

MEMBER UPDATE FOLLOWING BOARD MEETING – SEPTEMBER 2022

The World Netball Board met in person from 2-4th September in Cape Town, South Africa. This was the first face-to-face Board meeting held since October 2019, nearly 3 years ago, due to the global Covid-19 pandemic.

World Netball (WN) President, Liz Nicholl CBE chaired the meeting. Rob Mills, Independent Director attended via video conference as he had been called away on business at short notice and all other Directors attended in person.

WN President opened the meeting by acknowledging the warm welcome the Board had received from the Minister for Sports, Arts and Culture Republic of South Africa, Mr Nkosinathi Emmanuel 'Nathi' Mthethwa, Cecelia Molokwane, President of the Board of Netball South Africa and Patience Shikwambana, Chairperson of the Board of the Organising Committee (OC) of the Netball World Cup Cape Town 2023 (NWC2023), at an official welcome dinner organised the previous evening in Cape Town.

A list of the decisions made in 2022 follows in Appendix 1, including those decisions made at the Board meeting held on-line in June.

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

INTRODUCTORY SESSION

The Board meeting began with a full report from Ian Holloway, World Netball's Technical Delegate, on the recent **Commonwealth Games Birmingham 2022** (CG B2022). Despite the concerns regarding the potential impact of Covid-19, the event had concluded successfully on 8th August with Australia winning Gold, Jamaica Silver and New Zealand Bronze – congratulations to all the teams for their performance and making it a truly thrilling world class event. Over 140,000 tickets were sold for the event (25% more than at our last World Cup), with sell-out crowds for nearly all sessions. The CG was a wonderful showcase for netball and Board was extremely grateful to Ian, the OC staff and volunteers, including the WN Officials (Match Officials, UAP and Jury of Appeal) and for their hard work and dedication in the lead up to and throughout the event.

At the CG, World Netball had taken the opportunity to call together representatives of Members who were attending the Games, as participants or spectators, to consider the future of our game and in particular to identify **priorities in relation to our WN strategy 'To Grow, To Play and To Inspire', over the next 10 years**. The feedback from those sessions was shared with the whole Board and used to inform the remainder of the agenda of the Board meeting.

Board agreed that it would be important to share this thinking with Members who were not able to attend these meetings and workshops. It was agreed that there would be an on-line **Member Briefing held on 13th September** (two sessions and recorded for those who were unable to attend) to enable this to happen.

GOVERN

1. Board had a **full strategic discussion**, taking into account the input from Members on the 10-year vision for Grow, Play and Inspire and has developed its thinking in relation to
 - a. The **unique positioning of netball** and in relation to the growth of other Women's sports.
 - b. The **development of high-performance Men's netball**
 - c. The **development of the FAST5 format of netball** in addition to the 7's game, over a 10-year roadmap.
 - d. The **strategy for multi-sport games** including the Commonwealth Games and the Olympic Games.
 - e. The need for **strategic geographic expansion** of the game across our 5 Regions both within the Commonwealth and beyond.
 - f. The development of a **World Netball digital platform** to enable a step change in sharing of knowledge between Members, Regions and World Netball, in order to support the development and growth of netball in line with our aspirations.
2. Board considered the need for a number of **Working Groups** to support the rapid development of these strategic themes in a manner that would ensure netball remains at the forefront of women's sport.
3. **WN Congress 2023 will take place on 26-27th July 2023** in the conference suite of the Westin Hotel, Cape Town. Board approved the outline theme and agenda and agreed that each Regional Federation would be entitled to send an Observer so ensure that this important part of our governance structure may be recognised and Regions may benefit from being included. Board supported the development of a workshop programme for Members to be held during the netball competition following Congress.
4. Board discussed the recommendations of the Governance Committee in relation to the **further development of the WN Board structure** (including the Finance Director and an Athlete Director) and agreed that Members would be invited to a consultation on this specific matter, on a date in October (to be arranged) following the general Member briefing on September 13th. This further consultation session would provide Members with the opportunity to hear the proposals, ask questions and provide feedback.
5. Board approved the budget assumptions for the development of the income and expenditure **budget for 2023** noting the changing economic landscape and increases in costs. The executive team was tasked to **investigate** the affordability of creating a **global development challenge fund** which would enable Regions to bid for additional money to support their strategic (and sustainable) growth plans.
6. Board approved the following regulations and guidelines:
 - a. For publication and onward communication, following earlier consultation with Members:

i. World Netball Policy on Participation and Inclusion

Board noted that this policy includes the latest views on Transgender participation and therefore Board and Members will be supported on the communication of this updated policy. Given the sensitivity of this topic Members are asked to await

instruction from World Netball on timing and method of the dissemination of this policy.

- b. For consultation with Members:
 - i. A new **World Netball Safeguarding Policy** that applies to Board, Staff and volunteers working on behalf of WN etc.
 - ii. Updated **Safeguarding Guidelines for WN Members and Regional Federations**

PLAY

7. The **NWC2023** OC provided a **tour of the Cape Town International Convention Centre**, the main venue for the NWC2023 which runs from 28th July – 6th August 2023. This informative tour was followed by an **in-depth presentation** led by NWC2023 Tournament Director Ms Priscilla Masisi which covered the **status of all the key operational milestones for the event**, as well as the progress on the domestic and international legacy programmes. The **OC is on track to deliver a spectacular event**. Details will be shared at the Member Briefing. Teams that have qualified to participate via their world ranking or via the regional qualifiers will be invited to participate by World Netball and then they will start to receive detailed information directly from the OC.
8. NWC2023 qualifiers are in progress as follows:
 - a. Oceania: Fiji (completed 16th – 23rd July) – **Tonga and Fiji** have qualified.
 - b. Africa: South Africa (completed 20th – 27th August) – **Malawi and Zimbabwe** have qualified
 - c. Asia: Singapore (3rd – 11th September)
 - d. Europe: Scotland (12th – 16th October)
 - e. Americas: Jamaica (15th – 22nd October)

Note: South Africa has prequalified as host and Australia, New Zealand, Jamaica, England and Uganda prequalified due to their WN World Ranking positions.
9. Qualifiers have been streamed via **NetballPass.com** where the rights have not been sold to local or regional broadcasters. WN Board is delighted with the performance of the OTT platform and subscribers are growing steadily. Members are invited to share footage of their international matches for inclusion on this platform which we hope will become a global home for netball.
10. Board approved the **qualification process** for the 20 teams who will participate at the **Netball World Youth Cup 2025**. This will be confirmed to Members in writing and at the Member briefing on the 13th September.
11. Board approved the formation of a **Working Group (WG) to review the qualification process for the NWC2027**. Feedback was given on proposed Terms of Reference (TOR). Regions will be invited to nominate individuals to be on this WG in addition to Netball Australia – who are the hosts of the NWC2027.
12. Board received a report from the CEO regarding an opportunity for netball to submit an **Expression of Interest (EOI)** to the OC of the **CG Victoria 2026** for the **inclusion of the FAST5** format of netball **in addition to the 7's game which has already been confirmed**. WN, in conjunction with Netball Australia had submitted this by the deadline

of 19th August. A decision will be made in mid-September by the OC as to which sports to propose to the CGF and Members will be kept informed.

13. CGF has confirmed that the **Commonwealth Youth Games** will go ahead in Trinidad and Tobago in 2023. **FAST5** netball will be included for the first time. Members will be sent an EOI to complete if they are interested in being one of the 8 teams to participate. The qualification process will be determined by WN with the CGF once responses to the EOI have been received. The age group will be 20 and under – normally the CYG is for athletes aged 18 and under, but because the Games are running 2 years later than planned the organisers were keen that the relevant athletes did not miss out.

GROW

14. Ivan Harre and Kate Agnew Co-leads for WN Global Development provided an update on the **Global Development Plan**. The development of **regional strategies** has been progressing; Europe, Oceania and the Americas have completed their strategy development and are in operational planning/delivery stages. Asia and Africa are in the earlier stages but initial meetings have been had with the executive Board of both.
15. The **Maturity Model** has been tested successfully with Hong Kong (in addition to Botswana) and is now ready to be trialled in all regions. Ivan is developing the questions used to assess a netball association's maturity (stage of development) so that nations may self-assess without the need for his involvement in all cases. It was suggested that 'super-users' could be identified and trained in each Region to enable this tool to be rolled out to the benefit of all.
16. Following the focus groups that took place to develop a deeper understanding of the position of **men's and mixed netball** around the globe, a new position statement has been proposed. Board agreed this should be shared with Members and Regions before it is signed off and published widely.
17. The Chair of the **Officiating Advisory Panel**, Garratt Williamson, provided the Board with an update on the panel's **strategic framework**, which will guide the development of the operational plan for the panel over the coming years. The framework is strongly connected to WN strategy and has been reviewed and agreed with the other technical panel chairs (Coaching AP and Rules AP).
18. The topic of official betting sponsors was considered in detail by the Board. The Board decided that a policy would be written that would enable betting sponsors to be considered for World Netball events, provided the sponsor had appropriate policies and procedures in relation to 'responsible betting' and that they would deliver integrity training for participants (players and officials in particular) and global monitoring services to help WN in the fight against match-fixing.

INSPIRE

19. Board noted that the newly appointed World Netball Foundation Board has had its first (introductory) meeting. Members will be informed on the progress to establish the Foundation at the briefing on 13th September.

Next Board Meeting: 9th and 11th December 2022 (via Zoom).

Plans for 2023: 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 YTD.