

Board of Directors

Conference Call

Monday 7 November 2016, 20:00-21:00



Board attendees: Judith Holt (JH); Philip Baxter (PB); Bob Dredge (BD); Mike Hamilton (MH); David Maliphant (DM); Elizabeth Pariag (EP); Martin Ward (MW);

Minute taker: MH

Apologies received: David Camm (DC); John Flook (JF); Julie Webster (JW)

1. Welcome & Meeting Administration

Declarations of interests in addition to those held on the register; no additional declarations of interest were made.

2. Sport England Funding Submission 2017/21

The draft submission including the finance template had been circulated prior to the meeting.

a) To receive an update on negotiations with Sport England and any significant changes made to the previous draft as a consequence of the negotiations (MH)

MH updated the Board on the discussions held with Sport England prior to the meeting. Key points were:

- Sport England are unlikely to make a funding offer above the 'upper' amount on the offer letter – there would need to be exceptional circumstances
- Talent funding should be requested, with justification, between the two figures provided in the offer letter
- There are 'peculiarities' with the finance template particularly regarding the 'annual cost' column which MH explained; Sport England have provided ways around these peculiarities. MH had made a particular point to Sport England – that all NGBs completing the template should/must use the same approach. This particularly applies to how NGB income is represented whether it is net or gross income.

From a British Orienteering perspective, the submission is aligned with our Strategic Plan and therefore is far less of a concern than in the previous two funding cycles.

b) Chair to summarise ongoing discussions

JH explained that she had been fully involved in the discussions over the summer and believed the submission to be fully aligned with the Strategic Plan.

c) Opportunity to comment on the submission and raise questions

There was agreement that reducing the number of members who lapse would be significant and PB suggested that an explanatory note be placed alongside the 2012 lapsed member data in the submission as there is an anomaly due to the change in membership scheme from family membership to individual membership.

There was discussion around the meaning of 'modernising the sport' and an appreciation that some of this must come from the IOF. There are already examples of IOF decisions that demonstrate this, for instance the growth of 'sprint' orienteering, the changes to relay and the move to a 'forest' and 'urban' WOC in alternate years.

It was pointed out that the programmes within the submission are ambitious and whilst programme staff are included within the funding submission there is little 'programme spend'.

MH explained that unlike the last 4-year funding cycle, the submission identifies work that will need to be implemented with the help and support of volunteers, clubs and associations. This is far more likely to be feasible since the programmes are about increasing retention, particularly within the membership group. It was noted that the programmes will need promoting strongly and explaining well if they are to be implemented effectively by our clubs and volunteers.

There was considerable discussion around the talent aspects of the submission and the importance of working closely with clubs and associations was stressed. This was agreed; MH explained the relationship is fundamental to the strategy to develop the talent & performance programmes.

MH went on to confirm that there is still a lot of preparatory work to do before the talent aspects of the submission are fit for purpose and meet the Sport England criteria although it will be possible to complete this work after the submission has been made.

A discussion on the staffing structure of British Orienteering took place and there was agreement that the structure should be ring-fenced in a way that makes it clear to members which staff are solely British Orienteering and which are funded by Sport England – as is the case with the Sport Northern Ireland funded programmes.

d) To agree any changes required to the submission.

Several points were made during the discussions to improve the submission and MH gave confirmation that these would be made prior to the submission being made.

Overall there was confidence that the submission is aligned to the Strategic Plan and agreement that it should be submitted as soon as it is ready.

MH agreed that the submission be circulated to Board members as a confidential document once the submission has been made.

3. Any other business

To deal with any other pertinent business notified prior to the meeting; no additional items were raised and the meeting closed at 21:05.

Date of next meeting, Thursday 8 December 2016, venue to be confirmed, from 10:45 until 17:00 at the latest.