

**Competitions Commission Meeting**

**Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> May 2016**

**National Volleyball Centre, Kettering**

**MEETING MINUTES**

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

<b>1.</b>	<b>Commissioners present and apologies for absence</b>	
	<b>Bill Boagey</b>	Division 1 Commissioner
	<b>Keith McAdam</b>	Division 2 Men's Commissioner
	<b>Sarah Hill</b>	Division 3 Women's Commissioner
	<b>James Murphy</b>	National Cup Commissioner
	Steve Evans	Referee Commission President
	Jonathan Moore	Competitions Manager
	<b>Apologies</b>	
	<b>Paul Bohannan</b>	Competitions Commission President Super 8's Commissioner
	<b>Kevin Hamblin</b>	Division 3 Men's Commissioner
	<b>Ade McGraa</b>	Student Cup Commissioner
	<b>Brian Kendall</b>	U15 Commissioner
	<b>Martin Shakespeare</b>	Referee Liaison
	Rob Cook	International Events and Competitions Director
	Martin Lindsey	Business Director
	Will Westwood	Competitions Officer
Laurence Shenker	Competitions Administrator	

In **bold** – voting members

The meeting commenced at 10:40

		<b>Action</b>
<b>2.</b>	<p><b>Minutes of Previous Meeting</b></p> <p>Previous minutes were circulated.</p> <p><b>Referee Appointments</b></p> <p>Steve Evans, Referee Commission President picked up the discussion on the possibility of home teams sourcing 2<sup>nd</sup> Referees. It had been discussed by the Referee Commission. It was suggested that this is the situation with a lot of NVL matches anyway, so this situation is not new to anybody. Steve stated that we are all aware of the lack of Referees that we have, and that it is going to take time to address. As such, this is a reasonable solution for the time being to cover matches, but these Referees need to be qualified, registered and competent, in line with the NVL Regulations. Triangular matches were identified as the most difficult issue to resolve. Where Referees are available, the Referee Commission will appoint them.</p> <p>Only having one Referee, as happens in a number of Leagues across Europe was discussed, but this didn't address the shortage of Referees. The possibility of the none playing Team in</p>	

	<p>a Triangular providing all of the Officials was also discussed as a solution, and one that has worked successfully in other Leagues. It works well as it is independent and there is no requirement to source Referees from elsewhere, and these individuals are neutral. The other suggestion was to only appoint to 1<sup>st</sup> and last matches in a Triangular and have the home team fulfil these requirements for the middle match.</p> <p>On top of this there is still the issue of travel distances for many clubs, particularly at the top end, where the level of Referee required is higher.</p> <p>Appointments of Referees for the 2016-17 season will be appointed if they are available to all matches.</p> <p>Who's The Ref (WTR) has had some improvements that should make sourcing available Referees easier.</p> <p>Timeframes of when the Referee Commission stop searching for Referees for NVL Matches and when this becomes the home team's responsibility was discussed and it was determined that the Referee Commission would appoint before the season, and continue to search for Referees, in particular between 4 and 3 weeks before a match. The Referee Commission would stop searching 3 weeks ahead of an NVL match, with the teams assuming responsibility for sourcing remaining Officials at this point, the teams will be notified of their Referees automatically by WTR. This gives teams an extended period to source any remaining Officials. This process will work the same for the Cup rounds, encouraging teams to provide the information for their home matches quickly.</p> <p><b>NVL Teams required to have Level 2 Coach by 2018-19 season</b> Competitions Team to send a reminder.</p> <p><b>Outstanding fines and up to date financial information</b> Competitions Team and Commission are still not receiving the information that we require in a timely fashion. We are assuming that budgets are what we asked for, for the 2016-17 season. Do not know which clubs have outstanding fines ahead of the new NVL season, the Finance Team were processing invoiced for fines from March 2017 this week. Invoices for fines for the end of the season will not have gone out when we open entries for the NVL in the next week. The Commission felt that teams should be encouraged to pay fines once they have been notified of them, not wait for the invoice. Teams should anticipate fines where they have clearly been in breach of the NVL Regulations, such as forfeiting matches.</p> <p>This situation is having an impact on the Competitions team in managing Competitions, on volunteers as many are not paid in a timely fashion, and on suppliers with many having to chase payment.</p> <p>The problems stem from the new finance system, which has proven "difficult" at times.</p> <p>Very hard to manage finances effectively in this situation. But it does highlight the need to streamline processes, as the current process to issue NVL related fines could be delivered more effectively via the website.</p> <p><b>Changes to terms of reference</b> Paul Bohannon had sent proposed changes to the Competitions Commission terms of reference, but currently nothing had changed on the Volleyball England website.</p> <p><b>MVPs</b> MVPs were not shown on the website this season, but a running total was kept on the back end of the website, and as a result, we have not had any issues. Whether the right person has won these awards we cannot be clear on, but there can now not be any tactical voting as in previous years. As this has worked well, no further action is needed.</p>	<p>JMo to organise.</p> <p>JMo to follow-up.</p>
<p>3.</p>	<p><b>Matters Arising</b></p> <p>The Commission discussed the current situation with Paul Bohannon, and it was concluded that the Commission would select a vice-President of the Commission who would assist Paul until such time that he was no longer able to fulfil the role, or his role as President came to its natural end at the AGM. From the AGM, this person would be the Co-Opted President for the Commission for the next year, until the AGM in 2017 where the role would be up for election.</p>	

	Keith McAdam put himself forward for the role and this was supported by the Commission members present.	
<b>4.</b>	<p><b>Items for Ratification</b></p> <p>Vote on keeping NVL Regulations as published for 2015-16 season is upheld by the meeting.</p> <p>Vote towards the end of the season regarding the NVL Playoffs following a request from one female team to change the structure to allow playoffs for Women's Division 3. There was a vote on this via email in which the Commission voted against making a change to the published NVL Regulations.</p>	
<b>5.</b>	<p><b>Referee Strategy</b></p> <p>An introduction to the new Referee Strategy was given by Referee Commission President, Steve Evans. The new Referee Strategy should now be available on the Volleyball England website.</p> <p>The pyramid structure has been inverted, with the focus now on the Grade 4 and 3R's. Priority now to get to the local clubs and local / regional associations to put on more courses and to encourage the grass roots. Since changing the Grade 4 course from a 2-day course to a 1-day course the Referee Commission have seen a 60% increase in the number of courses run, with far few cancellations. Now need to follow up on the new Grade 4 Referees. Meetings already underway with the Regional Commission as to how this new strategy can be delivered in the Regions. There is a need for an increase in Mentors and Observers, and the Referee Commission will be looking to address this. Mentoring and Observing will be a key part of the Strategy to develop Referees.</p> <p>Martin Shakespeare had mentioned in previous meetings the importance of new clubs who are joining the NVL to bring with them new Referees, and this is expected as part of the new Referee Strategy.</p> <p>The Regional Referee Administrators (RRA), who in most instances are elected to their positions, will be taking an active role in the implementation of the new strategy and will specifically target counties, as some of the Regions are too broad. Senior Referees will take up a mentor role within counties, with the RRA's adding to this.</p> <p>The intended outcome of the Strategy is going to take a while. We need to also try to counteract some of the negative behaviour at all levels towards Referees as this is only making the task more difficult. It was felt that the Coaches Commission should also be actively trying to tackle this issue.</p> <p>The Referee Commission will be working towards the new strategy, and trying to get more people involved at a local level.</p>	
<b>6.</b>	<p><b>NVL / Cup Regulations Season 2016-17</b></p> <p>The NVL Regulations for the 2016-17 Season were discussed and finalised. All changes from the 2015-16 Regulations can be found in the document <a href="#">NVL Regulation Amendments 2016-17</a> and the full NVL Regulations can be found in the <a href="#">NVL Regulations 2016-17</a>.</p> <p>Sarah Hill to send the full details of the decision made in Women's Division 3 South East regarding the match between Farnborough Devils and St. Albans Harriers for the Case book.</p> <p>The Promotion and Relegation Regulations for the 2016-17 Season will be omitted from the NVL Regulations on publication for the NVL Entry process, they will be added prior to the start of the NVL Season to allow some additional time for the Competitions Review to consider the possibilities of changes to competitions for the 2017-18 season. It was determined by the Commission that there would be direct promotion and playoffs for all Divisions when the Regulations are confirmed for the 2016-17 Season.</p>	<p>SH to send to JMo.</p> <p>JMo to ensure that these are distributed to all teams by 1<sup>st</sup> September 2016.</p>

<p>7.</p>	<p><b>NVL League Structure 2016-17</b></p> <p><b>NVL New Team Applications</b>  The Commission discussed the NVL New Entrant Applications in detail against the criteria set out in the NVL Regulation for entering the NVL.</p> <p>The Commission discussed Teams who had not received Letters of Support in great depth. In regard to Team Bristol*, the Competitions Commission noted that the South West Region expressed that they did not support the Teams entry. It was noted that Regional Support was not a requirement set out in the NVL Regulations, however the Commission discussed the reasons that were put forward by the South West Region, and felt that on balance the set-up, structure and ambition of Team Bristol, alongside the level that they had demonstrated they were playing at warranted approval. The Commission did set some additional requirements for Jonathan Moore to research the origin of the letters of support from the Bristol &amp; District Volleyball Association. If these letters met the requirements of the Competitions Commission, the Commission were happy to accept the Team into the NVL.</p> <p>The Commission were concerned that Maidstone could be taking a number of players away from other Clubs. The Commission asked Jonathan Moore to check with Maidstone, whether the other Clubs were aware that their players might be interested in joining Maidstone.</p> <p>For all the other Teams who had items outstanding on the criteria, they would need to supply this information / deposit to the Competitions Team before they would be accepted. However, these items were all minor administrative items, so it was felt by the Commission that they should be easy to obtain.</p> <p>The Commission confirmed that they accepted the Entries from the following Teams on the proviso that they met any remaining requirements and any additional requirements set;</p> <p><b>Men's Teams</b>  Cheltenham &amp; Gloucester Volleyball  Ipswich Men  London Baks  Maidstone  Manchester Marvels 3  Miners Doncaster Volleyball Club  Team Bristol*  University of Nottingham Volleyball Men  Spelthorne Spikers</p> <p><b>Women's Teams</b>  Army Ladies (Aldershot)  Beach Academy (North Devon) 2  Cardiff Ladies  Ipswich Ladies  London Inter Women  Maidstone  Manchester Marvels 3  Sussex Dolphins 2  Team Bristol*  University of Nottingham Volleyball Women</p> <p><b>Financial difficulties</b>  The Commission discussed the future of Teams within the NVL that were seen to be in financial difficulty. For these Teams, the Competitions Commission wanted the Competitions Team to ensure that any outstanding fines were paid, and to check with the Teams that they were financially viable for the 2016-17 Season. Should Teams have not paid fines by the beginning of the Season, the Competitions Commission reserves the right to remove these Teams from the NVL.</p> <p><b>Midlands NVL Division</b>  The Commission discussed the proposal put forward by Steve Jones, Chair of the East Midlands Region. The proposal set out a change to the League Structure of the National League to include a Midlands Division within the National League. The Competitions Commission felt that changing the League Structure to include a Midlands Division was not</p>	<p>JMo to follow up.</p> <p>JMo to follow up.</p> <p>JMo to follow up.</p> <p>JMo to follow up.</p>
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	<p>feasible. They felt that Teams entering should be aware that they were entering a “National” League and be able to meet these expectations. There was also concern about what would happen with Teams being promoted from a Midlands Division into the rest of the National League.</p> <p><b>League Structure</b> The Commission then discussed the League Structure, confirming which Teams would play in which Divisions for the 2016-17 Season.</p>	
8.	<p><b>Calendar 2016-17</b></p> <p>The 2016-17 Calendar was discussed and finalised, with the aim for publishing in the week commencing 16<sup>th</sup> May 2016.</p> <p><b>London Legacy Volleyball Cup</b> The London Legacy Volleyball Cup has been removed from the 2016-17 Competitions Calendar. As a result, other dates have been redistributed to make the best use of the available dates.</p> <p><b>Sitting Grand Prix Dates</b> Currently have Saturday and Sunday dates reserved for the Sitting Grand Prix weekends, these will be reduced to one day on each weekend, once Jonathan Moore has finalised venue bookings and consulted the Sitting Volleyball Development Manager / Teams.</p> <p><b>National Squad Camps</b> National Squad Camp weekends will be when the Challenge Series will take place. There will need to be acceptance that there are clashes in the Calendar with National Squads Camps, but there simply are not enough weekends to avoid all clashes.</p>	<p>JMo to organise.</p> <p>JMo to follow up.</p>
9.	<p><b>Competitions Review</b></p> <p>The Competitions Commission were given an update on the Competitions Review.</p> <p>The Competitions Review has had a change in leadership in line with the change in Staffing Structure at Volleyball England, with Martin Lindsey replacing Rohan West as the senior management team lead on the Competitions Review.</p> <p>It was also identified that potential changes in personnel brought about by AGM elections could have an impact on the timescales for the Competitions Review.</p> <p>It was highlighted that there had been a number of delays in the Competitions Review, and that there were now reasons for holding back on making decisions for the Competitions Review. There is a lack of information regarding the potential for Sport England funding in the next four-year cycle. Not knowing the position, is one reason for not making decisions that we cannot fulfil at a later date.</p>	
10.	<p><b>Date of next two meetings</b></p> <p>Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> September 2016 at SportPark, Loughborough Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> January 2017 at SportPark, Loughborough</p>	
11.	<p><b>Any other Business</b></p> <p><b>Disciplinary Review</b> Code of Conducts, disciplinary procedures and processes across Volleyball England are being reviewed. For the 2016-17 Season the NVL procedures and processes should remain as they are.</p> <p><b>Concerns about behaviour</b> Concern over the behaviour demonstrated at a number of events, both run by Volleyball England and by Clubs. Feeling that the NVL Regulations should reflect a code of conduct for all matches to help set expectations and prevent situations from occurring. Measures to tackle spectator behaviour need to be reviewed as the situations faced at the Cup Finals and Super 8s Finals were concerning. The Safeguarding of volunteers and our young court-side assistants is paramount. Need to change the culture and behaviour, as Volleyball England</p>	<p>JMo to provide an update at the next meeting.</p>

	<p>should not need to spend Members money on spectator security.</p> <p><b>IBB Polonia London entering the CEV Challenge Cup</b>  IBB Polonia London's entry into the CEV Challenge Cup was discussed. IBB Polonia London have requested and have been granted permission to play their first home match at the home of PGE Skra Bełchatów, the Hala Energia in Poland. For each subsequent round IBB Polonia London have listed the National Volleyball Centre as their home venue, but they are still looking to source a venue in London. The Board have chosen to support IBB Polonia London's entry providing that they register a bond with Volleyball England. Jonathan Moore will be the National Federation European Cups Responsible, and will help guide IBB Polonia London through each step of the process.</p> <p><b>Referee Performance Feedback</b>  Who's the Ref to be used to gain feedback from and about the Referees. Possibility to combine this electronic form with the existing <a href="#">NVL Matchday Check List</a>.</p> <p><b>Major Event Information Packs</b>  Discussion about combining the packs, so that just one pack goes out. It was highlighted that if not everything in the pack is relevant to an individual, said individual might chose not to read the information. One solution could be to have a specific Teams information pack, with Officials and Volunteers having one pack, which includes the information from the Team pack. Need to review Section management in Word to solve the issue.</p> <p><b>Sitting Volleyball Team Pages</b>  Sitting Volleyball Teams to have the same set-up as the rest of the National League, and have their own Team Page on the Volleyball England website. We need to ensure that they have the same process as everyone else. This will help to make the Teams more professional in their approach.</p>	<p>JMo to provide an update at the next meeting.</p> <p>JMo to follow up with SE.</p> <p>JMo to review.</p> <p>JMo to lead on implementation.</p>
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