

Management Committee Meeting – Sport Wales / Virtual (Teams) – Tuesday 21st November 2023 (1pm Start)

Minutes/Action Points

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies: Zane Maynard (WSAA International Secretary), Jo Warner (WSAA Chair), Chris Moss (WA Head of Development)

Present: Gerald Davies (WSAA Immediate Past Chair, Trustee), Dai Williams (WSAA Treasurer, Trustee), Alex Donald (WA Head of Competition), Steve Jones (WSAA Vice Chair), Gwilym Williams (WSAA President, Trustee), Gareth Oldham (Powys) & Andrew Jenkins (WA Schools & Young People Engagement Officer).

In the absence of the WSAA Chair it was agreed that Steve Jones (Vice Chair) would lead the meeting.

2. Minutes / matters arising from last management meeting 31st May 2023

1998 Constitution re draft complete and approved at WSAA SGM (2nd November) to be advanced to the WSAA AGM on 25th November 2023 for approval/adoption. Any proposed amendments to the constitution cannot be made until 2024 WSAA AGM since no proposals/notices of motion had been received by the deadline (Friday, November 17th.)

We are governed by the 1998 constitution until the draft is adopted.

Operational side of WSAA is defined by the SLA. The draft constitution grants delegated responsibility to WSAA Officers for day-to-day running of the organisation. The SLA sets out the arrangements for the WA Competition & Performance Departments to run our domestic and international events.

GW suggested that the Peter Morris/Sarah Moore draft document needs further consideration. This was AGREED in principle by the meeting.

SJ repeated the offer to share files from previous WSAA events in order to assist the Competitions Team. It was AGREED that AJ contact Colin Slater to create a shared drive for non-public facing WSAA documents, trustees accounts etc.

DW approved and SJ seconded.

3. Actions Arising from 31ST May 2023

No actions arising.

4. Feedback regarding fixtures held since May 2023

WSAA T&F Championships at Cardiff – all good, no major changes, but could do with additional volunteers qualified and unqualified, combined responsibility of WA & all school districts.

WSAA Cup & Plate at Aberdare – much improved on the 2022 event. However key challenges were not enough people to input results and make the numerous and continuous team changes throughout the day, this could also be resolved by reverting to one school number per school rather than individual pupil numbers. There were not

enough team medals on site but will be rectified for 2024, with enough medals for first three school teams in all four sections.

AD – what is the officers preference for summer 2024 venues for WSAA Championships & Cup & Plate? Our preference was for the Cup & Plate to be held at Brecon with Aberdare as reserve venue, and the WSAA Championships to be held at Cardiff with Brecon as the reserve venue.

GO – is there any budget for accommodation costs to Eryri & North East Wales for the WSAA Championships. AD&SJ – it is unlikely WSAA or WA will have budget to do this and to financially sustain it year on year.

SIAB U17 International @ Grangemouth, Scotland – major travel issues on the journey up which were out of our control. The championships went very well, and it was Wales largest medal haul since the 16 achieved in 2015.

WA U20 International at Cardiff – the date was not an ideal choice, with numerous issues for athlete unavailability and non-selection, including qualifying standards, injuries, holidays etc. In 2024 this will most likely will be held in England on a date and venue TBC. WSAA will request a meeting with WA Performance in early 2024 to look at viability of continued involvement and potential alternative opportunities for our U20s as WSAA athletes. We need to incentivise athletes to be retained in the sport.

Indoor Combined Events at Cardiff – all went smoothly, although numbers were slightly down on 2022, with the U16B not being quite as strong compared to the U16G, U18M & 18W. Full teams were selected for the Schools International.

Inter Schools Cross Country at Newtown- the course was great, and the event went well on the day. Athlete numbers were up overall from a regional perspective, school pupil pre-entries were only slightly down on 2022, however the number of school finishers was well below 2022, this could be resolved by asking regions to ask for their athletes school names when declaring teams. Further thought needs to be given at our next competition sub group of how to boost the number of pupils participating and getting their school names declared. We would support returning to Newtown in 2024 or any other central venue for this Championship such as Builth Wells or Brecon.

5. Competition Subgroups

These dates for these sub-group meetings need to be decided well in advance to reimplement to mitigate many of the issues in point 4 above, and reduce the time of Management Meetings. This would also assist AD in time management, AD's workload is a concern for WSAA Officers. In addition, SJ has numerous files on WSAA competition organisation that could support AD in competition delivery (see item 2 above).

6. U17 SIAB 2024 Track & Field

Date likely Saturday 20th July 2024. This is still to be confirmed by SIAB. There was no appetite for the change of date request due to the date clash with the European U18s Championships.

Venue – Carmarthen Leisure Centre.

Accommodation – provisionally booked in Trinity College Carmarthen & Lampeter Campuses, likely to need further sites. Accommodation costs to be shared equally i.e. average cost met by Schools Associations (this is to avoid any country being disadvantaged by being booked into more expensive accommodation).

7. Finance

Financial summary to be distributed for WSAA AGM immediately.

8. Update on teacher Education courses

Of 150 annual target of attendees, only 60 to date attended with 4 months of financial year to go, weekend courses have not been as well attended as mid- week. Further thought needs to be given on how to increase attendees from current and trainee teachers.

9. Update on WSAA Logo

Proposal from Performance Team for an updated WSAA Logo to be printed onto WSAA international vests rather than WA logo. Cardiff Metropolitan University design department have drafted some samples to shortlist. These to go to key stakeholder groups as part of a consultation process.

AD – we will be considering budgeting for additional branding such as pulls ups, flags, scrim, banners, medal inserts etc for use at WSAA events.

DW – expressed concern at the potential costs at a time when budgets are stretched, questioned whether this is the right time to be considering such changes

10. AOB including date of next meeting

AJ WSAA Social media Facebook and X (Twitter) channels are up and running successfully growing followers and engagement.

DW – awaiting event plan for Combined Events International on Saturday 2nd December 2023 including WSAA responsibilities. SJ will chase up with Phil Warwicker & Rhiannon Hawker.

GO – is the venue SIAB cross country at Santry, Dublin? SJ – Yes.

Date Of Next Meeting 1pm to 3pm Thursday 11th January 2024 at Sport Wales.

Meeting closed at 3.10pm