

British Orienteering

Performance Pathway Steering Group

Tuesday 4th February 19:00 – 21:00 Online meeting

Attendees: Ruth Beale (RB), Duncan Birtwistle (DB), Pippa Archer (PA), Pete Tryner (PT), Jonathan Crickmore (JCrick), Euan Tryner (ET), Jon Cross (JC), and Pauline Tryner (PaT), Rachel Handley (RH)

Apologies- Sarah Rollins

RB welcomed everyone to the meeting and provided a purpose of the meeting.

Feedback was shared from the successful recent camp in the Lakes from PA and ET.

Both agreed it was a great camp, and nice to have lots of athletes. ET felt it was good to have the Wildcard athletes there, and their attendance didn't detract from the focus of the camp.

PA noted that the number of coaches was small, but this worked ok. However more coaches would be welcomed at future camps with similar numbers of athletes.

There was an emphasis on training and not racing and it was exciting to see the squad working so well together.

There was a discussion around the use of LiveloX for training.

1. Selection policy wrap up and reflections (RB)

RB thanked all for their involvement in the Selection Policies which are now live.

A quick discussion of this year's process took place noting feedback of what worked well and not so well for the writing of future policies.

Action- Recommendations from the discussion and the points above to be taken forward for next year.

2. Recruitment timeline and update (PA)

PA provided a brief update of the current stage of recruitment for the Camps and Competitions manager and the Development Squad Manager.

PA is keen to employ two people, but it could be one role for the right person.

The key thing is to pull the best team together and then work out the roles from that.

It is hoped that the Development Squad lead will be the one who attends JWOC, but we can't move forward on this until both roles are recruited. The JWOC Team Manager will be a priority once the roles are appointed.

Action - An interview panel needs to be established

There may be changes in the timing through the year of how the staff would like to work, but this won't be known until they have been appointed.

The plan is for the staff to be appointed as soon as possible.

Both of the roles have been advertised to be in post until 2027, this is in line with the Sport England Funding.

Interview Process- A discussion around the interview process was held. It was agreed that athlete involvement is important.

Action - PA to let PPSG know what she needs to facilitate that.

3. Junior Elite middle distance rules (Jon Cross/Pete Tryner)

This was added to the agenda in relation to the British Middle and JK Middle target winning times being 20-25 minutes in the 18/20 age group.

This was proposed from the JWOC winning middle time being about 25mins. Usually, the best British performers are around 2mins after this.

The suggestion was that winning times be increased by 5mins to make it a more appropriate winning time.

All agreed that this should be changed, but for 2026.

Action – PT to propose the change to the rules committee. RB to follow up with discussions if needed

ET felt there was no need for athlete consultation required as the majority would agree that this change is needed.

PPSG wanted to thank Tommy Rollins for raising the issue.

4. Objectives of the programme (DB/JCrick/JCross to present back)

The sub group shared a document which had been circulated to the committee prior to the meeting with an overview of the findings.

It was noted that it is an alternating cycle and therefore the monitoring should take place over four years.

A discussion was held around the Mixed Relay targets.

Longer time span of the targets is a good motivation as it gives the athletes a pathway and something to aim for.

Not including the World Cups is a good thing as the strength in World Cups can be very variable.

RB- this is a long-term piece of work, and to keep it open starting to build in subjective goals too.

Next Steps-

PPSG agreed the senior targets

The sub-group to have a separate call to look at Junior targets to be discussed at the next meeting.

It was agreed that inputting and maintaining the data should be managed by British Orienteering Staff.

RB thanked the subgroup for their work on this and noted that it was a great start and is looking forward to the Junior Targets.

It was agreed to stay within PPSG for this year.

Action – Subgroup to go away and look at the Junior Targets.

PA to consider how the information it is best used and what it should look like to Staff, Athletes, Coaches and PPSG.

PA to consider the best approach to compiling data for comparison with the targets.

4. Wildcard athletes (PA)

At both the January and Lakes camps there was an approach to include the wildcard athletes.

Wildcard athletes turned up and paid for maps, but they arranged their own accommodation, travel and food. So, they do get some coaching, but do not use any resources.

A discussion was held to look at this approach going forward and who is a Wildcard Athlete.

At the last board meeting it was raised that there are not enough development opportunities for those entering the sport at a later stage.

It was agreed that the PPSG group are not the ones who can take this forward, as we don't have the resources but are keen to collaborate.

It was agreed that the BOF performance budget should not be used to support wildcards and that they shouldn't detract from the primary performance aims.

In summary it was agreed that the group are supportive on the way it is currently happening but keep checking in to ensure it is appropriate and look at and review at the end of the season.

AOB

It was raised that within BOF there is the expectation that we do well in international races, but a lot of the focus of the organisation is on participation. Performance doesn't just happen and PA will agree to look at this differently in the coming weeks.

RB and PA have met Pete Daplyn who has set up the 'O' tools website to look at how the software he has developed could be used to compile Selection Data as PA availability to compile selection data isn't always possible.

Action- To feedback to the group how this process is going.

Date of next meeting- May