

2026

RYA Northern Ireland

Board Director Recruitment

NI
SAILING
TEAM **RYA**

RYA
NORTHERN
IRELAND

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Recruitment of Director roles

We are looking for two Independent Directors and one Nominated Director:

Independent Director

With an interest/expertise in the areas listed to the right.

Nominated Director

The skill set is flexible for this nominated director role, but would be advantageous to have one or more of the skills, knowledge and/or experience listed to the right to fit the skills gaps the Board currently has.

Marketing

Measuring and understanding impact

Sponsorship

Fundraising

Communications & PR

Sailing/sports development

Charity governance

Skills

Interests

We would like to hear from people from all backgrounds. This role might particularly appeal to you if you have an interest in:

- Helping to get more people to become physically active
- Engaging diverse audiences in sports and physical activity
- Supporting athletes to maximise their potential
- Raising the profile of sport/sailing and the benefits it can bring
- Re-imagining the pathways available for people to get into/stay in sport
- Passionate about the outdoors/being in or around the water
- Developing your professional development through a Board Director position

Interests

Our values



**Approachable
& supportive**



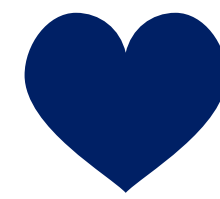
Visible



**Brave and
adventurous**



Transparent



**Passionate
and proud**



**Embracing
equality**

Welcome

From the Chair and CEO

Thank you for your interest in becoming an RYA NI Director.

With the launch of the five year Navigating the Future strategy in 2023 and the NI Sailing Team in 2024, it is an exciting time for sailing, boating and windsurfing in Northern Ireland. The sport has seen increasing levels of club membership and participation in recent years. With the appreciation of being outdoors growing, we want to ensure the sport is well positioned to appeal to a wider range of audiences, enabling more people to enjoy being on or around the water and experiencing the best views of any sport (in our opinion!!).

We are looking to strengthen the RYA NI Board with the recruitment of **three new Director positions** that can support the delivery of the Navigating the Future strategy. We are interested to hear from people with or without sailing or boating experience, **so don't be put off by not knowing much about the sport.**



Gavin Watson
Chair

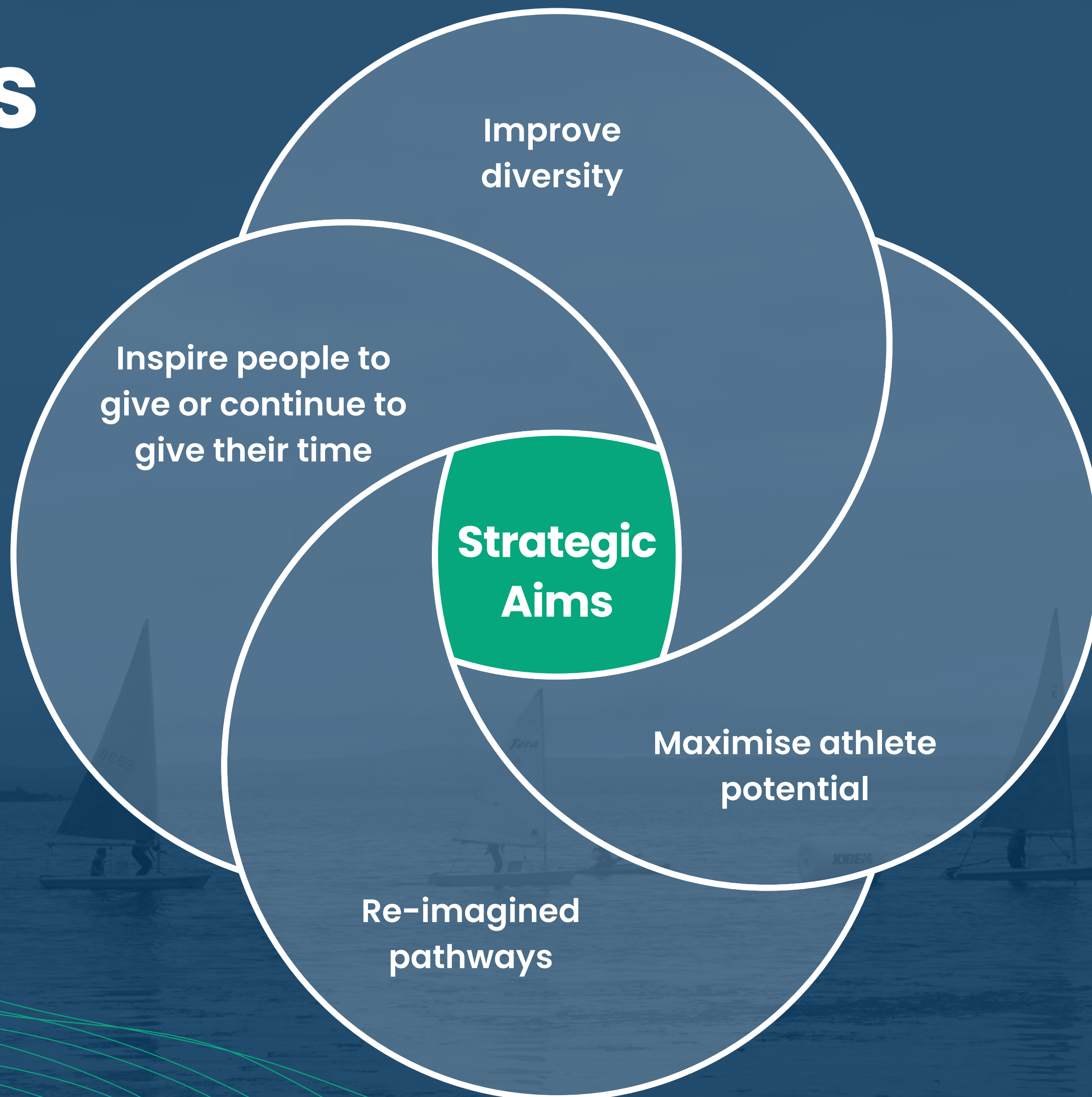


Greg Yarnall
Chief Executive Officer

Welcome

Strategic aims

These new roles will help to ensure we have a range of skills and experiences to support the direction of the strategic plan, where our strategic aims include:



To read about our strategy in more detail, click [here](#).

Equality of opportunity

RYA NI is committed to providing equality of opportunity for all individuals.

Applications are welcome regardless of gender, age, marital status, disability, religion, ethnic origin, political opinion, sexual orientation or whether or not you have dependants. All applications for appointment are considered strictly on merit.



Equality of opportunity

About RYA Northern Ireland

The Royal Yachting Association Northern Ireland (RYA NI) acts for the RYA in Northern Ireland (NI).

The RYA NI is a registered charity with the Charity Commission NI and continues to grow as an organisation and increase its reach, with over **70 recognised and affiliated bodies, 1280 RYA Personal Members** and over **9500 Club Members** across Northern Ireland.

RYA NI have a range of programmes and initiatives in place to support the club network that can help sustain, grow or diversify participation at all levels. We are also responsible for helping clubs to organise a number of qualification-based courses, such as the Instructor or Race Coach courses.

The Royal Yachting Association (RYA) is the national body for dinghy, yacht and motor cruising, all forms of sail racing, RIBs and sports boats, windsurfing and personal watercraft and a leading representative for inland waterways cruising.

About RYA Northern Ireland

RYA NI's mission is to:

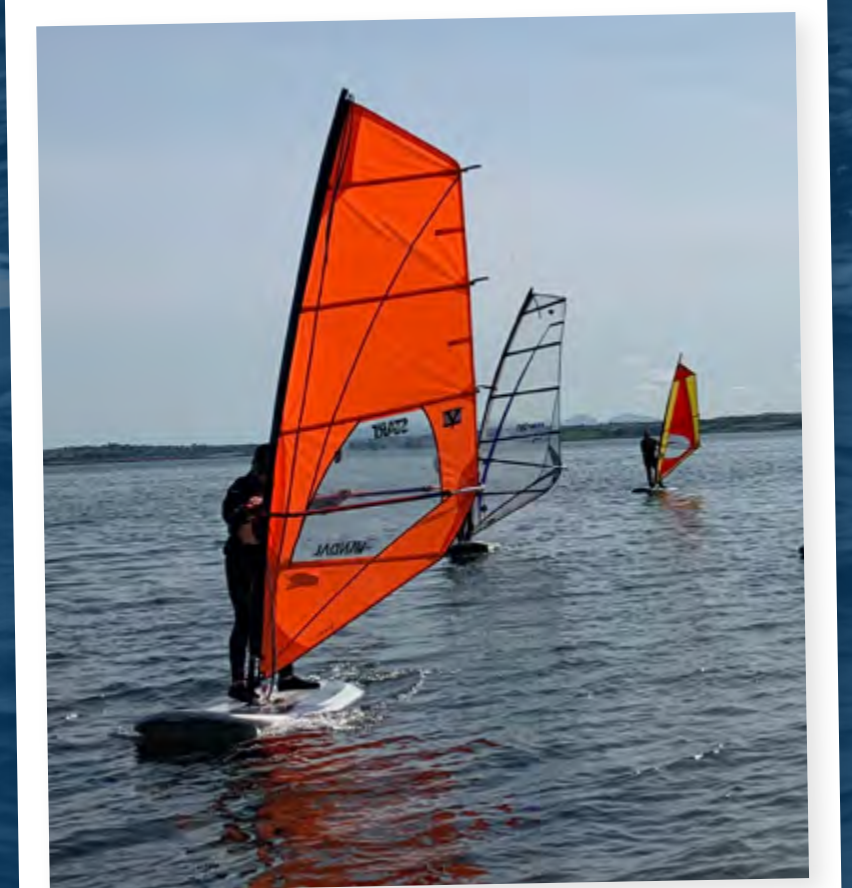
'support communities to create fun and inclusive environments, empowering individuals to develop and succeed through their chosen pathways, all while fostering a love of being on or around the water.'

We work closely with key stakeholders in several areas, whether this is with Sport Northern Ireland to support the wider sports system or with DAERA to help campaign and protect the environment around us, ensuring the people involved in boating can continue to access the water in an enjoyable and safe way.

We are proud of the sports heritage and passionate about what can be achieved in the future. We have had multiple athletes, coaches or officials that have represented Ireland or GB & NI at the Olympic or Paralympic Games that are from Northern Ireland, as well as having clubs and volunteers that carry out outstanding work at a grassroots level to develop and grow the sport. The Navigating the Future strategy gives us a great opportunity to ensure the sport is more welcoming for people from all backgrounds and communities, breaking down stereotypes and enabling even more people to experience the joys of being on or around the water.

Our activities

RYA NI organises a wide range of programmes and services, designed to promote boating on both a participation and performance level for participants, coaches, officials, volunteers and includes the management of the NI Sailing Team.



Board structure

RYA NI's Board of Directors consists of not more than ten members, four or five elected through club nomination and four or five independent directors.

An independent director is defined as someone who does not sit on the Executive Committee of any RYA NI Affiliated Club and is appointed through an application process.

Board of Directors



Role of Directors

The role and responsibilities of Directors on the Board is as follows:

- To ensure the organisation fulfils its objectives as outlined in its Articles of Association.
- To ensure that the organisation complies with its legislative requirements, including compliance with employment and equal opportunities legislation, and charity and company law.
- To ensure that the organisation has adequate financial resources and that its finances are effectively managed.
- To contribute to the strategic development of the organisation.
- To contribute to the development of policies and procedures that ensure the organisation meets optimum levels of good practice in governance.
- To ensure that risks to the organisation are maintained at an acceptable level.
- To participate in and contribute to meetings of the Board of directors, its sub committees and working groups.
- To represent the organisation at meetings and events relevant to the business of the organisation.

Terms of appointment, time commitment and remuneration



Directors are appointed on a **three** year basis.
Directors can be appointed up to **three** terms.



The RYA NI Board meets **six** times per year and the AGM.



Board membership is likely to require a time commitment of approximately **one day per month**.



Board member positions are **not remunerated** but reasonable travel and subsistence expenses will be **reimbursed**.

Selection process



Nominated

Those Directors nominated by an affiliated club will be elected at the Annual General Meeting. Where two people are standing for the same position, a ballot will be held.



Independent

For those people wishing to stand as an independent candidate, following short-listing, all successful candidates will be asked to attend an interview.



Selection

A selection panel normally consisting of the Chair and CEO will oversee the interview and appointment process.

How to apply

Interested?

If you are interested in a role as a Board Director, for more information, or to set up an informal conversation with the Chair or CEO, please email ryani@rya.org.uk

Applying for a role

To apply please send a **CV** with a **covering letter** about why you are interested in joining the RYA NI Board and the skills and/or experiences you would bring.

For an informal conversation about the role and what it entails, email Greg Yarnall, CEO, greg.yarnall@rya.org.uk

Application deadline

Monday 5th October, 9am

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