

Competitions Commission Meeting

Sunday 10th May 2015

SportPark, Loughborough

MEETING MINUTES

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

1.	Commissioners present and apologies for absence	
	Paul Bohannon	Competitions Commission President Super 8's Commissioner
	Bill Boagey	Division 1 Commissioner
	Ian Cheesbrough	Division 2 Women's Commissioner
	Keith McAdam	Division 2 Men's Commissioner
	Kevin Hamblin	Division 3 Men's Commissioner
	Brian Kendall	U15 Commissioner
	Audrey Cooper	Talent and Technical Director
	Jonathan Moore	Competitions Manager
	Laurence Shenker	Competitions Administrator
	Apologies	
	Ade Mcgraa	Student Cup Commissioner
	Sarah Hill	Division 3 Women's Commissioner
	Rohan West	Participation Director
	Will Westwood	Competitions Officer
	Martin Shakespeare	Referee Liaison
Sanjib Sahota	Major Events and Commercial Manager	

In **bold** – voting members

The meeting commenced at 10:35

		Action
2.	<p>Minutes of Previous Meeting</p> <p>Previous minutes were circulated.</p> <p>PB explained that nothing had moved forward with the Portas Review. There has been no further communication.</p> <p>All teams were contacted informing them of FIVB rule changes coming into effect at the end of the 2014-15 season.</p> <p>Due to the London Legacy Cup (International Club Invitational) in September, NVL fixtures are scheduled for the weekend before Christmas and the first weekend in January.</p> <p>PB has spoken with Referee Commission regarding the number of referees available to NVL teams. The Competitions Commission has suggested that</p>	<p>PB to discuss with Ref Com a possible NVL regulation change highlighting the clubs responsibility to source referees four weeks prior to a fixture if none confirmed.</p>

	<p>newly qualified referees should be involved in Junior competitions gaining experience. An observer would be present to provide further mentoring to each referee. A discussion was had about the long and short term planning of sourcing officials. It was agreed that PB will suggest to Ref Com that if no referee has been appointed four weeks prior to a fixture, it is then the team's responsibility to source a referee. This would involve a change to the NVL regulations. The suitability of the one day refereeing course was discussed.</p> <p>PB spoke with Ref Com and it has been suggested that Technical Timeouts are to be removed from Division 2 & 3 from the 2015-16 season. It was proposed that Division 2 & 3 teams would be given the option of technical timeouts at the coin toss. The NVL regulations would be amended accordingly. If one team requests them then they will be used in the game.</p> <p>It was explained that player, coach and bench personnel cards will no longer be used. All pre match information will be through the website from the start of the 2015-16 season onwards.</p> <p>PB responded to Richard Harrison's proposal regarding a coach having a minimum coaching qualification. The proposal suggested a level 3 qualification being required for the Super 8s and Division 1. It was explained to RH that the Competitions Commission would not support this. However the Competitions Commission would support the initiative of having a Level 2 coach at every club in the NVL.</p> <p>U18 GP – It was decided to leave the competition format for the competitions review.</p>	<p>PB/JM/WW/LS to create line in the NVL regulations informing teams that if no referee is appointed four weeks prior to a fixture it is the team's responsibility to source a referee.</p> <p>WW/LS to include line in regulations explaining that Technical Timeouts in Division 2 & 3 are not mandatory. It would be decided at the coin toss. If one team wants them then they will be had.</p>
<p>3.</p>	<p>Matters Arising</p> <p>A discussion was led by AC on the Junior National squads vs Super 8s Challenge Series. It was proposed that the National squads would compete against Super 8s teams during National Squads weekends which are clear weekends as per the 2015-16 calendar. Matches would be maximum of four sets. It was made clear that the National squads would not be entered as part of the league. The overall winner would be based on points difference across all games. An extra line would need to be included in the NVL regulations requiring Super 8s teams to take part in the Series. Penalties fines and points would remain the same for teams not competing in these Challenge Series matches. It was agreed that all players need to be registered with their NVL team to play in the series. Super 8 teams have been contacted and responded favourably towards this proposal. Super 8 teams would be incentivised with £200 travel expenses out of the Talent budget. JM agreed to coordinate the fixtures with the NVL fixtures in line with the requirements of the Talent team and the Super 8 teams. AC proposed using the Challenger Series to develop technology such as statistics and livestreaming, this was seen as a positive move by the Competitions Commission.</p> <p>A vote took place with voting members in favour of the proposal with one member abstaining.</p>	<p>A new line to be created in NVL regulations to inform Super 8s Teams of their expected attendance in the Challenge Series.</p> <p>JM to coordinate.</p>
<p>4.</p>	<p>Outstanding Fines</p> <p>£3,900 of fines in the NVL currently outstanding. Due to an ongoing finance department system upgrade, it is difficult to give precise information on outstanding fines. All NVL teams have been contacted regarding outstanding fines. The question was raised whether teams are allowed entry into the NVL with outstanding fees. It was suggested that all teams are given the benefit of doubt as to having paid until the finance system is fully operational. Financial year 2013-14 sees £3,300 in NVL fines across all divisions. JM confirmed that prior to each Competitions Commission meeting an NVL fine update will be provided.</p>	<p>JM to provide financial reports prior to each Commission meeting.</p>

5.	<p>Under 15's 2015/16</p> <p>A proposal created by BK was circulated. The North of the country struggled for entries. The proposal consisted of introducing a Last 8s in the U15's rather than having a Final 6. This would consist of two wildcard entries to go to the regions/ divisions with the most entries.</p> <p>BK will contact the Regions with regards to creating an alternative 4-a-side U15 competition in the autumn with the aim of creating new teams. The Competitions Commission voted in favour of changing the competition format for the 2015-16 season.</p>	BK to contact all Regions with regards to creating a 4-a-side competition in order to create new teams.
6.	<p>Competitions review</p> <p>A document from Rob Cook was circulated which highlighted the timelines and the structure of the competitions review. Due to the size of the task, it was decided that there would be smaller sub groups looking individually at groups of competitions. These are: Senior competitions, Junior competitions, Beach and Sitting Volleyball competitions. A full list of review members was shown to the room, these members will attend the sub group review meetings as detailed in the timeline. Volleyball England members will be consulted as part of the review process. All feedback received will be reviewed and a proposal will be submitted to the board in due course.</p> <p>Super 8 Men- London Lynx Men did not travel to Northumbria for their last fixture and have been fined £500. Solent 1 have been relegated. The Men's final finished with a golden set with Team Northumbria beating City of Sheffield 2-3, 3-1 & 15-12</p> <p>Super 8 Women- Swiss Cottage, although relegated have announced their intention not to play in the NVL next season. Team Northumbria won the League beating IMKA Polonia 3-2, 3-1 in the Finals.</p> <p>Division 1 Men - Leeds took the title with Newcastle Staffs going into the play-offs London Knights and London Lynx 2 are relegated. Danes Watford go into the play offs. 4 games were forfeited (3 of them the team's final game of the season)</p> <p>Division 1 Women - Tendring V.C. Ladies won the league title with Team Birmingham V.C. going into the play-off by virtue of better sets difference. City of Sheffield and Portsmouth are relegated with Herts V.C. going into the play-offs.</p> <p>Division 2 North and South Women - Eight match forfeits, by six teams. Devon Storm defaulted on three. Total value of fines issued - £675.00.</p> <p>Division 2 North Men- Team Birmingham Volleyball Club came top with Manchester Marvels in the playoffs. Leicester VC and Loughborough Students are relegated. There were 2 matches forfeited.</p> <p>Division 2 South Men - There were 5 matches forfeited. Solent 2 are promoted with Richmond VC going into the Playoffs. Bristol 1 and Dartford Volleyball Club (Men) are relegated.</p> <p>Division 3 North Men - City of Sheffield 2 promoted.</p> <p>Division 3 Central Men- Peterborough Harriers promoted and 2 matches forfeited.</p> <p>Division 3 South East Men - EBC Greenhouse (London) promoted and 7 matches forfeited.</p> <p>Division 3 South West Men- Arun VC promoted.</p> <p>Division 3 Women - No match forfeits. Two matches within triangulars</p>	

	<p>were not completed due to running out of time.</p> <p>Junior Competition</p> <p>Under 16 Girls 27 teams entered the competition. In the final Academy of Beach Sports beat Richmond A 3-2</p> <p>Under 16 Boys 24 teams entered the competition. In the final The Boswells Blaze A beat Wessex LeAF 3-0</p> <p>Under 18 Women 24 teams entered the competition. In the final Tameside beat LeAF Wessex A 3-0</p> <p>Under 18 Men 20 teams entered the competition. In the final The Boswells Blaze beat LeAF Wessex A 3-1</p> <p>Under 18 Women's Grand Prix In the final LeAF Wessex A beat Graveney Malory Eagles 3-0</p> <p>Under 18 Men's Grand Prix In the final LeAF Wessex A beat The Boswell Blaze 3-0</p>	
7.	<p>NVL/ Cup Regulations Season 2015/16</p> <p>An NVL regulations amendment document was circulated to the room.</p> <p>Regulation A1 i – A : (colon) is to be added after 'must'.</p> <p>Regulation A1 ii – The regulations is changed to 'Have no outstanding debts' by '31st May'</p> <p>Regulation A3 – It was proposed that each NVL team must have a qualified coach of at least Level 2 as discussed earlier. This amendment was challenged. The Commission voted in favour of changing the regulation A3 as per the circulated amendments.</p> <p>Regulation A5 – This regulation was confirmed.</p> <p>Regulation B2 iii – The words 'Consideration of' are to be removed.</p> <p>Regulation B2 viii – Changed to read 'Under no circumstances can league fixtures be played after the 24th April 2016'.</p> <p>Regulation C1 iv – Change to allow teams to have 7 players on the scoresheet in the case of emergency registrations rather than the current 6.</p> <p>A review of the regulation allowing for players to register for teams after the 1st February was had. It was questioned whether a team can register a player after the deadline, if they move to a new area providing they don't require a domestic/ international transfer. There was no conclusion to this. It was discussed that Junior players be allowed to register in the NVL at any time during the season, however this was not agreed. It was agreed that the regulations are to be amended to show that all players can be registered up until 1st March rather than 1st February.</p> <p>Regulation D1 viii – A new regulation is introduced stating that the start time of the 2nd game in a double header must be made clear in the match confirmation. This regulation is to be re-numbered D1 viiii (9).</p> <p>Regulation D3 – All referee fees have gone up by £2 per match.</p>	<p>To be amended in the NVL regulations.</p>

	<p>Regulation D4 vii – The official title for Martin Shakespeare’s role is changed to NVL Referee Commissioner.</p> <p>Regulation E1 ii –A new secondary line will be added to suggest that Technical Timeouts are optional in Division 2 & 3.</p> <p>Regulation E1 iii – Super 8s teams are ‘encouraged to produce’ rather than ‘will be required’ to produce programmes.</p> <p>A discussion took place regarding the value of having match day check lists and the minimum operating standards. It was agreed that for teams at the top end, they should be encouraged to complete match day reports. No conclusion was made.</p> <p>Regulation E1 – Subsequent numbers after regulation E1 v (5) are to be amended.</p> <p>Regulation E6 ii – After the word ‘explanation’ a – is to be added. The word ‘details’ has been added to the regulation.</p> <p>Regulation E7 iii – This regulation change was explained by PB.</p> <p>Regulation G1 ii – The word ‘games’ is changed to ‘fixtures’. Teams forfeiting a match in the Super 8s will be deducted 3 points.</p> <p>Regulation G1 iii – An increase in NVL match forfeit fines was agreed, due to a large number of forfeits during the 2014-15 season.</p> <p>Regulation H4 vi – The changes to this regulation were agreed by the room.</p> <p>Regulation H7 vi – The Commission agreed the changes.</p> <p>A discussion took place regarding teams who forfeit matches should be liable to pay part of/ all of the hall hire. It was agreed that if teams contact league Commissioners they are to tell teams to contact the offending team asking for help in the hall hire fee. It was felt that teams forfeiting the match get punished enough (they lose the match, get fined and lose their point) To be discussed further.</p> <p>The point was raised that the regulations need to incorporate the fact that registration cards are to be withdrawn from next season and that all information will be on the website.</p>	<p>To be amended in the NVL regulations.</p> <p>LS to remove Super 8 match reports from the website.</p> <p>To be amended in the NVL regulations.</p>
8.	<p>Devon Storm & London Lynx– Review. Forfeiting of Fixtures</p> <p>The Commission discussed Devon Storm and their recent problems in forfeiting fixtures. A new proposal from Devon Storm is that they will change their name to ‘North Devon Storm’ with new NVL contacts/ management. Concerns were raised over whether Devon Storm had paid all of their fines over the past couple of seasons. It was agreed that unless there is proof of payment, they would not be entered into the NVL. It was explained that due to current NVL regulations, JM would explain to ‘North Devon Storm’ that moving forward they can enter as a new team under the banner of Academy of Beach Sports or should they forfeit a game in the 2015-16 season they would be removed from the NVL from the 2016-17 season.</p> <p>The Commission discussed London Lynx forfeiting their fixture in the Super 8s. It has not been confirmed yet as to whether the fine has been paid. A discussion took place regarding introducing penalty points for Super 8s Teams. It was decided that a loss of 3 penalty points would be handed to teams forfeiting a Super 8s match.</p>	<p>JM to contact Denise Austin and explain that North Devon can either enter as a new team or continue under the previous team but should they forfeit one more away game they will be removed from the NVL.</p> <p>NVL regulations to be amended.</p>

9.	<p>NVL League Structure 2015/16</p> <p>JM went through possible permutations of the playoffs and the possible league structures. A discussion was had about who could possibly fill gaps made from teams withdrawing from the NVL. It was agreed that those teams having being relegated from Division 2 would be given first refusal as per the regulations.</p> <p>The commission agreed unanimously that all teams who have applied to enter the NVL in the 2015-16 season are accepted.</p>	
10.	<p>MVP Awards</p> <p>LS circulated MVP analysis highlighting the number of votes awarded per matches won and lost to the room. A discussion was had by the room regarding the purpose of having MVP votes. Two possible suggestions were offered but neither were agreed on. The voting of MVP's was seen by some as unfair. The Commission agreed to go out and inform teams that MVP votes for the 2015-16 season are to be removed.</p>	<p>PB to go out to NVL teams informing them that MVP votes have been removed from the 2015-16 season.</p>
11.	<p>Proposed Changes to the Competitions Commission Terms of Reference</p> <p>BK circulated a document with proposed changed to Competitions Commission terms of reference which was discussed. It was explained that Sitting Volleyball is the responsibility of the Competitions Commission and will remain within the terms of reference. A vote was taken for a document being sent to the board suggesting the removal of item 1, 2 & 9 from the Competitions Commissions remit. The decision was against this motion.</p> <p>Item 6 -The commission voted in favour of removing all words after 'frameworks'.</p> <p>Item 7 – The Commission agreed to start the item with 'To'.</p> <p>Item 9 - The word 'indoor' to be removed.</p> <p>Item 10 - It was explained that the proposed changes to item 10 is not the responsibility of the Competitions Commission.</p> <p>Item 11- It was agreed that Commission Members are seen as a representative of Volleyball England.</p> <p>Item 12 – It was voted not to add the proposed sentence in to item 12.</p>	<p>PB to write to the Board suggesting the changes.</p>
12.	<p>Date of next two meetings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Saturday 26th September 2015 SportPark, Loughborough • Saturday 9th January 2016 SportPark, Loughborough 	
13.	<p>Any other Business</p> <p>An update on developments with the Cup Commissioner was given. There has been one interested party and discussions will take place in due course.</p> <p>The 2015-16 Season draft fixtures were discussed. It was agreed that the Competitions Department would go out to NVL teams highlighting that triangulars are a possibility to Division 2 teams.</p> <p>Competition Commission minutes are to be published on the Volleyball England website once reviewed and agreed by the Competitions Commission.</p> <p>The dress code at major events (Cup Finals, Super 8s) was discussed. It</p>	<p>JM/WW/LS to contact NVL teams explaining that Division 2 teams can play triangulars.</p> <p>NVL regulations to be</p>

	<p>was suggested that communications are sent to teams highlighting appropriate dress codes and the NVL Regulations changed to dictate what is appropriate.</p> <p>The Mizuno deal was highlighted to the Commission.</p> <p>The Competitions Commission were informed of a potential deal with Mikasa to be the ball sponsor for major finals and Volleyball England competitions.</p> <p>There is a possibility of moving Cup Finals and Super 8s to the Copper Box for the 2016 season. It was suggested that the Cup Finals is moved to the Copper Box. It was agreed that the Competition Commission will work alongside the Board if the decision is to move Cup Finals to the Copper Box. The Commission do not see it as their decision to make, due to the financial implication of making such decision.</p>	amended.
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