

MEMBER UPDATE FOLLOWING BOARD MEETING – SEPTEMBER 2021

- NWC2023:** The NWC2023 Organising Committee Chair Patience Shikwambana, Board Member Blanche de La Guerre and Project Manager Reabetswe Mpete joined the Board Meeting and shared a presentation covering:

 - WN objectives & NWC2023 objectives, vision & mission.
 - Impact of the event: economic, social cohesion, changing lives of girls and women, boost profile of game in SA to turn into a professional sport.
 - Significant financial support for the event from 3 government spheres and commercial strategy.
 - National Government support from Ministries, Director Generals, Western Cape and City of Cape Town.
 - Event operational planning, transport, accommodation, website, promotional campaign, PR plan (domestic & international).
 - Risk assessment & contingency planning including Covid-19.
 - Legacy program, both domestic and international, and knowledge transfer programme. Upgrading of courts and purchase of wooden sprung floors for each of the 9 Provinces and 2 for Africa Netball.
 - Safety and security planning.

NWC2023 OC will be providing a report to the WN Board each meeting until the event.

- World Rankings decision on annual update:** David Kendix joined the Board Meeting and discussed his recommendations for the annual update to World Rankings, which was deferred from 1st July 2021. The Board approved the recommendation that the Annual Update take place on 1st March 2022, which is one month following the qualification date for the Commonwealth Games 2022.

The Secretariat will arrange a briefing session for Members to provide a full explanation for this decision. David Kendix will be invited to this session to answer any questions that you may have. Look out for a further communication on this.

- Brisbane 2032 Working Group:** A small working group has been established with Netball Australia comprising their CEO & Chair, WN President, Vice-President & CEO. The agenda for the first meeting was shared with WN Board. This set out a list of necessary actions and insights. Further discussions from this WG will be brought to WN Board for any key decisions to be taken and Member consultation will be necessary on some aspects. The proposition needs to be shaped and time given to consideration of the product. A carefully managed, complex influencing strategy is needed. The decision is not likely to be made until 2026 and so there is time to get this right. All comms and actions will be centrally co-ordinated and we will ensure that all developments align with our Grow/Play/Inspire agenda so that Netball 'wins' whatever the outcome. **It was agreed that the Boards/Executives of Regional Federations would be asked to collate any Member questions to be addressed by the WN Board.**
- WN Development Programme:** Kate Agnew and Ivan Harre (Consultants from Aware Analysis) were appointed on 1 September for 12 months and will act as co-leads for WN Global Development. They provided a 12-month Global Development

Plan outlining how they will deliver elements of the plan over the year. Marva Bernard: Director for Americas (MB) has agreed to sponsor this Programme on behalf of the Board. A plan showing workstreams, roles and timeline of project streams was shared with the Board:

- Work with Regional Federations and their strategic growth/development plans to ensure alignment with WN Strategic Plan. They would like to create a flexible Global Intelligence Group.
 - Building member profiles/membership data.
 - NetEffect Effectiveness and the funds WN invests into regions and Members.
 - Maturity model/global development framework/self-assessment tool/sharing.
 - Support on developing men's & boy's strategy.
 - Regional strategies.
5. **Voice of the Athlete Working Group Update:** Chair of this Working Group is in place and athletes are working in pairs to discuss shape of emerging strategy to ensure the perspective of the athlete is considered in the decisions of WN. The group meets next on 28 September and will report to WN Board together with any questions for Board.
 6. **Board Recruitment:** Recruitment of an Independent member of the Board (as agreed at Congress 2019) replacing the Further Director position vacated by our newly appointed Vice President) is progressing well. Congress will need to convene online at an appropriate time to consider the Board's recommendation.
 7. **Congress review:**
 - Minutes have been completed and will be shared with Members shortly.
 - Congress survey: Members were generally satisfied with Congress, delegates liked the Lumi voting platform, and were supportive of additional Congress meetings on a virtual platform.
 - Actions from Congress were captured and noted on the Board action schedule. They will be assigned to the relevant Committees and Working Groups to complete.
 8. **Risks and mitigations:** Board considered the key risks for WN and the mitigations in place.
 9. **WN campaign success:** Board reviewed the impact of the launch of World Netball and the new strategic campaign. They congratulated the executive team and especially Grace Watson Digital Communication Manager for the success of the #YourWorldNetball campaign including the virtual mosaic and the brand ambassadors. Additional brand ambassadors will be announced during September.
 10. **Men's & Boy's position statement:** Work is ongoing to update our Position Statement in line with the new strategic plan and vision for netball to be open to all.
 11. **Requests from Members to consider limited rules modifications and changes to normal procedures:** The Board considered a request to have 3 additional players on the bench during a forthcoming test series. Board agreed this in principle but COVID restrictions subsequently changed and the request was withdrawn by the Members concerned.

The Board however agreed in principle that it would be **open to receiving requests from Members to consider limited rules modifications and changes to normal procedures for international events where severe Covid restrictions were limiting teams' preparations.**

This supports the principle, agreed by the Board in 2020, that **decisions would be made to enable the return to play.** The principle had been applied in the development and approval of the Covid-19 procedures agreed last year for the appointment of umpires during the return to play.

At the September meeting Board agreed it was important to take into consideration the impact of Covid restrictions on the athletes taking part. They agreed to consider modifications to help to address concerns regarding athlete physical preparation and performance readiness, acknowledging mental wellbeing risks due to the stress of changing alert levels and environments.

Each case would be considered on its own merits on a case-by-case basis, ensuring fairness and integrity of the game are maintained.

12. **Next Board Meeting:** 3 and 5 December 2021. A Board update meeting will take place in October to meet with the OC of the NWC2023 and review the shortlist for the Independent Director.
13. **Plans for 2022:** Board will have one face to face meeting in 2022 and 3 via zoom plus additional update meetings on Zoom arranged as required.

Clare Briegal
CEO

DECISIONS OF THE BOARD 2021

Date	Format	Decision
March 2021	Board Meeting	Board approved the deferral of the Annual World Rankings update (which usually takes place at end of June 2021) until a date (still to be agreed) after the qualification date for the CG B2022, when 1 year of data is removed from the INF World Rankings.
March 2021	Board Meeting	The Board agreed to review the timing of the annual World Rankings update at the Board Meeting in October 2021.
March 2021	Board Meeting	Board approved recommended measures to reduce the risk of manipulation of competition, in COVID environment.
March 2021	Board Meeting	Board approved the cancellation of the NWYC 2021, due to the risk factors.
March 2021	Board Meeting	Board approved INF Ltd Financial Statements for period ending 31 December 2020.
March 2021	Board Meeting	Board approved INF Secretariat UK Ltd Financial Statements for period ending 31 December 2020.
March 2021	Board Meeting	Board approved the Letter of Representation for INF Ltd.
March 2021	Board Meeting	Board approved the Letter of Representation for INF Secretariat UK Ltd.
March 2021	Board Meeting	The Board approved Beever and Struthers as the INF's Statutory Auditors for 2021.
March 2021	Board Meeting	Board approved revised benefits for Service award holders / notable groups for recommendation to OC hosting future INF events.
March 2021	Board Meeting	Board approved budget for the World Netball brand launch PR campaign.
March 2021	Board Meeting	Board approved recruitment of part time Head of Development role.
March 2021	Board Meeting	Board agreed to extend the window for Regional Federations to hold their NWC2023 qualifiers by one-week to 22 October 2022.
March 2021	Board Meeting	Board approved Voice of the Athlete Group establishment.
March 2021	Board Meeting	Board approved Directors for Asia and Europe to join the Voice of the Athlete Working Group.
March 2021	Board Meeting	Board approved the revised position statement on Olympic Games.
March 2021	Board Meeting	Board approved the Role Description and Personal Specification for INF Vice-President.
March 2021	Board Meeting	Board agreed to start the recruitment of the Independent Director role once the deadline has passed for nominations for the Vice-President Role.
March 2021	Board Meeting	Board ratified Director of America (Marva Bernard) to continue as a Member of the Audit and Risk Committee until her tenure as a Board Director comes to an end.

World Netball Board Decisions 2021

March 2021	Board Meeting	Board approved the contents and timelines detailed in its Workplan.
March 2021	Board Meeting	Board approved Gibraltar Netball Association as hosts of the NWYC2025, subject to finalisation of the Hosting Agreement (to be announced at a future date).
April 2021	Board Update Meeting	Board agreed to issue netEffect payments for 2021 to the Regional Federations and for Regions to manage this activity, as in previous years
April 2021	Board Update Meeting	Board agreed the structure and draw format for CG B2022, subject to Member Country consultation/agreement.
April 2021	Board Update Meeting	Board ratified the Service Awards which will be presented at Congress 2021.
May 2021	Board Meeting	Board agreed that service award holders be invited attend future Congresses as observers, and for service award holders to be invited to 2021 online event.
May 2021	Board Meeting	Board approved the Company Limited by Guarantee model as the statutory instrument for the Foundation.
May 2021	Board Meeting	Board approved investment and recruitment of the part time Foundation Manager role.
May 2021	Board Meeting	INF Board approved delegation of responsibilities pertaining to Eligibility Regulations for International athletes.
May 2021	Board Meeting	Board approved the revised Audit and Risk Committee Terms of Reference.
May 2021	Board Meeting	Board approved the updated Debtor Policy.
September 2021	Board Meeting	Board agreed that NWC2023 Board could attend and be introduced during next WN Board Update Meeting.
September 2021	Board Meeting	Board requested that countries who are at risk of losing rankings in the Annual Update are made aware of this risk by the Secretariat.
September 2021	Board Meeting	Board approved the recommendation that the next Annual Update take place on 1 st March 2022.
September 2021	Board Meeting	Board agreed that Regional Boards/Executives be asked to collate any Member questions they may have regarding Olympic Games Brisbane 2032.
September 2021	Board Meeting	Board approved the structure as proposed of the WN Foundation.
September 2021	Board Meeting	Board agreed to put on hold the Inspire Women's Leadership Programme until the Foundation is established and funding identified to cover the programme.
September 2021	Board Meeting	Board agreed to review Men & Boy's Position Statement including input from Regional Federations.
September 2021	Board Meeting	Board agreed for pilot use of director skills audit pack to help inform its final shape, to inform Board development needs and the competencies we will seek in future Board Members.
September 2021	Board Meeting	Board approved updated Board Governance Policy.

World Netball Board Decisions 2021

September 2021	Board Meeting	Board agreed to reduce to one face-to-face meeting for 2022 and other meetings to be held by Zoom.
September 2021	Board Meeting	Board agreed a higher level of priority with regard to WN stance on sub-regions.
September 2021	Board Meeting	Board agreed to exceptional changes to team bench should they be required in response to unprecedented Covid restrictions.
September 2021	Board Meeting	Board agreed to share Board minutes with independent members of the Audit & Risk and Governance Committees.
September 2021	Board Meeting	Board agreed to an additional update meeting on 16th October to discuss (i) NWC2023 and invite the NWC2023 Board to attend and (ii) Independent Director.