



Vacancies: Trustees of the BWL Foundation (two positions)

Executive Summary

The British Weight Lifting (BWL) Foundation is seeking to appoint two independent Trustees to join its Board for a four-year term.

This is a key appointment at a pivotal stage in the Foundation's development, as it strengthens its independence, governance and long-term sustainability. The Foundation is focused on removing barriers to participation and delivering meaningful social impact through weightlifting and para powerlifting across the UK.

We are seeking suitably experienced individuals with expertise in:

- Fundraising, partnerships and governance
- Community impact, inclusion and social development

Trustees will provide strategic leadership, oversight and constructive challenge, supporting the Foundation's growth, impact and financial sustainability, while contributing to the wider development of strength sport across the nation.

This is a voluntary, home-based role (reasonable expenses reimbursed), with an expected commitment of 4–6 meetings per year. Closing date: 30 April 2026.

1. About the Foundation

The BWL Foundation is an independent charitable organisation established to support and advance weightlifting and para powerlifting in the United Kingdom. The Foundation exists to remove barriers to participation, invest in people and communities, and deliver meaningful impact through education, coaching, clubs and grassroots initiatives.

The Board of Trustees currently comprises three members:

- Rebecca Wainwright (Chair), Independent Non-Executive Director of British Weightlifting.
- Matthew Curtain, Chief Executive Officer of British Weightlifting.
- Mark Martin, Company Secretary of British Weightlifting.

Following the appointment of the two new Trustees, it is the intention that the BWL CEO and Company Secretary will transition to non-voting advisory roles, supporting the Board while strengthening the Foundation's independence and governance arrangements.

Additional information can be [located here](#), including copy of the BWL Foundation constitution.

2. Objectives of the BWL Foundation

The objects of the BWL Foundation are:

- To promote the art and science of and education in lifting weights.
- To encourage and advance the education of children and adults within the community with the purpose of promoting a healthy lifestyle and improving their condition of life.
- To promote community involvement in healthy recreation by providing facilities for the lifting of weights and the playing of other sports and activities capable of improving physical health

to such persons who have need for such facilities and to encourage and advance the education of such persons in order to allow them to develop to the best of their abilities, both physical and otherwise; and

- Such other charitable purposes as may be determined by the Trustees from time to time.

3. The Role of a Trustee

Trustees are responsible for the overall governance, strategic direction and financial sustainability of the Foundation. Working collectively, Trustees ensure that the charity operates in accordance with its charitable objects, complies with legal and regulatory requirements, and delivers demonstrable public benefit.

Trustees act in a voluntary, non-executive capacity.

4. Key Responsibilities

Trustees will be expected to:

- Contribute to the strategic direction and long-term development of the Foundation.
- Ensure effective governance, compliance and risk management, in line with Charity Commission requirements.
- Oversee the financial stewardship and sustainability of the charity.
- Support the development of fundraising, partnerships and income generation.
- Act as an ambassador for the Foundation and its charitable mission.
- Provide constructive challenge and independent judgement.
- Attend Board meetings and contribute to sub-committees or working groups as required.

5. Skills and Experience

The BWL Foundation is seeking to appoint two Trustees with complementary experience and expertise to strengthen the overall capability of the Foundation.

Trustees will bring a commitment to the charitable mission of the Foundation and an understanding of the responsibilities of charity trusteeship. While each role has specific priority expertise, the Board operates collectively, and all Trustees are expected to contribute across governance, strategy and organisational oversight.

Core Skills and Expertise

The Foundation welcomes applicants who bring experience or insight in one or more of the following areas, which are valuable to the effective operation and long-term sustainability of the charity:

- Charity governance and leadership
- Finance, audit or risk management
- Fundraising, philanthropy or commercial partnerships
- Community development and social impact
- Education, coaching or workforce development
- Equality, diversity and inclusion
- Legal, regulatory or compliance experience

Trustees must be able to exercise sound judgement, think strategically, work collaboratively and demonstrate a strong commitment to public benefit and ethical leadership.

- **Trustee Role 1 (Fundraising & Governance)**

The Foundation is seeking a Trustee who can support the charity's long-term financial sustainability and governance development.

This role will provide strategic oversight and independent challenge in areas relating to income generation, organisational growth and governance effectiveness. The successful candidate will help the Foundation strengthen its fundraising capability, develop partnerships and ensure that governance arrangements reflect best practice for charitable organisations.

Proven track record in:

- Fundraising, philanthropy or commercial partnerships, including developing income strategies, building donor relationships or securing sustainable funding streams.
- Charity governance and leadership, including Board effectiveness, strategic planning, organisational accountability and regulatory compliance.

This Trustee may also contribute to:

- Strengthening governance frameworks and policies.
- Supporting the development of funding strategies and partnership models.
- Advising on organisational sustainability and financial resilience.
- Providing oversight of risk, performance and accountability structures.

- **Trustee Role 2 (Community Impact & Inclusion)**

The Foundation is seeking a Trustee with expertise in community development and inclusive practice to help maximise the charity's social impact.

This role will support the Foundation in ensuring that its programmes, partnerships and initiatives deliver meaningful benefit to individuals and communities, particularly those who face barriers to participation. The successful candidate will bring experience in designing, delivering or evaluating community-based initiatives and embedding inclusive approaches within organisational strategy and practice.

Proven track record in:

- Community development and social impact within a charity or public benefit context.
- Equality, diversity and inclusion, including widening participation, reducing barriers to access and promoting equitable opportunities.

This Trustee may also contribute to:

- Strengthening the Foundation's impact strategy and evaluation frameworks.
- Advising on inclusive programme design and community engagement.
- Supporting outreach initiatives and partnership development.
- Helping ensure that equality and inclusion are embedded across governance and decision-making.

The following experience would be beneficial for both roles but is not essential:

- Education, coaching or workforce development.
- Legal, regulatory or compliance experience.
- Knowledge of weightlifting or para powerlifting.

6. Commitment to Equality

BWL is a recognised equal opportunities employer and positively encourages applications from suitably qualified and eligible candidates regardless of age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, sexual orientation, pregnancy, maternity, race, religion, belief and gender. The BWL Foundation welcomes new ideas and perspectives.

7. Time Commitment

Approximately 4–6 meetings per year (primarily online). Occasional additional meetings, events or sub-group activity.

Trustees are appointed for a fixed term of four years in line with the Foundation's governing articles. There is an opportunity to be appointed for a second term.

8. How to Express Interest

Interested individuals are invited to submit:

- A short expression of interest (no more than two pages) outlining:
- Relevant experience and skills
- Motivation for applying
- How you believe you could contribute to the Foundation
- A current CV

Applications should be submitted by email to: tara.drake@britishweightlifting.org by 30 April 2026.

If you would like to discuss the role or your application, please contact the same email address to arrange an informal conversation or to ask any questions.

9. About British Weightlifting (BWL)

British Weight Lifting (BWL) is the national governing body for weightlifting and para powerlifting in Great Britain. As a recognised member of the British Olympic Association, British Paralympic Association, and Commonwealth Games England, BWL is responsible for the governance, regulation and development of the sport at all levels, from grassroots participation through to elite international performance.

BWL delivers UK Sport-funded World Class Programmes for both weightlifting and para powerlifting, providing structured, athlete-centred pathways from talent identification through to podium performance. Over the past 12 months, British athletes have secured 28 international medals, demonstrating the strength of the performance system. With the Glasgow 2026 Commonwealth Games on the horizon, BWL continues to prepare athletes, coaches and systems to achieve success on the world stage while sustaining long-term excellence.

Alongside its high-performance remit, BWL oversees a nationwide network of affiliated clubs, coaches, officials and members. The organisation delivers competition pathways, coach education, safeguarding frameworks and technical standards, while also working to widen participation and improve access across schools, universities, community clubs and commercial gym environments. Inclusion, equality and athlete welfare sit at the heart of BWL's approach to growing the sport.

BWL operates within robust governance and compliance frameworks and is led by its first female Chair, reflecting a commitment to progressive leadership and equality.

The organisation currently receives £5.6 million of UK Sport funding for the LA 2028 Olympic and Paralympic cycle and maintains a Board where 78% of members are independent, demonstrating strong alignment with the Code for Sports Governance and best practice in transparency, accountability and independence.

In April 2026, BWL will launch its new strategic plan for the period 2026 – 2030.

a company limited by guarantee and not having a share capital

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