

Sport and Recreation Alliance
Published on *Sport and Recreation Alliance* (<http://www.sportandrecreation.org.uk>)

[Home](#) > [Campaigning](#) > [Publications](#) > [Policy updates](#) > October Policy Update

October Policy Update

Policy type:

UK

Publish date:

Fri, 21/10/2011 (All day)

POLICY UPDATE October 2011

1. In Parliament

1.1 Clubbing together for sport in Parliament

On 25 October the Alliance will host a Parliamentary Reception in the House of Commons to encourage MPs and peers to pledge their support for sport and recreation clubs. The event, entitled 'Club Together', will launch the Alliance's 2011 Sports Club Survey to parliamentarians.

Parliamentarians in attendance will be invited to show their support for sport and recreation by signing our 'Sports Club Pledge', and will be provided with information to assist them as they work alongside clubs in their constituencies.

The pledge consists of the following commitments:

1. To support the campaign for Gift Aid on junior members' subscriptions
2. To contact clubs and my County Sport Partnership to discuss issues affecting sport and recreation in my constituency
3. To support the Sport and Recreation Alliance in its negotiations with music licensors
4. To support the 'Lighter Later' campaign, which makes the case for moving the clocks forward an hour all year round

1.2 Governance tops everyone's agenda

The Government issued its formal response to the Culture, Media and Sport Select Committee Inquiry on football governance on 13 October.

The response endorsed the conclusions of the Select Committee) and stated the three immediate priorities for the Football Association are reform of the Board, the implementation of a licensing framework for clubs and changes to internal decision-making structures. The Minister for Sport, Hugh Robertson MP, has stated that if a timetable for reform is not in place by 2012 the Government will impose change through legislation.

The full Government response to the [Select Committee's inquiry into football governance can be read here.](#) ^[1]

1.3 APPG Sport: Will there be a legacy for disability sport after 2012?

On 18 October the All Party Parliamentary Group for Sport joined with the groups on Disability Sport and Spinal Cord Injury to host a discussion about the potential for a long-term legacy for disability sport after London 2012. The meeting was chaired by Paralympic legend Baroness Grey-Thompson, who was joined by Ade Adepitan MBE, Nikki Emerson, Martin McElhatton and Chris Holmes MBE.

To find out more about the work of the All Party Parliamentary Group for Sport please contact Simon Butler at sbutler@sportandrecreation.org.uk ^[2].

1.4 The Alliance at the Conferences

The Alliance was represented at all three political party conferences this year, holding over thirty one-to-one meetings with MPs, peers, councillors and officials. Discussion focussed on key policy priorities including planning policy reform, the Community Amateur Sports Club scheme, changes to music licence fees and local authority funding cuts. The team also used every opportunity to highlight the findings of our 2011 sports club survey and give an update on our progress on tackling red tape in sport.

1.5 The Labour Reshuffle

Earlier this month Labour leader Ed Miliband reshuffled his frontbench team ahead of the new Parliamentary session. The Rt Hon Harriet Harman MP is the new Shadow Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, a role she will fulfil alongside her responsibilities as Party Chair and Deputy Leader. Clive Efford MP, who also represents a London constituency, will take over from Ian Austin MP as Shadow Minister for Sport. In the Lords, Baroness Billingham continues as the Opposition Spokesperson for Sport.

The [full list of the new Labour frontbench team can be viewed here.](#)

^[3]

1.6 Causes for concern in the Protection of Freedoms Bill

The Protection of Freedoms Bill completed its passage through the House of Commons on 11 October and will now be

scrutinised in the Lords. The Bill proposes a major overhaul to vetting and barring arrangements and criminal record checks, and while the Alliance broadly welcomes the reforms (in particular the introduction of portable CRB checks) there are two key changes which are a serious cause for concern:

1. National governing bodies will no longer receive a copy of an individual's criminal records disclosure. This will potentially pass a significant burden onto volunteers while creating a loophole for dangerous individuals to exploit.
2. Individuals who are under day-to-day supervision will be exempt from safeguarding regulation. The Alliance is arguing that all governing bodies should be able to check all individuals who are able to build a relationship with children, regardless of whether they are supervised or not.

The Alliance will continue to lobby for the changes required by the sport and recreation sector as it progresses through the House of Lords.

If you would like more information please contact Simon Butler at sbutler@sportandrecreation.org.uk ^[2].

2 Campaigns and policies

2.1 Improvements to the CASC scheme and Gift Aid on junior subscriptions

The Alliance will meet Economic Secretary to the Treasury, Chloe Smith, to discuss key improvements to the Community Amateur Sports Club scheme. We have also been consulting with our members on the operational and technical issues that clubs and NGBs have with the scheme in order to develop a range of solutions. One request will be for the Government to allow Gift Aid to be claimed on junior subscriptions. Allowing 'Subs for Clubs' would provide a huge boost to the scheme and would act as an excellent legacy tool to encourage participation ahead of the Olympic Games.

2.2 Support Lighter Later

The Lighter Later campaign is again marshalling support for the private members bill which will make ministers consider the case for moving the clocks forward all year. The move would align our waking hours with sunlit hours and make sport and recreation easier for more people. They are asking supporters, including governing bodies, to use [a simple web tool to lobby ministers](#).

^[4]

2.3 Alliance aims to improve forest access

The Alliance is embarking on a significant partnership project with the Forestry Commission to improve sport and recreation opportunities. The Alliance was vocal in its support of protecting and improving facilities during the Government consultation earlier this year and this project will build on this position. Many members have agreements or contracts with the Forestry Commission and this is supported by extensive public rights of access in the public forest estate.

This project will seek a more strategic approach to improving sport and recreation opportunities and feed into the Forestry Commission's strategic review. It will also aim to ensure a consistent approach across the estate and aim to improve opportunities in privately managed woodlands. For further information please contact Martin Key at martin.key@sportandrecreation.org.uk ^[5].

2.4 Governance

The [Voluntary Code of Good Governance](#) ^[6] has been positively received by our members and to date we have 17 organisations signed up:

- British Kickboxing Council
- Army Sport Control Board
- British Gymnastics
- Medau
- Rounders England
- Parkour UK
- Volleyball England
- English Lacrosse Association
- British Judo
- British Sledge Hockey Association
- Amateur Swimming Association
- Motor Sport Association Limited
- English Table Tennis Association
- British American Football Association
- Baseball Softball UK
- British Sub-Aqua Club
- Rugby Football League

To sign up to the code the 17 organisations have filled out and returned the ["we sign up to the code" form](#) ^[7] and indicated that they aspire to live up to the principles in the code.

To present the code the Alliance – in partnership with Birkbeck, University of London - held a governance seminar "The Road to Sporting Success" with presentations by Timothy Dutton QC, Dr. Geoff Walters – Birkbeck Sports Business Centre, Joy Tottman – Sport and Recreation Alliance and Warren Deutrom – Cricket Ireland. All the presentations were filmed and can be streamed on the Sport and Recreation Alliance website where you can also download presentations.

[The Road to Sporting Success presentations and videos can found here.](#) ^[8]

The Sport and Recreation Alliance is also pleased to announce that it has won funding from the European Commission to carry out a project called **Better Boards, Stronger Sport**. The Alliance will be working with eight other project partners from across Europe over the next 18 months. By exchanging best practice and sharing knowledge and experience of what an effective sports Board looks like across Europe, the project will identify the key features of efficient and well-run Boards. We will then develop a Board toolkit with resources and templates to facilitate improvements which will be disseminated through European forums.

2.5 Supporting a fair deal for clubs for music licensing

PPL (Phonographic Performance Limited) has just finished its consultation on Special Featured Events. This consultation proposed rises in fees for clubs hosting a party or disco of, in some cases, over 1000%. Following discussions between PPL and the Alliance, non-profit sports clubs have now been removed from the scope of this tariff and the Alliance is in discussions to establish a brand new tariff with both PRS and PPL for sports clubs.

2.6 Taxing time for coaches?

HMRC launched a campaign this month to ensure coaches and tutors are declaring their income to the Revenue. This largely applies to those coaches supplementing their regular income with fees from coaching sessions, but not declaring the income in their tax returns. The campaign covers those providing private lessons, regardless of whether they have a teaching qualification, and could include fitness/dance/lifestyle coaches.

[For more information on tax, visit the Revenue's pages.](#) ^[9]

3 Consultations

3.1 Cuts at the BBC to affect sport on TV and radio

The BBC Trust is running two consultations affecting sport- its Delivering Quality First consultation and it's review of local radio.

The BBC is proposing a 15% reduction in its sports rights budget; some of which will already have been saved by the decision to share the rights for Formula One with BskyB. It expects further savings to be made through reductions to rights for some smaller sports events. The BBC's expects not to do away with listed events or sports that 'genuinely bring the nation together'.

[The full BBC consultation on cuts \(including to sport\) can be found here.](#) ^[10]

[Local radio, on the other hand, is looking to focus its spend on peak-time programmes: breakfast, mid-morning and drivetime; sport; and faith on Sunday mornings](#) ^[11]. This consultation specifically asks about sport, and those members whose activities are covered by local stations should consider responding to the consultation.

The Alliance's view

Cuts at the BBC have been on the cards for some time and are worrying for sports at the professional and the grassroots level. As many of our major spectator sports sign up to the Alliance's voluntary code which ensures that 30% of TV rights money is invested in grassroots sport, it is important that competition for the rights remains strong and that sport can be broadcast to the widest possible audience.

It is pleasing that the radio consultation proposes that sport on the radio enjoys protection at a local level. The Alliance will support this in our response, but will also emphasise the importance of reporting for the local community's needs. Expertise on local teams and players should be retained by ensuring that stations sharing commentary for sport is not widespread and reporting is tailored to local requirements.

For more information contact James MacDougall, jmacdougall@sportandrecreation.org.uk ^[12]

3.2 Sports betting landscape continues to change

There are currently 3 live consultations on betting and integrity issues in sport:

1. Schedule 6 of the Gambling Act 2005 - The Government has launched a consultation on its intention is to add several domestic and international sports bodies – including the IOC – to the list of organisations listed under Schedule 6 which are bound by information-sharing agreements with the Gambling Commission.

The consultation deadline is 9 November and DCMS is particularly looking to hear from national governing bodies. If you wish to respond to the consultation on behalf of your organisation then the full document can be found [here](#) ^[13].

Alternatively, the Sport and Recreation Alliance would welcome comments from interested parties to inform its discussions with DCMS and the Sports Betting Group.

2. Gambling Commission fees - DCMS and the Gambling Commission want to reduce the burdens on the gambling industry by adjusting the licence fees that must be paid by operators. ^[14] While small non-remote operators, bingo halls and casinos are likely to see reductions in their fee levels, larger operators are likely to see an increase. Overall, however, this is expected to result in a net fee decrease across the sector. While sport should be pleased that larger operators will pay more to finance the ever-increasing workload of the Sports Betting Intelligence Unit in the Commission, it is up for debate whether the organisation ought to be reducing its overall income while betting-related corruption continues to pose such a threat to the integrity of sport. The consultation will run until 15 December.

3. Betting integrity – The Gambling Commission has launched a consultation on inside information and fair and open betting. The paper seeks opinions on the range of the circumstances which are relevant in considering whether using inside information for betting is misuse of that information. The Commission is seeking views from a wide range of stakeholders with an interest or involvement in sports betting integrity issues, but particularly NGBs and betting operators. The

consultation closes on 11 January 2012 and the full consultation document can be found [here](#) ^[15]. Contact David Foster dfoster@sportandrecreation.org.uk ^[16] with any observations you wish to make on any of these consultations.

The Alliance's view

These three consultations demonstrate just how significant the issue of betting integrity is for sport. The most important element in these discussions, however, is DCMS's recent announcement to ensure bookmakers based overseas comply with UK licensing conditions. Without this in place, though, the above changes will not have the effect they need to have. We will continue to press the Government for firm timings for this proposal, which need to be in place ahead of the Olympics.

3.3 It never rains but it pours: clubs drainage charges under scrutiny

[United Utilities](#) ^[17] and [Northumberland Water](#) ^[18] are both running consultations on drainage charges. They ask whether customers believe that community buildings should be subsidised to receive lower tariffs. If you are served by these suppliers, do respond to their very brief consultations.

3.4 Planning policy framework under review

The consultation period for the National Planning Policy Framework is now closed. The Alliance has called on the Government to adjust the policy relating to open space, sport and recreational facilities to ensure that like for like replacements are provided for valuable community facilities. The Alliance has been working with Sport England and members to ensure the sector has been talking in one clear voice.

4. Events and Workshops

4.1 EU Summit

The Alliance held its annual event focusing on sports policy in Europe on October 20th. This year's event, attended by 60 delegates, focused on some of the most pertinent issues affecting sport in Europe – good governance, match-fixing and funding.

We heard from British MEP Emma McClarkin about the current challenges facing the European institutions in the field of sport policy, while Michal Krejza – head of the European Commission's Sport Unit – discussed the Commission's current priorities and aspirations. Baroness Young of Hornsey presented the recommendations from the House of Lord's inquiry into grassroots sport and the European Union which was published earlier this year.

In addition, Darren Bailey from the Football Association and David Sparkes from the Amateur Swimming Association delved into Europe's role in promoting good governance in sport. Rafal Piechota from the Polish Ministry of Sport outlined the work being done at European level to combat match-fixing, while Pierre Cornu from UEFA explained how they are tackling the problem of corruption in football. We also heard from Tom Docherty and Rowenna Hoy about the funding opportunities available for sport through the Leonardo Da Vinci fund.

4.2 Other workshops and events

Business Essentials

2 November

[Click here for more details](#) ^[19]

Leadership Convention

16 & 17 November

[Click here for more details](#) ^[20]

Working with Government

26 January 2012

[Click here for more details](#) ^[21]

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Links:

[1] http://www.culture.gov.uk/images/publications/Football_governance_15427_Cm_8207_2.pdf

[2] <mailto:sbutler@sportandrecreation.org.uk>

[3] <http://www.labour.org.uk/labours-shadow-cabinet>

[4] <http://action.lighterlater.org/project/departments-lobbying?email=jstibbs%40sportandrecreation.org.uk&group=ag9zfmluc3RHZ2F0ZS1hcHBYSwsSB1Byb2ZpbGUlFTEwMTE0ODI5NzYxODI3MjJlJ5Njg1OQwLEgQdGcm9qZWN0GlonDAsSCEdyb3VwaW5nGN>

[amp;postcode=sw2+3ts&name=James](#)

[5] <mailto:martin.key@sportandrecreation.org.uk>

[6] <http://www.sportandrecreation.org.uk/smart-sport/voluntary-code>

[7] http://www.sportandrecreation.org.uk/sites/default/files/web/documents/pdf/Signing-Up%20template.FINAL_.docx

[8] <http://www.sportandrecreation.org.uk/smart-sport/governance-events/past-events/road-to-success>

[9] <http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/ris/tcup/index.htm>

[10] http://www.bbc.co.uk/bbctrust/consult/delivering_quality_first.shtml

[11] http://www.bbc.co.uk/bbctrust/assets/files/pdf/regulatory_framework/service_licences/service_reviews/local_radio/bbc_local_radio_consultation.pdf

[12] <mailto:jmacdougall@sportandrecreation.org.uk>

[13] <http://www.culture.gov.uk/consultations/8392.aspx>

[14] [http://www.culture.gov.uk/images/consultations/Gambling_Fees_Consultation_Document\(v2\).pdf](http://www.culture.gov.uk/images/consultations/Gambling_Fees_Consultation_Document(v2).pdf)

- [15] <http://www.gamblingcommission.gov.uk/PDF/Betting%20integrity%20issues%20paper%20-%20inside%20information%20and%20fair%20and%20open%20betting%20-%20October%202011.pdf>
- [16] <mailto:dfoster@sportandrecreation.org.uk>
- [17] <http://www.unitedutilities.com/consultation.aspx>
- [18] <http://www.nwl.co.uk/Concessionsforcommunitygroups.aspx>
- [19] http://news.sportandrecreation.org.uk/_act/link.php?mId=J89953559172428128416276462716&tId=43905538
- [20] http://news.sportandrecreation.org.uk/_act/link.php?mId=J89953559172428128416276462716&tId=43905539
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