

Sports governance and corporate compliance are the focus of this month's Onside Law bulletin following Sport England and UK Sport's publication of a new code for sports governance. Read on to find out how the new code is likely to impact on the so-called smaller governing bodies and the larger federations. This bulletin, which falls half way through the first year of enforcement of the new regime requiring UK companies to maintain a register of persons with significant control, also provides a bite-sized reminder of the corporate compliance requirements.

## NEW DAWN FOR SPORTS GOVERNANCE

With £1 Billion invested in sport over the last four years and nearly 16 million adults playing sport, sport is ever more important to the fabric of British society. Against this background, the Government has launched its new Code for Sports Governance which sets mandatory requirements for receiving funding and government support. The code comes into effect in April 2017 and will require:

- A dramatic increase in diversity on Boards both in terms of skills and experience and in particular in targeting 30% female representation;
- Greater transparency with much more information to be made publicly available; and
- Reform of traditional models and councils to ensure the Board of Directors is the ultimate decision maker for the governing body.

Many smaller governing bodies have reformed in



anticipation of the new Code and are well placed to be compliant.

However, some of the larger federations with traditional governance models, often hundreds of years old, are struggling. The FA for example has only one woman on its Board and an, arguably, out dated and undemocratic Council that still retains its role as the ultimate decision making body for the FA. [Click here to read more.](#)

## BITE SIZED REMINDER: PSC REGISTER

## NEWS IN BRIEF:

Onside Law partner Oli Hunt attended the 2016 Ryder Cup at the Hazeltine National Golf Club in Minnesota as **Ryder Cup Europe's** legal representative. [Click here](#) for the exclusive images from our man on the ground.



HAZELTINE  
2016

Onside Law has also recently advised:

**The ECB** on its new four-year principal partner deal with NatWest.

**World Rugby** on various sponsorship, hosting and commercial agreements.



**Tennis Authorities** on successfully defending two appeals by convicted match fixers to the Court of Arbitration for Sport. Follow the attached link to see Onside Law partner Jamie Singer explain how Tennis Integrity operates on Sky News. <http://bit.ly/1ORqKMe>



The shareholders of **Human Race** on a 100% share sale to Amaury Sport Organisation, owner of the Tour de France.

# on side law

Since 6 April 2016 most UK private companies have been required to produce, keep and maintain a register of persons with significant control over that company (a PSC register).



Common examples of an individual exercising significant control over a company are when that individual holds, directly or indirectly, more than 25% of the shares or voting rights in the company. This is not exhaustive and the rules also contain other conditions that constitute significant control.

Also remember that in certain circumstances the ownership and control of an intermediate controller must be "looked through" in order to disclose the individual(s) holding the ultimate significant control. [Click here to read more.](#)

**CHAMBERS**  
AND PARTNERS

We are delighted to be ranked as one of the top sports firms in the country by **Chambers & Partners 2017**. The latest publication describes us as a 'highly regarded ensemble of specialist sports law advisers', along with being 'valued for their commercial nous on a host of non-contentious sports matters along with a steadily expanding disputes and regulatory practice. [Click here](#) to view the ranking.



**Engage Sports Media** on an equity investment by Modern Times Group (MTGx).

**Eric Dier** on his new contract with Tottenham Hotspur Football Club until 2021.



**Southampton Football Club** on its new shirt deal with Virgin Media.



**The Football Champions Tour** on the launch of **Star Sixes**, the first-ever competitive world football tournament for iconic ex-international players.

