

Esports Wales

External Audit & Assurance Policy

Status: Board approved governance policy

Applies to: Board of Directors, Officers, Staff, Volunteers, Partners

Owner: Board of Directors

Audit & Assurance Lead: Board appointed Director / Senior Officer

Review cycle: Annual

Next review due: 12 months from adoption

1. Purpose

This policy sets out how **Esports Wales CIC** (“the Company”) will use **external audit and independent assurance** to verify that its **governance, safeguarding, financial management, and delivery standards** are effective and compliant.

It exists to:

- provide independent assurance to the Board
- demonstrate accountability to funders and regulators
- strengthen safeguarding and risk management
- identify improvement opportunities
- protect public trust and organisational integrity

2. Scope

External audit and assurance may apply to:

- financial management and controls
- safeguarding and welfare arrangements
- governance and Board effectiveness



- data protection and cyber security
- education, schools, and youth delivery
- grant or funder-specific requirements

This policy applies across all Esports Wales activity.

3. Principles of External Assurance

External audit and assurance activity is guided by the following principles:

- **Independence** – auditors are impartial and suitably qualified
 - **Proportionality** – scope reflects organisational size and risk
 - **Safeguarding Priority** – welfare risks receive heightened scrutiny
 - **Transparency** – findings are documented and reported
 - **Continuous Improvement** – assurance informs learning, not blame
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4. Types of External Audit & Assurance

External assurance may include, but is not limited to:

4.1 Financial Audit or Independent Examination

- annual accounts audit or independent examination
- funder-required financial assurance

(Aligned with **ESW 0901 Financial Regulations**)

4.2 Safeguarding Assurance

- independent safeguarding reviews



- CPSU / NSPCC-aligned safeguarding audits
- school or local authority safeguarding checks

(Aligned with **ESW 0201 Safeguarding Policy Statement**)

4.3 Governance & Compliance Reviews

- governance effectiveness reviews
- policy compliance audits
- Code for Sports Governance alignment checks

(Aligned with **ESW 0103 Board Roles & Responsibilities Policy**)

4.4 Funder & Grant Assurance

- grant monitoring visits
 - evidence reviews
 - outcome and compliance checks
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5. Roles & Responsibilities

5.1 Board of Directors

The Board:

- approves external audit and assurance activity
 - appoints auditors or reviewers where required
 - reviews findings and ensures actions are taken
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5.2 Audit & Assurance Lead

The Audit Lead:

- coordinates external assurance activity
 - acts as point of contact for auditors
 - ensures findings are recorded and tracked
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5.3 Staff & Volunteers

All individuals must:

- cooperate with audit and assurance activity
 - provide accurate information when requested
 - implement agreed actions relevant to their role
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6. Planning & Approval

6.1 External audit or assurance will be planned:

- annually as part of governance planning
- in response to risk, incidents, or funder requirements

6.2 Scope and terms of reference must be:

- agreed in advance
 - proportionate and documented
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7. Reporting & Actions

7.1 Audit and assurance reports must:



- be provided to the Board
- identify strengths, risks, and recommendations

7.2 The Board will:

- agree action plans
 - assign responsibility
 - monitor completion
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8. Integration With Risk & Compliance

8.1 External assurance findings will inform:

- the Risk Register
- policy updates
- training and procedural changes

8.2 This aligns with:

- **ESW 0904 Risk Management Policy & Risk Register**
 - **ESW 1202 Compliance Monitoring Framework**
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9. Transparency & Disclosure

9.1 Where appropriate, audit outcomes may be:

- shared with funders
- summarised in annual reports
- referenced in governance statements

9.2 Disclosure will comply with:



- data protection requirements
- confidentiality obligations

(Aligned with **ESW 0114 Publication & Transparency Policy**)

10. Responding to Serious Findings

10.1 Where serious failings are identified:

- immediate action must be taken
- safeguarding concerns are escalated
- regulators or funders are informed where required

10.2 Safeguarding issues override all other considerations.

11. Relationship to Other Policies

This policy must be read alongside:

- **ESW 1201 Policy Review Schedule**
 - **ESW 1202 Compliance Monitoring Framework**
 - **ESW 1203 Annual Governance & Safeguarding Report**
 - **ESW 0901 Financial Regulations**
 - **ESW 0201 Safeguarding Policy Statement**
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12. Review

This policy shall be reviewed:

- annually




- following major audits or assurance activity
 - following significant governance or safeguarding incidents
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13. Adoption

This External Audit & Assurance Policy was approved by the Board of Directors of **Esports Wales CIC**.

Date approved: ___02/03/2026___

Signed (Chair):___  ___

