

MEMBER UPDATE FOLLOWING BOARD MEETING – MARCH 2023

The World Netball Board met online on 10th and 12th March 2023.

World Netball (WN) President, Liz Nicholl CBE chaired the meeting and all directors were present.

A list of the decisions made by Board in 2023 follows in Appendix 1.

The March 2023 Board meeting focused on the following areas of discussion and decision:

GOVERN

1. Board reviewed the Financial Statements for 2022 prepared by management and received the audit management letter from Beever & Struthers.
2. Board agreed to defer the approval of the financial statements for 2022 to no later than 1st May 2022 to allow the position on current debtors to be resolved.
3. Board approved the appointment of Beever and Struthers as the statutory auditors for 2022.
4. Board reviewed the World Netball risk register taking note of new and rising risks and the mitigations in place to ensure the successful delivery of the World Netball strategic plan. Board considered:
 - a. Ongoing risk of failure relating to the availability of officials for international matches. Board reflected on the period immediately following NWC2019 when there were challenges in availability of officials. Board suggested this matter is raised with Members at Congress.
 - b. Risks relating to the delivery of the forthcoming NWC2023; assurance was given that the recent change in Minister of Sport and Recreation in South Africa and the current challenges of load shedding (power cuts) did not present significant risks.
 - c. Forthcoming WADA compliance questionnaire and possibility of new requirements for 2023.
5. The Board noted the successful recruitment process led by the Nominations Committee of both the Independent Finance Director and Athlete Director and agreed to refer the recommended candidates to Congress 2023 for election.
6. The Board noted the finalised agenda for Congress 2023 and the draft timetable for workshops.
7. The Board noted a sub-group had met to discuss nominations for service award. Some amazing candidates were nominated, however as their contribution was limited to national and not international their nominations were deemed ineligible. The remaining candidates were tested for significant contribution in relation to governance or to one of the WN strategies of Grow, Play or Inspire.
8. Board agreed on several candidates to receive a World Netball Service Award 2023. The individuals and their nominating countries would be advised so they can be invited to attend Congress in person to receive their award. Note: Unfortunately World Netball is unable to fund the individuals' travel and accommodation. The individuals' names will not be announced until Congress itself.

9. Board noted the induction policy that will be followed for all new directors to support their appointment to the WN Board.

INSPIRE

10. Board noted the progress made by the World Netball Foundation and their Board of trustees:
 - a. a bank account has been opened;
 - b. the Charity Commission application has been filed; and
 - c. a draft strategy has now been agreed.
11. Board agreed to the Foundation connecting with Members who have worked in the Sport for Development sector.
12. Board noted that the Trustees of the Foundation will be attending Congress and they will meet with the Board and Members then.

PLAY

13. Board received Reports from the NWC2023 Organising Committee and Technical Delegate who also attended part of the board meeting. Board noted the contents of these Reports and in particular:
 - a. ticket sales progress and the promotional plan required to ensure all sessions are sold;
 - b. plans for ceremonies: some details and speakers to be confirmed;
 - c. the plan to deploy the WN Events Consultant for 4 days per week to support the OC in the delivery of the event;
 - d. the CTICC had been used during the recent Quad series and lessons learnt.
14. Board received a Final Report from the host OC of the FAST5 Netball World Series 2022 following this tournament held in November in New Zealand. Board congratulated Netball New Zealand on delivering a high quality event. Board noted the superb performance of the competing teams, the popularity of the men's invitational teams and that the priorities for 2023 would be:
 - a. Enhanced commercial programme.
 - b. Higher ticket sales.
15. Board agreed the qualification process for FAST5 NWS 2023. A full announcement on the event qualification process and the dates and location of the event will follow shortly.
16. Board agreed:
 - a. The dates of the Netball World Youth Cup 2025 (NWYC2025) Gibraltar as Friday 19th to Sunday 28th September 2025;
 - b. The window for the Qualifiers for NWYC2025 will be from 1st January 2024 to 1st October 2024 (noting Regions should take into consideration the timing of the professional leagues and the potential non-availability of some players when deciding their precise dates.)
 - c. Where Regions wish to hold their NWYC qualifiers outside the qualification window then they should seek approval in writing from the WN Board.

d. WN Congress 2025 will be Wednesday 17th to Thursday 18th September.

17. Board received a Report from the Technical Delegate of CYG Trnabago 2023 and noted:

- a. The venue has been confirmed as Shaw Park Complex in Tobago;
- b. New floor has been purchased and tested. It will be laid down from 1st to 11th May at which time it will be marked and an opportunity will be afforded to teams to test the court.
- c. The 8 teams invited to send a team to participate at CYG T2023 were announced this week in conjunction with the Commonwealth Games Federation.

GROW

18. A Report was shared with Board showing the Direct to Consumer Strategy showing how WN will add value through an updated digital strategy. WN will be building on its successful use of NetballPass to stream the NWC qualifiers and FAST5 NWS and working in partnership with Pumpjack Dataworks as recently announced.

19. Board received a Report from the Global Development Co-Lead and agreed in principle to the workplan for 2023.

20. Board considered and approved a proposal regarding the allocation of funds which will be made available for global development through the hosting agreement for the NWC2027 (subject to agreement with Netball Australia the host).

21. Board discussed the regional reports received from each regional director and in particular noted that France had recently become a full Member and that a significant number of countries are seeking Associate Membership or are on the pathway to Full Membership of WN including Benin and Sierra Leone in Africa; Mexico and the US Virgin Islands in the Americas; Vietnam in Asia; Spain, Denmark and Sweden in Europe; and Solomon Islands in Oceania. Other items of note by region are:

a. Africa

- i. The opportunity for growing netball across Africa in partnership with the Wallace Group, who developed a toolkit for establishing sustainable community hub sites during the NWC2019 legacy programme.
- ii. Africa Region Games delayed to 2024.

b. Americas

- i. Delivered a surplus on the NWC2023 qualifiers held in Jamaica;
- ii. Countries have brought in new sponsors;
- iii. Region is developing its calendar of events;
- iv. Proposed the NWYC 2025 Qualifiers will take place during June 2024 in Guadeloupe.

c. Asia

- i. Proposed that the NWYC 2025 Qualifiers will take place during June in South Korea;
- ii. Netball Hong Kong will change its name to Hong Kong, China from 1st July 2023;
- iii. lots of examples of countries supporting development of one another.

d. Europe

- i. online coaching programmes continue to do well;
- ii. Joan Mills (President England Netball) had taken on the role of Emerging Countries Co-Ordinator for Europe Netball.

e. Oceania

- i. PacificAUS series held again;
- ii. Views on World Rankings regarding minimum of matches.

22. Board noted that the Medical Committee is due to be reappointed. Recruitment will begin for Chair and Members (current members are encouraged to apply). Board agreed to rename this Committee in line with other technical panels as the Medical Advisory Panel (MAP). A Board Member has agreed to sit on the recruitment panel and current chair of another advisory panel will be asked to join this recruitment panel as well.

Reports & Minutes

23. Board approved the minutes from December 2022 meeting and the status of the matters arising.

24. The Board noted the minutes from the following Committee Meetings:

- a. Governance: December 2022;
- b. Commercial: January 2023;
- c. Nominations: February 2023;
- d. Medical: March 2023.

25. Various Executive Reports were received including:

- a. CEO: priority is the successful delivery of NWC2023;
- b. International Officiating Manager: several workforce appointments and re-appointments have been made and the officials for NWC2023 announced;
- c. Digital Marketing: launch of coaching hub and NWC2023 game in partnership with Gilbert Netball.

26. Reports were received from the following advisory panels:

- a. Coaching (CAP): all regions to nominate a person for CAP sub-working group;
- b. Officiating (OAP): noted their significant workload;
- c. Rules (RAP): feedback sought from World Netball Board on rules proposals before they are presented to Congress 2023 – Board has asked the secretariat team to review these. New Terms of Reference were proposed – these will be referred to the Governance Committee.

Next Board Meeting: 25th and 29th July 2023 in person.

Clare Briegal, CEO

Attachment: Appendix 1 Board decisions in 2023 YTD

Date	Format	Decision
February 2023	Email	Board decided that the minimum number of matches required for a world ranking would remain at 6 matches for the annual update on 1 st March but from 1 st September 2023, the minimum number of matches to be played for a ranking will revert back to 8 matches over 3-4 year ranking period.
March 2023	Board Meeting	Board accepted the audit management letter from Beever and Struthers re audit of the financial statements of International Netball Federation Limited for the year ended 31 December 2022.
March 2023	Board Meeting	Board decided to defer the approval of the financial statements for 2022 to no later than 1 st May 2023 to allow the position on current debtors to be resolved.
March 2023	Board Meeting	Board approved Beever and Struthers as statutory auditors for 2023.
March 2023	Board Meeting	Board approved the recommended candidate to be presented to Congress 2023 for Independent Financial Director Role.
March 2023	Board Meeting	Board approved the recommended candidate to be presented to Congress 2023 for Athlete Director Role.
March 2023	Board Meeting	Board approved the individuals to be awarded a World Netball service award during Congress 2023.
March 2023	Board Meeting	Board approved the event format and qualification of teams to compete in FAST5 NWS 2023.
March 2023	Board Meeting	Board approved the dates of NWYC2025 and window for regional qualifiers.
March 2023	Board Meeting	Board agreed the proposal for the Global Development workplan for 2023.
March 2023	Board Meeting	Board approved the allocation of funds from NWC2027 to global development subject to agreement with the host country.
March 2023	Board Meeting	Board approved the process for the appointment of the new Medical Advisory Panel in 2023 incl. Board member and independent representation on interview panel.
March 2023	Board Meeting	Board approved the minutes from December 2022 board meeting.
March 2023	Board Meeting	Board approved the independent chair for the WN Event Qualification Working Group.
March 2023	Board meeting	Board approved the principle of WN endorsement scheme for Regional and National coaching courses.