

## **MEMBER UPDATE FOLLOWING BOARD MEETING – JULY 2023**

The World Netball Board met in person in Cape Town on 25<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> July 2023.

1. World Netball (WN) President, Dame Liz Nicholl DBE chaired the meetings and all the Board attended apart from Cecilia Molokwane who was unable to attend the meeting on the 29<sup>th</sup> of July. The new directors-elect were invited to attend the second meeting on the 29<sup>th</sup>. They are:
  - Suri Bartlett – Independent Director - Finance
  - Stacey Francis-Bayman – Athlete Director
  - Victoria Lakshmi – Regional Director, Asia
  - Dr Bridget Adams – Regional Director, Americas
2. Board gave thanks to the directors who would be stepping down at the end of NWC2023 and acknowledged the significant contribution they had made to the work of WN. They are:
  - Ann Tod – 12 years 3 full terms as Finance Director, Chair of Audit & Risk Committee (A&RC) and Governance for 4 years.
  - Marva Bernard – 1 term as Regional Director for Americas – led on Global development (this was Marva's second time of serving on the Board having also served for 12 years from 1999 to 2011) and member of A&RC.
  - Gaby Hochbaum – 2 terms as Regional Director for Asia – Governance Committee for 8 years and Board support to Voice of the Athlete WG.

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

The July 2023 Board Meetings focused on the following areas of discussion and decision:

### **GOVERN**

3. Board reviewed the agenda for Congress 2023 and noted details of items where delegates would be asked to vote i.e., resolutions and elections. An external company had been engaged to provide an electronic voting system to ensure the ballot was secret and to provide independent scrutiny.
4. Board noted the names of the WN Service Awardees for 2023 and all agreed that their contribution to our sport had made a significant difference over the years.
5. Board noted the schedule for various workshops, panel meetings and functions which were to take place during the Netball World Cup 2023 (NWC2023).
6. Board noted that as several directors are stepping down, it was a good time to receive updates from the following Committees on the work undertaken:
  - Audit & Risk Committee
  - Commercial Committee
  - Governance Committee
  - Nominations Committee
7. Board thanked all Committee members for the work undertaken during the past 4 years and acknowledged the current vacancies on each committee once current board directors stepped down at the end of NWC2023.

8. Board noted that following three incidents of failure to fulfil fixtures and application of sanctions by WN, that an independent investigation had taken place regarding one of those to determine whether any disciplinary action should be taken. The decision of the investigating officer was that no (further) disciplinary action would be taken. An action plan to improve processes has been proposed following the investigation.
9. Board noted the rising and 'red' risks identified on the risk register and considered the impact on WN cashflow of certain debts relating to the Netball World Cup 2023. Once the payments had been transferred by the LOC, then the Congress Delegates Subsidy would be paid to full Members.
10. Board approved updates to the following policies:
  - WN Data Protection Policy (April 2023)
  - WN Privacy Policy (April 2023)
  - WN Data Breach Policy (April 2023)
  - WN Document Data Retention Policy (April 2023)
  - WN Subject Access Request Policy (April 2023)
11. Board approved the following Terms of Reference that had been updated:
  - Audit & Risk Committee
  - Commercial Committee
  - Governance Committee
  - Nominations Committee
12. Board approved the minutes of the full Board meeting in March and interim updates held in April and May.
13. Board noted contents of Executive Reports received from the CEO, International Officiating Manager and Digital Marketing Manager.
14. Board noted the report received from CAP and the success of the recent coaching conversation webinars.
15. During the second board meeting following Congress where the directors-elect were present, a discussion took place regarding Board governance and the processes undertaken, handling decision making and conflict of interest, as well as balancing Member communication and confidentiality.
16. The President (and Chair of the Board) explained how the Board operates with regard to meetings and papers supplied. Board noted the membership of the Committees, which includes two Board members, WN staff and further independent members for each Committee. Current and new Board Directors will each be completing a skills matrix and then individual directors would be approached by the Chair to join the relevant Committee. Board Directors were invited to let the Chair know if they had interest in a specific Committee.
17. A brief explanation was given on the legal responsibilities of being a director of an England and Wales registered company, the duty of care each individual owes to the company in respect of conflict of interest and governance of the Federation, as well as their collective role as a Board and the powers delegated to the Board by Congress, as defined in the Articles of Association.

18. The process over decision making in person or electronically via email was explained to the new directors.
19. The Board and directors-elect considered the next stages of the strategic plan including the priorities for the next four years.
20. Board agreed to invite the Global Development Lead, Ivan Harre to run a strategic workshop later in 2023. A limited amount of funding for development is now in place from the legacy programme of NWC2027.
21. Board noted the contents of the workplan along with key dates for Board and Committee meetings for 2023.
22. Board received an update on changes to the groupings of international sporting federations – WN remains a member of the Association of IOC Recognised International Sports Federations (ARISF). The Global Association of International Sports Federations (GAISF) will be dissolved this year.
23. Board noted the UN Sports for Climate Action Framework and NWC2023 sustainability programme, including the 'Pivot for the Planet' logo. Board will consider signing a pledge in support of the UN Framework at a future meeting.

## **GROW**

24. Board watched a demonstration of 'NetballPass' (the WN OTT platform developed with Netball New Zealand) and noted the full suite of live match statistics from NWC2023 which would be shared on the platform.
25. Board noted the upcoming digital campaign for NWC2023 developed by the WN marketing team involving live clips on social media platforms (Twitter, Facebook and TikTok).
26. Board discussed the regional reports received from each regional director and in particular noted:
  - a. Africa
    - i. RDM working with relevant NOC for several countries to request financial assistance;
    - ii. Angola need for netball development and resources required;
    - iii. Zambia netball hub sites continue to grow as a result of the NWC2019 Netball Legacy Programme;
    - iv. The Africa Netball Development Day taking place during NWC2023;
    - v. Dates for African Games confirmed for March 2024 in Accra, Ghana;
    - vi. Several competitions that had taken place over the past few months;
    - vii. Ms Malebo Raditladi-Nkgakile has successfully completed a 7-month online course on Safeguarding run by the International Olympic Committee;
    - viii. The Netball World Cup Trophy has toured 52 Districts, 200 local municipalities and 9 provinces.
  - b. Americas
    - i. Inaugural netball competition took place in the 2023 CAC Games in El Salvador in July 2023;

- ii. Ms Pamela Cumberbatch appointed as Technical Delegate for the CWYG FAST5 competition in Tobago in August 2023;
- iii. Mr Patrick Heron appointed to the WN Event Qualification Working Group;
- iv. Mr Wayne Benti appointed as Technical Official contact on the proposed Technical Officials Manual;
- v. New presidents appointed in Grenada and USA;
- vi. Various tournaments and training programs undertaken in Guadeloupe, St Vincent and the Grenadines, Grenada, Dominica and USA.

c. Asia

- i. AGM held in June and Victoria Lakshmi (Sri Lanka) voted as President and Regional Director to replace Gaby Hochbaum who stepped down.
- ii. Asian Youth Netball Championships took place in Korea in June.
- iii. Asian Indoor & Martial Arts Games (Bangkok, Thailand) likely to be postponed to February 2024.
- iv. New President appointed in Hong Kong, China.

d. Europe

- i. AGM held in June: governance status to be reviewed to consider other models incl. not for profit incorporated company, new Board member recruited (Lauren Hoare) as Media & Communications Director and membership fees for 2024 frozen at 2023 levels.
- ii. New emerging nation membership created costing £25 for 3 years with Portugal formally joining.
- iii. 723 learners took the C award online written paper and 20 new assessors are qualified in 5 member countries and 5 new tutors in 3 member countries.
- iv. Coaching has grown with 255 participants attending Spring Workshops. Foundation courses have been delivered in several member countries.
- v. Open Challenge tournament took place in Cardiff in May 2023 and was the first tournament for the newest member France. This event was organised directly by Europe Netball and not a host country (although support was given by Wales).

e. Oceania

- i. Solomon Islands applied to WN to join as a full member;
- ii. Training of bench officials for Pacific Games in November 2023 and assessment of 12 umpires in Fiji;
- iii. Various teams participated in PacificAus tournament and other tournaments will take place in the upcoming months incl. Nations Cup, Pacific Games and NWYC Qualifiers;
- iv. AGM held in June with President re-elected unopposed, Kate Agnew replacing Carole Maddix, financial statement approved, amendment to rule 8 reflecting constitutional change.

27. Board noted the agenda for the upcoming Africa Development Day and noted the names of Ministers who would be attending.

## PLAY

28. Board received an update presentation from the NWC2023 Organising Committee and noted the progress made across the following areas.

- CTICC1 and CTICC2 readiness;
- Arrival of teams;
- Provision of training courts;
- Seating areas set up;
- Signage including floor decals;
- Merchandise and hospitality;
- Ceremonies incl. opening, closing, candle lighting and Congress welcome dinner;
- Dignitaries attending;
- Fan parks and viewing centres;
- Volunteer programme;
- Safeguarding;
- Accreditation;
- Safety and security;
- Sustainability
- Finances and budget.

29. Board noted contents of report received from the NWYC2025 Organising Committee and noted they would be presenting at Congress. A tour of venue and back of house at CTICC would be arranged for the representatives of NWYC2025 once the NWC is underway.

## INSPIRE

30. Board noted that the World Netball Foundation had been launched during the Inspire Workshop following the second day of Congress.

**Next Board Meeting:** 15<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> September via Zoom.

Clare Briegal, CEO

Attachment: Appendix 1 Board decisions in 2023 YTD

<b>Date</b>	<b>Format</b>	<b>Decision</b>
29 July 2023	Board Meeting	Board decided that the name of Voice of the Athlete Group chaired by the Athlete Director will be the 'WN Athlete Advisory Commission' (AAC)
25 July 2023	Board Meeting	Board approved the minutes from the March 2023 board meeting
25 July 2023	Board Meeting	Board approved the notes from the April 2023 board update meeting
25 July 2023	Board Meeting	Board approved the notes from the May 2023 emergency board meeting
25 July 2023	Board Meeting	Board approved the Data Breach Policy (April 2023)
25 July 2023	Board Meeting	Board approved the Data Protection Policy (April 2023)
25 July 2023	Board Meeting	Board approved the Document Data Retention Policy (April 2023)
25 July 2023	Board Meeting	Board approved the Privacy Policy (April 2023)
25 July 2023	Board Meeting	Board approved the Subject Access Request Policy (April 2023)
25 July 2023	Board Meeting	Board approved the updated Terms of Reference for Audit & Risk Committee
25 July 2023	Board Meeting	Board approved the updated Terms of Reference for Commercial Committee
25 July 2023	Board Meeting	Board approved the updated Terms of Reference for Governance Committee
25 July 2023	Board Meeting	Board approved the updated Terms of Reference for Nominations Committee
27 June 2023	Email	Board approved the membership of the Medical Advisory Panel
17 May 2023	Board Meeting	Board agreed their preferred option in relation to the negotiations with Vitality and Discovery Group
22 May 2023	Email	Board approved the appointment of Prof. Christa Janse van Rensburg as Chair of the Medical Advisory Panel
12 May 2023	Email	Board approved the wording of the Event Disciplinary and Dispute Regulations
22 April 2023	Board Meeting	Board agreed financial statements for 2022 will be deemed approved on 1 <sup>st</sup> May 2023 as presented, unless FD deems there is still financial uncertainty around the payment of unpaid invoices for event consultant (and in which case a provision will be added to cover the full amount of accrued income)
22 April 2023	Email	Board approved Code of Conduct for Election Candidates.
10 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
10 March 2023	Board Meeting	Board decided to defer the approval of the financial statements for 2022 to no later than 1 <sup>st</sup> May 2023 to allow the position on current debtors to be resolved

10 March 2023	Board Meeting	Board approved Beever and Struthers as statutory auditors for 2023
10 March 2023	Board Meeting	Board approved the recommended candidate to be presented to Congress 2023 for Independent Financial Director Role
10 March 2023	Board Meeting	Board approved the recommended candidate to be presented to Congress 2023 for Athlete Director Role
10 March 2023	Board Meeting	Board approved the individuals to be awarded a World Netball service award during Congress 2023
12 March 2023	Board Meeting	Board approved the event format and qualification of teams to compete in FAST5 NWS 2023
12 March 2023	Board Meeting	Board approved the dates of NWYC2025 and window for regional qualifiers
12 March 2023	Board Meeting	Board agreed the proposal for the Global Development workplan for 2023
12 March 2023	Board Meeting	Board approved the allocation of funds from NWC2027 to global development subject to agreement with the host country.
12 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
12 March 2023	Board Meeting	Board approved the minutes from December 2022 board meeting
12 March 2023	Board Meeting	Board approved the independent chair for the WN Event Qualification Working Group
12 March 2023	Board meeting	Board approved the principle of WN endorsement scheme for Regional and National coaching courses
20 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 <sup>st</sup> March but from 1 <sup>st</sup> 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