

7. Our Requirements, Our Support, 2013-17 CSP Funding

Objective 4: To drive up standards of good governance in the County Sports Partnerships we fund to support delivery of our strategic investment outcomes

7.1. Our Requirements

We will require our CSPs to meet a number of specified, tailored, governance standards in order to access Sport England funding. While requirements for 2013-17 funding have not yet been defined, the principles will be drawn from the standards we set our NGBs and National Partners. As applicable, the standards will be tailored to reflect the structure and purpose of CSPs.

7.1.1. On-Site Audit

In 2011/12 we are commencing a programme of on-site audits for a small sample of CSPs. The scope and coverage of the audits is narrower than the equivalent scope for NGBs and National Partners and focuses largely on the governance and finance elements of the overall framework. Sport England is seeking assurance that the governance and financial management arrangements are adequate and effective and will support delivery of Sport England objectives. The CSP audit coverage has been tailored to provide that assurance.

We anticipate that each year a sample of CSPs will be subject to an on-site audit to provide us with assurance that they are adequately governed and managed, that our funds are being used for the purposes intended and that our funds are properly managed and accounted for.

7.1.2. Awards' Compliance Testing

All on-site audits will include an element of financial compliance testing. This testing will be sample-based. Samples will be taken over the complete range of the funding streams from Sport England, not just a CSP's core funding. Where grants are given by the recipient body to a third party the auditors will also review the adequacy of the assurance provided to the initial grant recipient.

7.2. Our Help and Support

7.2.1. Thematic Review

The audit and assurance work we carry out will provide us with valuable trend data on the how governance is developing in CSPs. We will consider how we can best share trends and themes data from the audit and assurance process with CSPs.

7.2.2. Governance workshops and other support forums

In consultation with CSPs, we will review whether providing some element of facilitated support in relation to themes coming out of the CSP audit process would be helpful.

7.2.3. Web-based tools

We will continue to develop our 'Things to Think About (TTTA)' governance, finance and control framework self-help support tool which is available on our website and can be used by CSPs. TTTA sets out the standards we assess through self-assurance and provides prompts or Things to Think About in relation to the principles that support those standards. It also provides links to some other specialist websites and can be found at http://www.sportengland.org/support_advice/governance_finance_control.aspx