

MEMBER UPDATE FOLLOWING BOARD MEETING – DECEMBER 2022

The World Netball Board met online on 9th and 11th December.

World Netball (WN) President, Liz Nicholl CBE chaired the meeting. Ms Cecilia Molokwane was unable to attend for part of the meeting due to travel commitments.

A list of the decisions made by the WN Board in 2022 follows in Appendix 1.

The December 2022 Board meeting focused on the following areas of discussion and decision:

GOVERN

1. Board noted that the Member countries had voted in favour of the proposed changes to the Articles of Association that would enable the appointment of an **athlete director** and an **independent finance director** to the Board. The recruitment of these positions will now begin and this process will be managed by the Nominations Committee. The recommended candidates will be invited to attend Congress 2023, where Members will vote on their appointment.
2. Board agreed the **theme for Congress** (26th and 27th July 2023) and the **agenda** items. Board agreed that Congress would be given an opportunity to determine the priority for action on the items raised by individual Member countries.
3. Board agreed the broad **topics for Congress workshops** (that would take place for Members whilst the NWC2023 is in progress) would be in line with the WN strategies to Grow, to Play and to Inspire.
4. Board agreed the **nomination process for the WN Service Awards 2023** and that Members would be advised of this before the end of 2022. The closing date will be mid-March and awardees would be invited to attend Congress to receive their award in person (at their own cost).
5. Board reviewed the WN **risk register** and the **mitigations** in place to ensure the successful delivery of the World Netball strategic plan. Board noted:
 - a. Rising competition from other sports codes that are targeting women - WN must continue to develop its product offering and ensure netball remains attractive.
 - b. Rising costs (travel/accommodation/salaries due to inflation) - budgets will have to be carefully managed and we may have to cut back on some activities.
 - c. WN must work closely with the NWC2023 OC to ensure timely delivery of key milestones – additional support from WN to start from January.
 - d. Debtors to be monitored and managed carefully to ensure appropriate reserve levels are maintained.
6. Board approved the income and expenditure **budget for 2023**, including Net Effect funding for the Regions of £6k for those regions without an RDM (i.e. Americas, Asia, Europe & Oceania) and £5k for Africa.

GROW

7. A report was shared with the Board that provided subscriber data and the return on investment for the **digital communications campaigns** from the Commonwealth Games Birmingham 2022, NWC2023 Qualifiers and FAST5 Netball World Series. Through our digital strategy WN is growing the reach and profile of our sport.
8. **Netball Pass** is the platform used to deliver netball content to markets where the rights had not been sold for the five NWC2023 Qualifiers and FAST5NWS. The platform has attracted 29,000 subscribers and is becoming the 'home for netball'.

Members are encouraged to sign up and watch matches from all of these events free and on demand at: www.netballpass.com

9. WN's **social media profile** is growing too with **Instagram** showing the highest growth.
10. WN Board has approved an **updated position statement on the inclusion of men and boy's netball** which will be published in January.

PLAY

11. Board reviewed the **NWC2023 Qualifiers** that took place from July to October. At least one member of the WN secretariat had attended each of these events. Board noted the huge reliance on volunteers to deliver these events. A new **event manual** for the qualifiers had been tested and learnings will be included in future editions.
12. **NWC2023 Progress** reports from the Organising Committee, the WN Technical Delegate and the WN Event Consultant were reviewed in detail. Tickets were now on sale for the first three days. However packages for international visitors were yet to be confirmed. 16 teams had been invited to participate and the official draw had taken place. Priority is now for a successful test event at the venue, the CTICC Cape Town, in January 2023 (Quad Series).
13. WN had received 16 Expressions of Interest (EOI) from Members who would like to send a team to participate in the FAST5 competition of the **Commonwealth Youth Games** in Trinidad and Tobago in 2023. However, only 8 EOI had included the information requested by WN. The official entry process is for Commonwealth Games Associations to submit an EOI to the CGF and this process closed on 9th December. WN will review applications with CGF in January 2023. Board confirmed the WN **Technical Delegate** to be recommended for appointment by the CGF – an announcement will be made in the New Year.
14. WN President and CEO visited the proposed netball venue for **CG Victoria 2026** in Bendigo Australia in November and shared their findings with the Board. Netball 7's for women has been confirmed in the programme with the possibility of community-based activities to take place in the run up to the games. Athletes from seven sports will be staying in a new development in Bendigo which will become affordable housing - a part of the legacy of the event. WN will start the process for the selection of the Technical Delegate for this and for the Netball World Cup Sydney 2027 in 2023.
15. WN President and CEO met with the Australian Olympic Committee in Sydney in November to discuss the potential for inclusion in the **Olympic Games Brisbane 2032**. A strong gender-balanced proposition will be required to create a compelling case. The appeal of FAST5 netball and our strong position in Africa was noted.

16. The **Rules Advisory Panel (RAP)** met in December and reviewed 246 submissions it had received from Members and other stakeholder groups for changes to the Rules of Netball. Board noted the substantive rules changes proposed, the plans for drafting of proposed wording (now until March) and for consultation with Members (April). Final rules text to be distributed with Congress papers (May), for sign off by Congress in July.
17. Board was updated on the number of occasions when international teams **failed to fulfil fixtures** in 2022. **WN Regulations** are clear on this and **sanctions had been applied to the teams** involved including the recording of a **loss of the fixture for World Ranking Purposes** and the **maximum level of fines applied**. With the increasing visibility of the sport it is critical that WN Members fulfil the fixtures that they arrange to prevent host nations, their partners and fans from suffering financial losses and damage to the reputation of the sport as a whole.

Members are advised to familiarise themselves with the **WN General Regulations** Clause 6.33-6.35 and the sanctions that are applied when a country fails to fulfil a fixture (Appendix 2):

<https://netball.sport/inside-wn/inf-resources/inf-rules-and-regulations>

INSPIRE

18. Board noted that the World Netball Foundation Board is developing its strategy.

Next Board Meeting: 10th and 12th March 2023 (via Zoom).

Note: Board will have one face to face meeting in 2023 over two days at the NWC2023 and 3 via zoom.

Clare Briegal
CEO

Attachment:

Appendix 1 Board decisions in 2022.