



**Competitions Commission Meeting**

**Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> May 2012**

**SportPark, Loughborough University**

**MEETING MINUTES**

<b>Minutes prepared by</b>	: Will Westwood
<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>Bill Boagey</b>	Division 1 Commissioner
<b>Ian Cheesbrough</b>	Division 2 Women'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
Wayne Coyle	International Events and Competitions Director
Sanjib Sahota	National Competition and Events Manager
Will Westwood	Competitions Officer
<b>1. Apologies</b>	
Martin Lindsey	Head of Operations
<b>Kevin Hamblin</b>	Division 3 Men's Commissioner
Ade McGraa	Student Cup Commissioner

In **bold** – voting members

The meeting commenced at 10.30am

**2. Minutes of Previous Meeting**

Minutes of previous meeting circulated on 26<sup>th</sup> January 2012.

Competitions email ([competitions@volleyballengland.org](mailto:competitions@volleyballengland.org)) is live- currently set up to go to Jon Moore. WW to request it's changed and directed to WW while Jon is on leave. Email will be distributed to teams and advertised on the website.

Appeal decision re: Ashcombe vs New Forest Ladies was correct; LB confirmed with President of Rules of the Game Commission. New rule is being drafted which would have altered decision; if the illegal player is discovered in the 3<sup>rd</sup> set or beyond, the game is stopped. Rule will not be introduced into the NVL until 2013-2014 season.

Code of conduct was sent to Martin Shakespeare by PB, correspondence

**Action**

received back. MS suggested it goes in the NVL handbook, however it should be something players sign up to when signing up to play. Social media aspects also need to be address. Rob Harding and Martin Lindsey are putting together a policy document to be circulated. Look at putting all into a single code of conduct document to encompass all aspects.

Regulations changes 2012-13 have been circulated.

Minimum operating standards feedback received. A 'no response' email is required if you have no comments- to confirm you have received the email.

MVP discussion initiated by LB. Need to have clarity on what the MVP is awarded for. Many teams vote using varying criteria. Possibility of a player of the season or super 7 to be voted for at the end of the season was discussed. The MVP award will remain for the 2012-13 season, with wording to be put out to teams at the start of the season to remind teams what they should be looking for when nominating the MVP. Teams will be informed at the start of the season that there will be a Super 7 nomination at the end of the season. Give the winners tickets for cup finals, announce them during the matches to give them some recognition.

### 3. Matters Arising

VE structure to be emailed to competitions commission from Martin Lindsey

PB to check

No details received as yet as to whether Martin Shakespeare sent an official rule regarding coaches being given a BP card rather than paying coach registration fee.

WW to follow up

No quarterly update received- update is provided for each board meeting that could be distributed rather than competitions specific copy.

ML to circulate copy to comps. comm.

Forward copies of previous appeals to BB

All to check for previous appeals

Fines to be followed up on for the current season's NVL teams. Contact teams and let Competitions Commission know who owes what.

WW to speak to finance department to confirm

Annual budget has been requested to be sent to competitions commission so they have an idea of where the budget is being spent

SS to send

Super 8 proposal to be amended to reflect discussions and distributed to teams

PB to amend and distribute

Martin Lindsey to look at how we escalate issues with 'fit and proper persons' instances that fall out side of the competitions commission.

ML to look into

### 4. Birmingham VC

Minutes of the meeting with Birmingham VC were circulated. They have entered a women's team in division 3. £10 fine agreed to be written off. £25 fine to be administered should entry fee not be paid within the 21 days outlined on the invoice. Women's team position could be in jeopardy if the invoices are not paid within allotted time.

Women's team to be given the 21 days to pay as outlined on the invoice. A reminder will then be sent if the payment is still outstanding, to which they have 7 further days to pay. Failure to do so would result in suspending the women's team from division 3. Notifications to be sent to the team secretary and one other. Competitions Commission to be cc'd.

VE should follow up on supportive actions with regards to Birmingham's venue. Contact the club to ensure they have found a suitable venue that can be used for the season and foreseeable future.

## 5. NVL League 2012-13

Teams yet to pay entry fee will be fined £25. Likewise, if teams fail to register and pay for their 8 players by the deadlines, a £25 fine will be given. Currently 34 teams yet to pay entry fee- some awaiting confirmation of bank transfer payments as VE only get statements fortnightly. Some awaiting invoice.

Still awaiting decisions from some teams regarding cup entries. No new timeline has been set after previous date to send cup draw passed. Draw wasn't sent out as teams pulled out in previous years.

## 6. Super 8s

2 meetings have taken place with some of the super 8 teams (some did not attend). Teams that couldn't make the meetings had the chance to respond to comments/proposals.

Generally, teams want to take the league further. This year has been an improvement on previous years. Teams have put forward a proposal for the super 8 finals/playoffs. Copy of proposal circulated by Jon Moore. Logistics of the proposal are questionable- if a northern team are drawn against a southern team, a match at each home venue on Saturday and Sunday is not going to be possible.

7<sup>th</sup> team in S8 to play 2<sup>nd</sup> placed team in division 1 in a single game rather than a 2 match series to decide who is promoted/relegated. KM suggested the relegation playoff could take place on super 8 finals weekend, however scheduling may not seem favourable to teams as finals are held a few weeks after the end of the season. Agreed that it should be a central venue for the playoff.

A vote was taken as to whether a golden set should be played if there was a tie after the 2 match play off series. *The majority voted in favour.*

Point system proposal was to change the distribution; 3 points for a 3-0 or 3-1 win, 2 points for a 3-2 win with 1 point going to the losing side.

Currently, teams gain a point when they arrive for a match. They don't get that point if they fail to turn up, however they are not 'deducted' a point as such. The relevant rule is to be changed so that 1 point is deducted from teams should they forfeit a game-applies to all divisions. This is to act as a deterrent to teams who just accept the monetary fine not to travel/field a team. Amend the rule to be included in the handbook. 2 points for winning the game and a point for playing-division 1-3. The losing team gets a point for playing. PB to circulate wording before it goes into the regulations.

The proposed playoff format gives home advantage to the higher placed team, as well as allowing them to choose their opposition at the quarter-final stage. Could make choices tactical based on choosing the team that has the biggest distance to travel. It was argued that this gives teams some incentive to play for.

A vote was taken on whether to go with the 2 home game format. *The majority voted in favour.*

A vote was taken on whether to allow the 1<sup>st</sup> placed team to choose their opposition for the semi final at the quarter-final stage. *The majority were not in favour.*

A vote was taken to go with 1<sup>st</sup> place against 4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup>, and 2<sup>nd</sup> place against 3<sup>rd</sup>/6<sup>th</sup>. *The majority voted in favour.*

Possible 6 week break between final super 8 game and play off game- teams were informed and understood the reasons why the scheduling had been done

WW to contact teams to chase payment and contact teams re: cup/payments

Vote results to be sent to Super 8 teams.

this way.

Cup finals was scheduled for 4/5<sup>th</sup> May on proposed changes due to the revised super 8 playoff format. It was agreed that the cup finals and super 8 playoff final (20/21st April) dates would be switched- the original late date of the cup finals had the potential to impact junior teams as it was so close to exam periods, as well as being late enough to clash with other sports that the players may compete in.

Super 8 proposal is to be amended and sent to teams.

Teams have asked that if there is a tie on points, it is decided by sets for divided by sets against. If it is still a tie, the result between the 2 teams decides the final position. This is just applicable to the super 8s for now. Need to check if the website can have different points systems for different divisions.

Competitions Commission is not funding line judges and scorers in the super 8s next season as there is not enough money in the budget. We are looking into appointing 1 scorer and 2 line judges for super 8 matches, however competitions commission do not have the budget to pay for the NTO's. The proposed NTO programme should not have a detrimental effect on providing referees for other divisions.

LVA has requested that teams in London pay for scorers in the NVL - this shouldn't be the case.

PB to amend

PB to discuss with Referee Commission

PB to communicate with LVA

## 7. KO Cup Competitions

A vote was taken at the previous commission meeting as to whether to make cup dates sacrosanct, to avoid inadvertent clashes during the season. It was discussed again as to whether to amend the rule due to the congested calendar. The information sent out to teams indicated there was a chance they could rearrange matches onto cup dates if agreed by the commissioner. The option should not have been implied, due to the vote at the previous meeting. However, it was agreed that no team in the cup/shield would be allowed to arrange an NVL match onto any cup/shield date during the draft fixture process. Match rearrangements during the season (e.g due to adverse weather) will be considered by divisional commissioners taking into account the teams continued participation in the cup/shield.

Need to ensure that decisions made in the meetings are relayed succinctly to clubs to avoid future confusion.

Presentation of the finals was of a high standard. Seating was full on Saturday and almost full on Sunday. Extra seating had to be put out on Saturday. Need to look at additional seating ideas for next year. Stewards need to be effective- parents following photographers, people going where they shouldn't be. Accreditation 'access all areas' should be looked at for next year- some people were coming to the stats/team areas when they had no need to be there. Food was an improvement on previous years, however pricing was too high to allow volunteers to purchase a full meal with their voucher. Catering is not going to be provided for teams at the super 8 finals and cup finals next season. Streaming went well. Need to build/capitalise on the event to affect next season and maintain interest.

There is currently no blood protocol- one of the players was bleeding during the men's final. Need to have a blood disposal and disinfectant procedure. Regulations will be amended to include a blood protocol.

Behaviour at the end of the men's final was not acceptable, especially given that it was being streamed and there were juniors sat by the incident. Cards were given however they have little effect at the end of the season. A letter could be sent to the offending coaches, explaining that their actions go against the coach's code of conduct. Letter to also be sent to the Coaches Commission.

PB to amend regs.

A small group is to be organised to review the cup competitions. LB, WC, PB to be included. Scoping is to take place between October-December. Unable to take place earlier to due other commitments.

Income target was £2500, however nearly £4000 was taken. Sold 300 tickets in advance, with another 200+ on the day. Volunteers are keen to come to other events as they enjoyed their experience. Merchandise sold well- something to look at selling at other events.

## 8. **Sitting Volleyball Grand Prix**

On the 2<sup>nd</sup> May, the first proposal for the 2012-13 format was sent to competitions commission however that was later withdrawn. It's been decided that the GP will continue with 2 tiers in 2012-13 season. Teams were invited to give feedback on proposals. Top 4 teams play off in semi finals rather than the top 2 from tier 1 and 2. Semi final winners then go through to the final at a showcase event. Create registration cards for players and coaches- different colour to NVL. Each team must have a coach, although they don't have to come to the GP's. Semi finals and final events need to be looked into in terms of venue and scheduling.

SS to look into

LB raised the point of who 'owns' the competition. No clear indication as to who owns it, more of a joint effort between departments. VE policy is that all indoor competitions sit within the competitions commission budget. LB has requested many times that a sitting volleyball advisory group be set up which would be the consultation body for sitting volleyball.

Current proposal is to have 4 teams in tier 1, playing best of 3 to 25. Tier 2 should not have an entry cap. Format to be decided based on the number of teams that enter.

There will be a promotion/relegation system between the tiers between each GP- bottom tier 1 is relegated, top tier 2 is promoted.

Tier 1 will be £25 per event, with tier 2 £20 per event. There was a request to delay the start of the series in order to accommodate the Paralympians who will take a break from the sport after the Paralympics. Agreed that we shouldn't cater for just the top end, as we trying to encourage development and participation.

Player registration will be free, with the GP series to start in October. Teams need to be contacted to gauge interested for next season.

There are currently 12 sitting volleyball centres, not all of which are entering teams into the GP. Needs to be checked on whether they should be as a condition of receiving the grants.

## 9. **Student Cup**

10<sup>th</sup>/11<sup>th</sup> November; Leeds (confirmed), Ashcombe

17<sup>th</sup>/18<sup>th</sup> November, Kettering (confirmed)

1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> December, Kettering (confirmed)

9<sup>th</sup>/10<sup>th</sup> February, Norwich (confirmed)

## 10. **Junior Competitions**

*U15*; learning curve with new format in terms of organisation/resources and planning. More interest than ever before. Complaints about unknown divisional round dates and venues were taken on board as we have venues and dates already in place for next season.

*U16/U18*; more demand for a challenger (effectively a shield competition), or more opportunities to play. Good structure, worked well this season.

Questionnaire responses were positive.

*Inter-regionals*; rules have been finalised, waiting to be sent out with schedules and format. No charge to regions as funding has been cut to regions. Decline in interest for the competition, needs reviewing and to look at the level of investment to see if it's worthwhile. Suggested that it could be moved to September.

## 11 Fit & Proper Persons

Should we act upon the suggestions of people's behaviour not being fit and proper? E.g coaches/players continually receiving cards each season. How do we differentiate between appropriate/inappropriate behaviour? Advice of disciplinary sub committee can be sought. On court discipline is dealt with within the rules. Do clubs know they can get help/advice with off court/internal club issues?

## 12. Date of next two meetings

15<sup>th</sup> Sept 2012, SportPark, Loughborough 10:30  
5<sup>th</sup> Jan 2013, SportPark, Loughborough 10:30

## 13. Any Other Business

A club has a team in division 3, and a team in each of division 2. Rules state you can 'play up'. It doesn't specify with regards to which team. Agreed that you can play up for either team, however you will be transferred up to the team that you play the 11<sup>th</sup> set for. Junior players can play up in either team as many times as they want. If the 2 teams were in the same division, players could only play up in one of the teams.

If BUCS change their date, it will be to a Wednesday rather than another weekend.

On track with NVL timelines to date.

IC queried the decision not to give coaches and referees complimentary tickets for the National Cup. IC received one last year as a referee, however PB suggested that the process just wasn't considered this year. There will be no automatic right to complimentary tickets. The offer was in the referees' registration package- needs to be removed.

PB to put a proposal out to clarify