European and External Relations Committee
The EU referendum and its implications for Scotland
Written submission from the Scottish Sports Association

The Scottish Sports Association (SSA) thanks the Scottish Parliament’s European and External Relations Committee for the opportunity to respond to this call for written evidence. Should any queries result from our response, or if further engagement with the SSA or our members would be beneficial as this process develops, please do not hesitate to contact us.

The SSA is the independent and collective voice for Scottish Governing Bodies of sport. We represent their interests and currently have 52 full members and 18 associate members. The governing bodies of sport are responsible for the governance, development and delivery of their individual sports and provide a formal structure for the over 900,000 individuals in Scotland who are members of one of Scotland’s 13,000 sports clubs. Most of these organisations are run on a not-for-profit basis and are managed by volunteers. They provide coaching, competition and participation development opportunities for their local communities and most of the 195,000 people who volunteer in sport do so within the club structure.

The SSA has compiled this response following consultation, as usual, with our member Scottish Governing Bodies (SGBs).

The following points summarise key areas of priority for SGBs of sport:

- Free movement of people
  - Visa implications (eg additional bureaucracy, additional cost, longer processing timelines)
  - Challenges for current and future employment of non-British SGB coaches and other staff
  - Challenges for SGB athletes/teams traveling to tournaments
  - Challenges for SGBs hosting tournaments

- Our members are working on the clear assumption that there will be no effect on European Sports Federation memberships

- There may be a cost increase to hosting/traveling to events
  - Exchange rate implications

- There may be a transition period of additional cost re bidding for events during the transitional process

- Challenges regarding the potential loss of EU funding
  - ERDF (European Regional Development Fund) funding, eg to support the Event Scotland International Programme (~£1-1.5m of funding/year)
  - Erasmus support for European coaching exchanges.