



DIVERSITY ACTION PLAN 2017 – 2021

Message from Our Chairman – Peter Rowley OBE

“At British Weight Lifting, diversity has always been and continues to be, an important part of our culture. Since joining the organisation over 4 years ago, we have been committed to promoting and increasing diversity in our leadership, workforce, operational decisions, performance training and community development. Facilitating diversity and inclusion are not initiatives or programmes with expiry dates. They’re the right things to do and also core principles for the way we do business. We firmly recognise that leadership, governance and decision making are greatly enhanced when calling on a wide range of different opinions.”

ABOUT US

BWL are the National Governing Body for Olympic Lifting and IPC Para-Powerlifting in the UK.

Olympic Weight Lifting is one of the oldest competitive sports still practiced today. Tracing its origins back to ancient Greece and China, Olympic Weight Lifting was one of the seven sports that made up the programme of the first modern Olympic Games in Athens, 1896.

Weight Lifting for men has featured at every edition of the Olympic Games in the modern era, with women’s events introduced at the Sydney Games in 2000.

Olympic Weight Lifting is a bodyweight sport with athletes competing against others in the same category. British Weight Lifting is affiliated to the European Weight Lifting Federation (EWF), the governing body for Olympic Weight Lifting in Europe, and the IWF (the International Weightlifting Federation).

Para-Powerlifting is one of the fastest growing Paralympic sports. The second Paralympic Games in Stoke Mandeville, 1964 saw Para-Powerlifting make its debut. By the 1992 Paralympic Games in Barcelona, 25 countries participated in the Para-Powerlifting competition. That number more than doubled in 1996 at the Atlanta Paralympic Games with 58 countries in participation.

Since 1996 that number has risen to a total worldwide membership of 115 countries with 5000 registered athletes on five continents. This is a dramatic change from its humble beginnings where only men were permitted to compete. Women competed for the first time at the Sydney Games in 2000 and at the 2008 games in Beijing, powerlifting was one of the most viewed sports at the Paralympic games.

The sport is adapted from non-disabled powerlifting, concentrating solely on the bench-press movement. The key aspect of the sport is simple; the person who lifts the most weight within their body weight category on the day of competition is deemed the winner.

Technical rules apply and during competition, 3 judges apply criteria in determining whether a lift is acceptable. Athletes must lower the bar to their chest, hold it motionless, and then press it upwards to arm's length with elbows locking simultaneously. An athlete gets 3 attempts on stage to lift their maximum weight.

Para-Powerlifting is governed by the International Paralympic Committee (IPC). More information on Para-powerlifting can be found on the [IPC website](#).

OUR MISSION

To influence, connect and provide weight lifting and weight training to make it an everyday part of people's lives in England, Northern Ireland and the United Kingdom.

OUR VISION

To inspire a nation of weight lifters through exceptional leadership and expertise which will revolutionise a sport. We are committed to change a culture and to stimulate Olympic and Paralympic success, whilst reducing inactivity and increasing participation to encourage a fitter, stronger and healthier nation.

OUR VALUES

Dare, Care, Share

The BWL strategy 2017 to 2021

Our role is to – *To influence, connect and provide Weight Lifting and Weight Training to make it an everyday part of people's lives in the United Kingdom.*

Inclusivity is one of our core values running through the heart of BWL's 2017-2021 Strategic plan, as we strive to ensure our sport is accessible and attractive to the widest audience. We encourage all connected to Weight Lifting to embrace diversity and we are actively seeking new partnerships to broaden our offer.

In our Strategic Plan 2017-21 we have committed to increasing the diversity of volunteers (including Board and committee members), participants, instructors, staff and our wider workforce.

Although we lead the World in terms of Female Technical Officials, we are working on a number of initiatives to encourage more women, especially female coaches, people with disabilities and people from black and ethnic minorities to become more actively involved in all aspects of the BWL's activities. We have also produced guidance for our affiliated clubs on welcoming transgender participants and people from different ethnic and faith groups.

Our 4 key strategic objectives are:

- More People – Taking part in Weight Lifting and Weight Training on a regular basis
- Greater inclusivity – So everyone can take part
- Globally successful – The UK leading the World on and off the platform
- Maximising Investment – A well governed, managed and financially sustainable NGB

Through 7 programmes of:

- Strong - Help those who are inactive to regain their strength in their daily lives
- Stronger - Help those who are active and wish to become fitter and stronger
- Strongest - Provide inclusive competitions for those who want to compete to be the best
- Talent – Provide environments, opportunities and support for talented lifters to raise their potential to succeed
- Performance – Winning frequently at Olympic, Paralympic, World, European, Commonwealth and International level
- Governance – Manage the sport and NGB in the most effective, efficient and safe way possible
- Investment – Create sustainable investment streams to develop and support Weight Lifting

BWL Commitment Statement on Gender Diversity and Equality

BWL is fully committed to providing equal opportunities to all employees, potential employees, past, present and potential members and participants, coaches, instructors, volunteers and officials.

Our commitment to equal opportunities ensures everyone will be treated fairly and on an equal basis. We do not condone discrimination on the grounds of sex, age, disability, race, colour, nationality, ethnic or national origin, religion or belief, sexual orientation, pregnancy or maternity or marital or civil partnership, gender reassignment or social status.

Equality Standard

To ensure the organisation remains fully compliant, BWL is fully committed to achieving the essential levels of the Equality Standard for Sport, established by the Sports Councils as a benchmark for the governing bodies to whom they provide funding. BWL will over the next cycle demonstrate that equality is embedded throughout the organisation, its functions, policies, and all its staff and volunteers.

Key dates that the NGB has committed to are:

Level of the Standard	Target Date
Preliminary	31 October 2018
Intermediate	31 October 2021

BWL will seek over this period to continue to grow the number of women and girls participating in the sport as well as making significant changes to the corporate governance of the organisation, which has led to wide scale reform of the Board of Directors with the intention of becoming far more reflective of the sport and society as a whole.

BWL Board Diversity

30% of the 10 active BWL board members are female, with all 10 members varying in age and background.

One member is from a minority ethnic group and one is white Irish. The two athlete representatives invited to attend Board meetings, one is female and one has a disability.

Board Recruitment

Board vacancies are advertised openly using a wide range of media, including Stakeholder websites, Women on Boards and the Sporting Equals Leaderboard. Candidates are shortlisted by our appointed Nomination Committee on the basis of their competences, knowledge, skills and experience, taking account of any skills gaps in the competences of the remaining Board members.

Where there is more than one candidate with a similar range of skills and competences, the Nomination Committee use positive action with the aim of ensuring that, if at all possible, the shortlist includes suitably skilled women, people with disabilities and people from BAME backgrounds.

BWL Commitment and Day-to-Day Practice

BWL commits to ensuring that equality and diversity procedures, policies and practices are active always throughout organisation, including in internal and external facilities.

Our target is to maintain a position where a minimum of 30% of Board members are from each gender, maintain as close to possible an equal (50/50) split in competition entries, technical officials and develop and grow the number of high quality female coaches.

Monitoring

BWL conducts regular equality monitoring of all groups (Board, staff, job applicants, members, coaches, instructors, officials, elite squads).

<h1>Recruitment</h1> <p>How the organisation will attract an increasingly diverse range of candidates</p>		Code for Sports Governance					
<p>Objective: Embed good diversity and inclusion practice into our recruitment activities and decision-making processes</p>		<p>Adopt a target of, and take all appropriate actions to encourage, a minimum of 30% of each gender on its board</p>	<p>Demonstrate a strong and public commitment to progressing towards gender parity and greater diversity generally on its board</p>	<p>Demonstrate a strong and public commitment to progressing towards achieving greater diversity generally (including but not limited to BAME, disability, LGBT+ and socio-economic)</p>	<p>Each organisation shall identify proportionate and appropriate actions to be taken to support and/or maintain (as appropriate) the diversity targets set out in Reg 2.1</p>	<p>The board shall ensure that the organisation prepared and publish on its website information (approved by the Board) about its work to foster all aspects of diversity with its leadership and decision making)</p>	<p>The board shall ensure the organisation prepared and publishes on its website information (approved by the Board) including an annual update on progress against actions identified in Reg 2.2</p>
<p>Priorities</p>		<p>Actions</p>			<p>Person(s) Responsible</p>		<p>Completion Date</p>
<p>Short Term:</p>		<p>Information gathering & analysis</p> <p>Determine current Diversity levels within organisation – Board & Executive. Identify any shortfalls.</p> <p>Report findings and define additional actions – provide evidence of review & evaluation of equality</p> <p>Publish Diversity Plan online</p> <p>Publish commitment to Equality and Diversity online – to include a minimum of 30% of each gender on the Board</p>			<p>CEO and SMT</p> <p>Chairman/CEO/ Chairs of sub-committees/SMT</p> <p>CEO/Chairman/ Board Equality Champion</p> <p>CEO</p> <p>CEO</p>		<p>Oct 17</p> <p>Oct 17</p> <p>Dec 17</p> <p>Dec 17 (new web site)</p> <p>Dec 17 (new web site)</p>
<p>Medium Term:</p>		<p>As vacancies arise for all roles – Board/Sub-committees/Executive, ensure positive diverse representation through advert and interview process</p>			<p>CEO</p>		<p>On-going</p>

Long Term:	Ensure continual monitoring and improvement	Nominations Committee/CEO	Annually
	Publish action plan and results against the plan on an annual basis on our web site	CEO	

Engagement Ensuring that your organisation's commitment to diversity is communicated through internal practices and externally		Code for Sports Governance				
		Adopt a target of, and take all appropriate actions to encourage, a minimum of 30% of each gender on its board	Demonstrate a strong and public commitment to progressing towards gender parity and greater diversity generally on its board	Demonstrate a strong and public commitment to progressing towards achieving greater diversity generally (including but not limited to BAME, disability, LGBT and socio-economic)	Each organisation shall identify proportionate and appropriate actions to be taken to support and/or maintain (as appropriate) the diversity targets set out in Reg 2.1	The board shall ensure that the organisation prepared and publish on its website information (approved by the Board) about its work to foster all aspects of diversity with its leadership and decision making)
Objective:	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Priorities	Actions	Person(s) Responsible		Completion Date		
Short Term:	Board sign off Equality and Diversity statements, agree the Action Plan and commit to achieving the Equality Standards	Chairman/CEO		31 October 2017		
Medium Term:	Board training on Diversity Ensure succession planning and Board recruitment policies include a clear equality and diversity dimension.	Chairman /CEO Chairman/ Nominations Committee/ CEO/SMT		July 2018 On-going		

	<p>Ensure all key staff and Board are identified as being responsible for Equality in their area of operation. Ensure equality priorities are clearly identified in all Board & Executive objectives, job descriptions & strategic plans.</p> <p>Board move on from reliance on Equality Champion to more collective responsibility.</p> <p>Board to appoint Diversity Steering Group, with approved ToR and ensure governing documents are gender neutral.</p> <p>Continue to grow internally in the sport and support external diversity events or promotions, such as This Girl Can, Women in Sport week, Pride etc</p>		
<p>Long Term:</p>	<p>Achieve Equality Standard targets as agreed with SE/UKS</p> <p>Ensure equality becomes the norm throughout all BWL events, policies & procedures, recruitment etc</p> <p>Ensure continual training of the BWL Board and SMT – minimum period between sessions of 2 years.</p>	<p>Board/CEO/SMT</p>	<p>2018-21</p>

<h2>Progressing talent from Within</h2> <p>A focus on developing a strong internal pipeline of diverse talent to populate decision making and other structures.</p>		Code for Sports Governance				
		<p>Adopt a target of, and take all appropriate actions to encourage, a minimum of 30% of each gender on its board</p>	<p>Demonstrate a strong and public commitment to progressing towards gender parity and greater diversity generally on its board</p>	<p>Demonstrate a strong and public commitment to progressing towards achieving greater diversity generally (including but not limited to BAME, disability, LGBT and socio-economic)</p>	<p>Each organisation shall identify proportionate and appropriate actions to be taken to support and/or maintain (as appropriate) the diversity targets set out in Reg 2.1</p>	<p>The board shall ensure that the organisation prepared and publish on its website information (approved by the Board) about its work to foster all aspects of diversity with its leadership and decision making)</p>
Objective:		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Priorities	Actions	Person(s) Responsible			Completion Date	
Short Term:	<p>Publish Equality and diversity commitment on web site and include in next newsletter to be forwarded to all members and volunteers.</p> <p>Publish report on web site as soon as is viable.</p>	CEO/SMT			Dec 17	
Medium Term:	<p>Encouraging applicants, particularly for Board positions and SMT roles from a wider pool.</p> <p>Utilise more networks to ensure opportunities are appreciated by more individuals, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current contacts within our sport • Contacts from other sports • Key influencers/volunteers and ex-athletes • Those with current or past experience of working on boards/committees etc 	Nominations Committee, CEO, SMT			On-going	
Long Term:	Continue to monitor, train and seek continual improvement in equality & diversity to ensure it becomes firmly embedded in the culture of BWL.				On-going	

