



**Competitions Commission Meeting**

**Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> May 2013**

**National Volleyball Centre, Kettering**

**MEETING MINUTES**

<b>Minutes prepared by</b>	: Jonathan Moore
<b>Circulation</b>	: Competition Commission
<b>Distribution</b>	: From Paul Bohannon

<b>Commissioners present and apologies for absence</b>	
<b>Paul Bohannon</b>	Competitions Commission President Super 8's Commissioner
<b>Keith McAdam</b>	Division 2 Men's Commissioner
<b>Lenny Barry</b>	National Cup Commissioner
<b>Brian Kendall</b>	National U15 Commissioner
<b>Kevin Hamblin</b>	Division 3 Men's Commissioner
<b>Martin Shakespeare</b>	Referee Liaison
<b>Ian Cheesbrough</b>	Division 2 Women's Commissioner
Jonathan Moore	Competitions Officer
<b>1. Apologies</b>	
<b>Bill Boagey</b>	Division 1 Commissioner
Sanjib Sahota	National Competition & Events Manager
Martin Lindsey	Head of Operations
<b>Ade McGraa</b>	Student Cup Commissioner
Will Westwood	Competitions Administrator
Wayne Coyle	International Events & Competitions Director
<b>Sarah Hill</b>	Division 3 Women's Commissioner

In **bold** – voting members

The meeting commenced at 10.48am

		<b>Action</b>
<b>2.</b>	<b>Minutes of Previous Meeting</b>	
	Still looking for a willing volunteer for the U16 / U18 or even the Super 8s Commission post.	All
	Minutes from the previous Competitions Commission should have been put on the website.	SS
	2 <sup>nd</sup> Round of the Cup Losers to be Away Team for the first Shield match to avoid issues with venue bookings.	LB
	Code of Conduct to be distributed to the Clubs at the beginning of the Season, it	Office

	<p>has been distributed to the Regional Commission.</p> <p>Discussion regarding more Referees with Referee Commission. Referee Commission to facilitate courses, Regional Referee Administrators job to try to encourage new Referees to take the step up.</p> <p>Referee Distribution and Cost, Competitions Commission to be more aware of the costs involved. Teams need to be made aware that the route to cheaper Referees is Referee development in their area.</p> <p>Minimum Operating Standards – indication that the basic idea of the MOS is a good idea, but not currently being enforced. Feedback from Competitions Review is that Teams at the top should be meeting the MOS; need to have sanctions (potentially expulsion from the league) if not met.</p>	<p>Referee Commission and Competitions Commission.</p>
<p><b>3.</b></p>	<p><b>Matters Arising</b></p> <p>Previous Player Registration information not available on the website. Need to look at providing this information, so that it does not take up Office time. Current system is working well, so there is no need to change, as the Office will need to check this information anyway.</p>	
<p><b>4.</b></p>	<p><b>League Structure</b></p> <p>Discussion regarding NVL new entrants, and there entry into the NVL Division 3.</p> <p>The Following Women's Teams Ashfield Vipers, Oxford Ladies and Worthing Volleyball Club were accepted into Women's Division 3.</p> <p>Team Durham have not listed enough players, concern over how long the investment is going to last. Team Durham to return a list of 10 Players and if they do they will be accepted into the NVL. Vote carried in favour of Durham 5-1.</p> <p>Need to assess whether players listed for new Teams will create issues for existing teams.</p> <p>Discussion regarding the proposed league structure for next season.</p> <p>Concerns over distances between Teams in some Divisions.</p> <p>Division 3 Women discussion – 4 in favour of 3 Divisions, 1 in favour of 2 Divisions. To remain Women's 3 North, Central and South. Women's 3 North / Central to play each other 3 Times.</p> <p>Teams to be offered Triangular fixtures in Division 3.</p> <p>Division 2 Women – Oxford Students to play in the North depending on playoff results.</p> <p>The Following Men's Teams were accepted into Men's Division 3 - Canterbury City Firsts, Cardiff Celts, Exeter Storm VC, GNG Bedford, Houghton Darlington, Milton Keynes, Oxford Students, Peterborough Harriers Men, St. Albans Harriers, and Wessex Leaf.</p> <p>Men's Division 1 / 2 Playoffs – If City of Bristol win Brentwood Estonians drop into the Division 2 South.</p> <p>Concerns for the coming season;</p> <p>Referee Commission will struggle to service Teams with Referees in certain areas.</p>	<p>JM to follow up with Team Durham</p> <p>JM</p>

<p><b>5.</b></p>	<p><b>NVL / Cup Regulations – Changes</b></p> <p>Concerns from the previous Season;</p> <p>Loughborough Students Men defaulting 4 matches this season. A discussion over the number of defaulted matches before a team is removed from the League. Only stay up because Wiltshire Mavericks do not want to be promoted. Men’s Team do not have enough players, convinced to remain in the NVL by their Women’s Team last season.</p> <p>Discussion over the regulations around defaulting matches, Commission to take action should the situation be repeated. Office to send letters of warning to Teams that default matches, 3 matches defaulted and the team will be removed from the Division. Fine to be increase for all Teams to a minimum £75 for first offence, and £150 for second offence, followed by a review by the Competitions Commission. For Super 8s Teams this initial fine to be set at £500, followed by a review by the Competitions Commission.</p> <p>Referees currently do not receive a fee for defaulted matches; Referees need to remain for a least 1 hour. Suggestion is that Referees still receive match fees for defaulted matches, providing that they have travelled, and the match hasn’t been called off in advance.</p> <p>Discussion over Volleyball England offering a set contribution to Teams as compensation for Teams whose matches have been cancelled by other Teams defaulting.</p> <p>Discussion over the NVL Goodwill Deposit – vote to increase deposit by £25 to £100 for all Teams for 2014-15. All voted in favour.</p> <p>Amendments discussed and made to the NVL Regulations, and will be reflected in the NVL Regulations for 2013-14.</p> <p>Debts for all Teams to be cleared before entries for the new season are accepted. Teams in Debt <b>may not</b> be permitted to enter the NVL.</p> <p>All Volleyball England Competitions will refer back to the NVL Regulations if deemed necessary.</p> <p>Student Cup Regulations regarding the number of Credits to be reviewed – Suggestion is to remove “Full Time” and reduce the number of Credits to 60 to increase participation. It would give more people the opportunity to play.</p> <p>Items on the match day checklist being ticked off, even if not there.</p>	<p>Office</p> <p>Referee Commission.</p> <p>Competitions Review to follow up.</p> <p>Referee Commission to remind Referees, and Office to monitor.</p>
<p><b>6.</b></p>	<p><b>Performance proposals, and the impact on Competitions</b></p> <p>Insufficient time to discuss this agenda item in full; however it was noted that Commissions are not being told what is happening elsewhere.</p>	
<p><b>7.</b></p>	<p><b>Competitions Review</b></p> <p>Since the last CC meeting a consultation meeting with the other commission representatives plus SMT and the Competitions department had taken place. During the meeting each competition was reviewed on the basis of their effectiveness on meeting the requirements of the business moving forward and any identified aims and objectives. Notes of the meeting were produced and circulated. Meeting Minutes from Competitions Review to be sent on to the Competitions Commission.</p> <p>Summary of key points are as follows:-</p> <p><b>Super 8s</b> – At present was not fit for purpose and did not meet the aims and</p>	<p>JM to organise.</p>

objectives identified. As such this should be looked at as a matter of urgency for the 2013 / 14 season.

**NVL** – That for Division 2 and below the key purpose was more about participation and performance pathways. As such the structure should be reviewed more closely with consultation with clubs and regions. This would need to have the appropriate timescale applied to it. Timely action was more important than a quick response.

**NVL Cup** – Entries is an issue with teams either not fulfilling fixtures or choosing to drop out. The Final however was a key milestone in the annual calendar. Super 8 inclusion was felt to potentially be stunting entries from other Teams into the Cup. Question raised as to whether the Super 8s Teams should have a separate Cup.

**Regional Champions Trophy** – The recommendation from the Competitions Review meeting was that this was discontinued. C Orton was to consult with Regions regarding the recommendation. This had been subsequently accepted and the RCT would not take place this year.

**Inter Regional's** – There was a differing view from the meeting on the future and purpose of the event. As such it was agreed to consult with Regions at the next Regional Commission meeting to clarify the future format / continuation. It is important that this consultation considers the context of the new strategic plan.

**U18's** – The competition structure for U18 was key to supporting the talent pathway. The Junior competitions review had also highlighted the need for certain actions. As such where possible relevant recommendations should be actioned. In particular the requirement for more frequent competition should be considered.

**U16's** – The existing competition framework was considered to be appropriate and fit for purpose.

**Student Cup** – Had not been seen as a priority for the Competitions Review but would need to be reviewed in due course.

**Sitting Volleyball** – A decision was taken to leave Sitting Volleyball for the time being, as the Competitions were deemed to be fit for purpose. Although it was highlighted that attempts should be made to increase participation. (Concern that the Sitting Volleyball Advisory Group had not met). A review of the Competition with players was meant to take place on the weekend the Sitting GP Semi-Finals were called off by snow.

The following proposals were for consideration and potential implementation to meet the requirements identified in the Competitions Review. It was felt appropriate to provide considered options for consultation rather than start with a 'blank sheet'. Wayne Coyle had spent some time looking and discussing options with the focus being on the U18's, NVL Cup and Super 8's as the Competitions Review identified. Proposals are summarized as follows:-

#### **U18's - Proposal**

- Focus on Participation and Talent Pathway.
- That the U18 structure through to identification of the finalist remains as per previous years.
- That the top 2 teams play off in a cup final.
- That the cup final takes place in January alongside the Super 8s final in January (see Super 8s below).
- That the timescale to produce the finalists is scheduled before the end of December.
- That the final 8 teams qualify for a Grand Prix style competition (series of Last 8s Competitions) that take place between January and the end of March.
- That the Grand Prix finalists take part in the Cup final Weekend.
- Context and Consultation; The above meets the requirement of the Junior competitions review. Consultation should take place with U18 teams asap.

### **Competitions Commission**

The proposal was discussed by the Competitions Commission.

Concern about the “cost” to Referees, i.e. taking them away from other matches and whether Referee Commission would be able to cover the additional competitions.

U18 Grand Prix not only a Competitions venture needs a joint approach with Talent.

### **NVL Cup - Proposal**

- Focus on Participation in the NVL Cup. (Super 8s Cup benefit for the rest of the Teams rather than the Super 8s Teams).
- Over the last Few years the NVL Cup has been affected by teams withdrawing (including S8 teams) and games not taking place.
- The NVL Cup Final has been a key showcase event as part of the ‘Cup finals’ weekend.
- The recommendation is that S8 teams are removed from the cup leaving the competition as a VE Cup Competition.
- It is hoped that this will result in increased competition for the remaining NVL teams and also encourage more none national team entries hence increasing participation opportunities.
- The ‘carrot’ will be to play in the VE Cup Finals at Kettering.
- The Shield competition will remain however the Final will take place at either a neutral venue or that of one of the home teams (a draw).
- The competition will run on the same timescale as previously with finals in April / May.

### **Competitions Commission**

The proposal was discussed by the Competitions Commission.

Concern that we would be investing more money in another Super 8s competition. No return on previous investment in the Super 8s. Creating a Cup solely for the Super 8s is unlikely to change this situation.

Concern that open dialogue had not included all invited to the Competitions Review since the date of the meeting, e.g. proposals had been developed without consultation with the full review group.

Concern that the Cup Finals would no longer be a stand alone event, and that there would be a clash of identities for the Competitions. The idea of a Championship Finals didn’t seem to fit, particularly with the number of competitions then coming to an end that weekend.

### **Super 8s - Proposal**

- Focus on Profile, Visuality and Performance Pathway.
- The Super 8s was deemed as not fit for purpose in the review sessions that have taken place so far.
- The key concern seems to be the profile and commerciality that should be provided through the Super 8s.
- It is recognised that whilst a step change may be required to accelerate opportunities, there is a need to respect timescales and the impact on the remainder of the NVL.
- As such the proposal outlined encompasses the existing Super 8s teams;
- It provides a Super 8s League Cup Competition that starts at the beginning of the season and is finalised in a Cup Final in January (this provides a mid season profile event). Teams are drawn in 2 pools of 4 (regionalised) , play each other once, play cross over semis and then the finalist play in a central venue cup competition (not necessarily Kettering – let’s put it out to the Market).
- The Super 8s then starts after the completion of the Cup Semi Finals and is delivered on the traditional home and away league.
- That there are 2 identified central venue weekend for male and female teams. The first will be in November and the second in February.
- That these games will be televised under controlled conditions for release

	<p>through Jan to April (gaining significant profile for the sport).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- That the season will complete with a playoff system with the top 4 teams playing semis (home and away) and a Cup Final style event as part of the Cup Final weekend.</li> <li>- Teams will also be expected to capitalize on TV coverage to build home based events.</li> <li>- The format presented provides the opportunity for the sport to achieve profile and visuality through the January Cup Final plus the central venue events released to TV in 1 hour highlight programmes on a weekly basis.</li> </ul> <p><b>Competitions Commission</b> The proposal was discussed by the Competitions Commission.</p> <p>It was noted that the Proposal meant that we would need to support a “Cup Finals” set-up and additional two times per year. Clarity needed over where the funding would come from.</p> <p>Concern over how the TV production would be funded.</p> <p>The proposals for the U18’s, NVL Cup and Super 8s to be considered and decisions to be made via email following the Competitions Commission meeting.</p> <p><b>NVL Handbook</b> Discussion over the production of the Handbook. Proposal was to only produce an Electronic version if the recommendation is supported by the Competitions Commission, the option of a hard copy is provided to teams / officials - these can be circulated on request, and that we review the impact of moving to an electronic copy at the January Comps Commission meeting. The following detail was discussed;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The cost of production and cost benefit analysis</li> <li>- The impact on timescales for production</li> <li>- The necessity of production when considering environmental issues</li> <li>- The implications if we moved to the production of an electronic copy</li> </ul> <p>For the Referee Commission, the NVL Regulations need to be provided as a minimum.</p> <p>Concern that we have not delivered the Handbook on time. It has not been prioritised and it does not look good to the Customers. Discussion over where the Handbook has fallen down in the past, and the value of it going out with incomplete / wrong information.</p> <p>Teams to be asked whether they would like an NVL Handbook for 2014-15.</p> <p>The Competitions Commission voted on the proposal and the following outcome was agreed – The NVL Handbook – to be sent in hard copy. No Referee Appointments to be in the Handbook, Teams to be encouraged to use “Whostheref”.</p> <p>Instructions on how to use “Whostheref” to be created and distributed to Referees, Teams and Commissioners.</p>	<p>MS to create.</p>
<p><b>8.</b></p>	<p><b>Calendar</b></p> <p>A version of the Calendar was reviewed in line with the proposals set out above. Discussion had regarding the impact of the proposals / International Transfers on the Calendar and planning for the NVL Season. Further work on the Calendar will need to be done once the proposals have been considered and the outcome is known.</p> <p>Pinch points for Referee Appointments were highlighted and will be addressed before the Calendar is confirmed.</p>	<p>JM</p> <p>JM</p>

<p><b>9.</b></p>	<p><b>International Transfers</b></p> <p>JM read a paper on International Transfers, a summary of the background of this is below;</p> <p>Traditionally Volleyball England and British Volleyball have only complied with the FIVB's / CEV's International Transfer Regulations in respect of British players going abroad.</p> <p>In the 2010/11 season the International Transfer Regulations changed and the FIVB / CEV introduced the new Electronic International Transfer Procedure which utilised the FIVB VIS ITC System (the electronic International Transfer system).</p> <p>The CEV wrote to Volleyball England on 29.03.13 regarding International Transfers, specifically about the lack of an International Transfer Certificate (ITC) for Evdoxia Argyropoulou (a Greek player, registered with Polonia IMKA London) and Volleyball England's non-compliance with the FIVB VIS ITC System. The letter requested compliance for the 2013/14 season.</p> <p>On 3rd May 2013, at the CEV Management Seminar in Luxembourg, the CEV announced changes to the International Transfer Regulations. The important changes to note were that compliance with the Regulations will now be condition of membership of the CEV.</p> <p>And, All NVL Divisions are now subject to the International Transfer Regulations.</p> <p>Further specifics about the International Transfer Regulations were given and a number of options were set out, a further set of recommendations / actions were presented to the Competitions Commission.</p> <p>JM also presented some initial research on the number of players in the Super 8s and Division 1 this could affect. 50% of players (350) in the Super 8s and Division 1, Federation of Origin is not Volleyball England. Just looking at the Super 8s 54% of players (150) Federation of Origin is not Volleyball England.</p> <p>A number of Teams are concerned that they will not have a team for next season, if these Regulations are enforced, and a few have suggested that they would not be able to enter the Super 8s if this was the case.</p> <p>It was decided by the Competitions Commission that it would recommend to the Board that Volleyball England should write to the CEV to discuss a staged implementation of the International Transfer Regulations, this could include administrative implementation for 2013-14 and 2014-15 and a phased implementation of Transfer Fees.</p>	<p>JM to coordinate with WC.</p>
<p><b>10.</b></p>	<p><b>Date of next two meetings</b></p> <p>21<sup>st</sup> September 2013 – SportPark, Loughborough 11<sup>th</sup> January 2014 – SportPark, Loughborough</p>	
<p><b>11.</b></p>	<p><b>Any Other Business</b></p> <p>Concern over who had been invited / not invited to the Regional Road shows.</p> <p>Cup and Shield – The way the Cup and Shield is drawn, questioned as to whether it is the best way to do it? The way that the Cup and Shield is draw to be considered by LB.</p> <p>List of Teams in the Cup to be sent to the Divisional Commissioners.</p> <p>Concern that More games are called off after Christmas than before.</p> <p>Question raised over who calls off NVL Fixtures. This is not the Office, but the Office will take the lead on Competitions where Volleyball England is the host.</p>	<p>Individuals to raise concern with Stuart Johnson.</p> <p>LB</p> <p>JM</p>

	Concern over emails sent by the Office regarding who is eligible to sit on the Bench at the Cup Finals, and that this had been sent without the Cup Commissioners knowledge.	
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