

SGBS Manifesto for 2026 Scottish Parliamentary Election

Sport is a strategic national asset, and Scotland's sports governing bodies (SGBS) are key partners in delivering national priorities. Sport makes an increasing contribution to health and wellbeing, strong communities, economic growth, education and Scotland's international reputation. The Scottish Government should recognise this by delivering on its commitment to double annual investment in sport to £100 million by 2028, providing the stability and confidence required to maximise sport's impact for the nation.

Funding: *Deliver the commitment to double annual investment in sport to £100 million, with a sustained focus on participation through club and community sport, facilities and the capacity of SGBS. Existing spending commitments should be embedded in the next Programme for Government, with the £30 million uplift delivered in the 2028–29 Budget and maintained, ensuring long-term stability and impact across the sporting system.*

Minister: *Formally recognise sport's national value by establishing a clear and visible Minister for Sport and Active Life, aligned within the Health portfolio and working across government. This role would provide leadership and accountability for maximising sport's contribution to prevention, wellbeing, economic growth, social value and community resilience.*

Major Events: *Scotland's success in hosting major sporting events is exceptional for a nation of our size. These events showcase Scotland internationally while supporting SGBs to grow visibility, inspire participation and strengthen pathways into sport. The Scottish Government should work in closer partnership with SGBS, through the national events strategy 'Scotland: The Perfect Stage', to deliver a coherent, long-term and cost-effective pipeline of major sporting events, maximising legacy and return on public investment.*

Notes

The Scottish Governing Body for Sport (SGBS) CEO/COO Forum represents senior leaders in sports across Scotland. Around 800,000 people (15% of the Scottish population) are members of just under 8,000 sports clubs affiliated to the SGBS.

From research commissioned in partnership with DCMS, UK Sport and the other home country sports councils, sport directly contributes £6.7 billion to the total output of the Scottish economy (nearly 2.5%). The sector supports nearly 70,000 full time jobs, 3.4% of total Scottish FTE.

Members of the SGBS Forum

Badminton Scotland, Basketball Scotland, Bowls Scotland, Boxing Scotland, Commonwealth Games Scotland, Cricket Scotland, Horse Scotland, Judo Scotland, Mountaineering Scotland, Netball Scotland, Paddle Scotland, Ramblers Scotland, Royal Yachting Association Scotland, Scottish Archery Association, Scottish Curling, Scottish Cycling, Scottish Disability Sport, Scottish Fencing, Scottish Football Association, Scottish Golf, Scottish Gymnastics, Scottish Handball Association, Scottish Hockey Union, Scottish Orienteering Association, Scottish Rowing, Scottish Rugby, Scottish Squash, Scottish Student Sport, Scottish Surfing Association, Scottish Swimming, Scottish Target Shooting, Scottish Volleyball, Scottish Athletics, Snowsport Scotland, Table Tennis Scotland, Tennis Scotland, The Camanachd Association, Triathlon Scotland, Waterski & Wakeboard Scotland.