

MEMBER UPDATE FOLLOWING BOARD MEETING – SEPTEMBER 2025

The World Netball Board met in person in Gibraltar on 17th and 18th September 2025.

World Netball (WN) President, Dame Liz Nicholl DBE chaired the meeting and Board Members attended either in person or via Zoom.

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

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

GOVERNING

1. The Board noted the income and expenditure forecast for 2025.
2. The Board discussed the draft budget for 2026 and assumptions made therein. The Board also discussed the long-term cash flow noting regular peaks and troughs over the years.
3. A review of the Board structure is being undertaken and a board skills analysis will be taking place in the days following this Board meeting.
4. The Board agreed to step down the current Governance Committee and establish a new Governance & Ethics Committee.
5. The revised risk register was discussed: work is ongoing on the format however context is improved. The risk register is reviewed at every Audit & Risk Committee meeting and at every Board meeting. Major considerations and key risks are noted however mitigations are in place.

Congress 2025

6. RDs were requested to identify unknown attendees.
7. It was noted that WN had been asked to establish a working group for international transfers and the issues this may cause certain countries. However, NGBs are not normally involved in transfers as this happens between players and clubs direct. WN could facilitate amongst top nations but should not be the driver.
8. Player eligibility and increase in teams at NWCs were also raised during Congress. These items are due to be discussed further in due course following completion of new global event strategy.

GROWING

9. WN event strategy: first phase launched in June and ongoing due process with The Sports Consultancy with regard to hosting opportunities and member engagement is taking place.
10. The Board recognised future outcomes are unknown but the timeline suggests this will be clearer within the next 6 months
11. The Board were informed that the broadcast market remains dynamic and that non-tier 1 sports are faced with significant challenges.
12. A player engagement strategy needs to be in place and consultations will need to be considered in due course.

13. Some regions have raised concerns over lack of World Cup Qualifiers: for some members, these are a lifeline for funding.
14. Terms of Reference for a working group “embracing the male game” were agreed: WN Vice President will Chair this Group.
15. Maturity Matrix for members was shared based on previous version prepared by Ivan Harre. Need to ensure that male groups, if not recognised by their NGB, can be considered.

PLAYING

16. Members of the Board from the NWYC2025 LOC joined the meeting and shared a presentation showing the journey/challenges over the past 2 years:
 - a. brand launch and volunteer workforce recruitment;
 - b. securing partnerships including a financial partner;
 - c. media campaigns/road to celebration
 - d. trophy handover;
 - e. governance;
 - f. legacy;
 - g. challenges with knowledge inexperience from some members.
17. Updates on progress for NWC2027 were discussed including some amendments to the Host Agreement. The LOC is currently a small team so assistance being provided by both Netball Australia and WN.
18. Olympic Games 2032: continuing to work on a phased approach with regard to bidding for inclusion. WN has received official notification from OCOG about the additional sport inclusion process. Netball Australia has received over 40,000 pledge sign-ups and WN global pledge will shortly be released.
19. Commonwealth Games 2026: WN is working with the LOC on invites.
20. Commonwealth Games 2030: India (Delhi) and Nigeria have been shortlisted as potential hosts for these Games.
21. Commonwealth Youth Games 2027: Malta confirmed as host with 6 teams of 7s. Teams will be selected as follows: host nation and one team from each WN region. Evaluation criteria will be developed by WN in consultation with Commonwealth Sport and EOIs will be requested from Members.

INSPIRING

22. The second tranche of the strategic development fund will be launched shortly: full members only can apply and maximum grant amount is £5,000. A smart matrix will be created for this round of funding.
23. An update from the Foundation was received: two partnerships in place (Maitrayana and Griffith University) and a volunteer is now working for the Foundation to provide admin assistance.

REGIONAL REPORTS

The Regional Reports highlighted the following:

24. Africa

- i. Africa AGM will take place in December prior to the start of the Africa Cup being held in Lilongwe, Malawi. The constitution and strategic plan are being reviewed and a governance workshop will be held one day prior to the AGM
- ii. The Wallace Group had their 20th anniversary in Zambia at the beginning of August which was attended by leadership in the Ministry of Sport, Zambia Sports Council, Netball Zambia and the Zambia Olympic Committee.
- iii. Facilitators from Netball South Africa will run a Capacity Building workshop for Zimbabwe Netball in Harare from 16th to 20th September.
- iv. Preparations are underway for the Africa Cup including men's netball to be played at the tournament.

25. Americas

- i. Once Anguilla are voted to become a full member of WN, the region will now have 21 members. Work ongoing with developing countries.
- ii. Competition remains a priority for our members who have limited funding/resources available.
- iii. 10 teams participated in the 5th Edition of the ECCB International Netball Series which was held in Grenada in August.
- iv. Battle of the Isles is taking place in October.
- v. Men's netball is expanding at a rapid pace in the region and Netball Jamaica recently completed its Men's Competition.
- vi. Ms. Korlita Hamilton, President of the Dominica Netball Association, completed the prestigious Executive Master's in Sport Organisations Management (MEMOS) program and earned the Alberto Madella Award for her high-distinction project: *"Strategies for Sustainable Netball Development in Dominica: Promoting Male Inclusion Without Compromising Female Participation."*

26. Asia

- i. Korea hosted a very successful Asian Youth Championships in June where 11 countries competed in a Cup and Plate Competition.
- ii. The Bi-Annual SE Asian Games are taking place in Thailand during December.
- iii. Hong Kong will host the Asian Netball Championships from 7th to 16th August 2026. This will also be the qualifier event for the Netball World Cup 2027.
- iv. Sri Lanka was awarded the hosting rights for the Asian Youth Netball Championships in 2027.
- v. India will host the 1st Asian Men's Netball Championship in February 2026.
- vi. India has made a bid to host the Commonwealth Games in 2030: if successful they will include netball and if at least 10 countries participate in the Asia Men's Netball Championships they will include Men's Netball in the Games.

27. Europe

- i. During the June Council meeting, a review of the existing strategy was undertaken and work is ongoing to ensure alignment with WN strategy.
- ii. 15% increase in playing numbers since 2019. More countries in the region are playing and organised competitions has doubled.

- iii. A coach development pathway and education award structure has been written, endorsed and delivered creating over 170 new coaches.
- iv. A coaching conference will be held in Gibraltar on the first weekend of the Netball World Youth Cup. All Europe netball competitions must now have an individual in the coaching team who holds a level three qualification.
- v. Review is underway for event structure of all ages with some events not taking place in 2026 and other events to be held behind closed doors.

28. Oceania

- i. Need for sustainable coach and umpire development pathways flagged as under-supported.
- ii. Commission-based sponsorship specialist engagement being explored to support sustainability.
- iii. Financial strain of global tournaments continues to limit participation capacity.
- iv. Five Oceania countries (Fiji, Tonga, Samoa, Cook Islands, New Zealand) will compete at the NWYC2025 – Tonga's first appearance at this level.
- v. Fiji successfully hosted the Men's Invitational Tournament with participation from Tonga and the Black Nets, securing live broadcast and global reach. Fiji will host again in 2026.
- vi. Tonga confirmed as host for NWC2027 Regional Qualifiers.
- vii. Oceania AGM elected new Regional President elected (Salote Sisifa) and adopted constitutional remit to align with WN Articles of Association.
- viii. Vivian Koster appointed as Regional Director to WN Board.

Next Board Meeting: 12th & 14th December via Zoom

Fiona Harold, CEO

Attachment: Appendix 1 Board Decisions in 2025 YTD

Date	Format	Decision
September	Board Meeting	Approved request for overdraft facility
September	Board Meeting	Agreed to offset terms of office from 2027 for three regions to elect for 2 years rather than 4 years
September	Board Meeting	Approved the recommendation to rename Governance Committee and expand its Terms of Reference to include Ethics.
September	Board Meeting	RD Reports: suggest highlight one region every few months
September	Board Meeting	Commonwealth Games Malta: 6 teams of 7s with host and one team from each region chosen via EOI
September	Board Meeting	Embracing the Male Game: Terms of Reference for working group were approved
September	Board Meeting	Approved board minutes from June 2025
September	Board Meeting	Approved revised Position Statement on Olympics
July	Email	Agreed to appointment of new RAP Chair
27 June	Board Meeting	Agreed to accept the Management Accounts to 30 th April 2025
27 June	Board Meeting	Agreed to the creation of men's working group based on the principles derived from the task and finish group and for them to accept the principles outlined and the strategic direction
27 June	Board Meeting	Agreed to write to the Government of South Africa asking for their help in ensuring audited accounts for the NWC2023 are provided
27 June	Board Meeting	Approved the following policies with some minor amendments: Code of Conduct, Ethics and Anti-Corruption Code, Guidelines and Code of Conduct for Elections
12 May	Board Update	Agreed to new global event plan
12 May	Board Update	Agreed to request to create a Scientific Committee to assist MAP
4 April	Board Meeting	Approved the financial statements for the 12 months to 31 st December 2024
4 April	Board Meeting	Accepted the audit management letter
4 April	Board Meeting	Accepted auditor's letter of representation
4 April	Board Meeting	Approved Beever & Struthers as auditors for 2025
4 April	Board Meeting	Agreed with recommendation to remove WN from X (formerly Twitter)
4 April	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	Board Meeting	Approved minutes from December 2024 and Board update meeting from February 2024
10 February	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	Board Update	New dates for World Rankings to be issued
10 February	Board Update	To pause rules review and consultation for FAST5
10 February	Board Update	To establish a Men Mixed Netball Working Group in Q2 once survey results are considered
January	Email	Agree Umpire Appointment Process Exemption for Legacy Impact in Host Nation
January	Email	Agreed to award a posthumous WN Service Award to Wainikiti Bodigrau