

Competitions Commission Meeting

Saturday 11th January 2014

SportPark, Loughborough

MEETING MINUTES

Minutes prepared by	: Will Westwood
Circulation	: Competition Commission
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Commissioners present and apologies for absence	
Paul Bohannon	Competitions Commission President Super 8's Commissioner
Bill Boagey	Division 1 Commissioner
Brian Kendall	U15 Commissioner
Lenny Barry	National Cup Commissioner
Martin Shakespeare	Referee Liaison (via video conference)
Jonathan Moore	Competitions Manager
Will Westwood Sarah Hill	Competitions Officer Division 3 Women's Commissioner
1. Apologies	
Kevin Hamblin	Division 3 Men's Commissioner
Sanjib Sahota	Major Events & Commercial Manager
Ade McGraa	Student Cup Commissioner
Ian Cheesbrough	Division 2 Women's Commissioner
Keith McAdam	Division 2 Men's Commissioner

In **bold** – voting members

The meeting commenced at 11:10

		Action
2.	Minutes of Previous Meeting	
	Update on the increase of the goodwill deposit to be sent to teams when the NVL forms for 2014-15 are distributed to teams	JM
	JM has discussed U18 GP with the Talent Department. Competition format has been distributed to teams and competition is due to commence on 8th February, with the second competition day being 2 nd March.	
	LB queried whether Referee Commission still maintain their view of assigning officials from the top divisions down. Currently no evidence to confirm either way. There have been occasions this season where VE have contacted registered referees who have been able to come and officiate at competitions- in most	PB to discuss with Ref. Comm. President

	<p>instances they hadn't been contacted prior to VE contacting them. MS confirmed that, for example, in a division 3 triangular fixture, they will look to appoint at least 1 referee. LB put forward the notion of whether the approach would be changed if Competitions Commission requested it (e.g. even appointments across divisions). MS said it would be difficult to implement and that the appointments for this season have been done no differently to any other year.</p> <p>NVL Referee numbers seem to be in decline, however there doesn't seem to be a great deal being done to encourage more people to become panel referees. Plenty of referees being trained however very few go on to become NVL referees- this encouragement should come from the regional referee administrators rather than Referee Commission.</p> <p>LB suggested we should contact the Regional Referee Administrator to encourage them to increase their activity with regards to increasing the number of referees available.</p> <p>Agreed that the current amount of mentoring taking place is better than it's ever been, but it was still questioned whether that is enough.</p> <p>Unanimous view that the referee should still receive full match fee and travel expenses if a match is cancelled on the day. Currently only travel expenses are paid in said scenario. Regulations will be amended accordingly.</p> <p>Home teams in the Cup are not informing Referee Commission with details of forthcoming fixtures, so they are unable to provide referees in good time.</p> <p>LB queried whether a vote was taken on the following at the previous meeting:</p> <p>"a line stating that a team may not enter the NVL if they are still in debt at the end of the season. The point was discussed however no agreement was made with regards to amending the original terminology." If it were an administrative issue, the team would likely still be allowed to play. Again though, following discussions, no vote was taken.</p> <p>WW queried whether, for example, players from Leeds Carnegie who previously had an additional £21.55 debt assigned to them become free agents once the 2-year period has passed to allow them to become a 'free agent' as per the regulations. It was agreed that in cases where there is documented indebtedness, the debts that can be allocated to specific players or clubs would stand.</p> <p>Terminology will be amended to clarify discussions with regards to varying scenarios.</p> <p>Referee Commission are looking at reviewing the process by which availability is obtained for Whostheref.</p> <p>MS confirmed it is being looked into producing a 1-day refereeing course for everyone rather than just students.</p>	<p>PB to amend regulations to reflect decision</p> <p>LB to forward rewording</p>
<p>3.</p>	<p>Matters Arising</p> <p>Cup numbers are down on previous years. LB suggested contacting teams who didn't enter the cup to find out why they didn't enter in order to improve it for next season.</p> <p>MS (via conference call) stated that several referees are being trained however the issue is in retaining the referees and getting them to a National League standard. Part of the problem may be the cost of registrations for those who are only likely to referee a few games a season.</p> <p>NEVZA clashed last year with an NVL or Cup weekend causing an issue with regards to the number of NTO's and referees available to all. Calendar needs to be looked at to see if the NVL or Cup fixtures can be scheduled for a different weekend. LB said if the decision was made by Performance Commission to</p>	<p>LB to forward letter to WW to send out</p> <p>MS to approach the VE Office with regards to creating a tiered pricing structure JM/WW to look at calendar</p>

	<p>accept the hosting of NEVZA on the same dates as our domestic competitions, it should be documented in their minutes and made available to members so others who weren't involved in the decision making process do not receive the negative feedback for any issues that arise in domestic competitions as a result of said decision.</p>	
4.	<p>2013/14 Handbook</p> <p>LB suggested it is still a useful document to have- internet access is not a given.</p> <p>Delivery of the handbook was delayed due to workload and also a printing error. Likely to see similar delays next year if workload remains the same.</p> <p>Currently no advertising in the NVL handbook- untapped potential for revenue?</p> <p>Referee appointments were not included in the handbooks, and are unlikely to be included in subsequent editions.</p> <p>Handbook to continue to be produced/printed externally.</p>	
5.	<p>International Transfers</p> <p>Two summaries provided by JM. One by team and one by federation. Documents indicate the fees that federations are charging and the totals paid by clubs. CBL London Polonia and Polonia IMKA London have paid the most in transfer fees across the men's and women's division; £720 and £645 respectively.</p> <p>JM believes that the fees will increase next year- a number of federations stated that the fees were processed at a reduced level for this season as it's the first year Volleyball England have been involved in the transfer process.</p> <p>PB thanked JM for the work he'd done on international transfers.</p> <p>PB and LB agreed that we should inform Division 1 teams that International Transfer regulations may come into effect in the 2014/15 season.</p> <p>Volleyball England are 6th in the table of transfer across Europe, currently over 100 transfers completed. JM estimated 6 players had been 'lost' due to the ITC fees.</p> <p>In some instances, the players contacted their respective federation to negotiate the fees, with successful results in the majority of cases.</p>	<p>JM to draft email to Division 1 teams</p>
6.	<p>Competitions Update</p> <p>Super 8s</p> <p>Only 2 games were forfeited due to international transfer regulations. London Lynx had to change their start time for matches due to venue availability. All teams subsequently informed.</p> <p>NVL</p> <p>Division 1:</p> <p>Current disparity in the number of matches played by some and the lack of matches played by others (11 vs 7).</p> <p>One match forfeited due to team walking out on the game after feeling the floor was not safe to play on. Result stood after details and statements were reviewed. LB raised the point: what if the team had continued to play under protest and someone was injured. Who holds liability?</p> <p>Division 2 Women:</p> <p>A few requests to change fixture dates, one match forfeited. One fixture didn't</p>	<p>PB to speak to with Ref. Comm.</p>

<p>take place due to travel issues, rearrangement on-going.</p> <p>Division 2 Men: Some fixture changes have been allowed, others have been declined. No other issues.</p> <p>Division 3 Women: No date changes, a couple of venue changes were agreed in advance on confirmations. Some hadn't been confirmed prior to appearing on the match confirmations however no issues arose from it.</p> <p>Division 3 Men: Fines issued across all 3 regions for varying reasons. No other issues have arisen.</p> <p>K/O Cup & Shield Some league fixtures were scheduled onto Cup/Shield dates, while a couple of teams have forfeited their matches.</p> <p>Response to LB from email sent in regarding marketing of the Cup wasn't deemed to be 'satisfactory'.</p> <p>Email from one of the Super 8s teams regarding the Cup draw- proposing that the draw be done transparently, rather than manipulating it to aid reduced travel/cost for teams. After discussions of various pros and cons, it was agreed not to change the current format</p> <p>Student Cup Team Northumbria (holders of the men's and women's titles) have withdrawn from the finals, citing financial reasons. Entries for the finals are slowly being returned.</p> <p>U15 National Championships Entries are down on previous years. Challenger round has been withdrawn due to lack of interest.</p> <p>Due to the change in the talent pathway with the withdrawal of the Divisional setup, the Divisional rounds are now no longer as relevant as they were previously. BK proposed further revision to the format, to be confirmed in the September 2014 meeting.</p> <p>U16 National Championships Round 2 due to take place in a week's time. One withdrawal from the boys due to travel. This was due to the low numbers in the boy's entry not allowing VE to accommodate all potential outcomes. Feedback received with regards to the lack of layout/pathway through the competition.</p> <p>LB suggested that we shouldn't favour 'B' teams with regards to assigning them in 2nd rounds with their A team (originally done to reduce costs/travel). No decision was made to change this however it's not an official regulation so the potential to change this is still there for next season.</p> <p>U18 National Championships Competition has progressed through to the finals.</p> <p>U18 Grand Prix The 8 teams who reached the last 8s have been invited. 7 out of 8 teams have confirmed entry in each gender. An additional team in each gender will be invited to complete the entry list.</p> <p>Split into two pools of 4 with 2 best of 5 set matches per day.</p> <p>Inter Regional Championships NVC not available for proposed date. UEL SportsDock has been booked for the 3rd-5th May. PB proposed £50 per team with a cap of £200 total. Vote taken: all</p>	<p>JM to raise with relevant staff</p> <p>JM to discuss options with Talent dept.</p> <p>WW to add to entry form</p>
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	<p>in favour</p> <p>Sitting Volleyball Grand Prix SV development manager is hopeful that some teams will return to the GP by next season. Work being done with other centres around the country to try and encourage greater numbers to feed into the GP.</p>	
7.	<p>Regulation changes All 2014/15 regulation changes to be recommended by the end of January</p>	Suggestions from all to be forwarded to PB
8.	<p>Date of next two meetings 10th May 2014, NVC, Kettering 13th September, SportPark, Loughborough</p>	
9.	<p>Any other business JM; teams have asked whether they can have a squad of 14 at the Student Cup finals. It was agreed that the rules would remain as they are.</p> <p>Portas Review; JM passed around Appendix A from the Portas Review (Transforming Volleyball England to create a High Performing Organisation). No mention of commissions continuing, with the impression given that Advisory groups may replace them.</p> <p>Scottish Volleyball have contacted PB with regards to staging a high level/top team tournament. PB to pass onto performance commission.</p> <p>NEVZA 2014 clashes with several other competitions so the calendar needs to be tweaked</p> <p>WW; Some members have suggested having the U16 boys and girl's rounds on separate weekends.</p>	<p>PB to circulate details when available about the Advisory groups</p> <p>JM/WW to look at calendar</p> <p>JM/WW to look at calendar</p>