Summary Board Minutes
#113
3 Aug 2026

1. Welcome and apologies

Board Members: Matt Bazeley, Richard Evans, Lesley Morisetti, Catherine Rowe, Jayne McLernon, Fiona Breeden, James Burton

Apologies: Oona Ylinen

Guests: Gary Anderson, Aled Rhys Howell, Rachel Clarke, Sajid Hussain, Mike Hayward joined the meeting for section 6.3, the OneOrg Report.

The Board thanked the BSUK team for the significant progress made over the previous year, particularly in improving finances and stakeholder relationships.

2. Declaration of Interests

No declarations of interest were received.

3. Approval of Previous Minutes

The minutes of Board Meeting #112, held on 11 May 2026, were approved. Updates were noted on potential transition funding for OneOrg, the annual pay-review timetable and a proposed fundraising event.

4. Actions from last meeting

Work remained ongoing on the Farnham Park review, youth-team matters and the cost-of-living review. A Board-effectiveness and skills assessment was reinstated in the action log to support compliance with the Code for Sports Governance.

5. Decisions taken by CEO since last meeting

The Board noted decisions made since the previous meeting, including an employee leave arrangement and authorisation of operational payments above the organisation's reporting threshold. Future reporting of such payments will be managed through the Finance and Audit Committee.

6. CEO and OneOrg Reports

6.1 CEO Report

The Board reviewed progress in stakeholder relationships, facilities and organisational development. Relationships with key partners had improved, although further work was needed to consolidate collaboration. Farnham Park lease documentation was being updated to reflect current use.

6.2 BSUK 2026–27 Priorities for Approval

The Board approved BSUK's priorities for 2026–27. A measurement framework will be developed to monitor progress and support future reporting.

6.3 OneOrg Report

The Board discussed the proposed integration of the baseball and softball organisations. The programme was behind schedule against the target of establishing an integrated organisation by 31 March 2027, although collaboration through the Integration Committee had improved.

- Agree a single strategic plan across the three organisations.
- Secure sufficient project-management capacity and appropriate external expertise.
- Build understanding and trust across the organisations and their communities.
- Communicate funding, governance and the benefits of integration clearly.
- Engage the wider baseball and softball community and establish a clear route to approval.

The Board reaffirmed its commitment to OneOrg and recognised the need to maintain momentum, funder confidence and meaningful community engagement.

7. Policy and document approval

Committee Terms of Reference will remain living documents while governance arrangements evolve. Further drafting will clarify responsibilities and committee composition.

7.1 Finance and Audit TOR

Decision: Approved.

7.2 Governance and Risk TOR

Decision: Approved, subject to a further review.

7.3 People & Nominations TOR

Decision: Approved. The revised remit incorporates remuneration responsibilities, with processes, information requirements and meeting frequency to be reviewed as the arrangements are put into practice.

7.4 Delegation of Authority for Safeguarding

The Board reviewed a proposal to clarify safeguarding responsibilities across BSUK and the Federations. Federation approval is required before final sign-off. Supporting evidence, regional differences, insurance arrangements and appropriate Board expertise were also noted.

7.5 Safeguarding Policies for approval

Decision: A package of safeguarding policies received interim approval. Most amendments were minor or administrative, including clearer wording, updated references and contact details, and a new parent or guardian permission framework. The policies will return to the Board following specialist review and consultation with the Federations.

8. Finance

The Board welcomed substantial improvements in financial management, reporting and audit readiness. The first-quarter reforecast was approved. Work continued to finalise the 2025–26 audited accounts, while the need to increase unrestricted income was noted. Historic funding reconciliations confirmed appropriate use of funds.

9. Governance

9.1 Safeguarding NED

Recruitment was under way for a Non-Executive Director with safeguarding expertise, with shortlisting and interviews planned.

9.2 Risk Register

The updated risk register was reviewed. Progress in clarifying delegated responsibilities was welcomed, and a risk relating to the European Championships was closed following successful delivery of the event.

10. Operational Reports

10.1 Performance

The Board reviewed qualification pathways and funding considerations for the Los Angeles 2028 Olympic cycle. The softball route had become clearer, while changes to baseball qualification created a more challenging pathway. Further detailed planning will continue.

10.2 Development

The First Pitch programme is developing an approach focused on reach, retention, sustainability and community connections by strengthening links between schools and local clubs. A concise development update will be prepared for onward reporting.

10.3 Operations

The Board requested updated information on Farnham Park performance and finances, scheduled for delivery in October.

11. AGM Preparation

Preparations included confirming the future appointment of auditors after completion of the current accounts. The approval route for audit fees was reviewed and recorded as complete.

12. AOB

The revised board-paper format was considered effective, with a request to add page numbers to the agenda or contents. An additional Board meeting focused on OneOrg will be arranged, with further meetings considered where necessary.