



**Competitions Commission Meeting**

**Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> May 2017**

**National Volleyball Centre, Kettering**

**MEETING MINUTES**

<b>Minutes prepared by</b>	: James Murphy
<b>Circulation</b>	: Competition Commission
<b>Distribution</b>	: From Jonathan Moore

<b>1.</b>	<b>Commissioners present and apologies for absence</b>	
	<b>Keith McAdam</b>	Super 8s Commissioner Competitions Commission President
	<b>Sarah Hill</b>	Division 3 Women's Commissioner
	<b>James Murphy</b>	National Cup Commissioner
	Steve Evans	Referee Commission President
	Jonathan Moore	Competitions and Events Coordinator
	<b>Apologies</b>	
	<b>Bill Boagey</b>	Division 1 Commissioner
	<b>Ade McGraa</b>	Student Cup Commissioner
	<b>Martin Shakespeare</b>	Referee Liaison
	<b>Brian Kendall</b>	U15 Commissioner
	<b>Herman Prada</b>	Sitting Volleyball Commissioner

In **bold** – voting members

The meeting commenced at 11:05

		<b>Action</b>
<b>2.</b>	<p><b>NVL / Cup Regulations Season 2017-18</b></p> <p><u>D1 VI</u> Any delay to the start of a match that is attributed to a lack of equipment, the home team will be penalised in accordance with regulation E 4. Late Arrival; this does not apply to equipment failures during the Warm Up or the match; these shall be dealt with in accordance with the Rules of the Game as Exceptional Delays. – Agreed</p> <p><u>Regulation D 3.</u></p> <p>Proposal: Expenses for Match Officials should be paid by Cash or Cheque on the day or by Bank Transfer within 3 Working Days of the match (i.e. by Thursday morning for a week end match). Any team which fails to do so or pays by a cheque which is dishonoured shall be fined £5 per week until the Match Official is paid. Such fines shall be split equally between the Match Official concerned and VE.</p>	

<p>Agreed: Expenses for Match Officials should be paid prior to the match or by electronic payment within 3 Working Days of the match (i.e. by Thursday morning for a weekend match).</p> <p>'£5 fine per week' not taken forward as this would not be cost effective and could be considered an administrative failure and fined £25 in that respect if required.</p> <p><u>J1 X</u> Proposed: Teams who are knocked out of the Volleyball England K.O. Cup at designated rounds shall be entered into the Volleyball England Shield as advertised by the Competitions Commission, with the exception of Super 8s Teams who will not be entered into the Shield. Where a team reaches a non-designated round of the Cup having received 2 x byes they shall be entered into the Shield if they lose that match.</p> <p>This has occurred on a number of occasions and was dealt with on a case by case basis. The change was rejected as the exceptions will continue to be dealt with as they arise.</p> <p><u>A3 iv</u> Have a qualified and registered coach (minimum Level 2) committed to supporting that Team. (Where a current NVL team does not meet this requirement, they have until the start of the 2018/19 season in which to comply)</p> <p>To facilitate the introduction of this rule the Hub will only record a coach as a 'Head Coach' if they are currently qualified and registered as a level 2 or higher Coach.</p> <p>Further to this, how do we define and measure 'committed to the club'... Competition suggestion is initially 50% attendance of matches?</p> <p>If the team does not have a head coach, then the games will be played as normal, but the referee is expected to note that 'Head Coach present'.</p> <p><u>Additional Rule</u> Our goal must surely to be encourage people to play volleyball, to be inclusive and drive up standards. Teams in the lower divisions can struggle to get a full squad to every match so to prevent the forfeit of the game when a team is using a libero and only has 7 players at a match introduce a rule change to allow a Libero to be re-designated as a regular player and then take part in an exceptional substitution. Ideally the libero would change shirt to that of the team with the same number.</p> <p>The proposed rule change would be</p>	<p>JMo - record a coach as a 'Head Coach' if they are currently qualified and registered as a level 2 or higher coach</p> <p>JMo - Notice should be drawn to the deadline, when the regulation changes go out (A3 iv).</p> <p>JMo to liaise with Gill, who will speak to Coaching Commission.</p> <p>SE - communicate this to referees</p> <p>JMo - Put a tick-box as part of post-match report for 'Head Coach present'.</p> <p>JMo - Halfway through season, share with teams and Coaching Commission whether it's looking like a problem.</p>
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	<p>For a team below NVL Division 1 – if an exceptional substitution is not possible but a Libero is on the scoresheet, the Libero can be re-designated as a regular player and an exceptional substitution can be carried out.  Note – if the Libero was on court at the time of the injury the Libero replacement would take place, then the re-designation followed by the exceptional substitution.</p> <p>This was seen as a backward step and was not agreed.</p> <p><u>Suspend Regulation A5v:</u></p> <p>The Regional or Area Association must provide evidence of referee development such that 2 qualified referees from there not previously officiating in the National League are prepared to do so.</p> <p>There was a discussion of the work that had been done to help create and develop more referees and of the difficulty of appointing to referees to a number of fixtures. It was also noted that better communications would be helpful. The regulation was amended such that one additional referee per team was required and that is could come from the Region/Area or club.</p> <p>Agreed: The Regional / Area Association or Club should provide name(s) and letter(s) of support from a minimum of one qualified and registered referee(s), who are not currently officiating in the National League, but are prepared to do so.</p> <p><u>Match Protocol</u>  Change to pre-match protocol to include 'Presentation of teams' at -13 minutes. Agreed for all NVL teams.</p>	
3.	<p><b><u>League Structure</u></b></p> <p>Structure has been agreed based upon all teams that have applied providing the required information to be accepted, however there are a number of teams that have not yet met all criteria.</p> <p>To ensure that all teams get a reasonable number of games whilst minimising travel it was agreed that we would aim that if a division had: 6 teams then they would play each other 3 times, 5 teams then the division would be removed and the teams rebalanced in the remaining divisions, 7 teams and above then each team would play each other twice.</p>	
4.	<p><b><u>Teams &amp; Players fees</u></b></p> <p>Despite the significant cut in funding from Sport England which paid for the majority of VE central costs it was decided not to significantly increase costs instead only to increase them in line with inflation and the minimum required to make the competition cost neutral. Volleyball England have already made significant central costs savings including reduce head office staffing significantly and reducing the cost of the events staged e.g. the Cup Finals, Super8's Finals and the Volleyball England Beach Tour.</p> <p>Team Entry Fees for 2017-18 have been agreed as follows;  Super 8s £380, Division 1 £325, Division 2 £275, Division 3 £240</p> <p>Player Entry Fees for 2017-18 have been agreed as follows;  Senior £35, Junior £22, Transfer £21.</p> <p>Volleyball England are currently preparing a submission to Sport England for funding, this is a significant undertaking taking significant amounts of head office time.</p>	
5.	<p><b><u>Calendar 2017/18</u></b>  Draft agreed, no major changes except line added to first month for a Referees Meeting, which is potentially clashing with some fixtures.</p>	
6.	<p><b><u>Competitions Review</u></b>  <u>VEBT</u>: Should now be running as cost neutral, however this does not include referees. Having referees isn't a minimum standard for any rating. Event organisers are to</p>	

	<p>be communicated with to advise that if they wish to have referees, then they contact Debra/ Steve.</p> <p><u>Junior Competitions</u> Suggestion to remove U18 Grand Prix and spread out the rest of linked competitions (currently forced to complete before Christmas) can run to a more relaxed schedule not seen as necessary by many junior clubs, and it could free up some Calendar Dates. This will be part of the competition review.</p> <p>Look at getting a 'best practice' section where teams are encouraged to publicise their successful competitions as a way to inspire other teams - such as NW U14 tournament.</p>	
7.	<p><b><u>AOB</u></b></p> <p>It was noted that there are a number of vacancies on the competition committee, any volunteers to fill these gaps should contact KM or JMo</p> <p>There was a question about how many VE staff were dedicated to Competitions; The answer is one JMo. This is because the way the Hub (formerly the Head Office) works has changed significantly and staff are assigned to tasks as required. This was underway prior to the Sport England funding cut.</p> <p>There was a question on the future of the National Volleyball Centre (NVC) in Kettering and if it was still affordable with the funding cuts. The NVC is currently under contract until the end of next season its future is currently under review.</p> <p>There have been suggestions of changing the NVL to the English Volleyball League, this will be considered as part of the competition review. It was noted that in times of austerity the cost of rebranding should be taken into account.</p> <p>Suggestion - to make Commission Chairs "ex officio" members of the "Executive Board of Directors". (They could replace "Non-Executive Directors".) – This is not possible as Sport England determine the Board Structure</p> <p>Suggestion - Give the "Inter Regionals" away to the Regional Commission, who have more interest and a bigger stake in it. Regional Commissions are involved by VE to an extent, and as appropriate. Suggested by SE; Bryan Youlden could be brought in as advisory.</p> <p>There was concern about the low numbers of Boys teams in the Northern Division (NW, NE &amp; Yorkshire) &amp; some other regions. This will be dealt with by Competitions Review.</p> <p>As a modernisation and cost saving initiative the NVL Handbook NOT to be printed but would be distributed in PDF format instead. This PDF would not have details for fixtures as the system of record is the website and a link to that would be included in the pdf.</p>	<p>After being updated, the regulations to be sent to JMu/ SH to 'style' them into a searchable document with a contents page.</p>