

Regional Commission Meeting **Minutes**

Meeting Date: 13th August 2016

In attendance: Bryan Youlden (Chair)
Lenny Barry (North West)
Tim Godson (Yorkshire)
Aneel Khanna (West Midlands)
Ron Richards (South West)

Rohan West (Volleyball England)
Richard Morten (Referees Commission)

Apologies: Freda Bussey (South East)
Keith and Sue Sowden (North East)
Steve Jones (East Midlands)
Charlie Orton (London)

1.0 Introduction & Welcome

1.1 BY opened the meeting and welcomed Richard Morten. Bryan expressed a desire that there was improved communication between Commissions. An open invitation was extended to Richard to attend Regional Commission meetings.

2.0 Minutes of Last Meeting and Actions

The minutes were agreed as a true representation of the previous meeting.

2.1 Regional Commission Remit

Revised amendment to the wording of the function and purpose of the Regional Commission is still in preparation. A draft will be circulated for comment by BY in the near future.

2.2 Publication of Board minutes

After checking, it was shown that all Board minutes are available and up to date on the Volleyball England website.

2.3 East Region

One or two interested individuals have been identified with a view to trying to encourage a regional structure in the Eastern region.

2.4 Communications and Marketing

2.4.1 Communications

There has been a noticeable improvement in communication and the Regions are to be advised of visits and other events in their Regions wherever possible.

2.4.2 There has been a good response from clubs sending in member details so there is now a better listing of playing members. The membership newsletter was issued to 17,000.

2.4.3 Branding and Kit

Following the query whether the new Mizuno kit could be adapted and used for other purposes, Mizuno have added a new polo which could be used and they have also developed a Volleyball England portal for us. Black is used for staff, with blue for referees. Red was agreed for coaches and volunteers. Any Volleyball England logos are to be on the left breast of kit. There was a query if such logos could be added by Kitlocker.

Could we encourage clubs to incorporate the national logo on their kit and correspondence etc.? Also, it would be helpful if it can be incorporated into regional logos over time. There is a slight issue with size of logo but we do not have an alternative available to us. Ruth could advise if required.

Action: RW to check with Kitlocker if Regional logos can be added to the kit.

2.5 Referees

Richard Morten was in attendance as suggested as a representative of Referees Commission. See below.

The Referees Strategy is on the Volleyball England website.

2.6 Safeguarding

2.6.1 Safeguarding – The numbers attending courses are going well. Volleyball England are hoping to offer a truncated webinar version for teachers and others who are already in the field and have experience. This should be available within a month.

2.6.2 Rohan advised that there has been a rethink on how this will be enforced. In retrospect, the original request did not reflect the requirement so a revised policy has been adopted. It is now proposed that there will be a rebuke rather than stopping involvement or suspending membership. If there is a continued failure, the clubs will may ultimately not be allowed to re-register. (N.B. Reminder: This only applies where a club has under 18s).

2.6.3 Reference the suggestion that the Regional Associations should help police this there is obviously an aspiration that all clubs are affiliated to Volleyball England. Some regions already have this in place. Others will hopefully encourage this over time. It was suggested that perhaps Volleyball England needs to mandate membership of the parent body but it was explained that there is a difficulty as this should be a decision for the membership to make.

Richard Morten commented that Referees Commission now require that if a referee has not registered for two years they need to requalify. There was discussion about if you don't reregister are you dropped off circulation and what is the requalifying requirement?

Action: RW will consider the mandating issue further and whether it should come through an AGM or other process.

2.7 Volleyball Futures

The talent ID program Volleyball Futures is being launched with Sunderland the first. Adi Fawcett on A.Fawcett@volleyballengland.org is the contact for more information.

2.8 Competitions

2.8.1 Junior competitions

It was suggested that new Schools and Youth Commission President Roman Neveykin is invited to attend the next meeting. It was felt that there was a need to look at the whole structure below the inter-regional level of competition. There was a problem in the past with the Regions not being involved in the junior review.

ACTION: BY to speak to Roman to ensure there is Regional representation.

2.8.2 Student Volleyball

Student – SJ had raised the issue but was not in attendance. This needs to be considered further.
ACTION: BY to speak to Steve as to what he has in mind.

There is a difficulty finding referees for Wednesday daytime matches. We have limited information as to what is happening in the colleges. Lenny can circulate additional information on this.

**ACTION: LB to supply additional information on college volleyball.
ACTION. All. We need to try to entice student players into clubs as this should help.**

2.8.3 EVL Review

Keith Nicholls apologised that he could not be in attendance to lead this but he is anxious to speak to the Commission.

N.B. This is on the agenda for the next Leadership Meeting on 17th September when Commission members have been invited to attend.

2.9 Government Strategy

See separate item below.

2.10 AOB

Teleconferencing/Skype was investigated and was offered for the current meeting but no one had taken up the facility.

3.0 Referees

3.1 Referees Strategy – Richard Morten

Richard Morten explained that until recently the strategy was very short focussed. The Referees Commission are now looking towards 2024 and have identified key areas that need attention.

Objectives

1. Increase the quality and quantity of referees.
2. To produce and promote a referee pathway.
3. To increase the profile and perception of refereeing across the sport.

A significant step towards achieving an increase in the quantity of referees has resulted from moving from a 2 day to a 1 day course.

The next phase is to retain newly qualified referees and to get them on the stand and appropriately skill them. We are well versed in this at the more senior levels with feedback etc. but need to help referees at better at the local level.

There was a Regional Co-ordinators meeting in May with 6 of 9 attending at which the job description was slimmed down e.g. the Co-ordinators no longer have to run 2 courses per season.

Referees Commission are also launching a mentor programme. Mentors are being appointed as a course is held in a region. In the South West Region the co-ordinator has already been out looking for local mentors covering the local leagues. This may need to be modified but the commission is trying to reinvigorate the mentoring process.

The Regional Co-ordinator will liaise with the Referees Commission over appointment of the mentors using a formal job description. There is no formal training to identify the mentors and not enough depth of numbers to take it further at this stage.

The Commission needs the Regional Co-ords (RRCs) to run with this and Richard will be speaking with them – particularly if there are courses due in the areas. If no RRC is appointed by a Region the Referees Commission will appoint themselves.

There was a query as to who appoint as in some Regions they are on the Regional Executive and need to be elected.

Quality will come as 7 new refereeing observers have been trained up. Members asked for names to be circulated.

ACTION: RM to circulate the names of the new observers

ACTION: RM Will send a copy of the RRC and mentor job descriptions to us all.

The Referees Commission is looking at least to pay something towards mentor travel and the course fee of £50 includes follow up and pays for the travel.

The intention is to bring the RRCs back together at the end of the season to review progress.

3.2 Sanctions

Concern was expressed about inconsistent application of the sanctions in the Regions with some referees particularly at local and regional levels not using the tools that are available to them. It was emphasised that the sanctions need to be applied and this should be a priority this season. We also need the support of the RRCs to back this.

It was felt that there was a need to get the appropriate psychology down the ranks of players to improve player behaviour. The appropriate use of sanction cards is accepted as partly a training and education issue for both referees and players.

The 1 day course helps the numbers but there is a danger that we lose quality due to lack of time on the course. Therefore mentoring is vital.

It was requested that Referees Commission set the tone at the national level. An example was the red card zero tolerance policy initiated for coach behaviour last season.

At local level, we have the power to take action and also need to support the referees. For example some Regional and area associations use a totting up points procedure and impose bans on misbehaving players and coaches. It was agreed that the Referees Commission need the support of league administrators in getting the message right and regional and local leagues need to set their own criteria. A partnership is required between Referees Commission and the Regional Executives to improve matters.

Referees Commission through Richard was asked to produce some guidelines that can be shared with the Regions and Areas for them to consider.

ACTION: RM to circulate guidelines on sanctions for the Regions to cascade down to regional and local competitions secretaries.

4.0 Sport England Strategy – Rohan West

4.1 The new strategy was released in May with the investment guide following only 6 weeks ago and only for National Governing Bodies.

There has been only 1 scoping meeting so far with a second on Monday coming.

4.2 Volleyball is in a strong position to apply it as we have the 2024 Strategy rather than just a 4 year strategy. Very positive feedback has been received from Sport England who were

impressed by our preparation etc. and we have met or exceeded every single one of our current objectives and targets.

4.3 The next phase is to take the 4 year components of our strategy and to map them against the Sport England strategy. It is not clear as yet what the funding streams will be and what they will fund, but key will be that we need to generate more of our own revenue and be more efficient. This could mean sharing services with other NGBs, increasing internal volleyball generated revenue, commercial revenue etc. There is no indication at all as yet as to how much funding is likely to be made available.

4.4 Sport England is looking for big partners. We will have a problem showing that we can have a major impact in certain areas. Others such as schools and children we certainly can show that there are good opportunities.

4.5 It will be some weeks before the funding will be clear but submissions will be required around September to December when they will want us to present a guide as to what funding we need. They don't want a detailed delivery plan until later which is fundamentally different from what was expected last time. It had been thought that we would need to be developing very detailed plans now but this does not appear to be the key at present. They claim that the intention is to make the process less onerous.

4.6 The CSP review was issued yesterday which needs reviewing. Sportivate will probably die and be replaced as it is a participation numbers focused programme, which is now outside of the new Sport England strategy.

4.7 The new policy includes a lot of discussion of maintaining the core now with less emphasis on growth.

4.8 There is no indication on small grants. They may continue but to date there has been no guidance on what will and not be supported.

4.9 In respect of the talent section, volleyball being in the Commonwealth Games should help with funding. This is relatively easy to build a budget on. Participation is far more difficult.

4.10 Our submission will focus in part on schools as it is vitally important to the development of the sport. Other NGBs have much more resource in this area than we do. Schools, HE and Club Development will be critical to our submission.(current cycle ends March 2017).

4.11 Sitting volleyball is a significant potential corporate responsibility opportunity and will be focussing on this after the Paralympics.

4.12 In respect of funding partners, itsu are keen to renew for another 3 years. A water sponsorship deal has been agreed with Bio-Synergy saving £5K per annum..

5.0 National Volleyball Centre

5.1 The contract with Kettering expires 31 March 2017. With the new Government strategy we must go through a tender process for all such contracts and we will therefore be going out to tender for the National Volleyball Centre.

5.2 The first stage will be for expressions of interest to a wide number of facilities. This ends mid-September and it will then narrowed down to a shortlist.

5.3 The East/West Midlands will be particularly favoured due to geographical accessibility for all. It should be emphasised that there is NOT a desire to leave Kettering but we are required to offer it out to tender.

6.0 AOB

6.1 Volleyball Voice

This has been changed following consultation to meet our expressed needs better. Could the regions please promote the events?

ACTION: Regions to promote the Volleyball Voice meetings

6.2 Inter Regional Competition

Volleyball England are considering rolling the contract on Kettering for a short period so we are then covered for the Inter Regionals.

There was a general discussion that showed that there should be a good interest in attending the competition in the coming year.

6.3 DBS

Volleyball England has had to change the process as we did not have enough checks per annum as required under the previous process. We have now gone to an online system. This can be as fast as 3 days compared with weeks under the previous paper based system. The average time is expected to be 10 working days, and having the added benefit of members not having to send their passport and drivers licence to the national office.

6.4 Regional Structures and General

It was asked that RW tries to ensure that the staff are aware who is who in the key roles in the Regions to avoid miscommunication. BY advised the group that he has asked that all correspondence be funnelled through the Chairs initially to try and ensure full visibility of communication and to assist in forwarding it onto the appropriate parties. Over time, hopefully we can refine this.

All bar the North West Region AGM of those representatives attending has been completed (North West 13th September)

6.5 Regional Coaching Administrator

It was agreed that the coaching representatives should henceforth be called Regional Coaching CO-ORDINATORS to better reflect their roles.

ACTION: Regions to adopt the new title.

6.6 Volunteers

A request was made as to whether there was anyone amongst the staff who can help to identify volunteers. Hannah, Ian or Alex could help in this. Sport England is also to develop and deliver a volunteering strategy. It was agreed that Junior programmes are useful as can feed parents in. Developing smaller bite sized roles can also be helpful so individuals are not swamped by the enormity of the task.

Date of Next meeting: Aim for end of November