MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU)

Between

The Chartered Institute for the Management of Sport and Physical Activity

and

The British Association of Sport and Exercise Sciences

This is an agreement between The Chartered Institute for the Management of Sport and Physical Activity hereinafter called CIMSPA and The British Association of Sport and Exercise Sciences hereinafter called BASES.

I. PURPOSE & SCOPE

The purpose of this MOU is to clearly identify the roles and responsibilities of each party as they relate to working in partnership to ensure the Sport and Physical Activity sector workforce is aligned to employer needs and supported to achieve excellence.

In particular, this MOU is intended to:

- Outline the roles and occupations that each organisation will take responsibility for or work together to support in the development of professional standards.
- Clarify the role of both organisations in setting standards for professionals working in the Sport and Physical Activity sector.
- Outline a partnership approach to degree endorsement.
- Agree the communications plan to HE institutions in line with this MOU.

II. BACKGROUND

CIMSPA: Launched in 2011, CIMSPA is the professional development body for the UK’s sport and physical activity sector. CIMSPA has been awarded chartered status by the Privy Council, which came into effect at the start of January 2012. CIMSPA provides leadership, support and empowerment for professionals working in sport and physical activity and a single unified voice for the sector.

The Institute holds two long term strategic priorities:
- To provide opportunities for young leaders to develop and succeed
- To provide leadership on the development and management of career pathways

The vision statement of the Institute is: To develop a vibrant, UK wide sport and physical activity sector, led by professionals providing advocacy and leadership and working in partnership with its stakeholders to help ensure the highest standards of service delivery.

BASES: Established in 1984, BASES is the professional membership body for sport and exercise sciences in the UK. BASES mission is to deliver excellence in sport and exercise sciences through the promotion of scientific research and evidence-based practice, and the development of professional standards for the sport and
exercise sector. BASES is licenced by the Science Council to award Chartered Scientist status to members who meet the requisite standards and criteria.

BASES has 5 strategic objectives:

- The promotion of research in sport and exercise sciences
- The encouragement of evidence-based practice in sport and exercise sciences
- The distribution of knowledge in sport and exercise sciences
- The development and maintenance of high professional standards for those involved in sport and exercise sciences
- The representation of the interests of sport and exercise sciences nationally and internationally.

III. CIMSPA RESPONSIBILITIES UNDER THIS MOU.

CIMSPA shall undertake the following activities:

- Consult and collaborate with BASES throughout the consultation process for the development of professional standards for the roles identified in Appendix A: sections 1a and 1b

- Refer to BASES and BASES membership in the professional standards documentation developed for the roles identified in Appendix A: sections 1a and 1b (where applicable). Refer to the BASES undergraduate endorsement scheme (BUES) in the professional standards framework for the roles identified in Appendix A: sections 1a and 1b (for graduate-level roles in applied sport and/or exercise)

- Invite BASES to be a member of the CIMSPA HE pilot programme

- Consult and collaborate with BASES in the development and roll-out of the new CIMSPA HE endorsement scheme and agree to clear delineation of HE course endorsement based on the defined occupational pathways identified in Appendix A, recognising BUES as the endorsement framework for sport and exercise science related degrees

- Work towards the development of standardised processes for HE course endorsement

- Support BASES to conduct a consultation with employer partners to discuss the need for a supervised development programme (i.e. supervised experience), aligned to new professional standards, for roles in Applied Clinical Exercise Science; Exercise Therapy & Rehabilitation; and Health Promotion & Disease Prevention

- Ensure key stakeholders (including Chartered Society of Physiotherapy, Public Health England, NHS bodies (England, Scotland & Wales), National Centre for Sport and Exercise Medicine and RGCP) are consulted and are supportive of the professional standards framework and proposals for how these standards should be implemented and administered

- Communicate to CIMSPA partners the proposed work between CIMSPA and BASES.

IV. BASES RESPONSIBILITIES UNDER THIS MOU.
BASES shall undertake the following activities:

- Play a key role in the development of professional standards for the roles identified in Appendix A: sections 1a and 1b, by;
  - Attending Professional Development Committee meetings.
  - Providing feedback on standards in development.
  - Engaging key stakeholders to support the development of professional standards.
  - Working with their networks to promote the use of professional standards.

- Support CIMSPAs HE pilot programme by;
  - Attending partner network meetings.
  - Advising on the development of an endorsement process for Higher Education Institution’s undergraduate and postgraduate programmes.
  - Agreeing an approach for the endorsement of multi-disciplinary programmes e.g. Sport Science and Coaching, Sports Science with Management.
  - Sharing learning and insight from the existing BASES undergraduate endorsement scheme (BUES).

- Work with CIMSPAs employer partners by;
  - Discussing with employers the potential value of a ‘supervised experience’ (or similar) programme for professionals working in Applied Clinical Exercise Science; Exercise Therapy & Rehabilitation; and Health Promotion & Disease Prevention (Primary and Secondary).
  - Reviewing the Certified Exercise Practitioner (CEP) accreditation in line with the development of professional standards for professionals working in Applied Clinical Exercise Science; Exercise Therapy and Rehabilitation; and Health Promotion and Disease Prevention (Primary and Secondary).

- Communicate to BASES partners the proposed work between CIMSPA and BASES.

V. IT IS MUTUALLY UNDERSTOOD AND AGREED BY AND BETWEEN THE PARTIES THAT:

1. The agreement can be modified on an ongoing basis if agreed by the two parties.
2. The agreement can be terminated should either party not carry out the actions identified.
Appendix A: Further background and detail on areas of work.

1. Responsibility for occupations.

CIMSPA has outlined a Professional Standards matrix, this can be viewed here.

1a. Roles and occupations that BASES will have responsibility for and for which CIMSPA will refer partners to BASES:

**Elite Sport Performance Specialists & Assistants:**

- Sport Scientist (interdisciplinary);
- Sport Physiologist;
- Sport Psychologist;
- Sport Biomechanist.

**Health and Exercise/Fitness Specialists:**

- Exercise Scientist (including roles in Applied Clinical Exercise Science);
- Exercise Physiologist;
- Exercise Psychologist;
- Exercise Biomechanist.

1b. Roles and occupations for which CIMSPA and BASES will share responsibility for and will work together to define standards for professionals:

**Elite Sport Performance Specialists & Assistants:**

- Strength and Conditioning Specialist;
- Performance Analyst/Sport Analyst.

**Health and Exercise/Fitness Specialists:**

Roles within the Sport and Physical Activity sector that design, deliver and evaluate exercise programmes, and promote health and wellbeing, including professionals working in Exercise Therapy & Rehabilitation and Health Promotion & Disease Prevention (Primary and Secondary), working in the following settings:

- Practitioners working with people with long term or chronic illness;
- Practitioners working with people with moderate health issues;
- Practitioners working with people with no diagnosed health issues to promote or support health and wellbeing.

1c. Roles in which CIMSPA will have responsibility for and develop standards for professionals:

- All other roles listed in the professional standards matrix.