

MEMBER UPDATE FOLLOWING BOARD MEETING – SEPTEMBER 2023

The World Netball Board met via Zoom on 15th and 17th September 2023.

1. World Netball (WN) President, Dame Liz Nicholl DBE chaired the meetings and all the Board attended apart from Rob Mills and Cecilia Molokwane who were unable to attend the meeting on 15th September and Victoria Lakshmi who was unable to attend on 17th September.

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

The September 2023 Board Meeting focused on the following areas of discussion and decision:

GOVERN

2. All directors had completed a self-analysis of board related skills and experience. This analysis assisted with appointing directors to various **Board Committees**. These are shown in the following table with other Committee members listed for completeness:

Board Committee	Audit & Risk	Commercial	Governance	Nominations
Chair (a Board Member)	Suri Bartlett	Shirley Hooper	Wainikiti Bodigrau	Lyn Carpenter
Member from the Board	Victoria Lakshmi	Rob Mills	Bridget Adams	Liz Nicholl
Other Members (Independent members and Staff)	Lindsay Sartori	Clare Briegal Emily Whiteside Kate Agnew	Octavia Gibson Leanne O’Leary Clare Briegal Angela Sanderson	Catherine Lewis (Elected by Members) Kate Palmer Angela Sanderson
In attendance (Non-voting)	Clare Briegal Angela Sanderson			

Stacey Francis Bayman will Chair the **Athletes Advisory Commission** when established and the Regional Director for Africa (currently Cecilia Molokwane) will be assigned to a Board Committee following the election at the Africa Region AGM in November 2024,.

3. Proposed dates for the four (4) Board and Committee meetings (4 meetings for each committee) for 2024 were agreed, with one face to face Board meeting to be held in a location and date to be confirmed.
4. Board discussed the **appointment of a new CEO** to replace Clare Briegal who has decided to step down after 10 years in position. The role description and timeline for recruitment were reviewed. Clare Briegal will remain in role to assist with continuity and handover until new CEO is fully on board. Members will be advised when applications for the position of CEO are open.
5. The Board approved the assumptions that will be used to create a detailed operational **budget 2024**.
6. Board noted the contents of the **management accounts** to 30th June 2023. The current cash position was discussed, which has improved and is in line with forecast following significant transactions (both income and expenditure) made in relation to the Netball World Cup 2023 and Congress.
7. Board **approved the minutes of the full Board meetings in July**, noted the action schedule and current progress of outstanding items.

8. Board noted contents of **Executive Reports** received from the CEO, International Officiating Manager and Digital Marketing Manager.
9. Board noted the report received from **Coaching Advisory Panel (CAP)** and the success of the **coaching conference** held in Cape Town with over 80 coaches attending. Board agreed to CAP's proposal and scheme for WN's **endorsement of Members' coaching programs**.
10. Board reviewed the **draft minutes of Congress 2023** and agreed for these minutes be shared with Members.
11. Board noted the **Officiating Advisory Panel Strategic Plan** which was launched during Congress 2023 which sets out the ambitions for World Class Officiating in line with WN's strategic plan.

GROW

12. Board discussed the **regional reports** received from each regional director and in particular noted:
 - a. Africa
 - i. Both **Ghana and Nigeria** submitted applications to become full Members of WN and they have now been accepted by Members – Region now has 13 full Members.
 - ii. Recent intelligence suggests that netball's inclusion has not been confirmed for next year's Africa Games in Ghana – meetings will take place with the relevant sports authorities to seek inclusion.
 - iii. **2023 Africa Cup to be held in Botswana**, who along with Kenya and Malawi will receive sprung floors as part of the 2023 NWC Legacy. Confirmation is awaited from the Minister of Sport.
 - b. Americas
 - i. Netball was included for the first time at the **Central American and Caribbean Regional Multisport Games** held in San Salvador in June 2023.
 - ii. Planned **Level III Coaching Award** is scheduled to begin in September.
 - iii. **Montserrat** has expressed interest in becoming a regional member.
 - iv. **Regional Qualifiers audit** is taking place to finalise and determine final expenses and payouts based on surplus.
 - v. Ongoing discussions are being held to support the celebrations of the late **Lystra Deloris Lewis** who was one of the founders of World Netball: 2024 is her centenary year and several events are planned for the year-long celebration.
 - c. Asia
 - i. **Saudi Arabia** is hosting the **Asian Netball Championship** during September-October 20-24.
 - ii. **Iraq and Bahrain** have applied for full membership of the region.
 - iii. Netball is included for the first time in the **Asian Indoor & Martial Arts Games** taking place in Thailand February-March 2024.
 - d. Europe
 - i. **Informal feedback on Congress and NWC2023** was provided with very positive comments on location, venue, facilities, opening ceremony, hosts, tv coverage and all female crew. However delegate hospitality during NWC2023 was disappointing and ticketing was a major cause of dissatisfaction.

- ii. **Italy** is discussing joining under new category of “Emerging Nation”. **Sweden and Qatar** have also been sent joining forms for this category.
 - iii. Use of **NetEffect** grant has been successfully used: **development of coaches** in several countries with 43 developing coaches undertaking Level 1 and Level 2 courses.
 - iv. A new fully formed **Coaching Group** under leadership of Anita Navin has delivered a Europe Netball Level 1 and Level 3 course.
- e. Oceania
- i. Region now has 7 full members after **Solomon Islands** became a full Member of WN.
 - ii. The **Cook Islands** will host the NWYC2025 Regional Qualifiers.
 - iii. Four promising and young players from **Fiji and Tonga** spent 6 weeks in an **immersion program** for Blaze in the NWS Premier League competition.
 - iv. The **strategic plan for Netball Fiji** has been launched for 2023-2027 with the key pillars Grow, Sustain and Perform.
 - v. The EXCOM meeting took place on 27th July with several key decisions made including **webinar rules training** for members, webinar player programs for young players and confirmation that **Samoa will host the NWC2027 Qualifiers** in Apia.
13. Global Development Lead Ivan Harre provided an update on progress. Work is ongoing on **learning and collaboration platform** with two options under consideration. The Maturity Model, which was included in the Grow workshop at Congress, will form a part of the platform.
14. Board considered the recent growth in Member countries – WN now has 82 in total – and whether the current **Membership structure**, with Full and Associate categories, is fit for purpose. Further work will take place with the Regions and Board Committees to ensure that the structure supports WN’s ambitions and each of the strategies Grow, Play and Inspire.
15. Board agreed to have a **strategic workshop to discuss its growth ambitions** (GROW pillar of the strategic plan) and how WN can prioritise programmes effectively to deliver maximum impact. The on-line workshop will be led by the Global Development Lead and will take place before year end.
16. Board agreed the core principles that will be applied to the process and criteria for the **WN Strategic Development Fund** that is being established to support Members with developing netball in line with the World Netball’s and the Member’s strategies. (The fund is separate to Net Effect in that it will be available to Member federations directly.) A panel will be appointed by the WN Board who will decide how awards are made. Members will be advised of the application criteria and assessment process before the end of 2023.

PLAY

17. Board received an **interim report from Netball World Cup 2023 (NWC2023) Local Organising Committee** which showcased the significant impact of the event in South Africa, the continent and across the world. Congratulations to all the participating teams especially to Netball Australia who won gold, England who won Silver and Jamaica who won Bronze. The final report will be issued by Netball South Africa once final audited accounts are signed off late November/early December.
18. Board received a **report from the WN Technical Delegate** and noted a number of recommendations for future WN events from a technical perspective. Charly Scholtz TD was thanked for her contribution to the successful delivery of the netball competition.

19. Board received a **report from the WN Event Consultant** showing the performance of the event in relation to the requirements of the Hosting Agreement and according to the milestones as set out in the WN Event and Commercial Operations Manual. The various stakeholders (participating teams, sponsors, officials) are being surveyed for their views and these will form part of the overall review and will inform future events.
20. Board received a **Digital Communications Report** showing global reach of the social media campaigns delivered through the NWC2023, which drove significant traffic to both the WN website (700,500 unique users) and NetballPass OTT platform (458,938 unique visitors). Live clips from each match were shared on Twitter and Facebook. WN's campaigns on Instagram (match scores after each quarter and clips after each game) and TikTok (including unique and appealing player videos) led to significant growth in followers for both platforms. NetballPass allowed viewers to buy a tournament pass to watch live games in countries where the broadcast rights had not been sold on an exclusive basis and Board was impressed with the return on investment for this platform. Members are encouraged to work with the WN digital marketing team who can help to promote their domestic leagues and events.
21. Board was delighted to learn that NWC2023 has been **shortlisted for 'Event of the Year'** in the UK-based Sport Business Awards, with the winner to be announced in November.
22. Board received a report from the Technical Delegate of the **Commonwealth Youth Games Trinbago 2023** where FAST5 netball made its debut in August. Congratulations to Netball Australia who won gold, South Africa who won Silver and England who won Bronze. Games were streamed on YouTube, support was wonderful and there was a great atmosphere at the stadium. The Commonwealth Games Federation's feedback is very appreciative. Pamela Cumberbatch TD was thanked for her hard work and the delivery of the netball competition. Tobago now has an international standard sprung wooden floor as a legacy of the event.
23. The first meeting of the WN Event Qualification Working Group had just taken place and work is ongoing.

INSPIRE

24. Board received the presentation which accompanied the Foundation Launch Workshop after Congress 2023. Board noted the Trustees would be meeting later in September to discuss the operationalisation of the strategic plan.

Next Board Meeting: 8th and 10th December via Zoom.

Clare Briegal, CEO

Attachment: Appendix 1 Board decisions in 2023 YTD

Date	Format	Decision
15 September 2023	Board Meeting	Board agreed which directors would chair and sit on each WN Committees
15 September 2023	Board Meeting	Board approved CEO job description, process and timeline
15 September 2023	Board Meeting	Board approved the minutes of the July board meetings
15 September 2023	Board Meeting	Board agreed to CAP proposal for coaching endorsement
15 September 2023	Board Meeting	Board agreed draft minutes for Congress 2023 can be shared with members
15 September 2023	Board Meeting	Board agreed to strategic development fund proposal
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 st 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 st 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 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