

## **MEMBER UPDATE FOLLOWING BOARD MEETING – APRIL 2025**

The World Netball Board met via Zoom on 4<sup>th</sup> April 2025.

World Netball (WN) President, Dame Liz Nicholl DBE chaired the meeting and all Board Members attended.

A list of the decisions made by the Board in 2025 follows in Appendix 1.

The April 2025 Board Meeting focused on the following areas of discussion and decision:

### **GOVERNING**

1. Audit of 2024 Financial statements. No major queries. Financial Statements approved.
2. Audit Management Letter was noted.
3. Letter of Representation from WN to Auditors was approved
4. Beever and Struthers appointed as auditors for 2025.
5. Management Accounts to end of Feb 2025 were noted. Year-end forecast has not changed, and actual expenditure is broadly on track.
6. Global Following and Participation Survey has been sent to members for completion by 30<sup>th</sup> April 2025.
7. Agreed to switch off X account.
8. Role Description for Head of Governance & Member Relations to be finalised and shared.

### **GROWING**

9. Following on from the first round of the Strategic Development Fund grants, reports have been received showing the outcome of the grants with positive results.
10. It is hoped that the second round will launch in June.

### **PLAYING**

11. Information for Bidders documentation for future World Cups is being updated.
12. Athlete wellbeing and welfare officers at WN events: these areas need to be clarified and be part of WN events hosting requirements going forward.
13. Formalising change in WN procedure for event notification and the appointment of officials to ranking matches was discussed. Education videos are being created and all templates required are on the Learning Platform.
14. Progress is being made on the NWYC2025. Noted some countries are struggling financially.
15. Commonwealth Games 2030: this will be the centenary year of the event, with a host country expected to be announced this year. The sport programme is to be defined in consultation with hosts and IFs.
16. WN is continuing to refine the strategy for the future calendar and global event project.
17. WN is working with Netball Australia on next steps relating to Olympic Inclusion project.

## INSPIRING

18. The World Netball Foundation recently met with Maitrayana who are delighted to have the World Netball name associated with their charity.

## REGIONAL REPORTS

The Regional Reports highlighted the following:

### 19. Africa

- i. Africa Netball Annual General Meeting took place on 8 December 2024.
- ii. Sprung floor for Kenya has arrived in Mombasa however training still needs to be arranged. The floor for Malawi is expected to be transported in April.
- iii. Malawi, South Africa & Uganda were part of the 2025 Quad Series hosted by England Netball.
- iv. The 2025 Africa Cup will be hosted by Malawi and the AGM will take place prior to this tournament.
- v. The Wallace Group are hosting 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala in August in Zambia. They hope to strengthen partnerships over the next 20 years by taking the Community Hub Site model developed in Zambia to neighbouring countries: Ivory Coast, Mauritius, Malawi, Burundi.
- vi. AUSC Region 5 Games for athletes U/18 will be held in Windhoek, Namibia in July and 10 countries will take part.

### 20. Americas

- i. Most countries preparing for U16 tournament over Easter.
- ii. OECS Competition will take place in August in Grenada.
- iii. EM Cup will take place in October in Trinidad & Tobago.

### 21. Asia

- i. Asian Championships will be held in Hong Kong in August 2026: this will be a qualifier for NWC2027.
- ii. Asian Youth Championships will be held in Korea during June/July: 12 countries wish to participate.
- iii. The S E Asian Games in Thailand in December 2025 will again feature netball, as will the next 2 editions in Malaysia (2027) and Singapore (2029).
- iv. Singapore will host the Singlife Nations Cup in November 2025. Countries confirmed are Botswana, Cook Islands, Isle of Man and one more country.
- v. Asian Umpiring Camp from 7<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> April 2025. 20 umpires from 8 countries will be at the camp.

### 22. Europe

- i. EGM took place in March and it was agreed to become a limited company.
- ii. Coaching continues to progress well and a coaching conference will take place in Gibraltar during NWYC2025.
- iii. Umpire development remains a concern and courses/workshops have taken place in many countries in the region.
- iv. 10 teams have competed in the U17 Champs/Challenge event delivered in Belfast in March.

- v. Next major tournament is Open Challenge Event for 7 teams to be held in May in Wales.

23. Oceania

- i. Interim regional director (RubyAnn Sorovaki) has been appointed until a formal election takes place during the AGM in June.
- ii. Work is continuing on the development of a Commercial Strategy and delivering commercial and sponsorship training for members.
- iii. Several countries are seeking assistance to become a full member and one from associate to full.
- iv. The PacificAus Series took place in February 2025 with 6 teams competing.
- v. The Fiji Men's National team made history by winning the 2024 Men's Netball Nations Series Merlion Cup.
- vi. Netball Fiji will host an International Men's Netball Tournament in August 2025.
- vii. Netball Fiji is working on an Agreement with NGO Think Pacific to allow for training and development programs with the first in June for training of Physios.

**Next Board Meeting:** 27 & 29 June via Zoom

Fiona Harold, CEO

Attachment: Appendix 1 Board Decisions in 2025 YTD

<b>Date</b>	<b>Format</b>	<b>Decision</b>
4 April 2024	Board Meeting	Approved the financial statements for the 12 months to 31 <sup>st</sup> December 2024
4 April 2024	Board Meeting	Accepted the audit management letter
4 April 2024	Board Meeting	Accepted auditor's letter of representation
4 April 2024	Board Meeting	Approved Beever & Struthers as auditors for 2025
4 April 2024	Board Meeting	Agreed with recommendation to remove WN from X (formerly Twitter)
4 April 2024	Board Meeting	Agreed to accept the Change in WN Event Notification and the Appointment of Officials to Ranking Matches as a trial with monitoring to take place to ensure no negative impact on members
4 April 2024	Board Meeting	Approved minutes from December 2024 and Board update meeting from February 2024
10 February 2024	Board Update	To keep progressing on the proposed format change of plate and cup competition for NWC2027 with full consultation for members and continuing discussion between NA and WN over other issues mentioned
10 February 2024	Board Update	New dates for World Rankings to be issued
10 February 2024	Board Update	To pause rules review and consultation for FAST5
10 February 2024	Board Update	To establish a Men Mixed Netball Working Group in Q2 once survey results are considered