



Gloucestershire Cricket Foundation

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GOVERNANCE REVIEW 2025

Although the focus of the GCF is always to encourage and enable more people to play cricket, it is important that the organisation is well run and financed. These are not aims in themselves but are crucial to our ability to carry out our main job efficiently and effectively.

Good governance is about ensuring that we measure the risks we face, which might prevent us from doing our job, assessing those risks and the controls which are already in place, and considering whether further and better controls are required. We can never eliminate risk completely, but we can seek to minimise the chances of an event occurring, and the damage it might cause if it does occur. Often, the sooner we can recognise that there is a problem, the better we can tackle it.

We are very pleased to announce that, in 2025, GCF was the first County Board (Professional or Recreational) to achieve the ECBs new Gold status for Governance. See below for more detail.

We have a set of processes and controls in place that we believe are proportionate to the risks and the scale of our operations, and we will do our very best to ensure that GCF is well run and managed, giving reassurance to our clients, staff, volunteers, funders and sponsors, suppliers and our other stakeholders. We aim to give people the confidence to engage with us, so that more people can enjoy more cricket. Cricket is good for their mental and physical health, develops their technical and social skills and their confidence; we want to see more people taking part and help to remove barriers to them enjoying our sport.

The ECB sets their minimum expectations of our governance standards, which are part of our contract with them. Four years ago, after our previous County Partnership Agreement (“CPA”) submission, ECB said they [“view Gloucestershire Cricket Foundation as a “leading organisation in relation to \[our\] governance arrangements and practices.”](#) They went on to say [“The Foundation is compliant with all mandatory governance requirements and we acknowledge and are supportive of your efforts to work towards enhanced, best practice governance arrangements.”](#)

We aspire to the highest standards, not just the bare minimum we can get away with.

Our Finance, Risk, Audit and Governance Committee (“FRAG”) regularly reviews elements of our governance practice. The new CPA, which came into force in 2025, has given us the opportunity to review the whole of our previous submission. This time round, ECB are looking more closely at how good governance is embedded in the way we think and work as an organisation. They will be ensuring, among other things, that we are actually doing what we claim to do in our written procedures. Over the period from 2025 – 2027, ECB would like every county organisation to achieve their Gold Standard for governance.

Given the importance we place on good governance, we were delighted to have been asked to be the pilot county for the new Gold Standard assessment system, and even more pleased to hear that we had been successful and are the first to be awarded.

This process, however, created a significant additional workload over a sharply condensed period of time, and FRAG wish to acknowledge the efforts of Steve and his team in preparing for this. Happily, because good governance practice is already key to the work which Steve and his team do, much of the structure was already in place to prepare for this external audit of our governance processes in a very short time.

4 years ago, we were assessed on areas such as risk and financial controls, compliance and accountability. This governance review looked more deeply into Board composition, skills, performance assessment and training, and how we engage with all of our stakeholders.

Having achieved the Gold Standard, we are confident that:

- Our processes are appropriate to the scale and nature of GCF
- We have a high level of compliance with the procedures
- There have been no significant breaches of any of our rules
- We are financially sound and well managed and are an effective and efficient organisation

We are not complacent – a continuous review and improve objective is part of our risk management process. We welcome ECB’s increased focus on embedded governance and aim to continue being a leading county.

We are always looking for ways to do things more effectively, and welcome input from any of our stakeholders.