



Football Advisory Boards (FABs) – Terms of Reference

[To be read in conjunction with 'Appendix A - Workflow and Detailed Terms']

Reason for the delegation

Enable Lancashire FA to leverage the knowledge, experience, insights and opinions of our stakeholders to inform the strategic direction of the game.

Responsibilities that have been delegated

FABs provide an advisory and support role for the Board, and are non-decision-making. They are required to meet all governance requirements for their specific remit from The FA Code of Governance.

Details about membership of the committee

FABs shall comprise between 5 and 20 members, with specific criteria according to their remit.

Frequency of meetings

Minimum quarterly FAB meetings, plus an annual FAB review meeting with the Board of Directors.

How decisions are recorded and reported to the Board

Decisions are recorded within the appropriate FAB Agenda/Minutes Committee smartsheet, and minutes from committee meetings are finalised within 24-hours of each meeting and available for FAB and Board Member access. The Chair of the Committee provides a 1-pager report for the Board about each committee meeting, and attends the Board Meeting on request to answer questions and obtain Board feedback.

Members required to make decisions (quorum)

For the purposes of FAB operations, a quorum of 5 is required.

Reporting decisions under 'delegated authority'

N/A

Behaviours for committee members

Committee members are required to bring their personal expertise, experience and insights to contribute to the wider picture of the Advisory Board without any personal agenda, and are to refer to the Board Code of Conduct for the values and behaviours of all Board of Directors, Committee and FAB Members.



Appendix A - Workflow and Detailed Terms

Reason for the delegation

Football Advisory Boards operate in an advisory capacity providing intelligence, insights and direct project delivery from Lancashire FA's stakeholders directly into the Lancashire FA Board and Executive, to inform the decision-making process and delivery of Lancashire FA's business plan and VMOST. FABs may be permanent in structure or set up specifically to advise on a standalone project.

Leagues: To provide a more objective, independent, even and unbiased view on how football Leagues should operate in the County, providing both the National League System Feeder and Grassroots League perspective.

FABs remit may be adjusted according to business needs as determined by Lancashire FA's business plan and stakeholder views at the time. In addition, additional FABs may be set up to respond to changing priorities. The initial remit for each FAB will be communicated at the point of recruitment of members.

Responsibilities

FABs provide an advisory and support role for the Board and Executive, and are non-decision-making. They enable Lancashire FA to test ideas, obtain market research and feedback. Project-based FABs additionally provide specialist expertise and fill skills gaps.

FABs may form smaller working groups to target specific areas of their responsibilities.

The FABs are required to meet all governance requirements for their specific remit, where identified in The FA Code of Governance, and have the following specific responsibilities:

All FAB Chairs will act as a conduit between the Board and the FAB, providing a 1-pager document summarising each meeting and will join Board Meetings, at the Board's request, to answer their questions about the FAB's advice and insights, as well as obtaining Board feedback and disseminating this to the FAB membership.

Leagues:

The Football Advisory Board has a consultative responsibility, ultimately reporting to the Lancashire FA Board regarding:

- Engage with Leagues & report from the Leagues perspective.
- Consider and opine on applications to form new sanctioned Leagues in areas of the County, specifically considering the impact that such applications may have on existing provisions.
- Consider and opine on applications to extend the sanctioning of new provisions within already established Leagues and consider the impact that such applications may have on existing provision.
- Provide feedback on any policies that may impact upon Leagues across the County.
- Oversee the FA's consultation process where New League applications are made, or existing provision is requested to be extended and report findings & offer recommendations to the Board informing their decision-making.
- Consider FA regulations & standard codes of Rules on a yearly basis based on The FA's Approved yearly standard codes & regulations and offer a yearly report to the Board offering recommendations.
- Form a working sub-committee to consider FA SCOR's FA SCORY's (Youth) in a timely manner in order to be able to influence FA SCOR's in the future, for the benefit of Leagues & clubs.
- Ensure that all League rules & regulations are fit for purpose and are not a contradiction of the FA SCOR's SCOR(Y).
- Support Charter Standard programme for Leagues & offer guidance & advice around the CSL programme.
- Liaise with County Competitions project-based FAB with regard to how County Competitions may impact on League fixture programmes with a calendar to support all provision.
- Underpin and advocate the requirement for Leagues to fully implement Equality, Diversity and Inclusion across all of their League business.

- Continually review the game and League system to ensure the Leagues are responding in an agile manner to growth areas to provide further opportunities that continually reinforces participation.
- Review on a regular basis the over-lapping of County areas to ensure there is no infringement of provision and there is collaboration and discussion around any disputed cross boundary provision.
- Form stronger more collaborative relationships with other Counties' Leads on League development.
- Oversee any possible applications from perspective NLS feeder Leagues (because any Grassroots League can apply to become a NLS Feeder League) based on attaining a level based on a strict criteria.
- Consider where National & Pro Leagues sit in terms of FABs.
- Have a strong working relationship and collaboration with other FABs based on the wide ranging support that Leagues offer across the other proposed FABs.
- Support the pathway for football, by becoming involved in League Meetings at all of the varied provisions, so that League committees build up a meaningful relationship with the FABs.
- Support Leagues with any funding streams that supports growth ,IT equipment, venue provision for central venue, funding that can be cascaded down to Clubs including the often large reserves of Leagues' own funds.
- Support the Leagues by collaborating with Referees FAB in order to increase the number of available Referees and to continue to raise the standard of Referees across the County.
- Be the voice for Leagues, and keep them up to date on any proposed changes across football.
- Distribute regular notes, actions and information.

The Leagues FAB may appoint, from time to time, a member to guest on another FAB to offer shared knowledge/information that will support the Leagues requirements and wishes and offer better insight to related FABs.

FAB Membership

- Set Up: 12 months, with annual review and extension.
- Membership Pre-requisites:
 - **All FABs** – All members aged 18+ are required to have completed, or agree to complete within 3 months, the FA Safeguarding Training and Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Training provided by Lancashire FA.
 - **Permanent FABs** – FAB composition where possible should be reflective of the Lancashire FA football community's diversity and cover the range of protected characteristics as well as having diversity of experience, knowledge and thought. Similar Board inclusion and diversity targets should be adopted as a minimum (minimum of 30% of each gender).
- Numbers: Typically, minimum 5, maximum 20, but adjustable according to individual FAB requirements.
- Lancashire FA Staff Attendance: All FABs will have a Lancashire FA lead who will provide both input and direction on topics that require consideration and fulfil the role of committee secretary during meetings. Certain FABs also require additional attendance by Lancashire FA staff.
- Lancashire FA Directors/CEO Attendance: Attendance at meetings is in an advisory capacity only to answer questions, at the request of the FAB Chair. Generally, non-attendance enables free discussion.

FAB Recruitment Process

- Process overseen by the People & Culture Committee to ensure fair representation.
- All footballing stakeholders of Lancashire FA are permitted to apply to become a member of a FAB where the nominee meets the membership criteria. Non-permanent FABs requiring specialist skills may additionally be from outside of the typical football community. Where the number of candidates put forward exceeds membership limits, composition of the committee regarding fair representation is prioritised, with all additional candidates chosen via ballot.
- The FAB Chair is responsible for being the single point of contact with the Board, preparing update papers, and joining Board meetings on request to answer questions. The position is reappointed annually. In the Chair's absence they nominate a substitute Chair ahead of the meeting.
- The FAB secretary is responsible for finalising the agenda with the Chair and recording minutes in real time.

- Formation of the FAB:
 - Recruitment of the Chair: Open and transparent interview process requiring completion of an application form, outlining interests in the FAB, relevant Chair experience, skills and abilities, with short-listed candidates interviewed by one member of the Lancashire FA Board and the Lancashire FA lead, with the Chair appointed according to merit.
 - Recruitment of members: Open and transparent interview process requiring completion of an application form, outlining interests in the FAB, relevant experience, skills and abilities, with all candidates interviewed by the FAB Chair and the Lancashire FA lead.
- Members may only sit on one FAB to avoid any conflict of interest.
- FAB Chairs will be reviewed on an annual basis by the People & Culture Committee as part of the FAB review.
- When FAB members reduce through attrition to below 8 members, recruitment reopens for additional members to join. This number may be adjusted according to the agreed minimum and maximum number for each particular FAB.
- Certain FABs have specific recruitment criteria:
 - **Leagues:** The members should, on a best endeavours basis, represent all facets of football leagues in order to provide equal representation for the following areas:
 - Adult Football (Saturday and Sunday)
 - Youth Football (All Formats)
 - Recreational Football
 - VETS Football Women and Girls Football
 - Disability Football

Meetings - Frequency & Agenda Setting

Meeting Frequency

- FABs to meet a minimum of four times a year.
- FABs to convene additional meetings as dictated by circumstances or at the Board's/CEO's request to handle urgent matters. All meetings to have a quorum.
- Notice of each meeting, confirming venue, time, date and connection details, to be sent no later than five business days before the meeting, except for short-notice meetings referred to above.
- LFA Lead to provide the role of Secretary for the FAB.
- Chair and all FAB members to join an annual FAB review meeting with the Board of Directors celebrating success and looking to the future.

Meeting Agendas/Minutes:

- Agenda items are finalised by the LFA Lead and Chair and added to the FAB agenda/minutes smartsheet 5 working days prior to the meeting.
- For short notice meetings, Members are advised by email when agenda items and papers are uploaded within the email requesting the meeting. All meetings require a quorum, and the line item will be discussed at the next meeting when reviewing 'Minutes and Status from Last Meeting'.
- Minutes are added to the Agenda line item in real time during the meeting by the secretary, as a formal record.
- Agenda to include:
 - Standard Administrative Items: Apologies for Absence / Minutes & Status from Last Meeting to Action (Board feedback, Update on action taken) / Declaration of Interests.
 - Schedule of Matters – annual items planned throughout the year according to business requirements and allocated to specific meetings. Discussion for items to include:
 - Commentary on discussion.
 - Action agreed for next steps and by whom.
 - Key advice for notification to the Board.
 - Any Other Business.
 - Safeguarding Perspective



- Equality Diversity & Inclusion Perspective.
- Youth Voice Perspective.
- Innovation & Opportunities.
- Date of Next Meeting.
- Draft minutes are approved by the Chair within 24-hours.

Process for adding an agenda item:

- Committee Members use either the 'meeting agenda submission form' on the FAB dashboard, or email directly, to notify the Chair and Secretary of additional agenda item for inclusion, and provide any additional accompanying papers.
- Once approved, the FAB Secretary (LFA Lead) adds the paper to the new smartsheets agenda line.

How recommendations and advice are recorded and reported to the Board

- Recommendations and advice are recorded in the FAB Agenda/Minutes.
- FAB Chair to provide a 1-pager report on the advisory output after each meeting.
- Every Lancashire FA Board Meeting has an agenda item for each FAB to discuss the 1-pager advice and ask the FAB Chair questions as well as provide feedback for the FAB.
- The FAB can make whatever recommendations to the Board it deems appropriate on any area within its remit.

Members required for a meeting to take place (quorum)

- FABs do not have delegated authority from the Board and therefore do not have the power to make binding decisions. FABs provide an advisory and support role, providing insights to assist the Board with decision-making.
- For the purposes of FAB operations, a quorum of 5 is required.

Reporting decisions under delegated authority

Not Applicable

Behaviours for FAB committee members

FAB Committee members are required to bring their personal expertise, experience and insights to contribute to the wider picture of the Advisory Board and Lancashire FA, without any personal agenda.

Refer to the Board Code of Conduct for values and behaviours of Board of Directors and all Committee Members.

For the avoidance of doubt:

- Prepare well ahead of meetings, reading and digesting all papers circulated, to enable meeting time to be spent efficiently;
- Listen respectfully and openly to alternative views, ensure each person has sufficient time and opportunity to provide their view;
- Be measured and consider the best interests of the business at all times;
- Be mindful of the personal impact on others of your communication-style (tone and delivery);
- Be conscious of time management constraints during debate and decision making and respect the Chair's decision when it is time to move on;
- Be calm, polite, professional and respectful when challenging, operating as a critical friend;
- Be mindful of the balance between support and challenge for agenda items, during meetings and with each other;
- Remain strategic in approach, aligned to strategy and business priorities. Remain non-parochial and generally non-operational. Note, under certain circumstances you may be required to provide a more operational approach at the request of the CEO and The Board;



- Ensure no undue influence is exerted within, or outside of, meetings;
- Behave in accordance with the LFA Code of Ethics & Conduct and Company Values at all times, role modelling these behaviours;
- Use an agreed mechanism for respectfully calling out behaviours that are counter-productive to the team operating efficiently (such as talking over someone, not moving on when a decision has been reached, going off topic, not being prepared for a meeting);
- In the case of a conflict of interests preclude yourself from voting, and leave the meeting. Do not participate in any discussions, debate or voting, and engage only if specifically asked to do so. The conflict is recorded in the minutes; and
- Once a decision has been made, it must be supported even if initially there was disagreement.