminence within their sport and have the required level of organisation and governance. The recognition process is designed to enable Isle of Man Sport to assess whether an organisation is performing the expected role of a GBS. Recognition itself does not bestow any official powers on a GBS to govern its sport – its governance structure should already be in place and recognition is solely acknowledging the role that is being played by the organisation.

e) A GBS recognised by Isle of Man Sport is expected to deliver the following functions within the Isle of Man:

- i. Administer the practice and participation of its sport;

- ii. Control and regulate the sporting environment;
- iii. Develop its sport;
- iv. Influence both its members (e.g. clubs) and organisations of which it is a member (e.g. National Governing Body or International Federation).

e) To be able to deliver the above functions, a recognised GBS is likely to undertake the following activities (this list is by no means exhaustive):

- i. Prepare and implement a vision and strategic development plan for its sport and determine how it will be implemented within the Isle of Man;
- ii. Implement a governance framework or structure for its sport;
- iii. Establish and maintain links with the recognised* UK/GB National Governing Body (NGB) and/or the recognised* International Federation (IF) of its sport;
- iv. Manage the rules and regulations of its sport, including anti-doping, equality, safeguarding and child protection;
- v. Promote its sport, encouraging and growing participation;
- vi. Develop coaches, athletes, officials and participants;
- vii. Administer the officials of its sport;
- viii. Organise and host competitions.

*by one of the Home Nations Sports Councils, International Olympic/Paralympic Committees (IOC/IPC) or IOC-recognised organisations, or the Commonwealth Games Federation

g) A GBS can exist and operate without being recognised and without applying to Isle of Man Sport to become recognised.

3. Recognition Policy process overview

The Recognition Policy covers the following processes:

a) Applications

Applications, as part of the Engagement Process, cover how an unrecognised GBS can apply to Isle of Man Sport to become a recognised GBS on the Isle of Man. Completing the Engagement Application Form allows an organisation to demonstrate why it should be the recognised GBS and ultimately leads to a decision on recognition.

b) Reviews

The recognition review process covers how a recognised GBS is monitored by Isle of Man Sport against the criteria for recognition.

c) De-recognition

The de-recognition process covers how a recognised GBS can be de-recognised by Isle of Man Sport.

d) Discipline change

A discipline is a branch of a sporting activity that comprises of one or more events (for example, show-jumping is a discipline of equestrian sport and mountain biking is a discipline of cycling). The

discipline change process details how a recognised GBS is required to update its status following any changes to disciplines contained within their sport.

4. Aims, benefits and conditions of Isle of Man Sport recognition

Aims of recognition

- a) Identify and confirm that a GBS is the sole body that governs a particular sport on the Isle of Man through the common consent of the sport itself. The GBS should be operating in the Isle of Man and satisfy the governance criteria as set out in the Engagement Process Decision Tree and Engagement Application Form.
- b) Isle of Man Sport will maintain a list of recognised GBS' and sports with their disciplines, which will be updated periodically and will be available on the Isle of Man Sport website.

Benefits of recognition

The benefits of recognition for Governing Bodies of Sport include:

- a) Association with Isle of Man Sport, for instance through the use of the Isle of Man Sport logo on the GBS' website;
- b) A need to regularly review governance and ensure minimum standards are maintained in line with the recognition review process in place; and
- c) Access to potential funding via Isle of Man Sport and/or other organisations. For instance, some funding programmes may list Isle of Man Sport recognition as one of the eligibility criterion for applicants.

The benefits of recognition for sports participants and other stakeholders include:

- d) Clarity on the GBS that Isle of Man Sport has recognised as the suitable and sole body that governs a particular sport on the Isle of Man;
- e) Consistency in terms of the recognition application and recognition review requirements (for instance geographical jurisdiction, development plan, competition structures, financial management, etc.);
- f) Improved governance, sharing of good practice and an emphasis on sporting development which should also contribute to the quality of the sporting experience for participants on the Isle of Man; and
- g) Access to potential funding through the recognised GBS. For instance, some funding programmes list recognition as one of the eligibility criterion for applicants.

The benefits of recognition for Isle of Man Sport includes:

- h) Improved structures and governance in the sports sector through organisations striving to meet the acceptable standards required for Isle of Man Sport recognition;
- i) Confirmation that the minimum criteria set by Isle of Man Sport are being met by the GBS;
- j) On-going dialogue with the GBS' through the recognition review process; and
- k) A level of protection of the lottery funding distributed by Isle of Man through reassurance that GBS' in receipt of such funding are following good governance processes

Conditions of recognition

- a) To maintain recognised status with Isle of Man Sport, a GBS is expected to ensure it continues to meet the recognition review criteria on an ongoing basis (see section 8).
- b) Recognised GBS' are expected to co-operate and work with Isle of Man Sport when required and as appropriate to assist with sector-wide projects or initiatives.
- c) Recognised GBS' are further expected to assist Isle of Man Sport when answering queries or questions relating to the GBS or the sport itself.
- d) Recognition status is granted by Isle of Man Sport and is not a right. Recognised GBS' are, therefore, required to respect their status and operate in a fair and equitable way.
- e) Recognised GBS' are required to advise Isle of Man Sport in advance of any intended change in the disciplines within their sports and gain approval for such changes (additions of new disciplines or deletions of existing ones).
- f) Recognised GBS' are also expected to co-operate fully and in a timely manner with Isle of Man Sport should it undertake a recognition review. Failure to do so may result in de-recognition.
- g) GBS' that are in receipt of annual funding investment from Isle of Man Sport (via any of their funding programmes) and which are subject to governance-related checks as a condition of funding, will not be subject to a rolling/regular programme of recognition reviews. However, it will still be within the right of Isle of Man Sport to conduct a recognition review, if it is deemed necessary.
- h) Recognised GBS' who are not in receipt of annual funding investment from Isle of Man Sport and who are, therefore, not subject to governance-related checks as a condition of funding may or may not be subject to a rolling/regular programme of recognition reviews.

5. Principles of Isle of Man Sport recognition

The following are the core principles of recognition:

General principles:

- a) Isle of Man Sport will maintain and promote a policy on recognition, acting as an independent body from sport on the Island;
- b) Isle of Man Sport will be responsible for its own strategic decisions on which organisations it decides to support and this process sits separate from the recognition process;
- c) Isle of Man Sport will be responsible for how it implements the detail of the recognition review process, although the principles and minimum criteria will be consistent;
- d) The Isle of Man Sport recognition policy has been adapted from the Home Nations Sports Council's Policy to ensure consistency across the British Isles but taking into account the Isle of Man's unique situation. The policy will be implemented consistently as far as possible.

Sporting activity principles:

- e) The decision on what is a sporting activity will be based on the definition contained in the Council of Europe's 1992 European Sports Charter (as revised in 2001): "Sport means all forms of physical

activity which, through casual or organised participation, aim at expressing or improving physical fitness and mental well-being, forming social relationships or obtaining results in competition at all levels.”

f) As sporting activities can cover a number of different disciplines, when applications are received for GBS’ which also combine a new sporting activity, Isle of Man Sport will consider whether this would be better recognised as a discipline of an existing sporting activity and whether the activity is recognised separately as an activity, or as a discipline of an existing activity, on an international level;

Governing Body of Sport principles:

g) Isle of Man Sport will not recognise a GBS whose headquarters or registered office is not based in the Isle of Man; and

h) Where a GBS is de-recognised by Isle of Man Sport for any reason, this will not normally result in the de-recognition of the sporting activity unless, the de-recognition is linked to the sporting activity no longer meeting the criteria for sporting activity or uniqueness outlined within this policy.

6. Isle of Man Sport and the Sports Liaison Committee

a) The Sports Liaison Committee is a sub-Committee of Isle of Man Sport and provides a recommendation to Isle of Man Sport regarding any applications for recognition for GBS’ and sporting activities.

b) The Sports Liaison Committee comprises of three voting members from the Isle of Man Sport Committee, along with Officers (non-voting) who provide professional advice to the Committee.

c) Isle of Man Sport makes the final decision on any applications for recognition and de-recognition for GBS’ and sporting activities.

d) The Sports Liaison Officer (on behalf of the Sports Liaison Committee) has delegated authority and responsibility for:

- i. Developing and implementing the Recognition Policy and Engagement Process;
- ii. Managing applications to Isle of Man Sport from new sports and Governing Bodies of Sport;
- iii. Managing and implementing the Isle of Man Sport recognition review process;
- iv. Developing, implementing and managing the Isle of Man Sport de-recognition process as appropriate;
- v. Managing changes to disciplines for recognised GBS’

e) The Sports Liaison Committee has the authority to:

- i. Recommend approval or rejection for applications for recognition, which will then be submitted for decision to the Isle of Man Sport Committee;
- ii. Administer recognition reviews on behalf of Isle of Man Sport; however, de-recognition of a GBS will be decided by the Isle of Man Sport Committee (as in the case of any new applications). De-recognition is not expected to be a frequent occurrence.

f) Isle of Man Sport can make a decision on applications by email (with one vote per member) and does not need to meet physically. A minimum of four members of Isle of Man Sport will need to be present for a meeting to be deemed quorate (e.g. for a change to policy).

7. Recognition application process

Application purpose

The purpose of the application is to allow the applicant to demonstrate why the sport should be recognised by Isle of Man Sport and why it is best placed to be the recognised GBS for that sport.

Applicants are required to read the Recognition Policy and Engagement Process Decision Tree before completing an Engagement Application Form, all of which are available on request from Isle of Man Sport. This, and any supporting documentation, must be completed and submitted in electronic format. Isle of Man Sport may request additional documents or responses for specific issues in relation to the set criteria at the start of the application process or as part of the assessment.

Application criteria:

The application criteria are listed below and a full explanation of each criterion can be found in Appendix 2:

1. Sporting activity
2. Organisation history
3. Constitutional structure
4. Affiliation
5. Influence
6. Membership numbers
7. Governance structure
8. Uniqueness
9. Organisation vision and development
10. Sporting development

Application process

Step 1: Review the Engagement Process Decision Tree to determine if the sport and GBS are suitable to apply for recognition with Isle of Man Sport. This can be found in the Sports Liaison section on the Isle of Man Sport website.

The Decision Tree will confirm whether a sport and GBS are in a position to move to Step 2 or, if not, what the next steps are in order for the sport and GBS to move towards being able to apply for recognition by Isle of Man Sport.

Step 2: Request an Engagement Application Form

Contact the Sports Liaison Officer (contact details available on the Isle of Man Sport website).

Step 3: Complete and submit the Engagement Application Form, along with all associated documentation required.

Step 4: If necessary, GBS representatives invited to a meeting with the Sports Liaison Officer to discuss the application, clarify any issues or request further information prior to the application being formally submitted to the Sports Liaison Committee.

Step 5: Following a review of the application and documentation, the Sports Liaison Committee makes a recommendation to Isle of Man Sport and the decision for recognition is made by Isle of Man Sport.

Please note that where a sport is already recognised, but there is no recognised GBS, then an application solely for recognition of a GBS will be accepted.

Application decision

There are two outcomes to the application process:

1. Approval of application

Sport and GBS is recognised by Isle of Man Sport and subject to the conditions of recognition

Approved GBS' will be informed of their success using a standard Isle of Man Sport letter that includes:

- i. Confirmation of what recognition by Isle of Man Sport means (branding, marketing, being part of the recognition list etc.);
- ii. Details of the recognition review process;
- iii. Other requirements: including the requirement to notify Isle of Man Sport about any change of discipline.

2. Application not approved

Unsuccessful GBS' will receive a letter from Isle of Man Sport which will detail which criterion or criteria the application did not meet. Unsuccessful applicants may be permitted to re-apply after a time period has elapsed. This time period will be detailed within the letter and determined by Isle of Man Sport depending upon the extent of the work required for the application to meet the criteria for recognition.

8. Recognition review

Purpose

- a) A recognition review is designed to ensure that a GBS retains its recognised status with Isle of Man Sport. It is a condition of Isle of Man Sport recognition that a GBS should continue to meet the recognition review criteria.
- b) GBS' in receipt of funding from Isle of Man Sport (via any of the funding programmes), and which are subject to governance related checks as a condition of that funding, will not be subject to a rolling/regular programme of recognition reviews. GBS' in receipt of Isle of Man Sport funding may already be subject to regular assurance checks. However, Isle of Man Sport reserve the right to undertake recognition reviews relating to specific issues which may not be addressed as part of any funding assurance checks.
- c) Recognised GBS' who are not in receipt of Isle of Man Sport funding, and who may therefore not be subject to governance related checks as a condition of that funding, may be subject to a rolling/regular programme of recognition reviews by Isle of Man Sport.
- d) If a GBS no longer meets Isle of Man Sport's recognition criteria, it may be the subject of a recognition review.

Process

- a) The carrying out of recognition reviews may be conducted as part of a programmed approach, including random checks, or because of specific issues of concern in a particular GBS or sport.
- b) A process of self-submission may be put in place and would include the GBS forwarding key documents to Isle of Man Sport that help to demonstrate that it is continuing to meet the recognition criteria and does not need to undertake a full recognition review. Self-submission may be used as part of a programmed and proportionate approach to select the GBS' which will be asked to complete a full recognition review by Isle of Man Sport.
- c) A recognition review may be conducted at the discretion of the Sports Liaison Committee or Isle of Man Sport. Listed below are several situations which may lead to a recognition review being carried out (please note, this list is not exhaustive):
 - i. GBS self-declaration: The GBS volunteers that recognition is no longer relevant or appropriate. (Once discussed by Isle of Man Sport, this may then move directly to de-recognition with no formal review);
 - ii. Loss of affiliation (national or international): The GBS is no longer in membership of the appropriate recognised UK/GB/Irish or European/World recognised organisations;
 - iii. Split of a sport: Where there is an international or national split of a sport along discipline or organisation lines, this may result in the need for a recognition review of the new separate organisations;
 - iv. Application from a GBS for a sport with an existing recognised GBS: Where a GBS applies for recognition and there is a GBS already recognised for the sport being applied for, this may lead to a recognition review of the existing recognised GBS. This may form part of Isle of Man Sport's process to establish which organisation should be the recognised GBS and to allow the existing recognised GBS to respond where it feels appropriate;
 - v. Serious concerns about the GBS: Isle of Man Sport have serious concerns about the operation of the recognised GBS which call into question its status as to whether it remains fit to be the recognised GBS.

The following may be seen as examples of serious concern to Isle of Man Sport:

- The GBS not holding AGMs as specified in its Constitution;
- The GBS not responding to contact from Isle of Man Sport;
- Accounts not being available as required by the GBS' processes and the requirements of Isle of Man Sport;
- The Constitution is not legally compliant or the GBS does not have appropriate policies, such as Anti-Doping, Safeguarding, Equality, or Complaints in place;
- An International Federation, UK or Home Country NGB, or UK or Home Country sporting organisation (e.g. Sport England, UKAD, etc) raises concerns about the a GBS to Isle of Man Sport;
- The GBS makes a significant breach of its own rules;
- Action taken by the GBS brings the sport, the sports sector or Isle of Man Sport into disrepute.

- vi. Activity becomes illegal: There is a statutory or legislative change which makes the sport illegal.

Recognition review criteria

- a) Recognition reviews will be assessed against Isle of Man Sport's recognition criteria (listed below). The detail behind the criteria can be found within the Appendices where the criteria are listed in full:
 - i. Sporting activity;
 - ii. Organisational history;
 - iii. Constitutional structure;
 - iv. Affiliation;
 - v. Influence;
 - vi. Membership numbers;
 - vii. Governance structure;
 - viii. Uniqueness;
 - ix. Organisation vision and development; and
 - x. Sporting development.

Assessment of recognition reviews

The recognition review will be undertaken by the Sports Liaison Officer, on behalf of the Sports Liaison Committee. The Sports Liaison Committee will then make a recommendation to Isle of Man Sport and a unanimous decision is required for de-recognition.

Outcome of recognition review

- a) The potential outcomes from a recognition review are:
 - i. Continued recognition;
 - ii. Conditional recognition, requiring remedial action, with an appropriate timescale to complete; or
 - iii. Isle of Man Sport proceed to de-recognition.

9. De-recognition

Purpose

- a) De-recognition by Isle of Man Sport is a potential outcome of a recognition review. It is anticipated; however, that de-recognition will be a rare occurrence.
- b) The purpose of de-recognising a GBS is to ensure that where a GBS no longer meets the requirements to be recognised by Isle of Man Sport, it does not remain on Isle of Man Sport's recognised list of GBS' or receive the benefits of recognition outlined within this policy.

Process

- a) De-recognition is an outcome of the recognition review process. Therefore, the process for an organisation to be de-recognised is through Isle of Man Sport conducting a recognition review with the resulting recommendation being de-recognition.
- b) Where the result of a recognition review is to proceed to de-recognition, Isle of Man Sport will consult with the GBS to seek a remedy to the situation before the final decision to de-

recognise is made. Isle of Man Sport will put an appropriate timeframe on this and a deadline for action. A resolution and decision will be expedited as rapidly as possible.

- c) Where remedies cannot be found, Isle of Man Sport will formally write to the GBS to inform them of the decision to de-recognise the GBS.
- d) De-recognition of a GBS by Isle of Man Sport would not necessarily result in de-recognition of the sporting activity.
- e) It should be noted that if a GBS is de-recognised, Isle of Man Sport will consider their position on funding where applicable.
- f) A de-recognised GBS may be permitted to re-apply for recognition as per this policy after a period of time (this may be subject to addressing the issues that led to de-recognition).

10. Discipline change

A discipline is a branch of a sporting activity, comprising one or more events. For example, track cycling, road racing and mountain biking are all disciplines of cycling.

Purpose

Recognised GBS' are required to apply to Isle of Man Sport for any intended change to a sporting activity which involves adding or removing a discipline. This will enable Isle of Man Sport to ensure that the disciplines within each activity meet the criteria for sporting activity and uniqueness outlined within this policy. Isle of Man Sport are required to ensure that a GBS is the appropriate GBS to govern and develop that discipline on the Isle of Man.

Process

The change of discipline process comprises a simple form on which a GBS can provide details of the proposed change to its disciplines and an explanation for this change, referring to sporting activity, uniqueness, demand for the sport and the discipline's structure at national or international level. The form can be obtained from Isle of Man Sport, via the Sports Liaison Officer, or from the Isle of Man Sport website.

The form requires the GBS to outline the following:

- i. Change in discipline requested;
- ii. Reason for change (if it is a request for additional disciplines, the applicant is required to briefly explain the history of the discipline, the current activity in the discipline, the number of participants and its structure at international level). If the request for the discipline change is a deletion of a discipline, the applicant is required to explain the reasons for the change and what will happen to any remaining participants;
- iii. Awareness of other GBS' involved in the discipline.

A change of discipline will apply to the sport across the Isle of Man.

Assessment of discipline change

- a) The discipline change assessment will be undertaken by the Sports Liaison Officer on behalf of the Sports Liaison Committee.
- b) The Sports Liaison Committee will review the assessment before making a recommendation for decision to Isle of Man Sport.

Discipline change decision

The potential outcomes from a discipline change application are:

- a) Discipline change approved;
- b) Discipline change not approved.

11. Process following decisions

Post Decision Meeting

If Applicants wish to be provided with further feedback on any of the decisions or processes under this policy, a post-decision meeting can be arranged with relevant representatives of the Sports Liaison Committee or Isle of Man Sport.

Appendices:

Common activities of a recognised Governing Body of Sport

Control and Regulate

- Governs a unique sporting activity
- An established constitutional structure and organisational history
- Regulates and controls members through rules
- Owns, develops and manages rules and practices for the sport
- Gets its legitimacy from its members and so is governed by the members for the members

Administer

- Oversee the competition structure or the format for practicing the sport
- Effective policies and procedures in place for safeguarding and child protection, anti-doping and equality in place
- Manage risk and provide insurance to members
- Organisational vision, strategy and structure in place
- Administer qualifications and licenses to practice the sport

Develop

- Has an established membership
- Plans in place to retain or increase participation and membership
- Equal opportunities for access
- Talent development pathways for participants, coaches, officials and volunteers

Influence

- Affiliated to the appropriate recognised NGB or IF
- Links with appropriate Home Country and UK NGBs for the sport
- Partnerships with delivery organisations such as schools, local authorities, trusts and commercial providers

Recognition criteria

a) *Sporting activity*

Where a new sporting activity is being considered it must meet the definition of sport contained in the Council of Europe's European Sports Charter 1992 (as revised in 2001):

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

As guidance, Isle of Man Sport will place an emphasis on the human physical activity involved when the sporting activity takes place and not activity in preparation for the sporting activity, or on its conclusion. The purpose of the activity must be solely for sport, as defined above, and not a means to another end. By this we mean that the activity is carried out with sport as its primary objective and not as a secondary purpose. For example, gardening typically involves exertion, however the physical activity in gardening is expended to ensure the upkeep and appearance of a garden or growing of vegetable crops, whilst the physical activity expended in playing rugby is for no other reason than the game of rugby itself.

Further to this, ethical considerations will be taken into account. For example, it must be demonstrated that there are no barriers to participation that could be viewed as an inequity of access. The activity must also be one that is not prohibited in any way by Isle of Man law. Where Isle of Man Sport feel there are ethical or moral issues involved in the playing of an activity, which mean they would not wish to be associated with it, such issues will be taken into consideration.

b) *Organisation history*

The GBS must normally have been in operation for a minimum of two years as evidenced by certified or appropriately signed off accounts for the last two financial years and the minutes of the last two years' AGMs. Accounts could be certified, audited or approved by the GBS Board/Committee. Isle of Man Sport will consider waiving the two-year AGM and accounts requirement in cases where a new organisation(s) is formed from the merger or separation of existing recognised GBS', providing this is evidenced through the submission of any relevant documentation. Isle of Man Sport will also consider waiving the two-year AGM and accounts requirement for new sports who are able to demonstrate they meet all other requirements satisfactorily but will request to receive this documentation as soon as it is available, otherwise the GBS will be placed under recognition review.

c) *Constitutional structure*

The GBS should have a constitution or memorandum and articles of association relevant to the Isle of Man. The GBS should show robust management and governance procedures. A full list of Board/Committee members needs to be provided and Board/Committee composition needs to be clear.

d) *Affiliation*

The GBS must demonstrate that it is affiliated to the UK (or GB/Irish) National Governing Body (NGB) for its sport, and/or the International Federation (IF) for its sport (where this exists). As guidance, this would preferably be an International Federation that is recognised by or connected to the International Olympic Committee, International Paralympic Committee (or an IOC-recognised organisation) or the Commonwealth Games Federation.

e) Influence

The GBS must demonstrate that it is the leading body for the sporting activity within the Isle of Man, that it has influence throughout the sporting activity, and that it is working in co-operation with other organisations within its sport, or that other organisations have minimal influence within the sport. The sporting activity must, where appropriate, be defined by a set of rules which are accepted throughout the sport, and the GBS should be in a position to own, control or influence the rules. Where rules are not appropriate, the GBS must provide a clear definition of what the activity is and evidence that this definition is comprehensively accepted within the Isle of Man.

Only one GBS can be recognised by Isle of Man Sport for each sport on the Isle of Man. Where other GBS' operate within the Isle of Man, the applicant should demonstrate that it is better placed than others to govern and develop its sport. If a GBS applies for recognition as the GBS for a sport for which there is already a recognised GBS, the new GBS will need to demonstrate that it has more influence and make a case for it to be the recognised GBS and, if appropriate, explain why the incumbent GBS is less able to represent the sport.

f) Membership numbers

The GBS must be able to evidence a current membership level (individual members) in excess of 15. Suggested ways of evidencing membership levels could include:

- i. Counts of members taken from membership database;
- ii. Informed estimates, based on the number of clubs and typical number of members per club;
- iii. A letter from a related body (e.g. recognised NGB or IF to whom the organisation affiliates), confirming the number of members or affiliated members; and/or
- iv. An estimate based on the revenues from membership fees earned per year, divided by the typical cost per member.

Isle of Man Sport may waive this requirement in exceptional circumstances, for example for Olympic, Commonwealth Games or Paralympic sports, or sports that have demonstrated significant growth and have plans to grow further. This will be at the Sports Liaison Committee's discretion and with the approval of Isle of Man Sport.

g) Governance structure

The GBS should meet minimum governance standards and should be able to evidence policies or statements on anti-doping, safeguarding, equality, complaints and conflicts of interest that are relevant to the Isle of Man. Where a sporting activity presents a risk of injury, the GBS should demonstrate it has taken measures to minimise and control risk to participants and has in place appropriate policies to manage the risk (this may include public liability insurance where appropriate).

h) Uniqueness

The sporting activity must not be a variation of an existing recognised sporting activity. Where a sporting activity is similar to another but has developed a significant independent cultural status, Isle of Man Sport may consider accepting it. This is particularly likely to apply to established sports that are already recognised.

i) Organisation vision and development

The GBS should be able to demonstrate that it has a clearly defined strategy for the development of its organisation and has structures in place to maintain its effectiveness as a GBS for its sport.

j) Sporting development

The GBS must demonstrate that it has a plan for the promotion of the sporting activity which is signed off by its Board/Committee. The plan should focus on the sport, its development and levels of participation, serving the whole sport, not just its membership base, and creating links with informal participants. It must be able to demonstrate pathways to development for participants, coaches, officials and volunteers. In any activity where competition is possible, the applicant must demonstrate it has established, controls and/or influences the competition structure that enables participants to compete at local, county, regional, national and/or international level.