

Introduction

- 1 This paper provides background information on the survey methodology for **sportscotland's** data on sports participation in Scotland. A range of detailed reports and summary Research Updates have been placed on **sportscotland's** website and continue to be generated¹.

The Survey

- 2 **sportscotland** commissions questions from the Scottish Opinion Survey (SOS) run by TNS System Three. The main features of the SOS are as follows:
 - 2.1 It is a household omnibus survey that allows any organisation to buy in questions. The sports questions normally appear early in the questionnaire.
 - 2.2 The sample covers around 42 constituencies throughout Scotland, with different sampling points selected each month to be representative in terms of geographical location (North, East Central, West Central, South) and party of current MSP. Coverage is largely of mainland Scotland, but samples are typically included in island constituencies once or twice a year.
 - 2.3 All interviews are in-home using Computer Assisted Personal Interviewing.
 - 2.4 The survey is quota-based rather than random, but uses a random route within each sampling point to select addresses, with quotas of working and non-working men and women and on age to ensure a representative population spread.
 - 2.5 The results are weighted for age, gender and social class.
 - 2.6 Only one adult interview per household.
 - 2.7 The sample size is 1,000 adults a month (about 6,000 a year), 520 women and 480 men, and 200 children a month (at least 1,100 a year).
 - 2.8 Fieldwork is generally conducted in fourth week of each month (with exception of December when it is put back to the first week in January to avoid Christmas and New Year).

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Sports Questions

- 3 **sportscotland** includes questions on sports participation every other month (Jan/Mar/May/July/Sept/Nov). It has done so on a consistent basis since 1987 for adults (16+) and since 1998 for children (8-15). This consistency over a long period means that we have built up the longest series of adult sports participation to follow changes over time in the UK and possibly in the world.
- 4 To maintain this consistency the basic survey methodology and the core questions have not changed, although additional questions, such as on volunteering, have been introduced.

Sport Questions for Adults

- 5 The following are the current questions for adults (16+).

[All respondents] In the last 4 weeks, have you taken part, however informally, in any of these sports or physical recreations in Scotland?

[Asked Jan/Mar/May/July/Sept/Nov. See below for checklist of 58 sports shown to the respondent.]

[If YES] Which sports or physical recreations have you taken part in during the last 4 weeks in Scotland?

PROBE: Any others? PROBE: Any others not on this list? *[Asked Jan/Mar/May/July/Sept/Nov]*

[For each sport mentioned up to five] How many times have you taken part in <APPROPRIATE SPORT> in last 4 weeks? *[Asked Mar/July/Nov]*

[For each sport with frequency given] Of the <NUMBER> time(s) you took part in <APPROPRIATE SPORT> in last 4 weeks, how many were:

- for organised training, coaching or lessons?
- for organised competition (eg, games, tournaments, etc)?
- casual occasions (eg, with friends, family, etc)?
- other occasions?

[Asked Mar/July/Nov]

[For each sport mentioned up to five] Are you a member of a club for <APPROPRIATE SPORT>?

Yes – club member

No – not a member

[Asked Jan/Mar/May/July/Sept/Nov]

[If cycling mentioned] On the last occasion you went cycling, was that mainly in the countryside or in a built-up area?

Countryside

Built-up area (including an urban park)

Other

[If walking (2+ miles) mentioned] On the last occasion you went for a walk of 2 miles or more, was that mainly in the countryside or in a built-up area?

Countryside

Built-up area (including an urban park)

Other

[All respondents] In the last year, have you done any of the activities listed on this screen, without payment, to help others in relation to sport?

Helped to raise money

Served on a committee

Organised or helped to run an event

Helped with activities/coaching

Campaigned for a cause or interest

Helped with administration or office activities

Other

[Asked Jan/Mar/May/July/Sept/Nov]

[Volunteers in sport] On average, how often do you volunteer work in relation to sport? READ OUT

Once a week or more

Two or three times a month

Less often

[Asked Mar/July/Nov]

[Volunteers in sport] Do you volunteer work to... READ OUT

A school?

A sports club or governing body?

A youth organisation?

Help at a sporting event?

Other?

[Asked Mar/July/Nov]

[All respondents] Have you EVER done any of the activities listed on this screen in relation to sport?

Yes

No

[Asked Mar/July/Nov]

Sports Questions for Children

6 These questions are asked of children aged 8-15.

[All respondents] In the last 4 weeks have you done any of the sports or activities listed on this screen, even if just casually? I only want to know about things done in Scotland.

IF YES: Which one(s)?

PROBE Any others on this screen?

[Asked Jan/Mar/May/July/Sept/Nov. See below for checklist of 58 sports shown to the respondent.]

[Participants with over five sports] Of the following sports you said you did, which 5 of these sports do you do most often?

[Asked Jan/Mar/May/July/Sept/Nov]

[For each sport mentioned up to five] How many times have you taken part in <APPROPRIATE SPORT> in last 4 weeks?

[For each sport mentioned up to five] Of the <NUMBER> time(s) you took part in <APPROPRIATE SPORT> in last 4 weeks, how many were:

- for organised training, coaching or lessons?

- for organised competition (eg, games, tournaments, etc)?

- casual occasions (eg, with friends, family, etc)?

- other occasions?

[Asked Mar/July/Nov]

[For each sport mentioned up to five] Where did you take part in <APPROPRIATE SPORT> ?

In a school PE lesson

Organised through the school but not in PE time (such as an after-school football club, school swimming competition)

Organised through some sort of group (such as a youth club, Girl Guides, Boys Brigade)

Organised through some sort of sports club (local tennis club, football club, etc)

Or was it casual, that is not organised through the school or any other club - at home, in the garden, in the street, park, swimming pool etc

Other

[Asked Mar/July/Nov]

[For each sport mentioned up to five] Of the <NUMBER> times you took part in <APPROPRIATE SPORT> how many were...

In a school PE lesson

Organised through the school but not in PE time (such as an after-school football club, school swimming competition)

Organised through some sort of group (such as a youth club, Girl Guides, Boys Brigade)

Organised through some sort of sports club (local tennis club, football club, etc)

Or was it casual, that is not organised through the school or any other club - at home, in the garden, in the street, park, swimming pool etc

Other

[Asked Mar/July/Nov]

[For each sport mentioned up to five] On the most recent occasion that you took part in <APPROPRIATE SPORT> in the last four weeks, for how long did you play or take part in this sport?

- Less than 15 minutes
- 15 - 30 minutes
- 31 - 45 minutes
- 46 - 60 minutes
- 61 - 90 minutes
- 91 - 120 minutes (ie, up to 2 hours)
- Over 2 hours - 4 hours
- Over 4 hours

[Asked Mar/July/Nov]

[For each sport mentioned up to five] Are you a member of a sports club for <APPROPRIATE SPORT>, that is a club where <APPROPRIATE SPORT> is the main activity?

- Yes - club member
- No not a member

[Asked Mar/July/Nov]

Socio-demographic Questions

7 The following are the socio-demographic questions against which the sports questions can be crosstabulated. The first five (relating to ethnicity, disability and age finished formal education) are commissioned by **sportscotland**. The others are the standard questions for the Scottish Opinion Survey, not all of which are used in the sports analyses.

Ethnic Grouping²

Which of the ethnic groups listed on this card do you consider that you belong to? [SHOW CARD]

- White - Scottish
- White - Other British
- White - Irish
- White - Other
- Asian, Asian Scottish or Asian British - Indian
- Asian, Asian Scottish or Asian British - Pakistani
- Asian, Asian Scottish or Asian British - Bangladeshi
- Asian, Asian Scottish or Asian British - Chinese
- Asian, Asian Scottish or Asian British - Other
- Black, Black Scottish or Black British - Caribbean
- Black, Black Scottish or Black British - African
- Black, Black Scottish or Black British - Other
- Mixed - any mixed background
- Other ethnic background

Long-term Illness or Disability²

Do you have any long-term illness, health problem or disability that limits your daily activities or the work you can do?

- Yes
- No

Stopped from Taking Part in Sport by Illness/Disability

[If Yes] Does this disability, illness or health problem stop you from taking part in sport?

- Yes
- No

All or Some Sports Affected by Illness/Disability

[Respondents with disability stopping them from sports participation] Is it all sports or only some sports that you cannot take part in?

- All sports
- Some sports

² Standard Census question.

Age Finished Formal Education³

At what age did you finish formal education?

- Still continuing
- 14 years old and under
- 15 years old
- 16 years old
- 17 years old
- 18 years old
- 19 years old and over

Age

[Exact, not grouped years]

- Sex** Male
 Female

Shopping/Cooking]

Are you mainly responsible for the household shopping/ cooking?

- Yes
- No
- Jointly responsible/shared

Household Size

Including yourself, how many people are in your household?

- 1 person
- 2 people
- 3 people
- 4 people
- 5+ people

Children in Household

Do you have any children in your household of the following ages? READ OUT

- Any under 5 years old
- Any 5 - 11 years old
- Any 12 - 15 years old
- Any 16 - 17 years old
- No - no children

Occupation of Chief Income Earner

[Used to identify social grade]

Social Grade⁴

- AB
- C1
- C2
- DE

ITV Station

Which ITV stations do you receive?

- STV
- Grampian
- Channel 4
- Border

³ For those who left school aged under 16, their age is likely to be a more influential factor on their participation: school-leaving age in the UK increased to 15 in 1944 and 16 in 1972.

⁴ AB Higher and intermediate managerial, administrative and professional (19.0% of the population).
 C1 Supervisory, clerical, junior managerial/administrative/professional (26.6% of the population).
 C2 Skilled manual workers (14.6% of the population).
 DE Semi-skilled or unskilled manual workers: apprentices in skilled trades; casual or lowest grade workers; state pensioners or widowers; those entirely dependent on the state long term through sickness, unemployment, old age or other reasons (39.9% of the population).

Source for proportion in population is Scotland's Census 2001 (accessed 19 March 2008):

<http://www.scrol.gov.uk/scrol/analyser/analyser?actionName=choose-topic-and-table>

Ulster
Channel 5
No ITV

Marital Status

What is your marital status?
Married/ living as married
Single
Widowed/Separated/Divorced

Working Status

What is your working status?
Full time (30+ hours per week)
Part time (8 - 29 hours per week)
Not working

Tenure of Home

Tenure of home:
Owner occupied
Rented from local authority/ other council/ housing association
Rented privately
Other

Number of Cars in Household

How many cars do you have in your household?
None
One
Two+

Postcode⁵

[Full postcode]

Boosted Sample 2003/04

- 8 In 2003/04, the sample for the sports questions was substantially boosted, and all questions were asked each month, to ensure an adequate sample over the year in each of the 32 local authorities⁶. The total 2003/04 sample of 25,711 adults (16+) and 4,985 children (8-15) was designed to be representative of the geographical distribution of the population in each local authority.
- 9 This boosted sample was relatively complex, comprising the following. The total sample was then carefully weighted to ensure that the data reflected the demographic composition of each local authority area and of Scotland as a whole.
- 9.1 The basic Scottish Opinion Survey sample described above, with the questions asked every month.
- 9.2 A usable sample of adult respondents in each of the 32 local authority areas. To achieve this, additional respondents were required in all but the largest local authority areas, and these were distributed so that they

⁵ Allows analysis by urban/rural, remote/accessible, Social Inclusion Partnership area, Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation area, local authority, health board, area institute of sport and any other area with reasonable population size that can be mapped through postcodes.

⁶ Individual local authority sample sizes in the year 2003/04 ranged from 625 to 2,296 adults; see para 10 for local authority area sample numbers for the four-year period of 2003-06.

balanced the basic SOS sample to ensure they reflected the geographical spread of the population.

- 9.3 A boosted sample to ensure an adequate sample of teenage girls.
- 9.4 A boosted sample to ensure an adequate sample of those from minority ethnic communities.
- 9.5 A boosted sample to ensure adequate sample of those living in areas of multiple deprivation⁷.

Adult Sample Sizes for Local Authority Areas

- 10 The following are the sample sizes for adults in each local authority area. They cover the surveys over the four years 2003-06 in order to maximise the sample for each local authority area and enable participation fact sheets to be prepared for each area (available separately).

Local Authority Area	Adult Sample 2003-06
Aberdeen City	1,460
Aberdeenshire	1,577
Angus	1,131
Argyll & Bute	1,208
Clackmannanshire	1,021
Dumfries & Galloway	1,501
Dundee City	1,284
East Ayrshire	1,138
East Dunbartonshire	1,237
East Lothian	1,333
East Renfrewshire	822
Edinburgh, City of	2,446
Eilean Siar (Western Isles)	697
Falkirk	1,221
Fife	1,759
Glasgow City	4,376
Highland	1,155
Inverclyde	800
Midlothian	1,060
Moray	935
North Ayrshire	1,211
North Lanarkshire	1,827
Orkney Islands	865
Perth & Kinross	1,181
Renfrewshire	1,439
Scottish Borders	1,173
Shetland Islands	671
South Ayrshire	1,337
South Lanarkshire	1,646
Stirling	864
West Dunbartonshire	1,259
West Lothian	1,235
Scotland	42,928

⁷ Current analyses use the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) 2006 which is based on 2004 population estimates. The analyses follow the usual criterion of defining the most deprived 15% of data zones as areas of multiple deprivation, but the geographical specificity of postcodes would allow any other percentage to be applied. Details of SIMD 2006 are available at:

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/SIMD/Overview> (accessed 19 March 2008)

Sampling Error

- 11 Because the participation data are collected via a quota sampling approach, whereby each interviewer is given a target number of people to interview within certain age and gender categories, the extent of sampling error cannot be calculated precisely; sampling error can only be calculated for randomly selected samples. However, it has been estimated that, for the aggregate data, the sampling error is approximately ± 3 percentage points. For example, a measured aggregate participation rate of 60 per cent will probably lie within the range 57 per cent to 63 per cent in 95 per cent of cases.
- 12 Further, the sampling error (the range within which a measurement will lie) will be greater for smaller sub-sample sizes – for example, for individual sports. Interpretation of the data must be made with these qualifications.⁸

Summary Definitions

- 13 Adults are those aged 16 and over; children are aged 8-15.
- 14 The survey is a household survey of residents throughout Scotland. As both of the first two questions specifically ask if they have taken part 'in Scotland', participation when outside Scotland is likely to be excluded.
- 15 The leisure context for activities such as cycling and walking is established by asking if respondents have taken part "in any of these sports or physical recreations".
- 16 Adults are asked if they take part "however informally" and children "even if just casually". These phrases are included because research in the early 1980s showed that people did not consider more casual participation to be 'sport' and therefore tended not to record it unless specifically asked. The UK sports councils, including **sportscotland**, have a responsibility for all levels of sport and physical recreation, and the phrases 'however informally' and 'even if just casually' are used in an attempt to be as comprehensive as possible
- 17 The list of activities includes all sports and physical recreations recognised for purposes of investment or services by the home country and UK sports councils, and thus includes popular physical recreations such as walking (2+ miles), dancing and snooker/billiards/pool, but darts will not be included until the 2006-08 results.
- 18 A participant is someone who has taken part at least once in the four weeks prior to interview. It should be stressed that this is a minimal definition of sports participation, and many of the respondents will take part far more frequently. As those who have participated within the last four weeks are asked how often, the resulting frequency data allows analysis, for example, on the basis of those who have taken part on average at least once a week.

⁸ For a clear explanation and a calculator for determining sampling error (or 'confidence interval'), see: <http://www.surveysystem.com/sscalc.htm> (accessed 19 March 2008).

- 19 The survey has been carried out every other month (every month during 2003/04) since 1987 for adults and since 1998 for children and will certainly continue to the end of 2008. Results are normally averaged over three years to increase the sample size and discourage year-on-year comparisons where apparent changes may well be within the boundaries of sampling error.
- 20 Only the most popular months of the year are used to show these participation rates. This allows for the seasonality of many sports where participation rates would be underestimated if averaged throughout the year. The full all-year datasets are used to provide profiles of participants in sport, as the characteristics of participants are unlikely to vary significantly according to whether they take part within or outwith the normal season.
- 21 Because of the sampling error resulting from sample surveys, all percentages are rounded to the nearest whole number to avoid giving the impression of spurious accuracy. Sports with overall participation rates of under 0.5% are not normally included in lists of individual sports, but do form part of grouped sports such as 'team sports', 'indoor sports', 'pitch sports', 'outdoor sports', or 'countryside sports'.

Sports Categories

Individual Sports

- 22 The definition of what is and is not a sport is a subject of much debate and there are certain activities which may be regarded as physical recreations (such as dancing, hillwalking, yoga). **sportscotland** and the other UK sports councils have a responsibility for 'sport and physical recreation' laid down in their Royal Charters which are the guiding principles for determining their areas of concern. Activities recognised by these agencies for the purposes of investment and services are subject to detailed criteria, and participation data are collected on these recognised activities. Darts was not recognised until the May 2005 survey and will be included in the report for 2006-08.
- 23 The following is the list of 58 sports (including Darts) on the screen shown to the respondent⁹. Showing such a list is important as respondents may not regard some physical recreations as being sports. Using no list, or only a short one, has been shown to result in under-reporting of participation. There are also 'Other, specify' categories on the card; eligible sports identified here were included in the analysis for grouped sports (see below) but not analysed individually because of the very few occurrences of any of them. In addition, an extra question was asked of those who reported that they had taken part in Walking (2+ miles) or Cycling: *On the last occasion you went {cycling}{for a walk of 2 miles or more} was that mainly in the countryside, or in a built-up area (including an urban park)?*

⁹ Sports coded 41 and upwards were introduced in the 2003/04 boosted sample and retained subsequently. Prior to 2003/04, 'Basketball/Netball/Volleyball' was asked as a single category, but this proved to have little analytical value and the boosted sample provided the opportunity to specify these sports as individual categories.

Athletics [1]
 Badminton [2]
 Basketball [41]⁹
 Bowls - outdoor [45]
 Bowls - indoor [44]
 Canoeing/ Kayaking [46]
 Climbing - outdoor [48]
 Climbing - indoor [47]
 Cricket [5]
 Curling [6]
 Cycling - on the road [49]
 Cycling - on a cycle path (eg, canal towpath, National Cycle Network) [50]
 Cycling - mountain biking/ off-road on a purpose-built track or facility
 [INTERVIEWER IF NEEDED: 'such as Glentress'] [51]
 Cycling - mountain biking/ off-road elsewhere [63]
 Cycling - BMX at a purpose built facility [64]
 Cycling - BMX elsewhere [65]
 Cycling - velodrome [66]
 Dancing [8]
 Darts [from May 2005]
 Fishing/ Angling [9]
 Football (11-a-side) [10]
 Football (5-a-side) - outdoor [12]
 Football (5-a-side) - indoor [11]
 Football - in street/ garden/ wasteland [13]
 Golf [14]
 Gymnastics [15]
 Hillwalking [52]
 Hockey [17]
 Horse riding [18]
 Ice skating [19]
 Judo [20]
 Keep fit/ Aerobics [21]
 Martial arts [22]
 Netball [43]
 Powerboating/ Jet skiing [53]
 Rowing [54]
 Rugby [23]
 Running/ Jogging [24]
 Sailing/ Windsurfing [55]
 Shinty [56]
 Skateboarding/ Inline skating [57]
 Skiing/ Snowboarding [26]
 Snooker/ Billiards/ Pool [27]
 Squash [28]
 Subaqua [58]
 Surfing/ Body boarding [59]
 Swimming (outdoor) [29]
 Swimming (leisure pool) [30]
 Swimming (traditional pool) [31]
 Table tennis [32]
 Tenpin bowling [33]
 Tennis - outdoor [60]
 Tennis - indoor [61]
 Use of multigym/ Weight training [35]
 Volleyball [42]
 Walking (2+ miles) [36]
 Waterskiing [62]
 Yoga [37]
 Other1 (SPECIFY) [38] Other2 (SPECIFY) [39] Other3 (SPECIFY) [40]

Grouped Sports

- 24 The following groupings have been used to date for analytical purposes. They exclude Darts but once sufficient data have been obtained for Darts, analyses with and without Darts will be undertaken for the relevant groupings from the 2006-08 results onwards. Other groupings can be analysed as required.

Sports
This is the main grouped category and comprises all 57 sports included on the list shown to respondents (see above) except Walking (2+ miles), plus others if the respondent identified any eligible sports when prompted with 'any other sports'. 'Eligible' is defined as the sports and physical recreations recognised by the UK sports councils for purposes of investment or services.
Sports plus walking 2+ miles
As above plus Walking provided the occasion was for at least two miles.
Sports less dancing and snooker/billiards/pool
In the light of the recreational nature of some of the activities, this category excludes the popular physical recreations of Dancing and Snooker/billiards/pool as well as excluding Walking.
Strategy sports
This category reflects the definition in the strategy for Scottish sport, Reaching Higher , and comprises 'Sports' excluding Dancing, Keep fit/Aerobics and Multigym/Weight training.
Indoor sports
These are defined as sports mainly or exclusively undertaken indoors and comprise the following: Badminton; Basketball; Bowls (indoor); Climbing (indoor); Curling; Dancing; Football (5-a-side indoor); Gymnastics; Ice skating; Judo; Keep fit/Aerobics; Martial arts; Multigym use/Weight training; Netball; Snooker/Billiards/Pool; Squash; Swimming (leisure pool); Swimming (traditional pool); Table tennis; Tenpin bowling; Tennis (indoor); Volleyball; Yoga. All these sports were on the list shown to the respondent. If the respondent identified any further indoor sports when prompted with 'any other sports', these are also included.
Hall sports
These are defined as sports whose main provision is multi-use indoor facilities. They comprise Badminton; Basketball; Dancing; Football (5-a-side indoor); Gymnastics; Judo; Keep fit/Aerobics; Martial arts; Multigym use/Weight training; Netball; Table tennis; Volleyball; Yoga. All these sports were on the list shown to the respondent. If the respondent identified any further hall sports when prompted with 'any other sports', these are also included.
Swimming
Indoor only, ie Swimming (leisure pool) and Swimming (traditional pool).
Other indoor sports
Includes all indoor sports not captured by 'Hall sports' or 'Swimming', namely, Bowls (indoor), Climbing (indoor), Curling, Ice skating, Snooker/billiards/pool, Squash, Tenpin bowling and Tennis (indoor).
Team sports
Comprises basketball, cricket, football, hockey, netball, rugby, shinty and volleyball. All these sports were on the list shown to the respondent. If the respondent identified any further team sports when prompted with 'any other sports', these are also included.
Outdoor sports
Defined as sports mainly or exclusively undertaken outdoors and include the following: Angling; Athletics; Bowls (outdoor); Canoeing/Kayaking; Climbing (outdoor); Cricket; Cycling (on the road); Cycling (on a cycle path); Cycling (mountain biking/off-road on a purpose-built track or facility); Cycling (mountain biking/off-road elsewhere); Cycling (BMX at a purpose-built facility); Cycling (BMX elsewhere); Cycling (velodrome); Football (11-a-side); Football (5-a-side outdoor); Football (in street/garden/wasteland); Golf; Hillwalking; Hockey; Horse riding; Powerboating/Jetskiing; Rowing; Rugby; Running/Jogging; Sailing/Windsurfing; Shinty; Skateboarding/Inline skating; Skiing/Snowboarding; Subaqua; Surfing/Bodyboarding; Swimming (outdoor); Tennis (outdoor); Waterskiing. Walking is excluded. All these were on the list shown to the respondent; if they identified any further outdoor sports when prompted with 'any other sports', these are also included.

Pitch sports
Defined as sports whose main provision is natural-grass or artificial-surface pitches, and includes the following: cricket, football (11-a-side), football (5-a-side outdoor), hockey, rugby and shinty. All these sports were on the list shown to the respondent. If the respondent identified any further pitch sports when prompted with 'any other sports', these are also included.
Countryside sports
Comprises Angling, Canoeing/kayaking, Climbing (outdoor), Cycling (mountain biking/off-road on a purpose-built track or facility), Cycling (mountain biking/off-road elsewhere), Cycling (countryside), Hillwalking, Horse riding, Powerboating/jetskiing, Sailing/windsurfing, Skiing/snowboarding, Subaqua, Surfing/bodyboarding, Swimming (outdoor) and Waterskiing.
Access Sports
Defined as sports whose main provision is the natural environment in the context of current access legislation (Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003) – hence non-motorised; excluding angling/shooting; no charges for access; and including some use of urban open space. They comprise the following: Canoeing/Kayaking; Climbing (outdoor); Cycling on a cycle path (eg, canal towpath, National Cycle Network); Cycling (mountain biking/off-road elsewhere); Hillwalking; Horse riding; Rowing; Sailing/Windsurfing; Subaqua; Walking (2+ miles in the countryside).
Other outdoor sports
These comprise sports undertaken mainly or exclusively outdoors, excluding the Countryside sports: Athletics, Bowls (outdoor), Cricket, Cycling (on the road), Cycling (on a cycle path), Cycling (BMX at a purpose-built facility), Cycling (BMX elsewhere), Cycling (velodrome), Football (11-a-side), Football (5-a-side outdoor), Football (in street/garden/wasteland), Golf, Hockey, Rowing, Rugby, Running/jogging, Shinty, Skateboarding/inline skating and Tennis (outdoor).

Future Developments

- 25 The Scottish Government has taken responsibility for tracking sports participation and as a result questions for adults have been included in the Scottish Household Survey (SHS) throughout 2007 and 2008 as part of a broader section on participation in cultural activities. Subject to funding, this will continue during 2009 to 2014. Two years' worth of data should give enough information to allow some analyses for each local authority area¹⁰. Provided that the questions continue to be included, sufficient time series should have been achieved over a period of around ten years to identify underlying changes over time at local authority level¹¹. However only a limited number – albeit the most popular – of sports are specified in the SHS questionnaire, an approach which other surveys have shown can lead to lower levels of reporting of participation.
- 26 This change of responsibility means that **sportscotland** will not continue its adult survey after 2008. The complications of changing any survey means that there will be policy implications for tracking movements in participation rates over time. As the SHS data will not be comparable, the 20-year consistent series for tracking changes in adult participation over time will be lost. However, until there is an adequate substitute there is a need to continue the existing children's survey – with its ten-year time series so far – and this will be reviewed in autumn 2008.

¹⁰ SHS sampling details available at: <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2007/07/30135546/2> (accessed 19 March 2008).

¹¹ The 20-year time series of **sportscotland's** adult data show cyclical fluctuations of participation rates over several years, making simple year-on-year comparisons unreliable.