



Rounders England Annual Statement of Assurance 2023

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FOREWORD BY THE CHAIR & CEO

Rounders England's mission is to encourage people to get active and sustain a healthy lifestyle to support the national agenda for better physical and mental health. Despite ongoing challenges in public funding, Rounders England remains committed to our mission as set out in our strategy, **Rounders Reconnected**. This statement demonstrates the high standard of financial management and governance requested by Sport England and implemented by the employees of Rounders England.

STATEMENT OF OUR COMMITMENT

Rounders England operate, advocate and support an effective and protective governance structure ensuring we have a fully robust control framework that is 'fit for purpose' and complies with the governance and compliance requirements as regulated by Sport England. We will deliver and evidence our assurance accountabilities with integrity, transparency and prudence fulfilling our obligations to our customers, partners and associates. We seek to be proactive rather than reactive in order to deliver a sustainable, first-class service to our membership and affiliates.

OUR PURPOSE

Over the next decade we will grow and develop the Nation's much-loved game into a thriving, modern, inclusive sport that can be enjoyed by everyone.

OUR VISION

As an ambitious and innovative national governing body it is essential that our governance and compliance framework is robust yet flexible enough to accommodate new initiatives and opportunities to help drive our performance and expand our network safely and securely within the relevant regulatory frameworks, to a wider audience thereby maximising our impact and credibility within the sports sector. Equally our commitment to providing excellent customer standards supported by first class products and unyielding commitment to high levels of customer service is paramount to assuring our customers and stakeholders of the continued success and future sustainability of Rounders England.

OUR FOCUS:

To achieve our strategy and re-imagine what rounders will look like in 2032 we have developed **4 key areas of focus**. Everything we do will deliver to one or more of our four posts.

1. GROW

Creating opportunities for more people to play rounders for fun, to get active or start their rounders journey with the aim of 1 million people playing by 2032. A particular focus will be placed on tackling some of the inequalities that exist within sport and physical activity.

2. ENGAGE

Evolve our membership offer in order to support and service our players, volunteers and our workforce resulting in a happy and engaged community of 100,000 members by 2032.

3. COMPETE

Expand and develop a fit for purpose competition structure and pathway culminating in a commercially viable national league structure.

4. CHAMPION

Promote our sport and raise its profile with stakeholders, partners and the media at a national and international level in order to be Commonwealth Games ready by 2032.

Whilst focusing on our ambitions and our 4 Posts we will continue to maintain and deliver the highest standards of governance, compliance and assurance so that our members, customers, partners, stakeholders and the general public can continue to have the utmost confidence and trust in the integrity and commitment of our organisation and its people as well as our strategic business plan.

In delivering our objectives the welfare, health and safety of our members and the general public remains first and foremost in everything we do. We embrace and we will encourage, without prejudice, a welcoming culture to anyone interested in officiating, participating or just watching rounders. Diversity and inclusion is a paramount consideration in everything we do.

LEGAL & STATUTORY RESPONSIBILITIES

Rounders England is incorporated as a private company limited by guarantee with the Registrar of Companies for England and Wales registration number 05032099. Our returns to Companies House are up to date including our latest audited accounts provided by our accountants I.R. Collins & Co, Bridge House, Dronfield, S18 2XL.

Our articles of association, company rules and statutory policies are regularly reviewed in accordance with new legislative, strategic or operational needs providing a solid infrastructure that fulfills all legislative requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Our Board of Directors have been vetted and classed as fit and proper persons to carry out their duties in accordance with the laws governing directorships of a limited company.

Rounders England is registered with the Information Commissioners Office (ICO) as a data controller and data processor under data protection legislation including GDPR registration number no. Z1052751.

Our obligations extend to fulfilling all our statutory obligations to HMRC in terms of document returns and payments including VAT, PAYE and Company taxes where relevant. Our Vat registration number is 241 7749 93

GOVERNANCE ASSURANCE

Rounders England complies with Sport England's highest level (Tier 3) of mandatory requirements and major outcomes of governance which underpin the framework of our self-assurance.

The Principle Outcomes are summarised below:

- 1. Organisations shall have a clear and appropriate governance structure, led by a Board which is collectively responsible for the long-term success of the organisation and exclusively vested with the power to lead it. The Board shall be properly constituted and shall operate effectively.**
- 2. Organisations shall recruit and engage people with appropriate diversity, independence, skills, experience, and knowledge to take effective decisions that further the organisation's goals.**

3. **Organisations shall be transparent and accountable, engaging effectively with stakeholders and nurturing internal democracy.**
4. **Organisations shall uphold high standards of integrity and engage in regular and effective evaluation to drive continuous improvement.**
5. **Organisations shall comply with all applicable laws and regulations, undertake responsible financial strategic planning, and have appropriate controls and risk management procedures.**

Each outcome has been robustly reviewed and evidenced to ensure we abide by the governance standards laid down by Sport England in order to ensure we are operating lawfully and to the required standards befitting a national governing body in sport. A comprehensive breakdown of all self-assurance supporting outcomes is available on our website at <https://www.roundersengland.co.uk>

OPERATIONAL ASSURANCE

As an incorporated company Rounders England fulfills all the legislative and assured requirements in the following operational areas including but not limited to statutory returns or evidence including mandatory operating policies and procedures, statements of intent and records of activity in key business areas related to:

- Financial Procedures including Direct or Indirect Public and Private Funding or Investments
- Equality, Diversity and Inclusion
- Employment Law including all associated acts and regulations
- Health & Safety
- Internet including our Website, Web addresses, Members Platform & Social Media Regulations
- Corporate Governance including Business Risk and Insurance
- Commercial Law including the Sale of Goods and Services
- Data Protection including GDPR

SIGNED CONFIRMATION STATEMENT

As the key individuals responsible for the strategic and operational delivery of Rounders England we hereby confirm that during 2022/23 our business has been conducted in accordance with proper standards and law and that public money was properly accounted for and used economically, efficiently and effectively. Additionally, we are satisfied that our organisation has done everything within its power to comply with Sport England's new gold standards set out in "A Code for Sports Governance". Copy available at: <https://sportengland-production-files.s3.eu-west-2.amazonaws.com/s3fs-public/2021->

[12/A%20Code%20for%20Sports%20Governance..pdf?VersionId=Q0JD6BVXB.VgwbGEacG0zWsNPiWcGDHh](#)

Furthermore, for the period 2023/24 we will continue to conduct our business affairs in accordance with the Tier 3 governance standards laid down by Sport England and those laws governing business within England and Wales.



Natalie Justice-Dearn
Chief Executive Officer
Rounders England



Katherine Knight
Chair
Rounders England