

Introducing UK Sport

Working in partnership to lead sport in the UK to world-class success

- UK Sport is the strategic lead body for performance sport in the UK, investing around £100m a year in 1,200 athletes to deliver Olympic and Paralympic success at London 2012 and beyond.
- Our 'no compromise' investment strategy was the driving force behind Team GB's incredible performances in Beijing 2008, finishing 4th in the Olympic Medal table, 2nd in the Paralympics.
- UK Sport is also responsible for the UK's Major Events Programme, for strategically leading the nation's sporting international relations and increasing the influence of the UK in the politics of sport internationally, and for driving international development through sport, including being the lead partner of 'International Inspiration'.

Established by Royal Charter in 1997, UK Sport is responsible for investing around £100 million of public funds each year – from National Lottery and Exchequer – in high performance sport. This money is supplemented by a private sponsorship scheme "Team 2012". Accountable to the Department for Culture, Media and Sport, UK Sport has a very clear remit at the 'top end' of Britain's sporting pathway, with no direct involvement in community or school sport.

High Performance Success

UK Sport is currently supporting around 1,200 athletes across 47 Olympic and Paralympic sports, to maximise medal success at World and European Championships and ultimately the Olympic and Paralympic Games. It follows a 'no compromise' investment strategy which targets resources at those sports and athletes most likely to compete and win on the world stage and has been behind the step change in GB performance from Sydney 2000 to Beijing 2008 and on into London 2012. It supports this investment through dedicated support services including:

- Mission 2012 – a unique performance monitoring process which measures the progress of each sport against three dimensions: athlete performance, system and climate in the sport
- Coaching – programmes dedicated to supporting our best athletes and producing the next generation of home grown high performance coaches
- Talent ID – helping sports unearth athletes not just for London but Sochi, Rio and beyond
- Research and Innovation – working with industry and Universities to develop cutting edge competition and training technologies that can make the difference between gold and silver
- Sports Science and Medicine services delivered through a dedicated Institute network

Major Events

UK Sport is also responsible for investing £3.5m a year in co-ordinating the bidding and staging of major international sporting events in the UK. These World and European level events not only provide home competition for our athletes in the build up to 2012, but also support officials and volunteers with vital experience, and generate an average return of almost £5 of economic impact into host regions for every £1 of Lottery funding invested. From 2007-2012, over 100 major events will have been staged across 35 towns and cities in the UK, with almost all Olympic and Paralympic sports having hosted a major international event ahead of London 2012.

International Relations and Development

UK Sport's stated mission is to establish the UK as the best informed, connected and most influential nation in world sport. Working with NGBs and other partners UK Sport seeks to encourage those institutions responsible for governing sport internationally to take decisions geared to the national interest. The programme involves strategically influencing and assisting with the election and appointment of UK nationals into key positions within decision making bodies and building strong bilateral relationships with key selected countries. Alongside this activity, UK Sport's well-established international development assistance programme is recognised worldwide as a leading player in the provision of development through sport activities. UK Sport is the lead delivery agency for 'International Inspiration', the partnership with British Council, UNICEF and others which aims to deliver on the promise made by the London 2012 bid team to 'reach young people all around the world and connect them to the inspirational power of the Games so they are inspired to choose sport'.