THE PITCHING IN NORTHERN PREMIER LEAGUE
VACANCY FOR AN
INDEPENDENT CHAIR OF THE BOARD

The Opportunity

The Northern Premier League (NPL) is one of the most respected and progressive competitions within the National League System. Originally commencing in 1968, the League currently serves 88 Member Clubs across its four divisions, representing communities throughout the North, Midlands and East and West of England and a combined catchment population exceeding 3.5 million people.

Following a comprehensive Governance Review and the adoption of a new strategic direction, the League is embarking upon an exciting period of modernisation and development.

The Board is seeking to appoint an Independent Chair to provide strong leadership, oversee the implementation of the League's strategy and governance reforms, and help ensure the League continues to evolve in the best interests of its Member Clubs.

This is an opportunity to lead one of the most influential competitions in the National League System at a pivotal moment in its development.

The Role

The Independent Chair will lead the Board of Directors, ensuring the League operates to the highest standards of governance, transparency, accountability and strategic oversight.

Working closely with the CEO, Board Directors, League Officers, Member Clubs, The Football Association and other key stakeholders, the Chair will help shape and deliver the League's long-term vision.

Key Responsibilities

The Key Responsibilities include;

- Provide leadership to the Board and ensure effective governance across the League.
- Lead the development, implementation and monitoring of the Northern Premier League's strategic plan.
- Ensure the Board operates effectively, promoting constructive challenge, diversity of thought and continuous improvement.
- Support and hold the executive leadership team appropriately accountable for the delivery of strategic objectives.
- Champion the implementation of the League's Governance Review recommendations and future governance developments.
- Act as the principal ambassador and spokesperson for the League with Member Clubs, The Football Association, fellow leagues, sponsors, partners and wider stakeholders.
- Represent the Northern Premier League within the wider game, including serving as the League's representative to The Football Association, subject to meeting the relevant FA eligibility criteria.
- Promote innovation, commercial development and opportunities that strengthen the League and its Member Clubs.

The Candidate

The successful candidate will be an experienced and credible leader with a strong track record of board-level governance and strategic leadership.

We are particularly interested in candidates who can demonstrate:

- Experience of chairing boards, governing bodies or complex organisations.
- Strong governance credentials and an understanding of modern governance principles and best practice.
- Knowledge of Football structures in the NLS
- The ability to develop and deliver long-term strategic plans.
- Experience of working within complex stakeholder environments.
- Excellent communication, influencing and relationship-building skills.
- Financial awareness and sound commercial judgement.
- Independence of thought, integrity and the ability to provide objective leadership.
- A genuine understanding of, and passion for, football and the role that clubs play within their communities.

Knowledge of the football industry and regulatory environment would be advantageous, although applications are welcomed from candidates both within and outside the game who can bring relevant leadership and governance expertise.

Time Commitment

This is a part-time, non-executive appointment.

The Chair will be expected to attend Board meetings, Annual General Meetings, League events and stakeholder meetings throughout the season. Additional time will be required to support strategic initiatives, governance developments and engagement with key stakeholders.

Remuneration

- Honorarium to be discussed with the successful candidate.
- Reasonable travel and associated expenses reimbursed in accordance with League policy.

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

The Northern Premier League is committed to creating a diverse and inclusive leadership structure that reflects the communities served by its Member Clubs. Applications are welcomed from all suitably qualified candidates regardless of background.

How to Apply

Applicants should submit:

- A covering letter outlining their suitability for the role; and
- A current curriculum vitae.

Applications should be sent by email to:

Angie Firth
Chief Executive Officer
Email: Angie.Firth@thenpl.co.uk

Closing Date for Applications: **10 August 2026**

The Northern Premier League reserves the right to undertake appropriate due diligence and interviews as part of the appointment process.