

How to Access the Support of a Governance Professional

About this tool

The support of a governance professional to a committee is incredibly useful. Most committees that have someone with governance expertise on their board tend to have fewer governance gaps and be closer to compliance with [Tier 1](#) of the Sport England Code for Sports Governance.

Governance is simply the system of rules, practices and processes by which an organisation is led and risks managed. A governance professional is someone who has a strong understanding of the ideas and processes in this toolkit through their work or volunteering life. This could be a company secretary, CEO, trustee, director or governance advisor.

Why is it important?

The sports governance landscape is changing, and the public are more aware of the need for good governance in the organisations they use locally. Many of your members will be aware of the Sport England [Code for Sports Governance](#) and want to know if your organisation is compliant or not.

Recruiting someone with governance skills and knowledge to the committee increases your stakeholders' confidence in you, enables you to make the best governance decisions and will help you meet the code sooner. Inviting an expert to join the committee shows good leadership and is a chance for you to broaden the diversity of your group.

Top Tips

- Utilise the England Netball Recruiting Volunteers Tool.
- Ask the England Netball Governance Manager for advice.
- Approach local law and accountancy firms who often encourage their staff to volunteer on non-profit boards as good profile boosters.
- Think about board and senior managers who serve at your Active Partnerships
- Advertise on professional networks such as LinkedIn, Reach Volunteering, Women on Boards, Getting on Board and Join In.
- Engage a governance consultant as an interim measure if you have serious governance gaps whilst you recruit the board position
- Remember that even with a dedicated Governance Lead, achieving good governance still requires the input of everyone involved in running your organisation and delivering its activities

How does this link to the Governance Code?

Having a governance professional on your committee is a key element of Mandatory Requirement 3 of Tier 1 of the [Code for Sports Governance](#).

“The organisation seeks to ensure diverse viewpoints are considered and that its decision-making groups have the skills and diversity needed to operate effectively.”

This is because this is an essential set of skills for any committee. Once this is in place you will be able to tick the corresponding box on your Annual Governance Health Check.

