



**Competitions Commission Meeting**

**Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> September 2012**

**National Volleyball Centre, Kettering**

**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>Lenny Barry</b>	National Cup Commissioner
<b>Brian Kendall</b>	National U15 Commissioner
<b>Kevin Hamblin</b>	Division 3 Men's Commissioner
Sanjib Sahota	National Competition and Events Manager
Will Westwood	Competitions Officer
<b>1. Apologies</b>	
<b>Keith McAdam</b>	Division 2 Men's Commissioner
<b>Ian Cheesbrough</b>	Division 2 Women's Commissioner
Martin Lindsey	Head of Operations
<b>Ade McGraa</b>	Student Cup Commissioner
Jonathan Moore	Competitions Officer
<b>Martin Shakespeare</b>	Referee Liaison

In **bold** – voting members

The meeting commenced at 10.45am

		<b>Action</b>
<b>2.</b>	<b>Minutes of Previous Meeting</b>	
	Code of conduct document	SS to speak to Martin Lindsey/Rob Harding
	Volleyball England structure is online	SS to confirm with ML
	MVP- questions to be sent to teams to decide what the MVP vote is for. To be discussed in AOB. Currently up to the commission as to what they want to do with it. Need to clarify to teams what the vote is for. MVP review could go into the competitions review for discussion. MVP criteria won't change for the current year.	

	<p>Ruling on coaches receiving Bench personnel cards was discussed at the referee commission meeting. Rule has changed so Martin Shakespeare will monitor scoresheets.</p> <p>No strategic plan review has taken place therefore no quarterly update received. New plan is currently being reviewed.</p> <p>Annual budget was sent round.</p> <p>PB sent Super 8s proposal sent to teams.</p> <p>Office to be contacted where necessary with regards to fit and proper persons.</p> <p>PB contacted Charlie Orton with regards to NVL teams paying scorers. It's not compulsory, but paying them to do it is a way of encouraging people to get involved.</p> <p>Blood protocol has gone into the handbook.</p> <p>Email sent to relevant teams with regards to behaviour after cup finals.</p> <p>Cup reviews to begin in October.</p> <p>Nothing on website to say referees get free tickets to Cup Finals. LB suggested contacting Commissions January and asking if they'd like complimentary tickets.</p>	<p>MS to put out a reminder to all referees on the ruling</p> <p>SS to distribute to those who request it</p>
<p><b>3.</b></p>	<p><b>Matters Arising</b></p> <p>Ruling has been amended to specify that NVL matches couldn't be scheduled on a cup fixture during the fixture period. Some fixtures had already been organised by default in the fixture list. Reminder will be sent to teams that have matches clashing to inform them that the Cup takes preference.</p> <p>London Lynx to be emailed as they are the only team yet to pay their league entry fee. They also haven't paid for any player registrations and have fines outstanding from last season. They will be told that they need to have 8 players registered for 1<sup>st</sup> team, 8 players registered for their 2<sup>nd</sup> team, NVL Entry Fees paid for both teams, and outstanding fines paid, with the money to be received by Friday 21<sup>st</sup> September otherwise games will be forfeited.</p> <p>Outstanding fines- teams contacted, majority have paid. 8 fines currently outstanding. Additional fines to be sent where appropriate. Northampton Sparks fines to be divided by registered players from last season as per Birmingham/Leeds Carnegie. Oxford Students Men have a fine outstanding from last season but have subsequently withdrawn from the league.</p> <p>Referee Commission were requested to appoint NTO's where possible. No NTO's were willing to do it voluntarily. Need to try and get NTO's for Super 8s at least as we're trying to raise the standard of competition/organisation/officiating. WC suggested trying to find funding. Currently we only pay and appoint for Super 8s Finals and Cup Finals. A rate for expenses will be specified when appointed. Guidelines to be discussed in terms of rates for VE competitions.</p> <p>Contact NVL teams and advise to ensure they have money for next years' fees.</p>	<p>WW to send reminder to all teams</p> <p>WW to send</p> <p>WW to liaise with Sandra Andrews (Finance Officer)</p> <p>PB to discuss with ref comm to resolve</p> <p>WW or Jonathan Moore to send</p>
<p><b>4.</b></p>	<p><b>2012-13 Handbook</b></p> <p>Handbook print order was sent on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> September. Everything is ready so that it can be posted once delivered to the office. Some referees have enquired about delivery time. PDF copy was sent to teams and referees on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> September. Whostheref is a new website where referees can view, accept and decline appointments.</p>	

	<p>Directions section takes up a lot of space in the handbook, but it was accepted that they were a valuable inclusion.</p> <p>SS said the handbook must go out on time next year (2 weeks before the start of the season). Need to speak to ref comm to try and complete appointments earlier. Withdrawal of teams/rearrangement of fixtures caused a delay in obtaining a proof copy of the handbook. Next year, set a cut off date to send the details we have. Leaving it so late to send is unfair on teams as they are left little time to find referees if they haven't had any appointed for their first matches of the season.</p> <p>Format of spreadsheet to be discussed with Whostheref developers so the export is produced in the format we need it to reduce time consumption in terms of formatting it to make it suitable for all.</p> <p>Fixtures/appointments will inevitably change over the course of the season so they will never be 100% accurate. Whostheref will be the most accurate source of information regarding appointments and fixtures.</p> <p>The possibility of removing the referee appointments from the handbook was discussed, with the appointments to be sent out as an update when completed. Would enable the handbook to be sent to print earlier.</p>	
<p><b>5.</b></p>	<p><b>NVL 2012-13</b></p> <p>Invite Stuart Johnson (Head of Development) to next meeting to discuss club governance, how we encourage teams to attain a level of organisation/governance.</p> <p>Contact NVL teams and advise to ensure they have money for next years' fees. Enough lead time given to plan. No longer an excuse- leaving it so late causes further problems as the first matches approach. First week leading up to the NVL season and the week after (for the last 2 years), have been hectic at the National Office. Too many requests come in for one person to deal with.</p> <p>Cheshire West &amp; Chester VC passed some comments onto LB with regards to the refusal to allow them to re-enter the league after withdrawing. Reasons were outlined in an email, and help was offered via email previously to all NVL teams who felt they may be struggling with anything from player numbers to the running of the club.</p>	
<p><b>6.</b></p>	<p><b>Cup Competitions</b></p> <p><i>National Cup:</i> Draws are online, may need slight amendments due to addition/withdrawal of a couple of teams. Teams that have clashes with NVL matches on the same weekend will be asked to give preference to the Cup fixture.</p> <p><i>Student Cup:</i> Venues are booked. Entry forms and news piece are online. All teams from last year will be emailed to inform them entry is now open. Competitions team will liaise with National FE and HE Officer to promote to all universities.</p> <p><i>Regional Champions Trophy:</i> It was suggested whether the timing of the competition was suitable. We could look at moving it to September (from May). The competition will be reviewed and possibly moved to the last weekend in September on the provision of a review with the 'customers'.</p>	
<p><b>7.</b></p>	<p><b>Junior Competitions</b></p> <p><i>U15</i> Central Divisional venues booked, need to contact the top teams about date as Finals are currently scheduled for last weekend in Easter. Potential date available in May although could be too close to exams (18<sup>th</sup>). Struggling for court</p>	

	<p>time for the North and South Divisional Round. Budget for the competition has very little left, so booking additional days/venues is not an option. It could be put to teams that the Divisional round pool games will be played as the best of 2 sets to reduce match time. We could also play boys in the morning, girls in the afternoon or vice versa. That way, the wait time for teams is greatly reduced as both pools will be able to play continuously.</p> <p><i>U16/18</i> Dates have been set and venues have been booked. Administration is on going. Entry details will be distributed to teams as soon as possible. Following similar format to U15 competition- regional rounds hosted by teams.</p> <p><i>Inter Regionals</i> The competition was funded by the competitions commission last year- not possible to do that this year. It has been put to the regional and performance commission that if they want the competition to continue, they would need to fund it. Refer back to regional commission; let them know Kettering isn't available over the May bank holiday weekend that was requested. If it goes ahead, Competitions Commission will do the administration of the event, Regions will be responsible for paying and playing. They have requested a 3-day competition over the May bank holiday weekend, however Kettering isn't available on these dates.</p>	
<p><b>8.</b></p>	<p><b>Sitting Volleyball Grand Prix</b></p> <p>£25 entry for Tier 1 and £20 for Tier 2 was specified for entry costs in previous meeting. It has gone out as £25 and £30 respectively. No feedback from teams with regards to price so it appears the price increase has been accepted without issue.</p> <p>Craig Handford (Head of Technical/Excel) is discussing the possibility of getting Sitting Volleyball court lines put down permanently in Kettering. It's costly to send staff to do it the day before (and book the venue for day before) to put the floor down to rest. SS has requested a quote on the cost of centre staff putting the court out to rest the night before.</p> <p>Player registration details have gone out to teams. No cost attached to registering players. Initial idea of player registration is to get teams used to the process and make the set up of playing in the league of a higher standard.</p> <p>SS to liaise with Richard Stacey-Chapman (Sitting Volleyball Development Officer) to increase the number of players participating- a lot of the Paralympians may not be playing in the first 2 GP's. We need to add value to the Sitting GP series to enable it to grow and hit targets.</p> <p>Advisory group still needs to be convened.</p>	
<p><b>9.</b></p>	<p><b>Casebook</b></p> <p>Bill Boagey has put together the first draft of the casebook. PB suggests it should be on the website for people to see. Allows teams to make a more informed decision on whether to appeal. Draft will be circulated for feedback.</p>	<p>WW to circulate</p>
<p><b>10.</b></p>	<p><b>Conduct after the final whistle</b></p> <p>As a result of the behaviour at the end of the cup final, it was questioned as to whether the cards should have been issued. LB questioned this. Nick Heckford replied on behalf of referee commission, stating he'd try to refrain from issuing cards after the end of the game. LB suggested that if you transgress, you should get carded irrespective of the timing. It happens in other sports (e.g. in football, players get carded after the final whistle). Ref. comm. suggested a report should be written which would then come through to Comps Commission. This would create additional administration. SS said issues should be dealt with at the time, not left for others to deal with based on a report. We currently don't have a 'jury facility' at games.</p>	

	<p>It was generally agreed that it should be the referee's responsibility if the transgression takes place on the field of play. LB suggested he'd read before that the referee was in charge once the teams enter and until they leave the field of play.</p> <p>SS suggested a disclaimer put on tickets (for Cup Finals) re: spectator conduct. Stewards in place at Volleyball England events to deal with such situations.</p>	LB to look into existing rules
<b>11</b>	<p><b>Calendar</b></p> <p>2013-14/2014-15 calendar has been produced. Calendar planning group meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> September cancelled due to lack of availability. Look into redesigning calendar slightly to make it easier to view online.</p>	SS to circulate
<b>12.</b>	<p><b>Date of next two meetings</b></p> <p>5<sup>th</sup> Jan 2013, SportPark, Loughborough 10:30 11<sup>th</sup> May 2013, TBC</p>	
<b>13.</b>	<p><b>Any Other Business</b></p> <p><i>Disability Inclusion</i> Email sent round to get views on whether a disabled (wheelchair bound) referee should be allowed to referee a game. It will be a Referee Commission decision- any consultations will also be done by Referee Commission. SS suggests the need to consult FIVB/WOVD to see if they have guidelines on the situation already.</p> <p>BK suggested if we said yes, it creates problems; sports centres will need to cater for disabled, teams may object to the relative lack of mobility e.g. moving out of the way quickly. Current rules of the games would suggest the answer would be no. PB brought up the fact that one of the current rules suggests that the 2<sup>nd</sup> referee should take over the role of 1<sup>st</sup> referee should the 1<sup>st</sup> referee not be able to continue. A wheelchair bound 2<sup>nd</sup> referee wouldn't be able to do this.</p> <p><i>Commissioners</i> BK suggested putting an advert online to try and fill the vacant commissioner slots.</p> <p><i>Minutes on the website</i> LB offered to summarise/tailor the meeting minutes, creating a version suitable to put on the Volleyball England website. Needs to be decided first whether it should be put on a members only page or make it public.</p>	WW to place an advert on the Volleyball England website