

# Policy Update

## July 2008

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## 1. SPORT STRATEGIES

June 2008 has been a busy month for sport's strategic thinkers, as it has seen the publication of DCMS' overarching strategy for sport, supported by a new Sport England strategy as well as the Government's plan to achieve a sporting legacy from the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

### 1.1 Playing to win: a new era for sport

Through this document DCMS outlines how Sport England's new tightly focussed community sport remit sits alongside the Youth Sport Trust's role in school sport, and UK Sport's responsibilities in high performance sport. It also clearly acknowledges the role of national governing bodies in delivering the required outcomes, and references other key partners such as sportscoach UK, local authorities and CCPR. To download the document visit:

[http://www.culture.gov.uk/reference\\_library/publications/5178.aspx](http://www.culture.gov.uk/reference_library/publications/5178.aspx)

### 1.2 New Sport England strategy launched

Following an intense period of consultation with national governing bodies (NGB) and other stakeholders during early 2008, Sport England has now released its new strategy for 2008-2011. The strategy amplifies DCMS' own (see above), with a clear statement that 'in the future, Sport England's role will be to focus exclusively on sport'. The document also makes clear the important role that national governing bodies of sport will be expected to play in delivery, stating that 'the NGBs will have greater autonomy over the investment of public funds within their sport – along with greater responsibility for the delivery of the outcomes.'

Key focus areas within the strategy include ensuring the effective deployment of frontline coaches, supporting sports volunteers and modernising sports clubs. To download the document visit:

[http://www.sportengland.org/news/press\\_releases/sport\\_england\\_strategy\\_2008-2011.htm](http://www.sportengland.org/news/press_releases/sport_england_strategy_2008-2011.htm)

### 1.3 London 2012: Legacy Action Plan launched

Five Cabinet Ministers were present at the launch of the long-awaited 2012 legacy action plan on 6 June, with the centre-piece of this announcement being plans to enable 'local authorities to develop free swimming programmes and initiatives'.

'Before, during and after: making the most of the London 2012 Games' outlines how the Government aims to deliver its five 2012 legacy 'promises'. Of these, Promise 1 is of most interest to sport, as it aims to 'make the UK a world-leading sporting nation'.

Included in the legacy action plan is the London 2012 Inspire Programme that will 'recognise public and charitably funded bodies to develop programmes that have been inspired by the Games'.

The plan includes existing commitments, such as the aim of providing up to five hours of high quality PE and school sport for 5-16 year olds, and achieving 4th and 2nd place in the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic tables respectively.

## 2. NATIONAL LOTTERY FUNDING

### 2.1 Sport England launches consultation on lottery funding

Following the recent launch of its new strategy, Sport England has launched a public consultation on the way it distributes its £45 million share of sports lottery funding, with a view to better delivering against its strategy.

The consultation documents are available online at [www.sportengland.org/consultation](http://www.sportengland.org/consultation), and hard copies may be requested from the consultation help line on 0845 850 8508 or by e-mailing [consultation@sportengland.org](mailto:consultation@sportengland.org). The deadline for responses is Friday 12 September.

#### ***What this means for sport and recreation***

The consultation proposes that Sport England will:

- simplify and centralise its award application process
- put more funding directly into community sports projects through investment in facilities, small grants and innovative projects
- alter the criteria for the Community Investment Fund in order to free up more funds for the purposes outlined above.

#### ***What next***

CCPR will be responding to the consultation, and would urge members to do so also. Please send your views to Dominic Goggins at [doggins@ccpr.org.uk](mailto:doggins@ccpr.org.uk)

### 2.2 Conservatives publish report on the National Lottery

A report published by the Conservative Party estimates that one sixth of Lottery 'good cause' funding is spent on administration costs each year. In 2006/07, £205 million was spent on administration across the lottery bodies. This equates to 5p from every lottery ticket sold. Funding to good causes is meanwhile marked at 28p from each lottery ticket.

For further information visit: <http://www.shadowdcms.co.uk/newsshow.aspx?id=11&ref=34>

### 2.3 NAO report into Olympic preparations

The National Audit Office (NAO), the agency responsible for scrutinising all public expenditure, has published its assessment of the progress being made on preparations for the 2012 Games. The NAO is satisfied that good progress is being made with regard to preparing the site for hosting the Games. However concern has been raised that the lack of clarity regarding the legacy use of facilities may mean that the design process fails to accommodate eventual legacy uses.

To view the full report visit: <http://www.nao.org.uk/pn/07-08/0708490.htm>

## 3. REGULATION AFFECTING SPORT AND RECREATION

### 3.1 Independent Safeguarding Authority – Government response to consultation

The Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act places a duty on 'Regulated Activity Providers' to check that individuals wishing to engage in regulated activities are registered with the Independent Safeguarding Authority.

'Regulated Activities' are situations where an individual works frequently or intensively with a child or vulnerable adult, in roles such as teaching, training or supervision. Earlier this year, the Government consulted on the Act's implementation and in its response to this has indicated that it will:

- provide further guidance on 'frequency and intensity' – it is likely that those working with children at least once a month or overnight will be required to register
- create an exemption for those operating 'open age' sporting activities in which 16 and 17 year olds may participate alongside adults
- enable national governing bodies to access 'vetting and suitability information'
- address the lack of clarity relating to self-employed people operating in what would otherwise be a registered activity.

### ***What this means for sport and recreation***

The response indicates that under the ISA scheme NGBs will continue to maintain oversight of those engaged in their sport. However, the individual sports club will remain the Regulated Activity Provider, and is therefore responsible for checking that its coaches and volunteers are ISA registered.

### ***What next***

The CCPR, along with the Child Protection in Sport Unit, will continue to engage with the Independent Safeguarding Authority to seek further clarity on the scheme's implementation within sport.

## **3.2 Government response to visitors visa consultation**

The Government's response to the visitors visa consultation, published 25 June, provides further promising developments for sport. It specifically notes how convincingly the sports sector lobbied for the inclusion of a sports visa. Both amateur and professional sports people will now be able to take place in events and series of events in the UK without entering through the points based system and will be able to use a multiple entry six month visa - an extension from the three months expected.

Sports could also benefit from specific events visas which could reduce visa costs for spectators and special events. CCPR will continue to work with sports stakeholders and the Border Agency to determine the criteria needed to qualify for special events.

To view the full report visit: <http://ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/firbutfairnewrulesforshortterm>

## **4. COUNTRYSIDE AND WATER**

### **4.1 British Waterways consults on long-term moorings**

British Waterways (BW) has commenced a 12-week public consultation on the pricing and allocation of its long term directly managed moorings. A consultation paper considering the options available for allocating and pricing vacancies – including a review of the current mooring tenders trial – has been published on the BW website.

The consultation document summarises BW's moorings policies and explains the framework within which BW must set the prices for its long term moorings. It analyses five options for allocating vacancies, namely returning to waiting lists, adopting the tendering system currently being trialled, modifying the tendering system, moving to open auctions or a fixed price lottery process.

***What this means for sport and recreation***

Inland waterways users who require long-term moorings may be affected by the conclusions of this consultation.

***What next***

The formal consultation period starts today and runs until 20 August 2008. Documents are downloadable from [www.britishwaterways.co.uk/mooringconsultation08](http://www.britishwaterways.co.uk/mooringconsultation08)

## 4.2 Conclusions of DEFRA consultation on the implementation of the revised Bathing Water Directive

DEFRA's response to its earlier consultation on the implementation of the revised Bathing Water Directive concludes that the Government will not seek to do more than meet the minimum requirements.

***What this means for sport and recreation***

Recreational waters will not be added to the list in the Bathing Water Directive, meaning that these will not be a primary focus for quality improvement. For full details, please see <http://www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/consult/bathingwaters/index.htm>

## 5. HEALTH

### 5.1 Healthy Towns

Public Health Minister Dawn Primarolo has called upon local authorities and primary care trusts to come forward with joint bids for up to £5 million of government funding to make local residents more healthy and active. The Healthy Communities Challenge Fund totals £30 million and aims to encourage towns across England to come up with innovative ideas to improve public health, with ideas including increasing the number of cycle lanes, walking promotion schemes or providing local health initiatives.

The £30m will be invested over three years, between 2008/9 and 2010/11 and will be given to a small number of interested local areas to build on existing work in their communities and test out their ideas on what further action needs to happen to make regular physical activity and healthy food choices easier for people. In each case the local areas will be expected to match any resources they receive from Government.

***What next***

There is a two stage selection process for deciding which areas will become 'Healthy Towns'. At stage one PCTs and local authorities are invited to submit a joint application indicating their interest in the Healthy Community Challenge Fund. Successful bids will go forward to stage two and submit a more detailed proposal and delivery plan by September 2008. To download the bidding guidance click here: [http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/DH\\_085328](http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/DH_085328)

***What this means for sport and recreation***

Towns wishing to gain 'healthy town' designation will need to take a holistic approach covering both nutrition and activity. The bidding documentation includes reference to an Australian scheme involving sports clubs, which suggests that sports clubs could play a role in this initiative.

## 5.2 NICE publishes guidance on physical activity in the workplace

The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) has issued guidance for employers on how to encourage employees to increase their levels of physical activity. The guidance is aimed at employers in all organisations who have a responsibility or a role in improving health in the workplace in particular staff responsible for human resources or occupational health. Recommendations include:

- Develop a plan or policy across the organisation to encourage and support employees to be physically active, then introduce and monitor a programme based on the plan.
- Encourage employees to walk, cycle or use another mode of transport involving physical activity to travel part or all of the way to and from work.
- Help employees to be physically active during the working day. For example providing information about walking or cycling routes or putting up signs to encourage them to use the stairs.

The guidance 'workplace health promotion: how to encourage employees to be physically active' is available at: [www.nice.org.uk/PH013](http://www.nice.org.uk/PH013)

## 6. RESEARCH

### 6.1 substance Annual Conference – After the Event: Culture and Sport – Access and Legacies

The not-for-profit social research company substance, specialising in the areas of sport, youth inclusion and community regeneration, are hosting their second annual conference, *After the Event: Culture and Sport – Access and Legacies*, at Bridgewater Hall, Manchester on 15 and 16 July. *After the Event* will focus on events from the global to the local; the mega to the mini; the cultural to sports. Keynote speakers include: Rt Hon Margaret Hodge MP, Minister for Culture; Geoff Newton, Director of Olympic Opportunities, London Development Agency and Phil Smith, Head of Public Affairs, The Football Association.

For more information and for booking details, please visit: <http://www.substance.coop/conference>

### 6.2 Child protection legislation and volunteering in sport

Research commissioned by **sportscotland**, in partnership with CHILDREN 1ST and the Scottish Sports Association to investigate the effects of child protection issues on volunteering with children and young people in sport has been published. The research examined the following questions:

- What impact does child protection legislation have on those volunteering with children and young people in Scottish sport?
- What impact does the provision of recommended good practice by CHILDREN 1ST and **sportscotland** have on those volunteering with children and young people in sport in Scotland?
- Are disclosure check requirements discouraging potential and existing volunteers from volunteering with children and young people in sport?

- Are there any other issues relating to child protection which stop potential new and existing volunteers from volunteering with children and young people in sport?

The results of the research are available here: <http://www.sportscotland.org.uk/ChannelNavigation/Resource+Library/Publications/Child+Protection+Legislation+and+Volunteering+in+Scottish+Sport.htm>

## 7. ONGOING CONSULTATIONS

### 7.1 Eco-towns consultation

This Communities and Local Government consultation outlines the Government's plans to create 10 new eco-towns. CCPR will call for the need for physical recreation to be integral to the planning of these towns. For further information please visit <http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/housing/doc/ecotownsconsult.doc>

### 7.2 Fair Play – Department for Children, Schools and Families consultation

The Government's Children's Plan aims to improve play opportunities for children, and this consultation offers the opportunity to help children develop physical literacy through play, thereby laying the foundations for a future active lifestyle. It also provides an opportunity to raise the profile of physical activity within public space planning.

For further information please visit <http://www.dfes.gov.uk/consultations/conDetails.cfm?consultationId=1543>

## 8. COMPLETED CONSULTATIONS

### 8.1 Marine Bill

In its response to DEFRA's consultation on the Marine Bill CCPR:

- supported the creation of a coastal access corridor in England;
- raised concerns about the accountability of the proposed Marine Management Organisation;
- argued that the wording of the Bill was in places alarmist and overstates the dangers of the coast.

If you do not wish to receive this service or would like to register other colleagues to receive this email, please let us know by registering at [www.ccpr.org.uk/sign-up](http://www.ccpr.org.uk/sign-up)