



Competitions Working Group Meeting

Sunday 17th September 2017

SportsPark Loughborough

MEETING MINUTES

Minutes prepared by	: Sarah Hill
Circulation	: Competition Working Group, Working Group Leads, Hub Team
Distribution	: Jonathan Moore

1. Members present and apologies for absence	
Keith McAdam	Super 8s Lead
Sarah Hill	Division 3 Women's Lead
James Murphy	Competitions Lead National Cup Lead
Brian Kendall	U15 Lead
Herman Prada	Sitting Volleyball Lead
Ade McGraa	Student Cup Lead
Jonathan Moore	Competitions and Events Coordinator
Apologies	
Bill Boagey	Division 1 Lead
Martin Shakespeare	Referee Liaison
Geoff Hollows	Results Processing

In **bold** – voting members

The meeting commenced at 11:00

Agenda item	Notes	Action & Owner
2. Minutes of Previous Meeting	All amendments were made into NVL Handbook and the Handbook has been published. Changes that were intended to be implemented to the website could not be done. This is due to the maintenance contract, which only allows a certain amount of development, which is reserved for essential development only. League Structure was confirmed, teams and player fees were confirmed and updated, calendar was agreed.	
3. Matters Arising	Feedback to the Coaching Working Group is to get further clarification on how to monitor the requirement re: Coaching Level 2?	J Mo
4. Volleyball England Update	"Join us at the net - 2017/21" PowerPoint presentation from JMo . It should be noted that this document is a reflection of a point in time. Commissions are now referred to as 'Working Groups', commissioners/ commission leads now referred to as 'Work Stream Leads'.	J Mo

	<p>Commissioners are now Leads, i.e. Division 3 Women Commissioner becomes Division 3 Women Lead.</p> <p>Securing external funding from Sport England - deadline is November.</p> <p>Working Group meeting dates may need to be adjusted to feed into Board meetings.</p> <p>Pool of Experts - open to all Working Group members and they are encouraged to enter.</p> <p>The governance structure visual could be changed, however the reason for it was to represent that for every group, the membership is the priority - all groups are there for the members (players, clubs, regions & partners).</p> <p>Feedback is that 'Membership' should be more inclusive - volunteers don't appear anywhere in the Governance structure.</p>	J Mo
5. Volleyball England - Sport England Strategy	<p>Competition Strategy Planning Document to be shared with the Competitions Working Group leads. This document will feed into the VE Strategic Plan for 2017/21 to be discussed at the board meeting.</p>	J Mo
6. Competitions Update		
• NVL	<p>National League has started with 138 teams (13 fewer than last year, despite many new entries to the league, however last year was a bumper year).</p> <p>Handbook has now been published.</p> <p>There are many teams that do not meet the minimum criteria for the number of players registered (8 players by 1st August).</p> <p>This regulation however goes back to a deadline set when registrations were sent in by post. It possibly is more realistic to adjust this regulation to be the first day of the season - agenda item to add to the May working group meeting where new regulations are discussed.</p>	J Mo
• International Transfers	<p>Currently there are 162 international transfers in process (142 into the country, 20 out of the country). (Last year it was 310 total - 293 in, 17 out - so there are potentially more to come). Hopefully the international transfers will increase the number of registered players.</p> <p>There is still hope that at FIVB level it will the Regulations will change so that Transfers are not required every season, and Federations do not "own" the rights to the player.</p>	
• NEVZA	<p>Last weekend in October. 6 teams planning to enter (usual countries apart from Finland). Laurence is the lead on that event.</p> <p>Currently we are due to host the U19 NEVZA comp next year, however Denmark have volunteered to host 2018 U19, if they do not host U17. Norway have indicated they would be interested in hosting the U17 in this case.</p>	
• School Games	<p>This year was the last year of having Volleyball in the Level 4 School Games (still participating in level 3, 2, 1).</p> <p>Volleyball England had to re-apply, they did re-apply but were rejected due to the application not fulfilling the criteria for talent pathway. They also wished us to change the competition format, rather than have a round robin, only have Scotland play England, but England would not play Northern Ireland, for example. They also wanted to include Beach Volleyball.</p> <p>We were advised that we could revise our application, however we were advised that there would be a £300 pp cost for next year (£18,000), which was a brand-new cost previously covered by Sport England. Total costs would be estimated at £30k for full delivery.</p> <p>Wales had previously had to foot 100% of their bill (£9k), could not commit. NI had to foot 50%, felt unable to commit and additional 50%. Scotland had support for 100% of their fees, and were unlikely to be able / want to cover the costs.</p> <p>All nations agreed the costs were not sustainable and hence the decision.</p>	

<p>• Junior Competitions & Regulations</p>	<p>Inter-regionals went well for the most part, but U17 boy's competition. The competition had 2 documents published with different ways of determining the winners. This was not picked up on until after the medals were awarded. The result of this is that there will be a second presentation so both "winners" receive gold medals.</p> <p>There will now be one overriding set of junior regulations which will define all junior comps.</p> <p>Open discussion about how do we decide in the final pool order (this was the main issue).</p> <p>Total Match Points (2 points for a win, 1 point each for a draw).</p> <p>Then if teams are tied on tournament points</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Then Sets difference</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Then Points difference.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Then result between two teams.</p> <p>Also, considered that a golden point should be played if there was a draw which was 23-25, 25-23, however this was dismissed as it was deemed that it would add unnecessary complications and might easily be missed. The likelihood of ever needing that golden point is too small a possibility to necessitate the potential complication.</p> <p>An email was sent out from JMo with a Junior Competitions Update to all Clubs, NVL Teams, Junior Contacts, Competitions and Regional Working Groups.</p> <p>Major changes:</p> <p>U18 Grand Prix removed and U18 National Championships to be re-structured over a longer period of time over the season.</p> <p>Competition fees are the same (£35) across all age groups, no layered payment structure for multiple teams.</p>	
<p>• Student Cup</p>	<p>Run as is usual with qualifying events in November and finals in February. Last year there were 103 teams entered, hoping for similar levels this year. Information will be published by Volleyball England to universities by the end of September as there are still revisions being made and the booking at Leeds is still pending confirmation.</p> <p>Suggestion to move some actions to Ade or other volunteers away from the office - where possible.</p>	<p>AM</p>
<p>• Sitting Volleyball</p>	<p>As there will be less support from the Hub team the setting up the nets will need to be done via those present the suggestion was that a home team was nominated for each event and they would have this responsibility.</p>	<p>HP</p>
<p>• Calendar</p>	<p>VE is creating a Calendar Working Group - Keith McAdam volunteered to be the competitions working group liaison.</p> <p>Looking at including meetings on the calendar.</p> <p>Martin Shakespeare (MS) noted that by the end of September there should have been 3 rounds of Super 8s, and there will have only been 1 match played.</p> <p>Malory v Beach Academy Double Academy on 8th April - MS feels that this has scheduled too late in the season as it may have an impact on the outcome of the league. There is not a practical regulation that could be added to avoid this, however the result will be monitored in case it needs reviewing further.</p>	<p>KM</p>
<p>7. Cup Finals Weekend</p>	<p>MS suggested that Shield Finals be moved to Super 8s weekend into the space freed up by U18 GP.</p> <p>This is to reduce the number of matches to 3 per day, down from the current 4, meaning that the last match on Sunday is not scheduled until 6pm (which inevitably runs behind schedule). If it goes to 5 sets, it makes for a very late finish for referees, NTOs, volunteers, and teams.</p> <p>This will be considered under competition review.</p>	<p>J Mu</p>
<p>8. Technical Errors made by officials</p>	<p>Rulings on technical issues will be made by the appropriate lead after consultation with Referee Liaison. That decision can then be appealed in the usual way.</p>	<p>All leads</p>

9. Competitions Review	Over 1000 unique players play on the beach tour compared to 200 in the previous year a big success and fully in line with our core market strategy. Whether greater control over the calendar is needed is up for debate - there's only so much influence that VE can have where no financial support is given. Beach Volleyball Working Group led by Jake Sheaf - Volunteer from the Competitions Working Group is Sarah Hill. Insight needs to come from sitting and senior to find what change (if any) is desired rather than take any decisions without consultation.	SH
10. Names and Terms of Reference of CWG	BK had raised this as an agenda item. There are terms of reference under the Competitions Working Group area, however this is to be updated to the new naming format as it was last updated in November 2011 and still refers to Competitions Commission. James Murphy to update.	JMu
11. Pool of Experts	All Working Group members to complete the application to be included in the Pool of Experts: https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/VEPoolofExperts	All
12. Volunteer Roles and Recruitment	There are vacancies to be filled within the Competitions Working Group. Working Group members to feed back to James Murphy what their perception of the responsibilities of their role and how much time the role takes up. Volleyball England are finding it more of a challenge to fill volunteering opportunities - an idea would be to start putting job descriptions out there as people are perhaps reticent about volunteering because they think that there's more responsibility than perhaps is necessary?	All
13. Interim Update Meetings via Skype	Some of the CWG meetings will be conducted via Skype audio. Skype details to be sent over to James Murphy by all working group members. Skype call needs to be a maximum of one hour, fewer agenda items however conducted more regularly. It may then mean that there are fewer agenda items at the face to face meetings. Skype meetings will be held on different days - likely to be monthly at 7pm - first one on Monday 16th October. Skype etiquette - mute yourself when not speaking! These skype calls will mainly be about information sharing not decision making, so a formal minutes procedure should not be required, however notes will be made and can be included in the next set of minutes if appropriate.	JMu
14. Rolling Agenda	This agenda item relates to deciding ahead of time when key agenda items needs to be discussed. All to send suggestions to James.	All
15. Date of next two meetings	Saturday 13th January 2018 - Loughborough 11am (a change from the previous agreed date of 14/01/18). Sunday 13th May 2018 - Kettering 11am - alongside NVL Play-offs.	
16. Any other business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The use of Social Media to grow participation in Volleyball could be increased further - Some examples are Filipino and Polish communities are coming together to play without VE knowing anything about and therefore being able to use that as a positive story with Sport England from a participation perspective. Junior competition being led by Freda with consultation previously from Keith, which will be passed over to new Work Stream leader. Level 4 Referees need to have communications about rule/ regulation changes - for instance if they are not on Who's The Ref? Information should be communicated more effectively. BK Suggestion that there could be a change in format for recording the minutes First column and margins to be made narrower. Potential for any actions to be recorded in a different colour/ format, rather than as a separate column. This is in the interest of saving paper where people choose to print those minutes. 	MS J Mu