VOLLEYBALL ENGLAND

Minutes of Volleyball England Board Meeting 23rd February 2026 via Teams.

Directors Present	Titles
AS Shipway [AS]	Vice Chair
AK Kornilov [AK]	Elected Director
Phil French [PF]	Independent Director
Jess Keen [JK]	Elected Director
Jess Plumridge [JP]	Elected Director
Jill Osleger [JO]	Independent Director
Richard Harrison [RH]	Elected Director
Brendan Fogarty [BF]	Elected Director
Andres Hernandez [AH]	Senior Independent Director
Staff Present	
CF Ford [CF]	Chief Executive Officer
Guin Batten [GB]	Deputy Chief Executive

EB/25-26/32 Apologies

Rowena Hackwood, Tracy Newton and Jake Sheaf sent their apologies.

32.1 Directors Conflict of Interest & Disclosures

No new declarations of interest in addition to those already declared.

32.2 Approval of agenda

Agenda was approved by all.

EB/25-26/33 2026/27 Operational Plan & Budget

GB & CF ran through the proposed 2026/27 Operational Plan as below:

The 2026/27 Operational Plan sets out a progressive programme of activity designed to strengthen the organisation, embed consistent practice across the sport, and support sustainable growth. A central priority for the year is the creation and embedding of a new strategic planning and reporting process with our regions, ensuring stronger alignment, enhanced capability, and more consistent operational delivery nationwide.

Key operational developments include the launch of a new club diagnostic tool to support club development, the creation of a five-year higher education development plan for sitting volleyball, and closer operational alignment with the HEVO programme. Volleyball England Learning will be significantly enhanced, expanding both free and paid provision to include areas such as first aid and event volunteering. Workforce development remains a priority, with the recruitment and training of 20 referee developers to support the new referee development pathway.

Targeted strength and conditioning support will be delivered across talent programmes, alongside the launch and development of Talent Zones to improve talent identification and early pathway support for athletes and coaches. The plan also includes delivery of the UK's first Beach Pro-Tour event in Bridlington, enhancements to NVL self-reporting and standards, and the introduction of new technology to ensure all Super League matches are visible during the 2026/27 season.

Further organisational improvements include the integration and optimisation of the players' community within the governance framework, the introduction of a new complaints management process, and expansion of the Globocol club portal through place-based funding. Facility development will be progressed through securing two new community-partner volleyball facilities, while commercial growth will be supported through the expansion of Volleystore into new product lines and revenue opportunities.

The 2026/27 budget has been set as a break-even budget following the planned use of reserves over the previous two years. Total predicted turnover increases by 12.5%, with non-Sport England income rising by 12.5%, driven by international event hosting, Volleystore commercial growth, sponsorship, and FIVB/CEV grants. Despite securing additional Commonwealth Games support through Sport England, reliance on Sport England funding remains static at 25%.

Overall, the 2026/27 Operational Plan and Budget demonstrate a clear commitment to organisational maturity, improved operational consistency, and continued growth as a sustainable and increasingly diversified business.

Further to recommended approval from the Finance, Strategy & Risk Sub Committee, the Board discussed and universally approved the 2026-27 operational plan & budget.

EB/25-26/34 Meeting Finalisation

34.1 Review of Actions

No actions were noted.

34.2 AOB

There was no AOB.

34.3 Meeting Close

Meeting closed at 7.07pm.