

Competitions Commission Meeting

Saturday 13th September 2014

SportPark, Loughborough

MEETING MINUTES

Minutes prepared by	: Laurence Shenker
Circulation	: Competition Commission
Distribution	: From Paul Bohannan

Commissioners present and apologies for absence	
	<p>Paul Bohannan Competitions Commission President Super 8's Commissioner</p> <p>Keith McAdam Division 2 Men Commissioner Sarah Hill Division 3 Women's Commissioner Lenny Barry National Cup Commissioner Martin Shakespeare Referee Liaison Will Westwood Competitions Officer Laurence Shenker Competitions Administrator</p>
1.	<p>Apologies</p> <p>Bill Boagey Division 1 Commissioner Ian Cheesbrough Division 2 Women's Commissioner Kevin Hamblin Division 3 Men Commissioner Brian Kendall U15 Commissioner Ade Mcgraa Student Cup Commissioner Rob Cook International Competitions and Events Director Rohan West Participation Director Jonathan Moore Competitions Manager</p>

In **bold** – voting members

The meeting commenced at 10:15

		Action
2.	<p>Minutes of Previous Meeting</p> <p>Previous minutes were circulated.</p> <p>Apologies MS stated that he did send his apologies for previous meeting but was not listed or mentioned as doing so.</p> <p>Matters Arising</p> <p>List of Referees It had been requested that a full list of referees should be put on the</p>	<p>Minutes Amended</p>

website, however following discussions it was decided that there needs to be a push for people to use whostheref. It was concluded that for whostheref to be successful, it requires continually updating and must become the first 'port of call' for Teams when seeking a Referee.

PB explained that section D4 of Regulations in the NVL handbook had been amended, prompting teams to be more proactive with regards to contacting referees. An email had been sent to the Referee Commission expressing concerns over the number of matches were all Referees had been appointed. Roman Neveykin was acknowledged as being active in getting courses underway.

Refereeing in the National League

A discussion took place centred about refereeing in the National League. It was pointed out that putting on courses does not necessarily mean more referees will begin to referee National League. MS suggested that clubs with players ending their playing career should be encouraged to take up refereeing.

It was possible that those refereeing at the local league level is showing players in a bad light and therefore putting referees off from going to a higher level. This was partially opposed with the explanation that those referees leaving the National League were leaving because they had had enough of refereeing National League, not because of particular incidents. PB stated that he has spoken to Steve Evans about working together to solve the problem of referee appointments in the National League and it is currently a work in progress.

Various solutions were discussed including whether NVL Clubs should all have at least 1 registered referee. It was suggested that merely having a referee is different to having an active NVL referee. Whether entry to the NVL be dependant on sufficient active Referees in their area? Should Regional Referee Administrators play a more active role encouraging Referees?

PB said that this was not a simple problem to resolve and proposed that the issue be brought up with the Regional Commission as well as the Referee Commission.

It was queried what the VRM's remit is with regards to getting more people refereeing. It was explained that their remit according to Sport England is to increase participation.

International Transfers - A letter was sent out to CEV/FIVB asking for more time but was rejected as we were given an exception last year. JM sent out an email to S8's & Div 1 team detailing changes.

Junior competitions feedback- Teams had mixed opinions regarding U16/U18 competitions. Only minor changes to the days that the Under 16 play due to boys and girls working different days will be introduced this season.

Portas Review- Nothing has changed since the last meeting. Once completed PB will circulate.

Match Results – The Commission discussed the idea of changing the format of match day results for which did not have a result (i.e. a match cancellation etc.) The outcome was that the website will not show 3-0 (25-0,25-0,25-0) unless the Commissioner authorises it beforehand. It will show 'no result'. This is to allow time for the referee/ teams to provide a match report before the Commissioner hakes their ruling.

A letter was sent by the Commission to Devon Storm explaining that last season had to be a one off. If it occurred again they would be thrown out of the league.

Publication of Minutes

PB asked whether anybody would volunteer to be keeper of the minutes. LB said he had volunteered previously.

PB to follow up with Ref Comm. (Steve Evans) and Regional Comm. (Charlie Orton).

LB to edit minutes for publication on website

	<p>MVP's Further details about MVP votes is still required before a review of the system can take place PB asked LS to look provide details of last seasons figures.</p> <p>Late NVL entry The final comment of this section was that EBC Greenhouse was refused their late request for a second team to enter the NVL. This followed them withdrawing their initial request back in May after they lost in the play-offs.</p>	LS to produce statistics
3.	<p>Calendar 2014-15</p> <p>PB explained that RC was tasked by Lisa Wainwright to look into the format of the calendar. However, perceived would be with CEV/FIVB dictating start of NVL season and confirmation of dates at the National Volleyball Centre. With regard to the start of next season's NVL then it was agreed that VE should bring the start the NVL season in line with CEV / FIVB requirements.</p> <p>It was explained that by having a later start to the NVL season there would be scope to have early rounds of the cup before the start of the NVL season – however this may have an affect on Student based teams.</p> <p>PB explained that there are key weekends within the Volleyball England calendar which cannot be altered. Following this statement, the rhetorical question as to what the primary function of the calendar was and who owns it? It was proposed that a clear understanding of what the purpose of the calendar is sought.</p>	PB to seek clarification
4.	<p>2014/15 Handbook</p> <p>PB stated that the Handbook was circulated in August on time and congratulated WW.</p>	
5.	<p>International Transfers</p> <p>WW explained that nothing will be changing this season in terms of fees. It will remain at 800 Euros- 1000 Swiss francs - £700. RW is now seeking clarification of new FIVB wording and we are awaiting outcome. FIVB have insisting that if you are out of the EU you have to pay 1000 Swiss Francs (S8's) or 500 Swiss Francs (Div 1).</p> <p>The concept of ITC's filters down the leagues however it was still hoped that from Div 2 down they cannot be classed as a National League License as they are regionalised divisions.</p> <p>Currently there were 72 players potentially requiring an International Transfer. The Commission agreed that players can play without ITC until 16th October, after this date the system become live. The Commission also voted three to two in favour of refunding players that pay their NVL registration but then withdraw due to requiring an ITC.</p> <p>A discussion took place regarding the length of season. Due to CEV regulations on transfers, the season could be extended. The issues surrounding this would be that the Beach season may have to take a step back as it can be played all season round.</p>	
6.	<p>Coaching Levels.</p> <p>Following a request from Coaches Commission (Richard Harrison) regarding their requirement to have a formal structure of Coach qualifications per NVL Division, PB explained that he was not seeking a decision from the meeting, but it was his intention was to come up with a strategy as to how they could move forward.</p> <p>It was suggested that better coaches allow teams to progress further, but a counter argument showed that some of the current most successful NVL</p>	

	<p>teams did not have Level 3 coaches</p> <p>General concerns were expressed at the cost of courses, value for money and the relevance they actually had to volleyball coaching. Other concerns were expressed at current level 1 and 2 Coaches and the need for them to take courses to obtain UKCC accreditation. Current course costs were mentioned as being £180 for UKCC Level 1 and £480 for Level 2. FIVB course is £1200. These figures were seen as too expensive as these were likely to deter coaches from improving their qualifications.</p> <p>General concern was also expressed by a couple of the registered qualified Coaches present at the lack of contact from the Coaching Commission. It was felt that their Commission could become more proactive in encouraging their Coaches to become better qualified.</p> <p>While the idea was considered commendable and aspirational it was not considered practical to introduce until further details and clarification of concerns raised had been received.</p>	PB to respond to RH
7.	<p>Fixture scheduling</p> <p>This agenda point was explained as an aid to MS and the Referee Commission. There is a concern about the number of requests from NVL and National Cup teams. It is asked that teams become aware that there are only 18 available NVL weekends and therefore resources are stretched. A factor which creates problems for referee appointments is that teams are not confirming their details on time. It was suggested that if the league started later that could alleviate the pressure.</p>	
8.	<p>Competitions Update</p> <p>LB enquired as to whether the minimum operating standards are to be enforced in the NVL. The conversation took place regarding the purpose of match day checklists and what the Regulations say. It was pointed out that most teams provide buzzers but less provide substitution panels. Certain members of the Commission pointed out that to maintain high levels of professionalism, the completion of MOS should be enforced. This is followed up with the notion that some teams need to be educated on how to complete certain MOS such as press reports.</p> <p>The conversation is led by KM who suggests that all teams are given the available information and proposes that a solution could be that the NVL Regulation wording is changed to 'must'.</p> <p>Two examples of high quality match reports and programmes are mentioned as being those by Polonia Sideout London and Team South Wales.</p> <p>PB proposed that the process of adhering to the MOS are not to be changed this season but we should look to enforce them next season. Further to this, PB will contact S8 clubs to inform them of the changes being proposed. Gerard Van Zwieten (Volleyball England Membership and Marketing Manager) will also be contacted regarding marketing advice for match reports.</p> <p>Match Day Check lists were also raised and should also be reviewed for next season.</p> <p>KO Cup/ Shield</p> <p>Due to a couple of administrative errors the draw was revamped slightly meaning that Cambridge and Anglia Ruskin University were entered directly into the shield. Exeter VC had entered the Cup but were missed out of the draw. They will now face Team Northumbria at Loughborough College on October 12th. Peter Symonds entered by error. They wanted to enter the U18 Championships not the KO Cup. Jersey will be entered straight into the Shield.</p> <p>It is proposed that an early round is required which would mean S8 teams wouldn't play in first round if there is another big entry.</p>	<p>PB – contact S8 teams explain that next season, MOS will be enforced.</p> <p>PB – contact GVZ for marketing advice.</p>

	<p>Student Cup Entries are open via an online form. The Finals of the competition will be held at University of East London.</p> <p>Junior Competitions Entries are open with an online form.</p> <p>Inter Regional's The commission was informed that the competition has been scheduled in for next year (2015). The Regions have been told that if 5 teams or less enter each age group that particular age group competition will not go ahead. The conversation continued surrounding the pricing of venues and the date available. Budget constraints lead to the commission agreeing that the next Inter Regional's would take place at the University of East over the first bank holiday in May. (2-4 May) PB stated that the competition is still part of the Competitions Review which would need to look at the format of the competition as well.</p> <p>Sitting Volleyball Grand Prix It is announced that once again there will be 5 Grand Prix's throughout the season. A secondary Sitting Volleyball Cup competition has been proposed but this was questioned due to having the required level of interest to make the competition viable. The commission questioned how Sitting Volleyball is currently being promoted and how the Sitting Volleyball advisory group are planning to move the sport forward.</p>	<p>Inter Regional's will take place at UEL (2-4 May 2015).</p>
9.	<p>Profile of the Sport – NVL Matches</p> <p>Improved profiling of the sport was discussed. The idea proposed is recognized as a good idea and should be encouraged.</p>	<p>PB to discuss with Gerard Van Zwieten about the profiling of the sport.</p>
10.	<p>Date of next two meetings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10th January 2015 SportPark • 9th May 2015 National Volleyball Centre 	
11.	<p>Any other business</p> <p>Volunteers at Major Events Following previous concerns that had been made regarding the number of volunteers needed at our major events at the NVC; the Commission was informed that work was on going in local schools with an aim of recruitment.</p>	