



COLLEGE OF SPORT, EXERCISE
& MUSCULOSKELETAL MEDICINE

History

History of BASEM



The British Association of Sport and Exercise Medicine (BASEM) was established in 1952, originally known as the British Association of Sports Medicine (BASM).

Over the past 73 years, it has grown into a major international organisation within Sport and Exercise Medicine, recognised for delivering high-quality educational courses and hosting internationally respected annual conferences. Since 1996, BASEM has also benefited from the financial support generated through its co-ownership of the British Journal of Sports Medicine (BJSM).

BASEM provides membership to both medical practitioners and allied health professionals. Its core purpose is to offer leadership, education, and professional support to all working within the field.

History of FSEM



In the early 2000s, the development of Government Policies to improve health and promote sporting excellence. In February 2005 the Department of Health recognised Sport and Exercise Medicine as a medical specialty and, during that year, Parliament amended the Specialist Medical Order, creating the new specialty of Sport and Exercise Medicine. Sport and Exercise Medicine gained specialty status in 2005; and therefore, the Faculty of Sport and Exercise Medicine UK was formed.

FSEM sets the standards in SEM and oversees research, training, curriculum and assessment, and works to oversee Sport and Exercise Medicine standards, education, curriculum, training requirements and programmes, as well as supporting the development of the specialty and SEM clinicians and working to improve the health of the nation through physical activity.

CSEM Timeline: 2020 - 2021

- **Proposal introduced** to dissolve BASEM and FSEM and reform as a single entity.
- **BASEM updated its Articles** to allow decisions based on the voting members present.
- **Members of both organisations voted** to explore the possibility of forming one united organisation.
- **Leadership teams met to discuss future** direction and acknowledged both strong collaboration and member concerns/support regarding unification.
- **Vision explored:** creating a multidisciplinary College of Sport, Exercise and Musculoskeletal Medicine with ambitions to seek a Royal Charter. Meeting focused on assessing the strategic and operational implications of dissolving both organisations and reforming as one.
- **Two options identified:**
 1. Remain separate but continue close collaboration, with freedom for other strategic partnerships.
 2. Dissolve both organisations and form a single joint charity/college.

Agreed to fully explore both options and present detailed proposals to members for debate and voting by Spring 2023.

Voting processes will follow each organisation's established governance rules.

CSEM Timeline: 2022 – The Working Groups

March - A call for members to be involved in the consultation groups of both the advantages and disadvantages of reforming as a single entity or staying separate.

May - Eight working groups were created consisting of BASEM and FSEM members to look at specific areas for consideration:

1. **Overall Assessment** - Evaluation of advantages, disadvantages, opportunities and implications of dissolving both organisations and forming a joint College of Sport, Exercise and Musculoskeletal Medicine.
2. **Membership & Fellowship Structure** - Proposed structure and fees, ensuring inclusivity, respect for organisational history, and recognition of qualifications, exams and diplomas.
3. **Relationship with RCPL & RCSEd** - Future arrangements for collaboration, particularly around specialist training.
4. **Legal & Financial Transfer** - Legal considerations for transferring funds and assets from both organisations into a new joint entity.
5. **Staff & Location Considerations** - Review of geographical location and staff roles, with a commitment to no redundancies or enforced relocations.
6. **Organisational Structure & Governance** - Proposed charity structure, operational standards and governance model for the new organisation.
7. **Financial Projections** - Forecasted costs involved in forming a joint organisation or college.
8. **Assessment of Remaining Separate** – A report evaluating the advantages, disadvantages, opportunities and implications of BASEM and FSEM remaining as separate organisations

CSEM Timeline: 2022 – 2023

May 2022 - January 2023 - The Working groups met, discussed and agreed on their final reports.

January - March 2023 - The Outcome Document with recommendations agreed by BASEM board and FSEM council was finalised.

March 2023 - Summary Report shared with BASEM and FSEM members and fellows. Invitation to submit questions about the report and recommendations.

May 16th 2023 - A joint live question and answer session for members of both organisations. This will be followed by an opportunity to submit proxy votes.

May 18th 2023 - On 18th May 2023, members of BASEM and FSEM voted on the future of our two organisations and how we might best work together to further the SEM agenda in the UK. Both FSEM and BASEM voted at our respective General Meetings, and we had an overwhelmingly positive result, with an overwhelming majority of members of both organisations voting in favour of reforming as one College.

Work then begins to form the College that our members voted for.

CSEM Timeline: 2023-24

The new College Steering Group was formed as the next stage of the legal process. This group will be responsible for overseeing and guiding the strategic and operational aspects of the integration between BASEM and FSEM, Mr Dan Morris, Consultant Ophthalmologist, was appointed as the new steering group Chair.

The College Steering Group formalised their shared commitment and ensure a unified approach, the College Steering Group also entered into a formal collaboration agreement, setting out clear roles, responsibilities, and shared objectives.

The new College Steering Group have been working very hard meeting every two weeks, to support decision making in forming the College based on the members consultation and Outcome Document.

CSEM Timeline: 2025-26

January – April 2025 - The College Steering Group appointed Eastside People and a dedicated project manager to coordinate delivery. A comprehensive project plan, risk register, and decision-making protocol were developed to guide the next stages.

April 2025 - BASEM and FSEM introduced a Data Sharing Agreement to support College planning, identify shared members, and assess member services. Details were emailed to members.

June 2025 - Following extensive consultation and strong support from both memberships, the official name was confirmed: College of Sport, Exercise and Musculoskeletal Medicine (CSEM).

August 2025 - Elections were held for the first CSEM Board of Trustees, and the inaugural board was confirmed.

September 2025 - Brand development for CSEM entered its final phase, with selected members invited to provide feedback before the final identity is shared.

November 2025 - The new CSEM logo was presented, establishing the College's visual identity.

December 2025 - Members received a one-year progress update from the College Steering Group. FSEM also provided further clarity on medical leadership and the Fellowship structure.

January – February 2026 - Key milestones were achieved:

- Finalisation of the College's Articles of Association
- Confirmation of incorporation by Companies House
- Submission of the charity application to the Charity Commission for England and Wales

The Summarised College Timeline

Full timeline information available on the FSEM and BASEM websites

