

Welsh Athletics Board Meeting Minutes

27th May 2026.

Meeting held in remotely via video link.

Present: Steve Perks [SP], Catherine Lewis [CL], Jonathan Ford [JF], Philip Draper [PD], Hannah Baulch [HB], Laua Mason [LM], Fay Benningwood [FB], Katy Evans [KE], James Williams [JW], Dan Clements [DC], Nigel Walker [NW]

Apologies: Tom Overton [TO], Chris Gough [CG]

Circulated papers:

- **Board Papers March 2026.pdf**
 - o **May 26 Agenda**
 - o **Draft WA Board Minutes – Mar 26**
 - o **Final_Running in Wales Report**
 - o **Governance & Risk Sub Group**
 - o **CEO update May 26**
 - o **Safeguarding Report May 26**
 - o **2026-05 WA Board May 2026 – draft for CEO**
 - o **SW board update paper May 26**

1. Welcome

SP welcomed the Board and other participants to the meeting.

2. Declaration of Interests

N/A

3. Previous Minutes and Actions

An update was given on the legal review of the financial service work being undertaken by Welsh Athletics. JW asked the Board to review the Chair role description. JF fed back that JW should be driving the process due to the necessary relationship between the Chair and JW.

The Commonwealth Games nomination process was discussed. SP presented Lynne Brier's resignation from the Board which included General Council and UK Members Council. SP also informed the Board of plans to make representation to Team Wales regarding the unfair timelines of the selection process. The reputational risk of non-selection was also discussed.

The minutes were approved.

For information and discussion

4. Run Wales Review – outcome of survey of the social running community and impact on future state of Run Wales social running programme

JW introduced the background of Run Wales to the Board. HB and KE presented on a research project for an evidence-based decision on where the social running community sits within Welsh Athletics. The approach included a national survey as well as 1-1 consultations with influential people, groups and

organisations. The findings of the initial research included demographics, motivations, safety & events and future support needs.

Recommendations were presented including the prioritisation of a few starting points such as member offers, advocacy of safety, support, local opportunities, engaging and relevant content and a tiered support system.

It was recognised that there is a need for realism due to costs and team capacity.

There were questions from the Board including JF recognised the benefit of feeding back to contributors that the research was well received. NW noted questions he had from reading the report initially, but these were answered in the presentation. NW also asked about how the narrowing down of priorities will happen. HB answered that it has been the most difficult part of the project but that the advocacy piece is at the forefront. KE added the importance of giving groups autonomy and presenting options but not forcing them and keeping it easy and informal. DC asked about the future of the space and if it should be a group or individual focus. HB answered that there is a focus on connecting better with those who aren't part of a group but that the groups are where WA can make the biggest impact. JW added the broader topics that follow this including the position of WA to social runners and if they understand what WA are there for. LM highlighted the clarity of the safety and advocacy piece, as well as defining what safety means to runners.

SP suggests the team come back with key priority areas and a timescale in order for the Board to be able to assist.

For information and approval

5. Creation of Governance and Risk Board sub-group

JW gave a brief overview of this proposal to replace the People and Culture subgroup to assist with the continued review of the governance improvement plan.

JF highlighted the importance of the group looking forward rather than reflecting on the past.

LM asked about how the recruitment for this sub-group works. JW answered that that role descriptions would be created and advertised and roles would be independently recruited. JF and JW advocate for other Board members sitting on the group alongside Phil Draper.

a. Approve terms of reference

Approved

Board Sub-Group Updates

6. CEO update

JW gave a high level overview of the previously circulated report including plans to meet with the new Sport and Culture Minister as well as other Senedd members to advocate for the sector. The Women's Running Conference and Athletix were also touched upon. The numbers for the Junior Track and Field Championships were shown as down from previous years, it was mentioned that this could be due to the date as well as the location.

JW also updated on the safeguarding report – no significant cases.

7. Finance update

JW presented on behalf of CG on the year-end adjustments.

8. Development & participation update

N/A

9. General Council update

N/A

10. UK members report

N/A

11. Performance update

See CWG update in 3.

12. Sport Wales update

FB updated on the close of the last financial year in terms of the investment into NGB as well as wider athletics. This included MTI support, data around the CWG and athlete tracking apps. All mandatory reporting requirements were presented as on track.

13. AOB

JW to update on communication with Team Wales.

14. Date of next meeting

15th July 2026 – face to face, joint with GC