

BASKETBALL ENGLAND BOARD



BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Date: 3rd June 2025

Location: Virtual (Teams)

Present:

Paul Blanchard (PB)
Born Barikor (BB)
Chris Walsh (CW)
Mat Newby (MNY)
Sadie Mason (SM)
Sandy Gill (SG)
Katie Simmonds (KS)
Egemen Onen (EO)
Joel Baynes (JB)
Brandie Deignan (BD)

Executives:

Stewart Kellett (SK)
Helen Penn (HP)
Dan Burnell (DB) - Item No. 4
Pete Griffiths (PG) - Item No. 8
Anthony Jepson (AJ) - Item No. 6
Bud Johnson (BJ) - Item No. 10

Apologies:

Paul Mundy-Castle (PMC)

Note Taker: Helen Penn (HP)

Item No. 1 – Apologies for Absence

The apologies were noted.

Item No. 2- Declaration of Conflicts of Interest

There were no conflicts of interest that had not been previously disclosed.

Item No. 3 – Minutes & Action Tracker

The Board approved the minutes from the BE Board meetings held on 24th February, 6th March, 28th March and 29th April 2025.

Item 4 – Budget, Risk & Finance

25/26 Budget Approval

SK and DB presented the draft 2025/26 budget, outlining the current financial position, proposed budget, and long-term forecasts. The budget includes revised income projections, adjusted expenditures, and strategic investment assumptions.

Decision: The budget was not approved. The Executive will revise and re-submit a balanced proposal for circulation ahead of the July 2025 meeting.

Board Discussion:

The Board highlighted reputational risks, staff wellbeing concerns, and the need for careful handling of public events (e.g. Black History Month). The matter carries EDI implications and may require a strategic communications plan if escalated.

Liability:

The case is categorised in the lowest band for race discrimination claims. Insurance is expected to cover legal costs and any potential liability.

Item No. 6 Strategy

The Board reviewed the updated strategic plan. A public version will launch in autumn 2025, supported by infographics and member-focused messaging.

Item No. 7 CEO Report

SK provided an update on the changing risk profile. Progress in governance, safeguarding, and customer service was noted, with continued focus required on upcoming accreditations (CPSU, EDI). Positive partner engagement and national visibility were also highlighted.

Item No. 8 NBL1 Status Report

PB & SK provided an update on the 13 NBL1 clubs advising that they are establishing a new League under the remit of the BBL.

Item No. 9 DiSE Procurement

SMe presented an overview of the DiSE procurement process, outlining five areas for board consideration. The board acknowledged the strong performance and national impact, with a return on investment and top-tier academic outcomes.

Following discussion, the board delegated authority to the executive team to finalise the procurement decisions and report back with an update and recommended model and provider list at the next board meeting.

Item No. 10 EDI Status Report

BJ provided an update on EDI activities, including DIAP status and policy developments.

A revised Gender Policy, aligned with recent legal rulings, has been drafted and will be reviewed by the EDI Committee before submission to the Board.

The Board approved the accompanying statement, contingent on a robust communications plan being developed.

Item No. 11 Safeguarding Status report

This item was not covered and as advised by the Chair should be taken as read – it will be revisited at the next BM.

Item No 12 Regions and Local League Positioning

The Board received an update on regional engagement and governance. It was acknowledged that regional structures are vital, and a review is underway to improve consistency and collaboration.

The Board supported the direction and highlighted the importance of securing regional cooperation to drive membership and league growth.

Item No. 14 Reports and updates from Committees

No additional updates were provided from the EDI, Commercial, People, or AFR Committees.

No advisory group notes or actions were raised.

Item No. 15 Any Other Business (AOB)

PB advised that it should be noted that the Rules and Regulations for 2025/2026 season were approved via email on 19th May 2025.

Item No. 16 Date of Next Meeting

16th July 2025 online via Teams.

END OF MEETING AT 13:56