

English Institute of Sport

Technical Steering Panel Terms of Reference, May 2019

1. Purpose

The purpose of the Technical Steering Panel is to provide independent advice and oversight on technical projects and practice conducted by the EIS.

2. Key Responsibilities

- i. Provide independent review of proposed EIS technical projects and practice where internal approval thresholds are exceeded and/or when referred by the EIS Senior Leadership team (SLT)
- ii. Conduct independent review and/or audit of current EIS technical projects and practice as requested by SLT and/or the Board
- iii. Where appropriate, and in collaboration with the SLT and its Technical Leadership Teams, develop guidelines and position statements to quality assure, safeguard and promote EIS technical standards
- iv. Advise SLT and the Board when the panel identifies potentially high-risk and/or contentious issues in sport science and medicine research and practice that may impact the EIS

In addition, the Technical Steering Panel will be updated on all project proposals on a quarterly basis, including the number of proposed projects submitted for approval, their objectives and the approving authority (ie Head of Service, Technical Director, SLT, independent Research Ethics Committee, EIS Technical Steering Panel).

3. Scope

The Technical Steering Panel will consider current and proposed projects and practice as referred by SLT and/or the Board. An internal framework will outline project review, approval and referral pathways and will be managed and implemented by the executive.

In most cases, the Technical Steering Panel will consider projects and practice with respect to technical procedures, safety and scientific rigour. In some cases, and when specifically requested by SLT, the Technical Steering Panel will consider projects and practice with respect to athlete welfare, performance impact, and value for money.

It should be noted that the Technical Steering Panel is not a Research Ethics Committee (REC) and is not required to review every EIS technical project.

4. Working Practices

The Technical Steering Panel will be led by a non-executive member of the EIS Board with expertise in sports performance and health.

The Technical Steering Panel will be made up of a small number of core members with breadth of experience in high performance sport. Technical experts will be co-opted to review specific projects and practice as required. All members of the group will act with strict confidentiality.

The Technical Steering Panel will not have a formal decision-making role; however, it may offer recommendations for project approval and improvement. It may raise serious concerns, and in such cases, the EIS must ensure the concerns are considered.

The Technical Steering Panel will convene as required to fulfil its responsibilities, adopting the most appropriate means of meeting and communication.