



Student Sport Ireland Board Vacancies:

Independent Non-Executive Directors

Student Sport Ireland Independent Directors Vacancies.

Invitation

Student Sport Ireland invites applications from suitably qualified candidates for the role of Board Independent Non-Executive Director (independent director). Currently there are two independent director vacancies on the Board.

About SSI

SSI is recognised by Sport Ireland, Sport Northern Ireland, and the International University Sports Federation (FISU) as the representative body for third level sport and physical activity on the island of Ireland. The organisation has 30 affiliated institutions comprising universities, Institutes of Technology and colleges (affiliated colleges) who provide sport and physical activity opportunities for over 220,000 full-time undergraduate and postgraduate students. The organisation employs two staff with offices located at Sport HQ on the Sport Ireland National Sports Campus.

SSI works in partnership with national and international sports bodies identifying and developing pathways for students to participate, compete and develop through sport and physical activity. The organisation's core remit is to oversee and deliver student competitions, coordinate the participation of elite and high performance student athletes at International University Competitions including the FISU World University Games, through its research programme to influence and inform policy and programme development, and support affiliated colleges sports staff through networking and information sharing opportunities.

In January 2021 the SSI Board adopted a new strategic plan and ratified the organisation's compliance with the Sport Ireland Governance Code. The ambitious new strategic mission is to grow quality student sport competition, enhance student health and wellbeing, and to provide leadership to the third level sports sector.

The SSI Board

The SSI constitution allows for a Board of 12 non-executive directors comprising of 10 directors nominated by the affiliated colleges (nominated directors), and 2 independent directors.

The SSI constitution clearly defines an independent director as a *director who are not staff or students of an affiliated college, NGB, (or) student NGB and who have not been associated with an affiliated college for a period of at least 10 years.*

The current Board of 10 nominated directors include Directors and Heads of Sport, Deputy Heads of Sports, Senior Sports Managers, and a student representative who serves as the company Vice President. The Board is led and chaired by the SSI President. All nominated directors are elected to the Board by affiliated colleges voting delegates at the AGM for an initial term of three years.

SSI has a proud history of gender balance representation on its Board. The gender representation on the current Board is 50:50.

Board Commitment

The SSI Board meets virtually or at Sport HQ at the Sport Ireland National Sports Campus seven times a year. Directors are expected to also attend SSI networking and information sharing opportunities with affiliated college representatives held annually in May and December, and the AGM held every February. Although nominated directors currently chair or serve on SSI committees it is not expected at this time that the newly appointed independent directors will be required to serve on committees.

Independent directors may serve a maximum of two three year terms either sequentially or cumulatively from the date of their initial appointment, subject to ratification at the AGM following their appointment.

All SSI directors, whether nominated and independent, serve on the Board in a voluntary capacity and receive no payment for their services.

New Independent Director Positions

It is envisaged, and expected, that the two new appointees will through their contributions at Board, input to company activities, and personal leadership skills, significantly influence and inform the management, governance, and strategic development of the organisation.

To support the organisation's continued growth and to ensure the implementation of its ambitious strategic plan the Board is seeking applications from candidates with experience, expertise or knowledge in one or more of the following areas:

- Representation and networking
- Commercial, fundraising, marketing and sponsorship
- Health and wellbeing.

In addition to the above candidates must demonstrate in their application evidence of:

- Board or similar experience in an organisation of a similar size
- Understanding of the not for profit representative sports body sector
- Independent of thought and sound judgement
- Integrity with strong ethical approach
- Strong communications, interpersonal and relationships skills
- An understanding of good governance practices and company regulations
- Knowledge of third level sport is desirable but not essential.

Application Process

Applicants are invited to submit a cover letter and a supporting CV to the SSI Development Manager Ciarán Ó hlarnáin via email (ciaran@studentsport.ie). The closing date for applications is noon on Tuesday, 16th March 2021. As the process is a competitive one late applications will not be accepted.

Applicant must clearly demonstrate their ability to meet the requirements of the role as set out above, detailing their relevant experience, expertise, knowledge, and skills. Applicants are requested to confirm that they meet the definition of an independent director as outlined above and to state or identify any potential conflicts of interest.

Applications will be assessed by a working group established by the Board to oversee the appointment process. A short-listing process will be undertaken following the deadline with shortlisted applicants invited to virtually meet with the working group the week of 22nd March 2021.

It is anticipated that the appointments will be ratified by the SSI Board in early April to facilitate a Board induction process in advance of the new directors joining the Board at its next meeting on May 6th 2021.