

## **OSS Research Advisory Group Terms of Reference**

### **1. Purpose**

- To provide expert advice to the OSS on supporting and facilitating evidence informed debate on community sport to improve policy and practice outcomes;
- To provide strategic guidance for the OSS on its research priorities including the preparation and updating of a Research Strategy;
- To provide expertise and guidance to the OSS on the research commissioning process including preparation of project specifications, support on research contracts including contract management monitoring and review of research outcomes and dissemination;
- To provide expert review of research funding bids led or supported by the OSS;
- To help the OSS to foster interdisciplinary research and collaborative links between academic research institutions and networks across Scotland and internationally;
- To provide the OSS with advice and guidance on appropriate use and presentation of research evidence in the public/political domain.

### **2. Structure and Membership**

- At the start of 2021 encompassed nine members. There is no limit to membership, but each new member should bring a new area of expertise and experience to the group.
- RAG is supported by two further groups:
  - Research Associates (currently 12) - providing further specialist expertise and experience from people not necessarily required for regular meetings;
  - Research Assistants (currently 8) - increasing the OSS capacity to produce a regular diet of research, analysis and evidence, from primary and secondary research, data collation and analysis, and report-writing. The Assistants will receive guidance from the OSS CEO and Head of Research, and further support from OSS Research Advisors and Associates where appropriate.
- All Research Advisors, Associates and Assistants bring academic expertise related to sport, and while all are invited to join the OSS for this reason they also demonstrate a passion for community sport and recreation.
- A RAG Chair is elected each year from within the group.

### **3. Decision Making**

- Decisions at RAG are taken by full members, led by the RAG Chair, and the RAG Chair has the deciding vote when necessary. Associates and Assistants may be asked for input, advice and opinion but they do not have a vote.
- The Chair will make every effort to facilitate all RAG members having the opportunity to vote on key decisions, electronically if necessary. In the event this is not possible (perhaps due to illness or similar) a quorum of 4 members will be sufficient.