

## **England Handball Board Biographies**

### **Rosie Williams: Chair**

Rosie was appointed Chair in September 2021.

Rosie is an experienced board level leader with in-depth knowledge of sport gained from leadership roles in high-profile sporting organisations.

She is passionate and versatile, with a strong background in leading, inspiring, and motivating diverse teams including volunteers.

Rosie has a proven commitment to developing and delivering strategies with a clear vision, managing large budgets, and succeeding in challenging circumstances.

She builds strong relationships with stakeholders and commercial sponsors, focusing on customer satisfaction and experience.

Rosie has an excellent track record of success in delivering significant increases in sports engagement, athlete pathways, participation and international success.

She is a proven international sporting event director who is capable of leading diverse teams to deliver successful events both on and off the field.

### **Amanda Bennett: Non-executive Director**

Director Amanda was appointed to the Board in April 2018.

Former Wales international rugby player Amanda is Managing Director of FairPlay Ltd, which exists to support people and sports organisations.

She is a specialist governance consultant with extensive experience across the sector having worked with the Welsh Rugby Union, The FA, UK Sport, International Paralympic Committee and a range of small and large governing bodies. Amanda has served as a Sport Wales Board member, and is currently a Non-Executive Director of Saracens Women Ltd. She was previously Head of Governance at UK Sport and contributed to the development of the Code for Sports Governance.

She is an internationally recognised expert on women in sport, in particular women's leadership, and previously served as Chair of European Women and Sport. Amanda continues to support and mentor aspiring female leaders in sport.

Earlier in her career Amanda taught Physical Education and introduced handball into the curriculum, which proved to be extremely popular.

Her passion for handball increased as a spectator of GB Handball at the London 2012 Olympic Games and is delighted to be able to contribute to Handball's exciting future.

### **Diaraye Diallo: Non-executive Director**

Diaraye was appointed to the Board in April 2018.

She brings a comprehensive blend of business experience and handball passion and knowledge. She is a banker by profession, with over 15 years' experience with global financial institutions.

Diaraye is the Chair of Olympia Handball Club, which participates in Premier Handball, Regional, and Junior leagues for women and men. She created the club's growing Junior program, working with PE teachers and local boroughs.

Diaraye is also an England Handball Level 2 certified coach and has taken part in numerous European Handball Federation manager education programmes.

### **Chad Ehlertsen: Non-executive Director**

Chad was elected to the Board in September 2017.

He is an executive with CEO and Board-level experience within the sports industry. Chad is a Senior Regional Manager at the FA. He works strategically to support business growth across the South West and Midlands. Previously he was CEO at Birmingham Football Association. There he developed a business growth plan to deliver balanced metrics across finance, participation, human resource and customer excellence.

Chad holds a Masters in Business Administration and will be able to support the growth plans for England Handball using his business acumen and expertise.

### **Marc Fayemi: Non-executive Director**

Marc was elected to the Board in June 2016.

His professional background is banking.

He is passionate about handball, growing up at a time in France when the sport began to see huge growth and success. Marc has been involved with West London Eagles (previously Ruislip Eagles) since 2005, and on the club's committee since 2008. He has also held various positions such as Treasurer and Competition Manager at the London Handball Association, and was a LOCOG Technical Official at the London Olympic Games handball competition.

Marc was named England Handball's 2015 Male Coach of the Year and has delivered coaching in clubs, schools, and universities around London since 2008.

### **Jean-Christophe Lacour: Non-executive Director**

JC was elected to the Board in November 2020.

JC, who played handball in his native France at secondary school and university (MSc), co-founded Ealing Handball Club after London 2012. He is now Chair of West London Eagles Handball Club, with whom Ealing merged.

JC brings B2B2C Product and Market development expertise acquired in consumer payments. He currently heads up a payments business line at Amadeus (global travel technology company).

JC aims to contribute his passion and a product perspective to accelerate the growth of this fabulous sport.

### **Paul Shapiro: Non-executive Director**

Paul was appointed to the Board in April 2018.

He is a managing associate at top tier sports law specialists, Northridge. His work focuses on commercial and regulatory advice to clients in the sports sector. He

regularly advises on governance issues and financial regulation in sport. His experience also includes acting for athletes, brands and rights holders on sponsorship, licensing and merchandising programmes.

Paul has a wide range of in-house experience following secondments to The FA and Nike. He speaks at conferences and on university courses and is a regular contributor to various legal publications, while he is a contributing author to the England & Wales chapter of the industry leading text book "The Sports Law Review".

Paul has a particular interest in improving participation in sport at all levels. He hopes his appointment as non-executive director will give him the opportunity to promote and develop this - and to contribute his skills and experience to the board and the game of handball more generally.

### **Chris Smith: Non-executive Director**

Director Chris was elected to the Board in June 2014.

Chris is an education, sport, and physical activity consultant. He is passionate about the ability of sport to be inclusive, make a positive difference, improve health and wellbeing, and to help people and communities reach their full potential. Chris has a wealth of experience working in the education and community sectors running sport for health and development programmes. He has successfully driven investment and growth in programmes and facilities.

Chris was twice seconded for London 2012, in the run up to, and after, the Olympic and Paralympic Games.

### **Heather Williams: Non-executive Director**

Heather was appointed to the Board in April 2018.

She is a former national level swimmer and triathlete. Since 2003 she has combined her passion for sport with her professional business background, first at British Triathlon and then at British Canoeing.

At British Triathlon she led the development of the talent programme before becoming Performance Director in 2006 and leading the programme to its first Olympic medals in 2012. During this time Heather was a member of the Senior Leadership Team which worked closely with the Board to develop the sport and the organisation.

In 2012 she moved to British Canoeing to lead the development of the Canoeing Talent programmes in Sprint and Slalom. She is currently working with a number of sports to support the development of their World Class and Talent Programmes alongside studying for a Masters in Business Administration in her 'spare time'.

Heather Says she hopes to use her knowledge and experience to ensure England Handball has a robust and sustainable infrastructure with exceptional governance.