Code of Conduct for Active Surrey Board Members

Introduction
This code applies to all members of the Active Surrey Board.

Purpose of the code
To set out the relevant standards expected by Active Surrey Board Members in order to:
- Maintain the highest standards of integrity and stewardship;
- Ensure that the Partnership is effective, open and accountable;
- Ensure a good working relationship with any officer or stakeholder.

Code of conduct
There is an agreed code of conduct for Board Members which ensures that the highest personal standards are observed at all times. The Board has adopted the Nolan Committee’s ‘Seven Principles of Public Life’, prepared by the Committee on Standards in Public Life in 1994. These principles should be followed in all aspects of Board Members’ involvement and activity.

- **Selflessness:** Board Members should take decisions solely in terms of the public interest. They should not do so in order to gain financial or other material benefits for themselves, their family, or their friends.

- **Integrity:** Board Members should not place themselves under any financial or other obligation to outside individuals or organisations that might influence them in the performance of their official duties.

- **Objectivity:** In carrying out public business, including making public appointments, awarding contracts, or recommending individuals for rewards and benefits, Board Members should make choices on merit.

- **Accountability:** Board Members are accountable for their decisions and actions to the public and must submit themselves to whatever scrutiny is appropriate.

- **Openness:** Board Members should be as open as possible about all the decisions and actions that they take. They should give reasons for their decisions and restrict information only when the wider public interest clearly demands.

- **Honesty:** Board Members have a duty to declare any private interests relating to their public duties and to take steps to resolve any conflicts arising in a way that protects the public interest.

- **Leadership:** Board Members should promote and support these principles by leadership and example.
Duties

- **Duty of care**: Board Members are expected to act reasonably and prudently in all matters relating to the Partnership and in its long term interest. They must comply with agreed policies and governance procedure.

- **Duty to protect the organisations resources**: Board Members have a duty to protect all the resources belonging to the Partnership, for instance by ensuring that there are adequate financial controls and risk assessments. Board Members also have a duty to protect the organisation’s reputation and its intellectual property such as branding and databases.

- **Duty to act in the best interests of the public**: The first duty of a Board Member is to the public, which means they must act in the best interests of the public as a whole. Inevitably, Board Members have a wide range of interests in private, public and professional life, and those interests might, on occasion, conflict. Board Members have a general responsibility to avoid such conflicts of interest, especially where they involve financial transactions.

- **Duty to act collectively**: Board Members are responsible for the activities of the Board and must act together. No Board Member acting alone can bind his or her fellow Board Members, unless specifically authorised to do so.

Personal Liability

Although any legal proceedings initiated by a third party are likely to be brought against the Surrey County Sports Partnership (Active Surrey), in exceptional cases civil, or in certain cases, criminal, proceedings may be brought against a Chairman or other individual board members. For example, a Board member may be personally liable if he or she makes a fraudulent or negligent statement, which results in loss to a third party. Board members who misuse information gained by virtue of their position may be liable for breach of confidence under common law or may commit a criminal offence under insider dealing legislation.

However, the Government has indicated that individual Board members who have acted honestly, reasonably, in good faith and without negligence will not have to meet out of their own personal resources any personal civil liability, which is incurred in execution of purported execution of their board functions. The Surrey County Sports Partnership (Active Surrey) hereby indemnifies its Board members against legal proceedings brought against them personally in execution of their board duties, provided they have acted in accordance with this paragraph.