Introduction

Sport has international activity where the collaboration and planning is clearly set out, often with international terms and agreements, and done in partnership with other home countries and UK Sport. This applies mainly to areas of high performance sport where the competition process requires clear rules of engagement and where the governance is sport-specific, involving international governing bodies as well as national and home country. For example:

Hockey

Scottish Hockey (SH) has a direct relationship with the Federation International de Hockey (FIH) and the European Hockey Federation (EHF) as SH competes as Scotland at European and world level. Only the Olympics and Olympic qualifying events are not entered by Scotland instead entered by GB.

Scotland has a number of individuals on the EHF committees but none on the FIH.

Gerry Ralph and Barbara Morgan: Development Committee
Scott Baird: Indoor Committee
Jean Duncan: Umpire development Committee
Anne Wotherspoon: Finance Committee

Athletics

scottishathletics affiliates to UK Athletics (UKA). scottishathletics is a totally separate business – and UKA has only 4 voting “members” - i.e. the home countries of the UK – England, Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland.

UKA is the direct affiliate to the International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF) and also therefore to European Athletics(EA). Whilst the IAAF and EA are fully aware of the existence of scottishathletics both bodies do not officially recognise Scotland which is seen in this context as a sub body of UKA. So in practice, and in relation to the recent example of the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow ……… as the IAAF work with the Commonwealth Games Federation (CGF) to manage the overall athletics element, so IAAF then “delegate” / mandate UKA to deliver aspects of the Games (e.g. officials below a certain level).

In the early days of planning for G2014 therefore the CGF had dealings with UKA. However, in practice scottishathletics took that all over as UKA didn’t have the local knowledge etc., but strictly had anything arisen, IAAF would have formally asked UKA for a response (rather than scottishathletics).
Golf

The Scottish Golf Union (SGU) is a national member of the International Golf Federation, The European Golf Association and British Golf.

International Golf Federation based in Lausanne, Switzerland.

Mission

- **Promote** Golf as an Olympic Sport
- **Encourage** the international development of golf
- **Administer** golf as the recognised International Federation within the Olympic Movement
- **Organise** the golf competitions at the Olympic Games, Youth Olympic Games and the World Amateur Team Championships

The European Golf Association

- Was founded in Luxembourg on the 20th of November 1937.
- The Association declares as its foundation the observance of the Rules of Golf and Amateur Status as laid down by the R&A Limited.
- The Association concerns itself solely with matters of an international character. Membership is restricted to European National Amateur Golf Associations, Federations or Unions.
- The Association is presently composed of 46 member countries and is governed by the following Committees:
  - Executive Committee (10 members)
  - Championship Committee (12 members)
  - EGA Handicapping & Course Rating Committee
  - EGA Sustainable Golf Committee

The Association's offices are in Brussels which allows it to get involved in European business such as linkages to Erasmus funding and the current President is a Scot – Colin Wood.

British Golf

British Golf has been set up to manage the relationship between each of the home countries and the BOA and through them the IOC. British Golf includes representation from the whole of Ireland (similar to the approach to rugby in Ireland) and Hamish Grey (Chief Executive of the SGU) has been appointed Chair to take British Golf through the cycle for the Rio Olympics.

These relationships are mainly based around sharing good practice, access to the various championships and competitions staged by the International and European bodies and do very little for the development of the game in Scotland.
R&A

Interesting to note too the R&A Working for Golf programme.

Each year, The R&A distributes a substantial sum of roughly £5m to deserving causes from grassroots initiatives, through coaching and regional championships, to professional tours all over the world - not to mention distributing brand-new green keeping machinery to golf courses in developing golfing nations. The central aim is to increase golf’s availability and affordability to more people in more countries. Formed in 2004 and based in St Andrews, The R&A seeks to engage in and support activities that are undertaken for the benefit of the game of golf and, despite deriving its name from the members’ club, is separate and distinct from The Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St Andrews.

Further Collaboration

These kinds of international structures and forms of collaborative working also include other areas such as event and games hosting and anti-doping (the latter being governed by World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) and UKAD. The employment and use of coaches is governed by the same labour market policies as other areas and there has been work to harmonise qualifications across EU. UK Coaching Committee has led on much of this work.

When it comes to grass roots sports development, that which takes place in schools and education, clubs and communities, the picture is less clear about what the appropriate role is for Scotland in international relationships which tends to be more opportunistic and ad hoc. For example, whilst policy for sport is devolved, the EU has sport and physical activity policy that is consulted on with the UK. This tends to require a single UK expert and official representative and there is not always the opportunity to set out the significantly different approaches to sports policy that sit within each of the four home countries. Time lines for consultations and clear communication channels seem to be the key challenge. The EU policy covers areas such as minimum and standardised research and data, public guidelines on matters such as activity levels, sector responsibilities (such as health insurers) and anti-doping work that goes beyond international sport to include grass roots recreational activities (such as drug taking and supplementation associated with body building). These areas of policy have significance in relation to funding streams as programmes such as ERASMUS+ are designed to support the delivery of agreed EU policy. The European Commission has proposed the 2016 EU budget including €1.8bn for ERASMUS+.

Additionally there are international guidelines such as the World Health Organisations (WHO) policies on Non Communicable Diseases which refer and give guidance on levels of physical activity to prevent ill health and disease. They often also make statements on the role and position of grass roots sports. There are also a plethora of international associations such as International Council for School Sport and Physical Education or the
International Sport for All groups all of whom exist in the space of civil society with relatively random connections to Scottish sport. There is also now a small but growing group of ‘sport for change’ organisations in Scotland who have international development work that uses sport as a tool to engage people as a part of their portfolio of activity – again most of these are voluntary and charitable bodies.

There is clearly an opportunity to consider whether Scotland could take a more strategic and coordinated approach to its international representation and delivery in the area of grass roots sport and the committee might want to explore that opportunity.