

Member update following the INF Board Meeting July 2019

The INF Board met on July 9th and 11th in Liverpool, England before the Vitality Netball World Cup 2019.

The key items discussed on the 9th July were:

Governing with Integrity

INF Congress

The Board considered the agenda for the INF Congress which was to be held on the 10th and 11th July in Liverpool including the agenda items from the INF Members. They confirmed the election process for President and Finance Director.

The Board reviewed the Congress Workshop programme that was to be delivered between the 12th and 18th July. The topics were based on the three core strategies of the INF strategic plan Netball 2020:

- Governing with Integrity
- Thrilling World Class Events
- Empowering Through Netball

The Board agreed that in 2020 INF Membership fees will be increased by 2.5%.

Member Category	2020 Fees £
Up to 1,000 members	654.10
1,001 – 5,000 members	981.13
5,001 – 15,000	2616.38
15,001 and above	26163.80
New Member Application Fee	256.25

The Board reviewed the **financial position** of the INF and considered the **budget assumptions** for income and expenditure for 2020 and undertook a **review of the key risks** that face the organisation and how they are mitigated by the operational plans.

The Board was informed that WADA had identified a 'non-conformity with mandatory requirements' of the Anti-Doping Code in relation to the INF testing programme. WADA advised that despite the low perceived risk of doping in netball, given the large participation base and the increasing profile of the sport they would expect the INF to carry out more testing for banned substances particularly out of competition. The additional testing will have to start in 2019 and this will have implications on the budget.

Thrilling World Class Events

The **Netball World Cup** (VNWC2019) Organising Committee (OC) were invited to present the final preparations for the competition to the Board. The Board were delighted with the progress that had been made. The President wished the OC success in delivering a thrilling world class event.

The Board was asked to review some of the netball uniforms for the VNWC2019 that breached the INF Uniform regulations (due to the size and/or number of sponsor logos) and confirm the sanctions that would be applied.

Members are reminded that the uniform regulations are important and must be adhered to at international events. The regulations are there to protect the commercial rights of all the stakeholders and ensure teams and their sponsors are treated fairly.

A number of countries had outstanding invoices relating to accommodation for Congress and the VNWC2019. The Board noted that the OC would continue to chase these sums and that teams would not be allowed to enter the court if the invoices were not paid. Similarly Congress delegate subsidies would not be paid if there were sums owing.

The Board reviewed the plans for the Netball World Youth Cup Suva 2021 and agreed that the dates proposed by the OC would be presented at Congress i.e. 10th – 19th June 2021. This timing would ensure lower-cost (university) accommodation was available for the participating teams.

The NWYC 2021 Regional Qualifier – Asia – had taken place in Japan with the qualifying teams being: Malaysia, Singapore and Sri Lanka.

The International Umpiring Manager provided the Board with an update on officiating including the forthcoming launch of a new visual identity for ‘World Class Officiating’.

Empowering through Netball

The Board reviewed the plans to launch the INF Foundation and Creating Choices fundraising campaign.

The Board reviewed the progress of Member netball associations around the world. Each of the regional directors gave a report which included updates from the Regional AGMs that had taken place in Asia, the Americas, Europe and Oceania. The Africa Netball AGM will take place in October.

Trinidad and Tobago has been selected as host for the Commonwealth Youth Games 2021 (1st – 7th August) and netball will be included in the programme. The qualification process is to be agreed with INF. The age group is 17/18 but to be confirmed.

Next Board meeting

The Board will meet next in Singapore from 25th – 27th October 2019.

Date	Format	Decision
Jan 2019	Board Meeting	Approval of the host of the Netball World Cup 2023.
Jan 2018	E-mail	Approval of the Chair and members of the INF Medical Committee.
Mar 2019	Board Meeting	The 2018 financial statements of INF Ltd and INF Secretariat UK Ltd. were approved.
Mar 2019	Board Meeting	Investment proposal approved – INF reserves retained in an interest bearing savings account with Skipton International Ltd
Mar 2019	Board Meeting	Beever & Struthers Ltd. were appointed as auditors for 2019, subject to a change in audit partner.
Mar 2019	Board Meeting	The Board agreed that Ann Tod, Finance Director be appointed as a Director of INF Secretariat UK Ltd.
Mar 2019	Board Meeting	Updated Terms of Reference of the Governance Committee were approved.
Mar 2019	Board Meeting	All committee Terms of Reference should include an equality statement and a provision that limits the terms of members to 12 years (excluding staff).
Mar 2019	Board Meeting	The Jury of Appeal were appointed for NWC2019 and a number of sanctions to be applied to teams or participants failing to adhere to the event regulations were approved.
Mar 2019	Board meeting	The Board agreed funding for an International Umpiring project.
Mar 2019	Board meeting	The Board approved funding for a fundraising trial for 2019.

Mar 2019	Board Meeting	The Board agreed that due to the exceptional circumstances related to the timing of the Pacific Games and the VNWC2019, Netball Samoa's games at both events would be eligible for ranking points. This decision not to be taken as a precedent for other concurrent tournaments.
Jul 2019	Board Meeting	The Board decided that sanctions for breaching INF uniform regulations at the Netball World Cup could be applied in relation to each time a team takes to court. In order to ensure consistency of approach with previous events, should a team breach the regulation for the first time it would be sanctioned once in the tournament.
Jul 2019	Board Meeting	Investment plan approved
Jul 2019	Board Meeting	Budget assumptions for 2020 approved including an increase to anti-doping testing.
Jul 2019	Board Meeting	The Board decided that the increase for Membership fees for 2020 should be 2.5%.
Jul 2019	Board Meeting	The Board decided that Janet Wrighton, Molly Rhone and Sue Taylor would be the initial trustees for the International Netball Foundation Charity.
Jul 2019	Board Meeting	The Board agreed to send a delegate (Regional Director – Americas) to the SportAccord Regional meeting in the USA in December 2019.
Jul 2019	Board Meeting	The Board agreed that the NWYC2021 Qualifier - Europe could take place after the 31 st July deadline (in October 2020).

Member update following the INF Congress July 2019

INF Congress was held on 10th & 11th in Liverpool, England before the Vitality Netball World Cup 2019. 41 Full Members and 2 Associate Members were represented in person – this was INF’s largest ever Congress. Proxies were received from 6 Full Members.

Governing with Integrity

INF President, Hon Molly Rhone OJ, CD, was unwell and so Sue Taylor AM, Vice President chaired the Congress. The Vice President welcomed delegates especially those Presidents and delegates who were attending for the first time. A list of the departed was honoured.

CEO Clare Briegal presented the Board Report focusing on the progress on delivering the strategic plan as outlined in Netball 2020 and Ann Tod, INF Finance Director, presented the Financial Report.

Proposed changes to the INF Articles of Association were approved by Congress including a change to the process for appointing the ‘Further Director’. From 2021 this Director will be appointed by a nominations committee and the position will be known as ‘Independent Director’.

Rowland Jack from iTrust Sport reported on the independent review of governance that he had carried out on behalf of the General Association of International Sports Federations. INF had been ranked 2nd of the 54 International Federations in the benchmarking study – showing Netball’s strong commitment to good Governance.

Member Applications

Cote D’Ivoire was accepted by Congress as a Full Member of INF and Tokelau was accepted as Associate Member.

Board Elections

Hon Molly Rhone had reached her maximum term allowable as a Director of INF and so she would be stepping down at the end of the VNWC2019. Elections for President and Finance Director were held at Congress. The nominations for President were:

- Dr Patricia Butcher nominated by Trinidad and Tobago
- Liz Nicholl CBE nominated by England

The candidates each presented to Congress and Liz Nicholl was elected as President - see the INF Website <https://netball.sport/archives/16577> for more details.

Ann Tod New Zealand was elected unopposed for a further four years as Finance Director.

Congress noted the appointment of the following INF Directors, elected by their respective regional Federations:

- Americas – Marva Bernard
- Asia – Gaby Hochbaum
- Europe – Lyn Carpenter
- Oceania – Wainikiti Bogidrau

The new Directors 4 year term of office began on 21st July 2019, after the closing ceremony of the netball World Cup.

Tebogo Lebotse Sebege PCH will remain an INF Director until the Africa Netball AGM when an election will take place for the INF Board Director – Africa.

The elections for Vice-President and Independent Director will take place at Congress 2021.

Thrilling World Class Events

A presentation was made by Waikiti Bogidrau, President of Netball Fiji on their plans for hosting Netball World Youth Cup 2021 to be held in Suva, Fiji from 10th – 19th June 2021.

Mokoditloa Eliakim Moemi, Sport and Recreation Director General, Republic of South Africa introduced a video presenting the outline plans for the Netball World Cup in Cape Town South Africa in 2023 and invited Members to attend NWC2023 and the INF Congress 2023 that will run alongside the event.

Nathi Mthethwa Minister for Sports Education and Culture, RSA, echoed the invitation to Cape Town in 2023 and gave his full commitment to supporting the event.

CEO Clare Briegal launched the Bidding Process for NWYC2025 and NWC2027. Key Deadlines are:

- Expressions of Interest (EOI) must be submitted in writing by 31st December 2019.
- The Bid Application Documents will be circulated by 15th November 2019 (following the next INF Board meeting)
- Full Bids must be received by INF by 31st March 2020.
- A full Bid Evaluation will be carried out from 1st April – 31st September 2020
- Hosts will be announced by year end 2020

Member Items from Congress

A number of Members' items were discussed at Congress which will be considered by the Board:

- Review the INF Player Eligibility Regulations
- Review the INF Rules of Netball Footwork Offence
- Create policies for International Test Matches
- Increase the number of countries playing at the Netball World Cup
- Transgender Policy/Guidelines for Community Netball
- Netball World Cup International Trophy Tour
- Officially Recognise Men Netball & World Cup
- Offer Coaching & Umpiring Courses for developing nations

Governance in Action

Caroline Barker, sports journalist introduced this session which comprised of two panel discussions followed by an interview with Sharni Layton ex Australian Diamond netball player and World Champion.

The first panel session looked at player and participant welfare and wellbeing; Julie Harrington, CEO of British Cycling and Malebo Raditladi, Welfare Officer from the Netball World Youth Cup 2017 shared their experiences of player and participant welfare and wellbeing. They highlighted the role of governance in tackling bullying behaviours and discrimination and the SafeSport programme that was in place at NWYC 2017.

The second panel session looked at injury prevention in Netball. Kate Agnew, Netball New Zealand gave Congress an insight into the Netball Smart Programme currently in use in New Zealand and Alanna Ancliff, Physio of the Diamonds gave an overview of The Knee Programme (prevention of knee injury in netball) currently in place in Australia.

In her interview Sharni Layton gave Congress a personal perspective on the pressures faced by elite athletes and netballers in particular. She emphasised the need for good psychological support for athletes and the need for breaks during the season and between domestic and international seasons to ensure that athletes have the space to manage their mental health.

INF Service Award Recipients

- Tina Browne, Cook Islands.

- Janet Wrighton MBE, England.
- Cheryl Dawson MNZM, New Zealand.

The awards for Janet and Cheryl would be presented in person, locally, at a future date. See their full citations on the INF website here: <https://netball.sport/inside-inf/service-award-holders>

Congress 2019 concluded and the Vice President thanked all delegates for attending.

All the presentations from Congress may be viewed on the INF YouTube Channel:
<https://www.youtube.com/c/internationalnetball>

Congress Workshops

A full programme of workshops based on the three core strategies from Netball 2020 took place from 12th – 16th July during the NWC 2019. The slides from these workshops will be published on the INF Website.

Member Survey Regarding Congress

We have sent a survey to all Members and to those individuals who attended Congress to receive your feedback. If you have not yet filled in this survey please do so, by 31st August so that we can plan effectively for the next Congress.

The link to the survey is:
<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/KKJTY25>

The next INF Congress will be held June 8th & 9th 2021 in Suva, Fiji.

Clare Briegal
INF CEO