

**Referee Commission Meeting**  
**10am, Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2017**  
**Podium, SportPark Loughborough**

Attendees	
Steve Evans (SE)	Richard Morten (RM)
Steve Matthews (SM)	Debra Smart (DS)
Glynn Archibald (GA)	Fiona Sweetman (FS)

**Present for part of the meeting:** Sebastian Widlarz (SW) via Skype, Nick Heckford (NH) via Skype, Stewart Dunne (SD), Greg Thompson (GT)

**Apologies:** Martin Shakespeare, Gillian Harrison

Item	Action
<p>Meeting opened by SE</p> <p>As a note, the first seminar for the International Beach Volleyball Referee Development Programme led by Brian Stalker and Greg Thompson was also held at SportPark on 11/01/2017.</p> <p>Matters arising from minutes of the last meeting on 29/01/2017:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kitlocker.com supply issues for referee uniform with Mizuno still ongoing. Variable stock and timings for delivery.</li> <li>• DS to go through logging beach upgrading on WTR</li> <li>• Competitions Commission meeting has been postponed and will be held later in 2017, which has a knock on effect on SM presenting on e-score. Meeting will be held when greater clarity on the situation is understood and the financial situation of the association is better known.</li> <li>• SE WTR evaluation forms ongoing</li> <li>• FS to ask LS about Volleyball England lanyard costs</li> <li>• SW Volleyball England Referee Facebook page updated with additional admins, banner picture changed to reflect all disciplines of volleyball, every question submitted is confirmed by admins before being posted to the page.</li> </ul> <p>Changes to resources on Grade 4 courses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SW on potential resources to replace the Referee Handbook, £5 each, currently given out to candidates on the Grade 4 course. The sourced prices for the proposed new Grade 4 resource offer: £5 for a Fox 40 whistle printed with the Volleyball England logo and £5 for FIVB red/yellow cards.</li> <li>• SW sent pictures to the meeting and it was decided that the black whistles with the white Volleyball England logo was the most appropriate.</li> <li>• After debate, it was decided that SW should source some</li> </ul>	<p>DS</p> <p>SE FS</p>

<p>cheaper red/yellow cards and report these costings back to the Referee Commission and FS.</p> <p>Proposed changes to the pre-match protocol:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SW sent pre-match protocol to SE, SW to send onto Referee Commission. The changes included a protocol on the presentation of teams before the match.</li> <li>• The question was raised as to what level of competition/league the modified pre-match protocol would apply. It was decided that the protocol would improve the professionalism of the leagues and should be implemented in all the divisions.</li> <li>• The new proposals would be sent to RRC for discussion for implementation at regional/Local level.</li> <li>• The modified pre-match protocol was accepted by the Referee Commission.</li> <li>• SE to send the protocol onto the Competitions Commission.</li> </ul>	<p>SW</p> <p>SW</p> <p>RM</p> <p>SE</p>
<p><b>1. Volleyball England Strategy Update</b></p> <p>SE gave an update to the Referee Commission on the strategy meeting that was held at SportPark on 07/01/2017. The meeting was attended by commission presidents, managers, executive board and key personnel.</p> <p>The meeting gave an update on Volleyball England's position, which in short is that Volleyball England have been placed in financial special measures by Sport England.</p> <p>SE and SM commented that the meeting was open and positive.</p> <p>SM stated that a bid has been submitted to Sport England for funding and that the expected result of this decision would be known by Volleyball England on 03/02/2017, after Sport England's board meeting on 02/02/2017.</p> <p>The structure of Volleyball England is likely to change as a result of this bid. The role and organisation of commissions will be reviewed. Following the meeting commissioners were asked to produce terms of reference and to outline the roles and responsibilities for their respective commissions.</p> <p>Follow up by Referee Commission:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• When have an accurate idea of finances, to go through budget and identify targets and priorities</li> <li>• Ask SD for timescales for when relevant information for planning will be known. Will this be known before the next scheduled Referee Commission meeting on 18/03/2017?</li> </ul>	<p>SE</p>

<p><b>2. V.E. Discipline Document.</b></p> <p>A copy of the proposed new Volleyball England association wide Code of Conduct and the proposed Disciplinary Regulations were sent to the Referee Commission by SE in advance of the meeting.</p> <p>The rationale behind these documents is to ensure that policies are the same across Volleyball England.</p> <p>The Referee Commission agreed that the Code of Conduct largely covered the necessary conditions for referees. Regarding the disciplinary document, SE raised the issue that the document misses sanctions specific to refereeing and does not cover who can raise sanctions specific to refereeing.</p> <p>SD noted that comments are open to be submitted on the documents and should be sent to SD no later than 14/02/2017</p>	
<p><b>3. E-Learning; The Rules R Learning Assistant Update</b></p> <p>SE gave an update on The Rules R Learning Assistant and showed the Referee Commission the latest usage reports. A total of 67 out of 222 referees had accessed the platform at least once.</p> <p>It was noted that some of the wordings of questions need to be altered and that there will be ongoing amendments in the trial period.</p> <p>A discussion was had on the extension of the contract for The Rules R Learning Assistant beyond the current trial period, which included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The costs of the full package</li> <li>• Ways in which additional funds could be raised to support the purchase of the full package for the next registration period</li> <li>• The possibility of offering paid access to the platform for coaches, players, clubs and non-registered referees</li> </ul> <p>SE to ask Guy Bradbury if bolt on licences can be purchased throughout the year and to find out the cost of the unlimited licence package</p> <p>Referee Commission to prepare a report on the proposal to purchase access to The Rules R Learning Assistant beyond the current trial period. This report is to be sent to FS for formatting and will then be submitted for review by SMT. This report should cover:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evidence that shows the benefits of the platform, e.g. as a training tool to strengthen referee knowledge</li> <li>• A short and long term needs justification of the platform</li> <li>• Total number of registered referees over the past three years</li> <li>• Retention rates of referees over the past three years</li> <li>• A consideration of how purchasing the platform could contribute towards wider strategic aims, e.g. what does it do for the regions? Who else, outside of referees, could benefit from the</li> </ul>	<p>SE</p> <p>ALL</p>

<p>platform?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A consideration of the value of this platform compared to others. Is this the best platform for the proposed use?</li> </ul>	
<p><b>4. Referee Upgrades</b></p> <p>'Overseas' registered referees were discussed as to where they fit with in V.E.'s Grading structure. Some were awarded new grades by Referee Commission: Office to be notified of gradings.</p> <p>FS to communicate to office: LW to update on Volleyball England member profiles? AW to send out updated registration cards?</p>	<p>SE</p> <p>FS</p>
<p><b>5. Ref Com Strategy</b></p> <p>To be postponed until the next meeting when finances better known Add to agenda for next meeting</p>	<p>SE</p>
<p><b>6. Finance N.H</b></p> <p>No complete and up to date financial reports have been received by the Referee Commission. With the currently available information, it appears the spend of the Referee Commission is around the same as the profit from Grade 4 refereeing courses.</p> <p>At the next meeting, the proposed spend for the Referee Commission for 2017-18 financial year will be discussed and a proposal created.</p> <p>SM suggested that the proposal should cover a range of options in preparation for funding cuts e.g. top, middle, bottom proposals.</p>	
<p><b>7. Grade 4 courses; R.M.</b></p> <p>To send latest referee course list to FS/LW</p>	<p>RM</p>
<p><b>8. Beach development; D.S.</b></p> <p>The Referee Commission were sent a revised copy of the proposal for the International Beach Volleyball Referee Development Programme in advance of the meeting. The following points were raised on the proposal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To be explicit that there is no guaranteed outcome of anyone attending an IRCC, the aim is to start a pathway for beach referee international development</li> <li>To ensure that people are aware of the realistic circumstances of opportunity and to make sure that people are not being promised something that the Referee Commission cannot commit to deliver</li> <li>To consider the implications of a potential reduction in the number of referees appointed to VEBT events on beach</li> </ul>	

<p>referees who are either part or not part of the programme</p> <p>Beach Referee Conference: DS suggested conference could be held on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> May at SportPark; FS to check room availability and get back to DS</p> <p>FIVB Official Beach Volleyball Rules 2017-2020:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• GT updated the Commission on the FIVB rule changes. The changes are largely around formalising interpretations, codifying practice and some semantic changes</li> <li>• GT to compile a list of the rule changes and any particular impacts the rule changes will have on Volleyball England referees and competitions. To include casebook style examples for the rule changes for wider communication</li> <li>• GT to send this to SE</li> <li>• Then SE to send on to FS for communication to registered referees</li> </ul>	<p>FS</p> <p>GT</p> <p>SE</p> <p>FS</p>
<p><b>9. Sitting Volleyball Development G.A</b></p> <p>GA reported to have been approached by a referee from Malta, who asked if he could referee in the SGP. As it is a domestic event, the Maltese referee/GA need to put in a written request to SE.</p> <p>GT also raised the issue that as the SGP is a domestic event, the Maltese referee may need to register with Volleyball England for insurance purposes.</p> <p>GA relayed to the Referee Commission that for the Invictus Games 2 x referees have volunteered to be NTOs at the games in Canada. They have subsequently also been asked to referee. GA asked the Commission if this was acceptable. SE stated that if they are going as referees, then they will need approval from Volleyball England. GA to send email to SE to send on to SD.</p> <p>For awareness: GA has been appointed to the World Super 6 Competition in China by World ParaVolley. The competition will take place from 14<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> May.</p>	<p>GA</p> <p>GA</p>
<p><b>10. Regional Development R.M.</b> No additional updates on regional development</p>	
<p><b>11. Technical Issues N.H.</b></p> <p>FIVB Official Volleyball Rules 2017-2020:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NH updated the Commission on the FIVB rule changes. There are some minor alterations and clarifications of certain rules, which for the most part affect the International game</li> <li>• NH presented his notes on the changes, which included specific notes on rule changes that could directly affect Volleyball England referees and competitions</li> </ul>	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>NH to create casebook style examples for the rule changes for wider communication and send to SE for final approval</li> <li>Then SE to send on to FS for communication to registered referees and to be added to the website</li> </ul> <p>The question was raised as to when and how the rule updates should be communicated and when they should be implemented. It was decided by the Commission that the new rules should be implemented immediately after they have been communicated to the referees.</p> <p>SE to discuss competition guidelines for moppers with Keith Nicholls</p>	NH SE FS    SE
<p><b>12. Competitions M.S.</b></p> <p>Report sent by MS in advance of the meeting to SE Notes to be forwarded to Commission by SE</p>	SE
<p><b>13. Observation Programme S.W.</b></p> <p>SW raised the issue that he couldn't see RC7 forms on WTR SE to check permissions on appointing observers and seeing RC7s with MS</p>	SE
<p><b>14. Competitions M.S.</b></p> <p>Last Comp Comm meeting was cancelled and has not yet been re-scheduled (Keith wants to know what Competitions we are likely to have to worry about next year) due to the strategy meeting on the 7<sup>th</sup>.</p> <p>Continue to struggle with teams bothering to let me know what Refs they need for Cup/Shield matches compounded by my fellow Commissioners allowing NVL fixtures to be rearranged onto Cup/Shield weekends. About to enter the interesting period where new teams will apply to join NVL and have to evidence 2 new Panel Refs joining per new team; probably worth Rich touching base with the RRAs to see if they know anything. Peterborough Harriers Men withdrew this week citing lack of players. One dispute resolved by me promising to issue some guidance; subject to approval:</p> <p>Where a Captain has asked for clarification of a Second Referees decision and is unhappy with the explanation it is essential that both are called to the stand to get affirmation (or not) from the 1<sup>st</sup> Referee. This will ensure that there is no confusion and allow the captain to register a protest if necessary. It is also essential that any sanctions are correctly recorded (and must be checked by the 1<sup>st</sup> Referee at the end of the match). Not for publication 'it's on the scoresheet for Christ's sake under the sanctions box; how difficult can it be to get it right?</p> <p>More NTOs volunteered for NEVZA than I actually needed. Following</p>	

<p>agreement of the Cup Finals and S8 refs I will trawl for NTOs for those weekends; also have dates (13/14 May) for play offs so will look to appoint those as well. Struggled to get Assistant Scorer for Crystal Palace as all the ones I have trained recently are not from London (bit like Stattos). Managed to secure Michelle Piscina-Green who is 22 weeks pregnant and has not scored for 3 years on e-scoresheet.</p>	
<p><b>15. V.E. Updates F.S.</b> No additional updates from Volleyball England</p>	
<p><b>16 AOB</b></p> <p>Referee Conference: The question was raised as to when the 2017 Referee Conference should be held. One suggestion was that it be moved back to being held before the start of the season in September. The decision on dates is to be held back until the Competitions Commission have decided the season start date.</p> <p>SE informed the Commission that 8 RC6 forms (Grade 4 to 3 R upgrading) had been received. SE said that RC6 forms should be pushed out to RRCs and Grade 2+ referees to encourage observations and upgradings.</p> <p>SE to send FS the list of international appointments.</p> <p>It was agreed that the referee e-newsletter be changed to quarterly distribution. The issues for 2017 will go out in March, June, September and December.</p> <p>SM said that the next board meeting will be preparing for the outcome of the Sport England funding decision.</p> <p>SE to send FS the updated pdf version of the referee handbook for Grade 4 courses</p> <p>SE met with GH and monthly meetings have been reinstated between Workforce Manager and the President of the Referee Commission.</p> <p>RM raised questions to the Referee Commission on behalf of a Grade 4 course tutor:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Could the maximum course numbers be reduced from 18 to 16?</li> <li>• Could a second tutor be appointed for full courses?</li> </ul> <p>After debate, the response from the Commission was that 18 candidates on a course is an appropriate number as with good time management the course is successful. It was suggested that tutors could ask the RRC to turn up and help with the morning practical of the course. A second tutor will only be appointed to a course for tutor training purposes.</p>	<p>ALL</p> <p>SE</p> <p>SE</p>



<b>Date for Next Meetings</b>	
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To be reviewed, currently in the calendar for Saturday 18 <sup>th</sup> March	
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