

MEMBER UPDATE FOLLOWING BOARD MEETING – DECEMBER 2024

The World Netball Board chaired by Dame Liz Nicholl DBE met online on 6th December 2024.

The December 2024 Board Meeting focused on the following:

GOVERNING

1. Board noted that Stacey Francis-Bayman had volunteered to be Board Equity Champion.
2. The Board agreed the budget for 2025.
3. It was noted that the Audit & Risk Committee would undertake a review of the Risk Register.
4. KPIs for the secretariat were noted, priorities for 2025-27 were shared and feedback requested from the Board. Agreed that revised strategy and KPIs would be updated following arrival of new CEO.
5. Board noted the work being undertaken by the Athlete Director to amplify the athlete voice and consider the most effective athlete advisory structure. Agreed that a dedicated meeting of the Board is required to discuss research undertaken.

GROWING

6. Board noted that there are now 65 full and 21 associate members and that Regions are continuing to engage with emerging countries.
7. Board noted increase in reach from digital channels (engagement/impressions/visibility) and how certain campaigns (e.g. rules change) gave larger spikes.
8. Board was delighted to receive the news that NetballPass recently won best fan engagement at the UK Sports Business Awards and noted that NetballPass would form part of overall digital strategy going forward.

PLAYING

9. NWYC2025
 - i. Progress reports from the NWYC2025 local organising committee and technical delegate were shared and it was noted that event is on track and progress being made.
 - ii. WN President visited both venues in Gibraltar and attended the live draw.
10. FAST5 2024
 - i. Feedback received saying best year of the 3 years held in New Zealand. Team and player surveys rated the event higher than previous years.
 - ii. Rules trial survey feedback generally supportive, and spectators loved the change in power play points.
11. NWC2027
 - i. Board noted that regular meetings are taking place between WN and Netball Australia and positive progress is being made.

12. CG Glasgow 2026

The Board was pleased to learn that:

- i. Netball is included and still hoping for 12 teams with 7s format.
- ii. Netball will take place in the same venue as the opening and closing ceremonies.
- iii. Qualification process and date to be shared with members.

INSPIRING

13. The Board requested that follow up reports from the first tranche of the strategic development fund will be sought.
14. A paper was shared showing the partnerships which have been created by the World Netball Foundation. Board noted that a modest level of funding has been donated to Maitrayana, a charitable organisation in India, focussing on young women and girls and that the Foundation is now looking at way to raise funds for other projects.

REGIONAL REPORTS

15. Board discussed the regional reports received from each regional director and in particular noted:

a. Africa

- i. Good work in Ivory Coast as part of strategic development fund work;
- ii. A new President for Uganda Netball was elected during the AGM in October.
- iii. The Regional Development Manager attended the combined regional meeting for CGAs of Africa and Europe and discussed the impact of netball with representatives from both Glasgow Commonwealth Games Association and the President of the CGF.
- iv. South Africa hosted Malawi in a 3 match test series in November.
- v. The Africa Cup is being held in Namibia in December 2024 where 9 female teams and 7 male teams will compete.

b. Americas

- i. St Eustatius had become a full member of the Region and World Netball.
- ii. Men's Championships was held in St Kitts & Nevis and 8 countries participated and five of these would join Dominican Republic in the first ever CAC Men's Competition.
- iii. The Battle of the Saints took place in St Maarten in October.
- iv. The British Virgin Islands won the bid to host in the NWC Qualifier in 2026.
- v. Conversations are ongoing about including netball in the 2027 Pan Am Games.

c. Asia

- i. The Asian National Championships took place in India during October with 14 countries participating.
- ii. The Asian Youth Championships 2025 will be hosted in Korea.
- iii. Hong Kong is confirmed as the host for Asian Netball Championships in 2026.
- iv. Singapore will host the next Asian Umpiring Camp in early April 2025.

d. Europe

- i. Successful implementation of NetEffect Strategy sees work ongoing to help support and grow the number of nations in the region and it is hoped to progress these countries to associate or full membership asap.
- ii. An EGM will take place in the New Year regarding new legal structure for the region.
- iii. The U17 Championship will take place in Belfast in March and this will be live-streamed.
- iv. The Europe Open Championship will take place in Cardiff in May.
- v. The Celtic Cup was hosted for the first time in Scotland in November.
- vi. The UAE is planning a test event in June 2025.

e. Oceania

- i. Vanuatu and Niue are being assisted with necessary documents to apply to WN for full membership.
- ii. The NWYC Qualifiers were held in the Cook Islands in September.
- iii. Fiji (for the first time playing outside their own country) participated in the Men's Netball Nations Cup held in Singapore in December.
- iv. The Pacific Aus Series will take place in Brisbane in February.

Next Board Meeting: 4th & 6th April via Zoom

Fiona Harold, CEO

Attachment: Appendix 1 Board Decisions in 2024

Date	Format	Decision
6 th December 2024	Board Meeting	Agreed Budget for 2025
6 th December 2024	Board Meeting	Agreed the updated review of Strategic Plan and KPIs
6 th December 2024	Board Meeting	Agreed Congress 2025 would be held online and members informed once a suitable date confirmed
13 th September 2024	Board Meeting	Approved Minutes of the June Board Meeting
13 th September 2024	Board Meeting	Agreed to the process for the approval of the FAST5 rule review changes
13 th September 2024	Board Meeting	Agreed that being a part of the Commonwealth Games 2026 would be advantageous for netball. Noted that an announcement is awaited from the Commonwealth Games Federation (since announced for Glasgow, Scotland)
13 th September 2024	Board Meeting	Approved Sport Related Concussion Guidelines
23 rd June 2024	Board Meeting	Approved Minutes of April Board Meeting
23 rd June 2024	Board Meeting	Agreed to share Regional Reports with other regions
22 nd June 2024	Board Meeting	Agreed to contact the 3 professional player associations inviting them to be a part of the structure for WN's athlete voice
22 nd June 2024	Board Meeting	Agreed to put on hold pending overarching strategy work the established Men & Boys Working Group
7 th April 2024	Board Meeting	Approved the recommended teams for FAST5 NWS 2024
7 th April 2024	Board Meeting	Agreed wording of role description for WN representation on event boards
7 th April 2024	Board Meeting	Agreed to recommend a WN Board Director representative on the NWYC2025 and NWC2027 LOCs
7 th April 2024	Board Meeting	Approved Terms of Reference for the Athlete Commission
7 th April 2024	Board Meeting	Approved minutes of December board meeting and notes of February board update
5 th April 2024	Board Meeting	Approved the contents of the financial statements 12 months to 31 st December 2023
5 th April 2024	Board Meeting	Approved the letter of representation to be sent to the auditors
5 th April 2024	Board Meeting	Approved the appointment of Beever & Struthers as auditors for 2024