

Gibraltar Sports Advisory Council – Full Council Meeting

Date: Friday 7th November 2025

Location: Bayside Sports Complex Board
Room

Time: 12:10-14:10

Attendees:

The Hon Leslie Bruzon - Minister for Sport.

Mr Reagan Lima – CEO GSLA.

Mr Matthew Reoch – Head of Facilities, Sports Development & Training GSLA.

Mrs Michelle Turner – Sports Development, Training and Inclusion Unit GSLA.

Mr Sean Collado – Sports Development, Training and Inclusion Unit GSLA.

Mrs Jackie Linares.

Ms Linda Alvarez.

Mr Louis Chichon.

Mr Brian Buckley.

Mr Stephen Payas.

Mr Charles Garcia.

Mr Steve Marsden.

Mr Wayne Piri.

Apologies:

Ms John Goncalvez

Key

Gibraltar Sports & Leisure Authority – GSLA.

Gibraltar Sports Advisory Council – GSAC.

Sports Development, Training and Inclusion Unit – SDU.

Minutes of the meeting.	Actions
Agenda Item 1 – Update of Annual Registration procedures the inclusion of sports associations aims and objectives and their relationship to the financial assistance process and GSLA eligibility criteria (Form A,B & C). The Sports Development, Training and Inclusion Unit (SDU) provided an update on the process of financial bids and the work of the sub-committees. SDU highlighted that amendments had been made on all forms this year to ensure that all financial requests align with the associations aims for the upcoming year and will assist GSAC members when reviewing financial assistance applications. All Associations have been informed that they will be required to complete the new forms A, B & C and old versions will no longer be accepted. SDU stated that the Form C will be reintroduced which would allow for a database to be created to record results and information of all GSAC funded events and initiatives, providing data on how GSAC funding has supported the development of individual sports. Amendments to Forms highlighted as follows: 1.1. Form A – Introduction of short- and medium-term aims and specific objectives of how the association will meet these aims which must link in with financial assistance requested. 1.2. Form B – Enhanced eligibility checks to ensure representative athletes meet GSAC eligibility criteria. Associations will now also be required to nominate a Welfare Officer to travel on all youth selection events. 1.3. Form C – Introduced to compile a database of results and qualifications of all GSAC funded events/projects to ensure sports are developing. Associations can also provide this information on Form B if claiming funds after event/competition. SDU offered a workshop to all sports associations offering support and advice in recording aims and objectives on the new format Form A and have met with several associations on an individual basis to support them with these changes and to try and develop more face to face meetings to ensure that associations feel heard and are able to voice any ideas and concerns relating to the development of their sports. 1.4. The CEO added that the Minister of Sport had requested that all Sports Associations work towards a 5-year development plan and have been in communication with consultancy firm who is working with the FIH and GHA in developing their five-year development strategy. The CEO stressed that consultation is at an embryonic stage but that there is a real need for all recognised Governing Bodies of Sport to be working towards their development plans. A member questioned if this would need to be funded by each association and who would ensure that associations are being measured and aligned to their development plan. The Minister said that discussions were still in an early stage and further	

information would be provided to all associations when available. He added that sports receiving support all need to demonstrate development and progress and that some sports seemed to be regressing in their key performance indicators. With regards to measurement and alignment to development plans it was reiterated that information shared during the annual registration and financial assistance processes would go a long way towards measuring developments in sports. A member highlighted that sports associations should assess their areas of strengths and weaknesses. The CEO stated that having sports specific development plans would identify areas where support is required. A member stated that his sports association was now halfway through their 2nd development plan and asked if there would be an overall strategy or one specific to each sport. The CEO stated that we have sports associations at different levels of development and associations would require their own individual development plans, where specific objectives and key performance indicators were an integral part of any plan. It is hoped that the consultancy would be able to advice on a general format that could be adapted to cater for individual associations. SDU informed that they felt that the term “strategic development plan” could be off-putting to some as they can be associated with a lot of work for associations who are primarily run by volunteers and that production of development plans needed to be simplified as a “one stop shop”. SDU felt that it was very important that development plans were kept to a simple, effective and user-friendly version, so not intimidating to developing associations.	
Agenda Item 2 – Application for the recognition as a developing sport from the Gibraltar Equestrian Association and the Gibraltar American Football Association. 2.1. SDU informed members that they had received an application for the recognition of the Governing Body of Gibraltar Equestrian, have received Form 1, supported by evidence of public meeting, minutes, initial membership list and draft constitution, they have also been working with SDU to finalise protocols and amendments required to become a recognised governing body of sport. SDU provided an update on membership stating that there are many Gibraltarians riding and competing in Spain. Initial meeting showed 49 equestrians actively involved wanting to be considered as members of the proposed association. Competitive infrastructures, codes of good practise, coach education, safeguarding and elite riders are all areas that the association will be discussing in the near future. SDU explained that they intended to meet with the caretaker committee to advise on approvable financial assistance criteria, safeguarding, membership status, competitive infrastructures and ensuring that all documentation meets with governing body governance in the near future. GSAC members agreed to accept the Gibraltar Equestrian Association as a developing sport subject to them carrying on working with SDU and having all the relevant information and documents in place.	

NB: A member had to leave the meeting due to another commitment and gave their apologies.

2.2. SDU have received an application for recognition of a Governing Body of Gibraltar American Football, the application had originally highlighted the aim of developing Flag Football, a discipline of American Football. Form 1 has been submitted accompanied by a copy of a what's app message that refers to a public meeting of those interested in Flag Football supported by an outline record of the meeting. An extensive constitution was also forwarded although this seems to be an adaptation of articles of association for a private company limited by guarantee. At the public meeting 16 players or those who have stated an interest in becoming members of the association once formed were recorded as present.

Form 1 indicates that recreational Flag Football had been taking place at LSC, with the intention of those involved trying to build into a two-team competitive infrastructure with the possibility of identifying a national team from the proposed two teams once formed.

GSAC members questioned if the association members were a recreational group of players who were perhaps trying to gain allocations to play socially.

The CEO highlighted that there is currently a massive demand for outdoor allocations by established sports associations and that 16 individuals did not represent a big enough level of interest at this time to warrant the formation of a Governing Body of Gibraltar American Football.

SDU had previously requested information from the applying sport on whether markings and goals were needed to support the development of American Football in Gibraltar and were ensured that this was not necessary at this point in time for their preferred development of the discipline of Flag Football.

Members recommended that the association request recognition as a leisure association or continued to operate as a club and look at trying to develop interest in their sport in line with Governing Body recognition criteria (minimum membership of active participants in a sport to be recognised as a Governing Body is 40) before they could be considered for recognition as a Governing Body of Sport in Gibraltar.

One member raised the issue that membership numbers should not be the sole determinant of gaining recognition as a Governing Body.

Members felt that more work needs to be undertaken in determining the interest of Flag Football/American Football in Gibraltar over the coming year and a development roadmap based on this interest to be produced to accompany this application if the club wish to move forwards in their quest for recognition as a Governing Body into the future.

Members also recommended that the association push for recognition under the auspices of the sport of American Football, with flag football being recognised as a discipline of any future association.	
Agenda Item 3 – Dissolution of Gibraltar Parasport Association. SDU informed those present that they had received an email from the President of the Gibraltar Parasport Association stating that the association had been dissolved and that all wheelchairs would be donated to the GSLA. SDU said that they had requested minutes and attendance from the meeting of the decision to dissolve the association as no one person could dissolve an association. No reply received to date. The SDU further highlighted that they had reached out to the Parasport Association in the lead up to the summer programme as they had done in the previous summers, originally receiving a positive response for support in being able to offer wheelchair basketball, the offer was later retracted. President also advised against the SDU using the wheelchairs without a qualified coach or maintenance checks being carried out on all chairs. Members stated that they were disappointed with the news after all the support they had provided the Parasports association in its establishment. SDU to try and identify if the dissolution of the association was a democratic decision and if the association had been managing its activities in line with its constitution. Members deliberated about the wheelchairs lying dormant and suggested SDU look into avenues to ensure that this did not happen. SDU to contact Wheelchair Basketball Association in the UK to take advice on the best way forwards. Members recommended that the Parasports Association be recognised as dormant and not dissolved at this present time until they have received confirmation from committee membership.	
Agenda Item 4 – Elite applications- Gibraltar Darts Association Gibraltar Triathlon Association. 4.1. SDU informed those present that they had received three applications from the Gibraltar Darts Association endorsing applications for three darts players to be considered for support under the elite funding heading. One player was a junior player and the two others young adults. The applications for the two older players, were to cover expenses in relation to their participation at 5 PDC development tours to gain access to a place on the PDC Challenge Tour designed for players over 24 years old which helps bridge a transition to the highest level of competition and gain a PDC Tour Card allowing them to complete full-time on the professional circuit. The third player is under the age of 18 years and is playing at a very high level. This player has a sponsor, but this is for equipment and clothing and is not financial. Members recommended recognition of this application for financial assistance towards approved expenses and further information as highlighted below.	

Further information was requested re senior players, as the two older players receive funding from another funding pot. During deliberations it also came to light that all three players currently have contracts with management companies. Members have asked for more information on these management contracts before they are able to make any recommendations. Members recommended financial support for junior player, subject to receipt of approvable expenses and information on management contract. Further information required on Management Contracts for the two senior players. 4.2. SDU presented details of the elite application received by the Gibraltar Triathlon Association. Members questioned why the applicant did not represent Gibraltar in the last Island Games or Iron Man competition, the event that the GTA decreed as their main International Competition this financial year. SDU had been informed by GTA President that the applicant qualified as a professional as a result of his performance in an ITU Triathlon event held in Nottingham last year. He has just started competing as a professional athlete this year. SDU have also recently asked who will be representing Gibraltar in their request for financial assistance under the Official International Competitions banner and the name of the members who had applied for financial assistance under the elite performance header was not mentioned as one of the representative athletes. Also, if the athlete has already reached professional standard this does not meet with GSAC elite funding criteria. Members recommended that athletes requesting consideration for elite funding need to demonstrate ongoing fitness at a representative and elite level.	
Agenda Item 5 – Membership of GSAC Sub-committees. SDU stated that the format this year would remain as last year with all categories merged into two subcommittees which streamlined the process. GSAC members were co-opted onto the following committees. Official International Competitions and Improvements to Facilities sub-committee : John Goncalves. Brian Buckley. Wayne Piri. Louis Chichon. Sunil Chandiramani* Sports Development, School Mentoring, AGM's and Conferences sub-committee: Linda Alvarez Stephen Payas Stephen Marsden Charles Garcia Jackie Linares.	

N.B. The Minister for Sport co-opted Sunil Chandiramani as his 4th member of GSAC post meeting who accepted and was incorporated onto the Official International Competitions, Improvements to Facilities. With regard to the Elite Funding sub-committee, all GSAC members are invited to be part of this sub-committee as applications are normally circulated electronically to GSAC members requesting their feedback, questions and eventual recommendations.	
Agenda item 6 – Any Other Business. 6.1. GSAC members raised the issue that has been affecting the Gibraltar Ten Pin Bowling Association surrounding the high hire rates that the Association have to pay in order to run their activities, leagues, training in the run up to international competitions and that the hire rates are also prohibiting them from hosting International Competitions in Gibraltar. The issue of uncertainty around how the lease is managed at KBLC Bowling Alley and the proposed takeover of the management of the facility are all issues that the association feel are impacting on the development of their sport. Association would like to request support and clarification. Minister explained that there was the possibility of the lease being brought out and negotiations were ongoing. It was advised that the GTPBA contact GSLA CEO to discuss issues to try and identify a positive way forward. 6.2 GSAC considered a change of application from the Gibraltar Golf Union (GGU), given that no golfing facilities had been located in Gibraltar to house their proposed golf simulator the association had changed their funding application to that of a mobile golf simulator that could be transported to different venues. GSAC recommended approval for this change of application. SDU updated members that they had met with the GGU to discuss their development objectives and that it was felt the equipment would enable them to start work with interested individuals locally to take advantage of partnership opportunities, particularly for junior golf tuition. Members recommended the purchase of the mobile gold simulator subject to the GGU meeting Gibraltar Governing Body of Sport criteria. The recent success of Sebastian Desozia who has just won his first collegian tournament in the USA was discussed and it hoped that infrastructures could be put in place to develop similar pathways for Gibraltar players into the future. 6.3. It was discussed that after many years of working with the Gibraltar Boxing Association to support and encourage the management of the association in line with governing body governance and protocols the decision has been made to withdraw recognition of the association in its present format and to look at supporting the rebuilding a Gibraltar Boxing Association in line with GSLA governance in the very near future. The CEO added that a public meeting would be called in the coming weeks and that GSLA would provide support in the re-establishment of the association.	

6.34. A concern was raised over the Gibraltar Commonwealth Games Association struggling to meet the minimum squad numbers in the up-and-coming Games and its possible effect on future quotas available to Gibraltar in the Commonwealth Games. The Association are aware of the implications of not being able to meet minimum representation and are working with sports association and the GSLA to try and ensure that this does not happen.

6.4. Member suggested that GSAC be used as a forum to discuss and create awareness of proposed changes, reasons for changes and development to sports facilities and that involvement of key stakeholders was paramount. Concern was expressed over the possible loss of bespoke sports facilities to accommodate the expansion of the facilities for other sports. Minister and GSLA assured members that any changes/development are always considered in depth, and the best was forwards for the development of sport is always prioritised, with stakeholders being kept abreast of potential developments as soon as is possible.

Meeting ended. 14:10

Minutes draft 1 SC/MST - 09/12/25

Sports Development Training and Inclusion Unit.