



Competitions Working Group Meeting

Saturday 13th January 2018

SportPark Loughborough

MEETING MINUTES

Minutes prepared by	: Sarah Hill
Circulation	: Competition Working Group, Working Group Leads, Hub Team
Distribution	: Jonathan Moore

1. Members present and apologies for absence	
Bill Boagey	Division 1 Lead
Sarah Hill	Division 3 Women's Lead
Diane Hollows (DH)	Junior Competitions Lead
James Murphy (JMu)	Competitions Lead National Cup Lead
Steve Evans (SE)	Referee Liaison
Ade McGraa (AM)	Student Cup Lead
Jonathan Moore (JMo)	Competitions and Events Coordinator
Apologies	
Freda Bussey	Competitions and Events Director
Herman Prada	Sitting Volleyball Lead
Martin Shakespeare (MS)	Referee Liaison
Geoff Hollows	Results Processing
Keith McAdam	Super 8s Lead
Brian Kendall	U15 Commissioner

In **bold** – voting members

The meeting commenced at 10:30

Agenda item	Notes	Action & Owner
1 Minutes of Previous Meeting & Matters Arising	<p>The feedback around the wording of volunteers not appearing in the governance structure is because volunteers are part of all areas.</p> <p>Testing out the running of Student Cup qualifiers by AM with the office not having as heavy involvement. Overall the result was positive and can be considered a success, therefore more competitions could be considered for this approach in future.</p> <p>The action agreed around Sitting Volleyball and nets not being set up by VE was adopted without complaint and went well. Communication may need to improve as not everyone was aware that they would expected to set up nets.</p> <p>Regarding the issues regarding Technical issues made by referees; 'Technical issues' are deemed to be the correction application of the rules.</p> <p>Minimum Operating Standards should be observed, however there needs to be a pragmatic balance between forcing clubs to spend money which is exceptionally tight and the playing of volleyball and continuing in the competitions. Super 8s should never be exempt from</p>	

	<p>Minimum Operating Standards. There was however a question on whether there was a perceived MOS for nets, but this may not exist.</p> <p>Regarding the VEBT, there may be actions regarding the creation of the calendar since the BV Working Group Lead will likely not be as readily available due to other sporting commitments.</p> <p>The Pool of Experts Survey Monkey link is perceived to be too off-putting and intimidating to less experienced but eager, keen, and willing volunteers who have still have a lot to offer Volleyball.</p> <p>The issue that was raised previously around improved communications to Level 4 referees - SE advised that changes are communicated either via a Newsletter which goes to all registered referees, or if more important rule changes - via email directly. However it was taken on board that there may be further improvements to be made.</p> <p>A review of scoresheets has identified a few areas that could be improved e.g. Coach ID not recorded, invalid bench staff, no gender or match number recorded, etc. Referees are asked to take care when checking scoresheets. Suggestion for a scoresheet checklist to be sent out to referees to use for their matches to prompt the scorers. This would be also added to the handbook.</p> <p>In the previous minutes it was noted that there was to be new Work Stream Lead for Junior Competitions review, appointed by Freda Bussey, however this appointment has stepped down and therefore is still open.</p> <p>Welcoming Diane Hollows to the Competitions Working Group as Junior Competitions Lead.</p>	<p>Action for SE to check the MOS for nets.</p>
<p>3 Competitions update</p>	<p>A question was raised as to whether written reports from Competition Lead is still a valuable exercise. It was raised as to whether some of the content was perhaps freely available from the website.</p> <p>Don't need to see League Tables or fines, however should be used to raise issues (perhaps to add to Agenda in advance if appropriate).</p> <p>Student Cup: AM advised that there were clashes due to late announcement of BUCS competitions which clashed with Student Cup weekends as the university request teams to prioritise BUCS over Student Cup. JMo advised that meetings are held with BUCS on a regular basis and therefore this can be raised with a view to being addressed in advance as the communication needs improving.</p> <p>Appointments of referees for student cup - teams are commenting that it could be more consistent. Leeds had full complement, but Kettering saw students refereeing. Suggestion from DH that the onus should be on teams to be bring their own referees, since the budget for referees is small and travel expenses to Kettering are high. However, it may be difficult due to the fact these qualified referees at universities may be players. Current Student Cup regulations say 'competent' official - should this be updated to 'qualified'? Could this be extended to Level 5 - i.e. local league referees, not just Level 4 and up. It was suggested that the responsibility be passed to the HEVO for the university, since they had funding from VE, however JMo noted that the focus of the HEVO should remain as increasing participation.</p> <p>W3C - Another withdrawal from Women's 3 Central - Peterborough Harriers Women. Decision to be made over results of played matches as to whether to make ALL matches NULL & VOID so as not to unfairly advantage teams who still have matches to play against PHL. PHL have won just one of their played matches. It was agreed that these should be NULL & VOID to avoid any undue complications.</p> <p>Junior - U16 & U18 on course and running as planned and expected. No issues expected. There may be some late submissions for the U15 competition (deadline was midnight on 12/1 - numbers are a little low). It is expected that the increased fee might have affected b & c teams entering.</p>	
<p>4 Working Group Updates</p>	<p>Calendar: Keith Nicholls made a request to four directors for calendar date suggestions for upcoming season, this was completed by Jmo with support from JMu due mainly to timing (Festive Period).</p> <p>Facilities: Email sent to same directors regarding the 5 classifications of venue and getting further detail. Again, a response has been submitted by JMo with support from JMu</p> <p>Ken Edwards submitted a response to Calendar and Facilities working group from sitting. Sitting Volleyball paper has now been completed and submitted for review.</p> <p>Senior Comps</p> <p>There was a request that Super 8s host Super 8 finals in future; Two responses - No from Wessex, Financial question from Polonia, which was answered. No further responses believed to have been received.</p>	

	<p>SE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The regulation regarding Bad Weather is 'hidden' regarding E4 - arrival of teams. There is a suggestion that this should be a specific named regulation showing in the Index, rather than having to search 'weather' in the document. It is also possible that the regulations are worded in a way that puts undue pressure on teams to 'make every effort' to get to matches. Perhaps the wording could be reviewed. JMu suggestion that Divisional Commissioner approval is required should be updated to notified, and give responsibility to team to capture the relevant information to prove conditions etc. 	
7 Outstanding NVL Fines	<p>Now in a better position in terms of how the process is working. The hub have been provided with a list of invoices which are believed to be unpaid. Some however are against teams / clubs which no longer exist. These will be split between those which cannot be retrieved and those are potentially more likely to be paid so that priority can be given to what should be chased and which need to be written off to clean up the balance sheet. Once this is done then it should make things more manageable going forward. Further updates will be given through the regular Skype meetings.</p>	
8 Terms of Reference	<p>Action for Working Group members to add to the responsibility of Competitions Working Group (currently just generic for all working groups).</p>	All
9 Team Competition Withdrawals	<p>Need to try to dis-incentivise teams from withdrawing from the league/cup/junior competitions. Conversations were had as to how competitions should be administrated in terms of failed administration. It shall continue for now to be financial penalties, however it will be reviewed to see if these financial penalties are an effective deterrent or whether points deductions need to be considered.</p> <p>The specific NVL Secretary Handbook (attached) needs to be reviewed to see that it does in fact cover the most common questions that secretaries have to make their role easier.</p>	
Date of next two meetings	<p>Saturday 13th January 2018 - Loughborough 11am (a change from the previous agreed date of 14/01/18)</p> <p>Sunday 13th May 2018 - Kettering 11am - alongside NVL Play-offs.</p>	
Any other business	<p>JMu to follow up with Steve Evans re: future potential to changes to however Division 3 matches are officiated.</p>	J Mu