

ECB 2024 / 2025 Annual Governance Statement

June 2025

This statement intends to summarise the key governance work and changes at the ECB over the past 12 months.

ECB Scope and Purpose

ECB continues to operate as the national governing body for the sport of cricket in England and Wales, with a remit that oversees international, professional and recreational cricket. The ECB is now in the first year of its 2025-2028 business cycle and strategy, Inspiring Generations.

ECB Governance Framework

The ECB's core governance framework remains unchanged. The ECB is a company limited by guarantee, and our 41 Members consist of the chairs of each of the 18 Professional County Cricket Clubs, the 21 Recreational Cricket Boards of the non-Professional Counties, the National Counties Cricket Association and the Marylebone Cricket Club. These members have a series of reserved powers as defined in Company Law and the ECB's Articles of Association.

The workings of the ECB are overseen by the ECB Board of Directors, headed by the Chair. The Board oversees the day-to-day running of the ECB, which is delegated to the Chief Executive Officer and the Executive leadership team. The Board also delegates authority to a series of Sub-Committees who are responsible for specific areas. The ECB's Sub-Committees consist of:

ECB Corporate Sub-Committees:

- Finance, Audit and Risk Committee
- Nominations Committee
- Remuneration Committee

ECB Cricket Sub-Committees:

- Professional Game Committee – to oversee the delivery and growth of Men's and Women's professional domestic cricket.
- Recreational Game Committee – to oversee the delivery and growth of recreational cricket.
- Performance Cricket Committee – to oversee the performance of the England international teams.

ECB Integrity Sub-Committees:

- Regulatory Board – responsible for providing oversight and support for regulation setting activities of the ECB and the work of the Cricket Regulator. This was reformed in 2023 at the same time as the launch of the Cricket Regulator.
- Cricket Discipline Panel – an arm's length body responsible for hearing cases brought by the Cricket Regulator under the ECB Regulations.

Key Governance Activity 2024/25

Articles of Association

In early 2025, the ECB Members adopted a series of revisions to the ECB Articles of Association. The revisions covered a range of topics as follows:

- Changes recommended by the Independent Commission for Equity in Cricket Report
- Changes required in connection with the sale process of The Hundred Teams to private investors
- A small number of ad-hoc changes to bring the Articles up-to-date and follow best practice governance.

ECB Board Composition

There have been no changes to the Board composition in the past 12 months. Katie Bickerstaffe, Senior Independent Director, reached the end of her second term in May 2025 and was re-appointed for a third term.

As a result of some of the changes to the ECB Articles (as above), the ECB Chair term eligibility was changed from one term of five years to a maximum of two terms of three years. Following this, the ECB Board re-appointed Richard Thompson as Chair for a second term, to run September 2025 to September 2028.

External Board Effectiveness Review

The ECB Board completed an externally facilitated Board Effectiveness Review between December 2024 and March 2025. The Board acknowledged the recommendations from the report and is in the process of implementing new processes and practices.

ECB Integrity Sub-Committees

The ECB has recently set up a new disciplinary panel, the Cricket Discipline Panel (CDP). In November 2024, Richard Whittam KC was appointed Chair of the CDP and subsequently ran a process to appoint the other 14 members of CDP. The new CDP formally took responsibility from the former Cricket Discipline Commission on the 1st April 2025.

Cascading Good Governance

The ECB has for several years, with the launch of cricket's County Governance Framework in 2020, led the sports industry in cascading good governance requirements to its local / county network. Following successful implementation over 2020-2024, the ECB launched a revised County Governance Framework as part of the 2025-2028 County Partnership Agreements. Board diversity targets have been extended and other best practice governance standards have become mandatory. County cricket organisations will be expected to have implemented the new standards over the course of 2026-2028.

Sport England Code of Governance Compliance

During the previous 12 months, the ECB received confirmation from Sport England that we remain fully compliant with their Code of Sports Governance. We are pleased to have been recognised as an organisation that prioritises and delivers good governance.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Richard Thompson'.

Richard Thompson, Chair

On behalf of the ECB Board