

SCOTTISH
STUDENT SPORT



JOINING THE TEAM

2023/2024



WELCOME TO THE TEAM

Hello and welcome!

It's great to have your interest in Scottish Student Sport (SSS) – an organisation that I'm honoured to be a part of. The purpose of this short document is to explain a little more about what we do, in the hope that you too will be a part of the team for the year ahead.

I am proud to lead a small but dedicated group of staff at the centre of SSS and together we do all we can to respond to the opportunities and challenges you encounter. Our aim is to add value to the work that you do, placing sport and active health at the heart of the student experience. We do this by working closely with our member colleges and universities and many of the brilliant students and staff across our network, focusing on advocacy, development, competitions and strong organisation.

We are indebted to our incredible volunteers – many of whom are students – who support our decision making, delivery and representation and help SSS to stay fresh and relevant for each new academic year. They help to create a vibrant and connected network across Scotland that provides a collaborative learning, networking and support community for everyone in the wider SSS team.

SSS also provides an important connection to other organisations in education and sport including our funding partners Scottish Funding Council, **sport**scotland and BUCS as well as a host of governing bodies, expert networks, charities, and other partners. With their help we can provide tailored solutions at scale and speak with one voice as an influential national network.

The benefits and impact of sport and active health are better understood than ever, and we know that the work we will do together will harness:

- The power of good physical, mental & social health
- The power of fun, enjoyment & satisfaction
- The power of belonging, achievement & pride
- The power to enhance learning, development & employability
- The power to actively address inequalities & promote a positive culture

We very much hope that you will choose to join the team for 23-24 and I look forward to working for you and with you to make a big impact through sport and active health.

With very best wishes,

Stew Fowle
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DEVELOPMENT

Working across the themes of Inclusion & Culture, Learning & People and Active Health the development arm of SSS provides members with a range of opportunities in a collaborative and connected way. By sharing expertise and experience across our membership we aim to create new opportunities and continually develop student sport, adding value to your work. We firmly believe that participation in sport and active health can change peoples' lives for the better.

Support

Networking and collaboration events such as National Forum and Governing Body engagement sessions

Guidance, advice and signposting to new staff in the network, including the Active Campus Coordinators

Delivery of education, training and development opportunities including our Festive Gathering and Annual Conference

Sharing of best practice across the membership – surrounding every member with a relevant community of interest

Partnerships

Maintaining regular dialogue and collaborative working with each Scottish Governing Body of Sport

Connecting to equality partners such as SDS, LEAP Sports and Beyond Equality to remove barriers to activity

Working with expert partners to upskill the next generation of officials, coaches, volunteers and young leaders in sport



Objectives

Active Health

We will support our members in getting students with a variety of different backgrounds and experiences into regular activity. We will use sport and activity to promote physical, mental and social health and bring coordinated focus to key areas such as mental wellbeing, active travel, clean sport, concussion education and more.

Learning & People

We will deliver a calendar of opportunities to support both students and staff across the SSS membership. This will include providing a pathway into officiating via our Reffin' Brilliant programme, access to the SSS Leadership programme, plus opportunities around mentoring, volunteer support, student placements and more.

Inclusion & Culture

We will continue to work alongside our national equality partners (SDS, Leap Sports, Beyond Equality and others) to advocate for inclusion within student sport and beyond, aiming to create partnerships that support this aim. SSS will also be part of the first cohort of organisations to embrace **sportscotland's** new Moving To Inclusion framework as a guide to our work in this important area.

COMPETITIONS

Providing opportunities for Scotland's students to participate and engage in a series of high-quality sports events that are of value. SSS can offer a multi-sport programme that is suitable for all abilities at both a regional and national level.

Events

Delivering student-focused competition across 35 different sports

120+ Sporting Events per year with subsidised entry

Workforce opportunities for students to engage and learn in event management

Fixtures

Access to low-cost, high-value sports fixtures (recreational and competitive)

Delivering or signposting access for regular fixtures for 600+ clubs

In collaboration with partners, working together to deliver the best and most relevant competition structure



Objectives

Deliver our large-scale multi-sport events including BUCS Conference Finals, College National Finals, and the Scottish Student Games

Deliver National Squad activity across eight sports and work with partners to host a multi-sport Home Nations event.

Continue to develop and enhance sustainable partnerships with Scottish Governing Bodies of Sport for students to engage in a range of competition pathways

ADVOCACY

Representing the interests of student sport by engaging partners, managing strategic relationships and providing leadership across sport and education. We aim to positively influence members and partners alike to extend their commitments to sport and active health, so that the student experience can be as enriching and enjoyable as possible.

Evidence

Support strategic planning for sport and active health at all levels (demonstrating value of sport to education)

Advance nationwide data and research on topics including activity levels, wellbeing, inclusion, and funding of student sport

Give access to models of best practice and support networks across Scotland and beyond

Influencing

National advocacy work with SGBs and other partners (demonstrating value of education to sport)

Formal and informal representation of tertiary education to sportsotland and to local and national government

Access to wider networks through affiliation to the Scottish Sports Association and the Cross Party Group on Sport

Multi-platform comms output to share your good news, promote your vacancies and inform your work



Objectives

Ensure that the Active Campus Network is well-supported, highly visible and integrated into the work of SSS and its partners

Continue to develop proof of the value of sport and active health – building on active student survey and other existing evidence

Advocate for increasing external investment into sport & active health within tertiary education

Demonstrate the impact our collective work is having through high quality evaluation and publication of headline statistics

BENEFITS

By working as a team we can create:

- Enhanced student experience
- Leadership, networking and development opportunities for students and staff
- Increased student engagement to the widest possible group
- Stronger structures for active health and sport on campus and in the community
- Greater levels of external support to student sport
- Greater opportunities for students to compete and represent their institution
- Improved student retention and satisfaction
- Improved employability and skill development
- Improved physical, mental and social health for the student population
- Stronger sense of community, identity and belonging
- Greater opportunities to achieve success as individuals and teams



WHY?

'Being involved in sport as a student gave me a real sense of connection and a real pride of place. Looking back I now realise that taking part in student sport gave me an invaluable skill set for all I have done since.'

Mark Beaumont, Adventurer

'Sport is an absolutely huge part of my student life. My flatmates and a lot of my friends have also come from sports clubs and I think sport impacts a load of students in that way. You become connected and sport really is your community.'

Peter Sawkins, Great British Bake Off Winner

'Physical activity not only helps you physically but also helps you build your mental health, your resilience and your ability to manage in life so everything about sport, be it team working or individual success or achievement really really helps us. As we come out of the pandemic we will continue to prioritise sport and physical activity as much as we possibly can.'

Jason Leitch, National Clinical Director

'It is essential that we come to recognise sport as an investment and not a cost. Employers and educators must be encouraged to give their people time to take part and time to volunteer, as central aspects of daily life.'

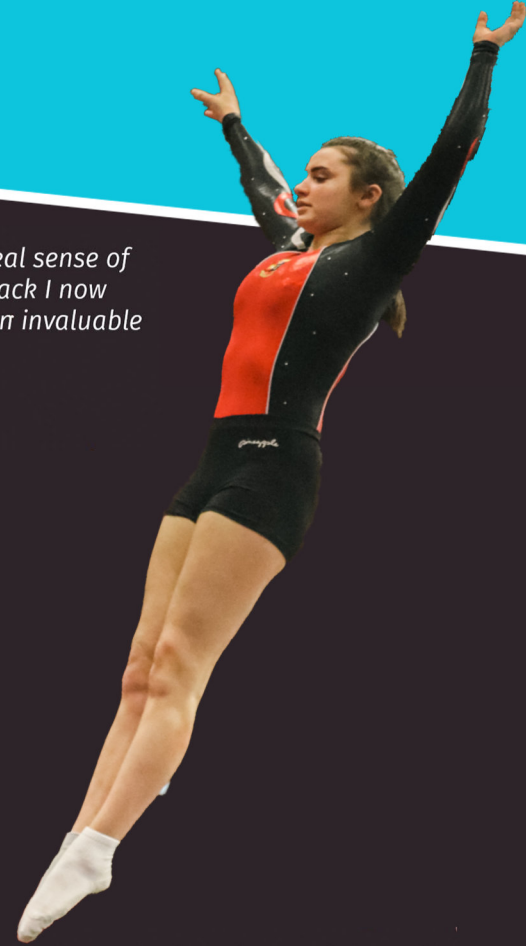
Kim Atkinson, Scottish Sports Association

'To me sport has had a really big impact on my life and I wouldn't be the person I am today if it wasn't for sport. It has helped me through a lot of struggles especially for my mental health and has given me a range of skills that apply to my university studies. Sport has also been key to managing my disability as it's made me have less fractures and come through stronger.'

Laura Pilkington, Disability athlete and sportsotland young volunteer of year 2022

'...Principals increasingly understand that a big part of (the job) is to have an environment that fosters wellbeing and health and feels positive. That's why sport and other activities are so important.'

Jim Metcalfe, Principal and CEO, Fife College





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