

NON-EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR(S) NUMBERS TBC

Rugby Football League (RFL)

Leading the future of Rugby League in the UK

Rugby Football League (RFL), RL Commercial & Super League (Europe) (SLE)

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The Rugby Football League (RFL) is the national governing body for Rugby League in the United Kingdom. It is responsible for governing, developing, and promoting the sport at all levels. The RFL administers major competitions such as the Betfred Super League and the Challenge Cup, manages the England national team, and supports grassroots and community development to grow the game.

SLE is the highest level of the British rugby league system comprising of 14 clubs following an exciting expansion for the 2026 season.

RL Commercial, established in 2023 as a joint venture by the RFL and SLE consolidates all commercial rights across every level of Rugby League.

Rugby League has a long, proud heritage and is a sport with deep cultural significance, strong community roots, and a clear ambition for growth at both the professional and grassroots levels. The RFL leads the sport's development, participation, governance, and regulatory framework while championing its values and driving long-term impact across clubs, communities, and the wider game.

These organisations are entering an important phase of evolution whereby it will realign the companies under one Group structure. This realignment will enable greater strategic clarity between its participation, performance, regulatory, and commercial functions.

Following a modernisation of our governance and operating model, we are strengthening our Board through the appointment of Non-Executive Directors (NEDs) who will bring independent judgement, specialist expertise, and strong governance oversight and help guide the organisations through its next chapter of strategic and operational development bringing together the Executive structures and businesses to ensure alignment, consistency and drive commercial growth.

The Boards consist of the Chair, Non-Executive Directors, and the Chief Executive. The NEDs will support and challenge the Executive team across strategy, performance, governance, and resource allocation, ensuring the organisation remains fit for purpose and fit for the future and to drive commercial growth.

We are seeking candidates with strong Board-level capability and specialist strengths in one or more of the following areas:

- Finance, Risk, Audit, Legal, Governance
- Performance, Talent Pathways, High-Performance Sport
- Commercial, Media, Broadcasting, Sponsorship, Recapitalisation, Funding
- Community Sport, Governance, Safeguarding, NGB regulation, Code of Sports Governance

In line with the role's purpose, candidates should also bring experience operating in complex multi-stakeholder environments and a strong understanding of good governance practice. The ability to chair committees or stakeholder groups, create clarity of purpose, and bring objective challenge to Board discussions will be important.

The role also will require a knowledge of Rugby League and its ecosystem enabling the successful candidates to uphold the confidence of its stakeholders.

The role of NED for the RFL is high-impact requiring political sensitivity, strong communication skills, and the ability to operate confidently in a multi-stakeholder sport environment. Candidates should bring proven experience of securing funding, delivering funded programmes, or generating commercial income through sponsorship, rights, partnerships, or commercialisation of properties. A track record of building productive relationships, representing an organisation externally, and using personal networks to strengthen stakeholder engagement would be a strong advantage.

Rugby League is recognised for the quality of its governance and operations, and successful candidates will help maintain and enhance this reputation while contributing to a sport undergoing continued evolution and opportunity. NEDs will be expected to support strong relationships across the professional game, Super League (Europe), RLWC partners, funders, and the wider Rugby League community. This will particularly be important as the sport realigns and drives strategies to seek commercial growth.

Candidates should demonstrate:

- Strong communication and interpersonal skills
- High levels of judgement and political awareness
- The ability to influence, negotiate, and build trust
- Confidence representing the organisation with external partners
- A collaborative approach and well-developed networking skills
- A commitment to the RFL's values of United, Professional, Excellence and Respect

Rugby League continues to evolve, with major opportunities linked to the sport's commercial growth, partnerships, and long-term strategy. Joining the Boards at this time represents a significant opportunity to shape the future of the game.

Remuneration: £TBC per annum

Time commitment: Approx. 30 days per year plus an expectation that NED's will attend matches and events regularly across the season and at all levels of the sport.

Location: Etihad Campus, Manchester (base location flexible)

Apply now to help shape the next chapter of one of the UK's most respected sports.

To apply for the role of Non-Executive Director, please send your CV and covering letter briefly explaining your interest in and suitability for the role to our **Recruitment Consultants CLOVER HR**, email: diane.southwick@cloverhr.co.uk

If you would like a confidential conversation about the role, in the first instance please contact **Diane Southwick of CLOVER HR** on **0330 175 6601**

Please note that any applications received by the RFL will be forwarded directly to CLOVER HR for review.