



THE UNIVERSITY *of* EDINBURGH

Academy of Sport

AOS (2026) Minutes 1
21 May 2026

Academy of Sport Minutes of 21 May 2026 at 10.00am- 11.00am (UK Time).

Key Objectives:

- To update on progress against Road Map for 2025-26
- To receive a short account on sports diplomacy research (Morocco)
- To report on student opportunities and internships
- To request update on influence of members.
- To receive update from members.

Present: Davies Banda; Corinne Reid; Liz Grant; Grant Jarvie; Walker Ross; Ali Pearson; Neil Spiers; Fan Hong; Bradley Sharples; Chang Su; Minquan Xiong; Jianing Qiao; Lala Indrawagita.

Apologies: Stuart Murray; David Bell; Chufeng Wang; El Hancha Ghita; Jung-Woo Lee; Andrew Murray; Ruishu Zhang; Gui Reis Nothen; Justine Mclean; Emma Calow; Lucia Trimbur; Maria Constanza Camposcorrea; Bruce Kidd; Thomas Leaf; Gian Marco Campagnolo; June Xu; Paul Widdop; Tom Fabian.

Minutes

1 Road Map 2025-2026 [5 minutes]

The board noted progress against **Road Map_2025-26** (Paper 1).
(5 Minutes)

- Partnered with Confucius Institute and Centre for Sport and Exercise to host very successful event for Dr Deng Yaping Olympian, Sports Ambassador- attendance was about 400, trailed heavily on TV and social media.
- Partnered with Manchester Metropolitan University to Submit Grant to ESRC – Soft Power Analysis of European Football Championships
- Current consultancy on Geo-Spatial Analysis of season ticket holders with one club
- Partnering with Blend Analytics Company and the SWPL to produce a data analytics report on injuries in women's football
- Partnering with Edinburgh Napier University, SFA, FIFA and UEFA to host an international workshop on Sport for Good in September but a lot of the groundwork being done now.
- Involved in at least two events in association with the Commonwealth Games – one hosted by the Scottish Council on Global Affairs – one by the Commonwealth Games Association celebrating the work of universities; we continue to support the work of the Commonwealth Secretariat.

- Refreshing and re-launching Football More than a Game to go online just before and during the World Cup and in Stadiums with Hibernian Football Club in September.
- Replied to the UK Governments call for evidence on international development with our input being focused on sport and particularly sport in universities but not solely – this has led to invitation to talk to DCMS
- Members advocating for the reduction if not banning of gambling in Canadian sport.
- Supporting a range of Phd students covering work on – sport and planetary health; sport and migrant workers; sports policy and youth in Indonesia.
- Sport, Culture and Society published (Edinburgh, Manchester Met, Stirling).

Discussion and Action Points

- To produce a remit for a briefing paper on the future of the Commonwealth Games (Action GJ; CR; BS; RW). To include authors from India for example.
- To open opportunities for Educated Pass programme to collaborate with experiential learning opportunities in sport (GJ; NS)
- To consider opportunity to contribute to special edition of Journal (WR).
- To connect research work on sport and Indonesia (FH/LI)

2 Some Observations on Sports Diplomacy from Morocco

To note possible contribution from El Hancha Ghita at future meetings

3 To board reported on student opportunities, scholarship and internships

- Sports Science Internships
- Sports Media Internships
- Externally funded MSc Research Scholarship
- Dr Gian Marco one of our members appointed to help the Italian FA Upskill with Data analytics

4 Received Updates from Members (15-20 minutes)

Noted request for help on mapping influence of members (GJ)

5

Any Other Business

Date of Next Meeting **10.00am (UK Time) June or July 2026 to receive annual report**

[Addressing Sport Matters](#)

[Can the Olympic Movement be understood as a tool for advancing planetary health?](#)

Can Sport Generate Social Outcomes Beyond the Pitch? Voices from Rural-Migrant Workers

Will data analytics be the reason for Heart of Midlothian Winning the Scottish Premier League?

Beyond the Pyramid: Mapping the Multiplex Architecture of Global Football Governance