



INTERNATIONAL NETBALL FEDERATION

Dear Members

INF Board Meeting, February 2018

The INF Board met in Los Angeles, USA in February. This first meeting of the year was about 6 weeks earlier than usual to accommodate the timing of the Commonwealth Games in April in the Gold Coast, Australia.

The Board reviewed the progress of the INF in developing netball around the world and discussed the following in relation to the three core strategies outlined in Netball 2020:

Governing with Integrity

- The Board approved the **Operations plan for 2017** and the targets for the year for the nine goals within the Netball 2020 strategic plan.
- The Board noted the **General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR)** that come into force in the EU on 20th May 2018 and the programme of work that had been undertaken at the secretariat to ensure the INF complies with this new legislation. Personal data held by the INF must be protected, new policies are required for handling data and permission must be obtained from individuals to store and use their personal data. Members will see the impact of this in the way in which we work with our netWorld database and mailings. A cyber security audit will take place at the Secretariat in March.
- The Board received an update on the **independent financial audit** for the year to 31st December 2017. The field audit had taken place from 29th January – 1st February and the audit report would be received by the Audit & Finance Committee at the Audit Finalisation Meeting on 22nd February.
- The draft **financial statements for the year to 31st December 2017** were reviewed and the Board noted that the financial position was in line with the Budget. The final financial statements will be sent to the Board to approve by email following the audit finalisation meeting. The approved Annual Report and Accounts will be issued to Members and published on the INF website. This will include a detailed report on the progress towards the Netball 2020 goals.
- The Board considered the **key risks** that face the organisation and how they are mitigated by the operational plans.
- The Board received a report from the **Governance Working Group** regarding their proposed work plan developed following an **independent governance review** of the INF.

- The Board agreed to make more information publically available on the INF website, to demonstrate the working of the Board and Congress and provide greater transparency of the activities of INF.
- As a general policy the Board will adopt the principle that information should be published, unless there is a reason not to do so, such as commercial sensitivity or to protect the identity of individuals.
- The INF will now publish Board decisions (as part of the Member update following the Board meetings), Congress papers and provide worked examples of the INF World rankings.
- The INF will develop campaigning rules for election candidates and publish detailed election procedural rules to support the integrity of the electoral system.
- The Board has developed a rolling review programme to ensure the INF Rules, Regulations, Policies, Guidelines and Position statements are kept up to date and relevant.
- The independent governance review report and work plan will be published on the INF website.
- The INF Position Paper on male participation in netball (from 2011) was reviewed and updated.
- The GWG are reviewing terms of reference for all the Committees, panels and working groups for consistency.
- The Board agreed that the Draw Format Working Group had completed its duties as outlined in the terms of reference.
- The Board approved the appointment of Coaching and Rules Advisory Panel Chairs and Members. An announcement will be made once the individuals concerned have been informed.
- The UAE has become a full Member of INF.
- There were no anti-doping rules violations recorded in netball in 2017.

Thrilling World Class Events

- The Board received the final report from the Netball World Youth Cup 2017 which will be shared with the hosts of the NWYC2021 to enable the transfer of knowledge gained through hosting. The Board considered the event a huge success overall and was delighted with the impact it had on the city of Gaborone and the brand of netball in Botswana and the African continent. The livestreaming and digital strategy had enabled fans around the world to enjoy the tournament live.
- Preparations for the Commonwealth Games Gold Coast are in good shape. An extreme heat policy was approved by the Board to clarify operational procedures should there be any problems with air-conditioning in the venues.
- A CEOs meeting has been planned by INF for those countries participating in (or attending) the Games to consider the international netball event portfolio and calendar. This will be held on the 9th April from 9-12 noon (full details from the INF Secretariat).
- NWC2019 reported on a successful launch event on January 18th in Liverpool. The first NWC2019 Regional Qualifier Europe took place with Scotland and Northern Ireland taking the two qualification spots. The next NWC2019 Regional Qualifier - Oceania - is in April.

- The Board received a report from the newly established Commercial Committee which is overseeing the sale of broadcast rights and sponsorship development for INF.
- The Board has received two expressions of interest to host the Netball World Cup 2023, from Netball South Africa and Netball New Zealand. Detailed bids are due by the end of June 2018.
- The International Umpiring Manager provided a report on officiating which included updates on the officiating community and appointments. netWorld is now being used to process Umpire and UAP recommendations and appointments.
- The Board received a report from Wharton Consulting with regards to establishing a benchmark for 'World Class Officiating' across six key areas:
 - INF Leadership
 - Member Association Programmes
 - Talent & Development
 - Elite Umpire Development
 - Match Deployment
 - Governance, Management & Administration
- The International Umpiring Manager will share the report and action plan with Members in due course. This information in this report will help to guide the work of the officiating advisory groups for 2018/19.

Empowering Through Netball

- The Board reviewed an update report from the Sustainability and Development Working Group. This Group is working to define a fundraising strategy and develop philanthropic opportunities for INF.
- The Board considered reports from the five regional directors and the African Regional Development Manager outlining the development of netball worldwide.
- The CEO shared a Membership Development Model created by the secretariat as well as a document that mapped the activities happening in each Region.
- The Board reviewed the INF Communications plan for 2018 including major campaigns around the Commonwealth Games, NWC2019 and empowerment stories.
- INF is working with each Regional Federation to ensure the NWC2019 qualifiers will be live-streamed.
- Finally the Board reviewed the results of the stakeholder survey carried out by Nielsen research at the end of 2017, which reviewed the strategic vision outlined in Netball 2020, its relevance, appropriateness and the perceived opportunities for netball. The results of this research will be published as part of the Annual Report and Accounts.

The locations of the remaining Board meetings for 2018 were confirmed as Liverpool, England in July and Dubai, UAE in November/December. A summary will be issued to Members after these meetings.

Clare Briegal
 CEO
 International Netball Federation

INF Board Decisions 2018

(This page will be published on the INF website as an ongoing record of decisions made throughout the year.)

Date	Format	Decision
Feb 2018	Board Meeting	Operational plan and targets for 2018 approved
Feb 2018	Board Meeting	Financial Statements would be approved via Email due to the timing of the Board meeting in relation to the external audit.
Feb 2018	Board Meeting	Investment proposal approved – INF reserves retained in an interest bearing savings account with Skipton International Ltd
Feb 2018	Board Meeting	As a general policy the Board will adopt the principle that information should be published, unless there is a reason not to do so, such as commercial sensitivity or to protect the identity of individuals.
Feb 2018	Board Meeting	Updates to 'Position Statement on Male participation in Netball' approved
Feb 2018	Board Meeting	Appointments for Coaching and Rules Advisory Panels from April 1 st approved.
Feb 2018	Board Meeting	Draw Format Working Group will be dissolved.
Feb 2018	Board Meeting	Extreme Heat Policy approved.