



CHAIR OF THE BOARD (NON-EXECUTIVE)

British Dressage (BD) is the governing body for the Olympic and Paralympic sport of dressage and a member of the British Equestrian Federation. Their role is to foster the sport in the UK and prepare riders to compete on the International stage. British Dressage is a company limited by guarantee with 17,000 members and 25,000 associate members. It regulates over 2,300 days of competition a year.

The Chair of the Board is elected by the membership, so BD is seeking nominations from suitably experienced candidates to stand for election.

Role Description

The Chair of the Board works in a non-executive capacity to provide leadership and strategic direction to the sport. The Chair leads a Board of eight Directors and working with the Chief Executive ensures effective governance of the organisation.

Specific Responsibilities

- To lead the Board and encourage active engagement from Directors with the development of strategy, policy and budgets.
- To promote the highest standards of corporate and sport governance at Board level and throughout British Dressage.
- To act as a Director of British Dressage (the Company) in the best interests of the Company and in line with the Companies Act 2006 and in accordance with the Memorandum and Articles of Association.
- To Chair Board meetings and the AGM, as well as attend other committee meetings, federation meetings and other appointments as required.
- To monitor the performance of the Company and ensure that policy and targets are met.
- To act as a strong advocate for the work of British Dressage and the wider British Equestrian Federation.
- To ensure effective communication with members and ensure that the Board develop a good understanding of the views of the membership.
- To ensure that the Board takes balanced and objective decisions in the performance of its agreed role and functions.
- To act as line manager, guide and mentor for the Chief Executive of the Company.
- To represent BD at British Equestrian Federation council meetings and associated activity.
- To chair the Nominations Committee ensuring that there are succession plans in place, that the Board has a balance of skills, experience, independence and knowledge and to pay due regard to the benefits of diversity and appropriate targets.

Requirements for the Role

Knowledge / Experience

- Recent and significant experience of chairing boards or committees.
- Experience as a Director, Trustee or Committee Member in a commercial, voluntary or public sector context at an equivalent level.
- Capacity to take accountability for the formulation of strategy, the effective implementation of all policy initiatives and delivery of agreed objectives.
- Ability to support the development of and provide a sounding board for the Chief Executive, and to constructively challenge the Chief Executives proposals / actions.
- Ability to represent BD at FEI level and be an effective ambassador for the organisation.
- Be a full member of British Dressage.
- IT literate with access to a computer.
- Be eligible as a trustee of a registered charity.

Personal Skills / Characteristics

- Established reputation as a leader and strategic thinker, with a proven ability to operate at senior level in a professional capacity.
- Upholds the highest standards of integrity and adheres to the Seven Principles of Public Life (selflessness, integrity, objectivity, accountability, openness, honesty and leadership).
- Positive, enthusiastic, dynamic and energetic.
- A strong sense of team work and willing to work collaboratively with all stakeholders.
- Experience of representing an organisation in a high profile or public facing role, including excellent presentation and public speaking skills.
- Strong communication, influencing and negotiation skills, with the ability to forge effective relationships with key stakeholder groups.

Whilst knowledge, experience and a passion for sport is an important requirement, a background in dressage or equestrian sport is desirable but not essential.

British Dressage actively promotes diversity and welcomes applications from all parts of the community.

Time Commitment

- There are usually six Board meetings a year plus an AGM.
- The BEF Council meets four times a year.
- Other ad-hoc meetings as required.

- General guide to time commitment is two to four days per month

Term of Office

- Board Directors may stand for two terms of four years each.

Remuneration

- The role is voluntary. Out of pocket expenses will be paid.