Vision for Sport
2020-24
Edinburgh University Sports Union is an integral component of positive student experience and sense of belonging within our University community. Our students continue to make memories and friendships which last a lifetime, while striving for excellence at every level of sporting competition.

Central to our next strategic cycle will be our renewed focus on student wellbeing, upskilling our volunteers through our Coaching and Volunteering Academy, innovation across our whole offering, as well as seeking to make all activity as inclusive as possible. I hope these targets provide us with a wider platform for advocacy across the University, to allow more students to experience both the mental and physical benefits of sport first-hand.

Our students consistently achieve incredible things, both in a sporting and non-sporting capacity. EUSU wishes to provide the framework to support our students to reach new heights and create a welcoming community which we are all extremely proud of.

#WeAreEdinburgh
Values
We are united

#WeAreEdinburgh
We are people-centered, creators of a community that provides a sense of belonging for all its members

Always inclusive
We are focused on being accessible and relevant to all individuals

Strive for excellence
We create and nurture a culture that delivers excellence

Be innovative
We always strive for innovation in order to continually improve and advance
In the period of 2020-24, our priority is to ensure that EUSU’s clubs are thriving, inclusive and continually improving.
Clubs
The bigger picture

From now until 2024, we want to develop a strong, modern and sustainable club system.

Our ultimate goal is to grow participation through the recruitment and retention of a diverse group of leaders, coaches and officials.
Clubs
A new framework

We will develop a club framework that ensures continual development and continuity for all clubs—one that syncs seamlessly with EUSU, from finances to awards.

We are developing a framework that will be easily implemented and maintained. We are streamlining the process to becoming a EUSU club, and what steps need to be taken to ensure it is managed correctly and in adherence with EUSU’s values.
Clubs
Committed to inclusivity

We will provide all of our clubs with guidance and resources around facilitating inclusive sport for everyone—irrespective of gender, race, sexuality or disability. At EUSU, we are committed to inclusivity.

The right resources
We will ensure that clubs have access to the right resources to create an inclusive environment, from staffing to equipment.

Raising our profile
We will work together to raise the profile of EUSU, breaking down real and perceived barriers to participation.

Provide training
We will provide thorough training and education for our volunteers, ensuring club cultures are rooted in inclusive practices and behaviours.

Working together
We will work with our equality partners to support the development of our workforce.

Community presence
We will provide all of our clubs with guidance and resources around facilitating inclusive sport for everyone—irrespective of gender, race, sexuality or disability. At EUSU, we are committed to inclusivity.
In the period of 2020-24, we aim to continue to ensure top quality competition opportunities for our members, whether that be locally, nationally or internationally.

We will also offer much more inclusive programmes, which are fun and grow engagement of both students and staff in sport. Physical activity will help us create a community feel.
Programmes
Raising aspirations

By 2024, we want EUSU to be the UK’s largest university-based recreational sport offering. We will achieve this by adhering to the four principles outlined here.

At EUSU, we believe that sport is crucial to the University’s community outreach agenda. We can become a hub for local and regional sport, raising community aspirations by providing unique opportunities for development.

1. We will devise and trial new sports and/or event formats to encourage recreational participation in sport, especially from under-represented groups.

2. In response to time pressures and lifestyle choices, we will seek to integrate more modernised offerings, such as short/sharp variations of sports.

3. We will collaborate with Sport and Exercise to develop a community engagement plan.

4. It’s essential that all students have an opportunity to compete at a level commensurate to their abilities, whether that be as a beginner or an Olympic athlete.
Programmes
Immediate priorities

In addition to our external ambitions, we need to make some internal adjustments to ensure that EUSU is the deserving leader in university-based recreational sports.

1. We will identify and back innovations that offer clear potential for growth at scale, especially for under-represented groups.

2. We will form a disability strategic group to ensure all voices are heard and represented; we will actively implement and action feedback.
We seek to increase entries into BUCS and SSS through a continuous renewal of our policies and allocation of resources.

3. We want to develop a campus-wide sports programme, for all schools. To do this, we aim to leverage the University’s position to reach and engage a wider audience.

4. We seek to increase entries into BUCS and SSS through a continuous renewal of our policies and allocation of resources.
We are devoted to our people and believe in the opportunities we can provide through the CVA.

EUSU is a place of transformation and self-improvement, and we support our volunteers to aim high, transforming the lives of our members and the University’s reputation.
People
Enhanced employability

Through the CVA, we will offer a wide range of initiatives that will allow individuals across a wide range of roles to grow and develop within EUSU.

The CVA will set out clear standards and a refreshed approach to training and qualifications. Career development pathways will be offered to all volunteers, as we work towards building a more diverse group of volunteers.

New and expansive opportunities
For all volunteers

Focus on employability
For all volunteers

5 out of 10 club presidents
Will take part in the Edinburgh Award

Equal development pathways
For all volunteers
People
Utilising resources

Our sole aim is to ensure our coaches are fulfilling their personal development goals and are enhancing their employability whilst at EUSU by seeking out relevant opportunities.

Explore
Cultivate substance of the Wallace Group universities, exploring possibilities with Scottish Government’s International Development Unit

Opportunities
Continue to develop CVA’s activities and events, enhancing the offering by engaging with key partners, to ensure volunteers are best equipped

External Support
Utilise already-existing schemes within the University to provide ample support our volunteers, such as Finance’s mentor scheme or the Student Wellbeing scheme

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Wellbeing is pivotal to everything we do at EUSU, and it is integral to our people development practices.

It is now a constitutional requirement to have a Wellbeing Officer in every club.
Advocacy

Our pledge

During the period 2020-24, we will continue to promote the benefits of sport, physical activity, volunteering and the fantastic achievements of our members.

By becoming a stronger organisation that’s continually improving, we will enhance our effectiveness and minimise the barriers to achieving our greatest aspirations.
Advocacy
Stay close with alumni

Sport is a natural conduit between the extensive University of Edinburgh alumni network and our current student base.

Sport can play a key role in ensuring our future leavers continue to show great affection for Edinburgh, and consequently contribute to the University’s ongoing success and development.
We’re conscious of developing communications that inspire and encourage everyone to be regularly active, every day.

By increasing our communications, we will expand our reach and explore different ways to engage new audiences.

We’re hoping to collaborate with Sport and Exercise on this, and also reach out to the Schools, Recruitment and Admissions service on including a sport and fitness dimension to their social media activity to support the induction of first year students.
Advocacy
Working towards

Build upon internal partnerships to enhance the role EUSU plays in improving the overall student experience at the University of Edinburgh

Create networks, such as Edinburgh Local, in order to develop our workforce and offer more opportunities

Increase representation on BUCS, SSS and SGBs
Advocacy
Working towards

- Appoint a patron
- Work in collaboration with other departments to emphasise the importance of sport and participation in addition to academic and degree requirements
- Honorary President selected from the University of Edinburgh Court
Advocacy
Small changes, big impact

In order to ensure that we become that strong, streamlined organisation that allows everyone to achieve their greatest aspirations, we need to action the following.

01. Undertake a thorough review of all committee structures and guidance

02. Undertake a review of club grants and link to new framework, ensuring resources are fully maximised

03. Activate a partnership with Sport and Exercise for the provision of facilities and a delivery of a holistic sports package to the University of Edinburgh’s students

04. Ensure fair and equal feedback systems are in place for all members, across all areas of EUSU activity

05. Collaborate with other departments from across the University to highlight the importance of sport and its defining role in shaping the full student experience

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Advocacy
Small changes, big impact
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