

British Freestyle Discipline Committee Meeting – Draft Minutes Thursday 25th June 2015 – On-line/Telephone Conference

1. Participants, Apologies

Participating:

Iain Mackay (IM) Peter Bates (PB), Kay Bates (KB), Martin Carr (MC), Chris David (CD), , Dave Edwards (DE), Lesley McKenna (LM), Paddy Mortimer (PM),

Apologies: Emily Sarsfield (ES), Pat Sharples (PS), Gar Trayner (GT), Sean Curtis (SC)

2. Minutes of March Meeting

The minutes were approved.

3. Finance

DE announced that the BSS Board has approved a modest loss for the last financial year. Concern was expressed that sponsorship revenue had deteriorated with nothing in the pipeline for the coming year. Sir John Ritblat was undertaking an initiative to set up a charity to fund elite snowsports athletes. There was no change in the amount from UK Sport in the coming year. A grant from Exxonmobil to fund kit for Junior Freestyle athletes attending the Junior World Championships was forthcoming. This was warmly welcomed.

4. Clothing

CD outlined the current situation with the sponsor. Communication had been very much improved and it was expected that new clothing would be available in September/October. It was noted that it was necessary to establish the process and obligations on all parties. If a contract was to be involved, the CEO of BSS would need to be consulted. It is important that the aerials team is consulted to determine their requirements. CD needs to know numbers by end of July

Action 1 (June2015)

IM & CD to liaise with sponsor to determine obligations.

Action 2 (June2015)

SC to liaise with CD regarding aerials clothing requirements.

Action 3 (June2015)

Team Managers to liaise with CD regarding numbers.

After meeting note – this action may need to be taken by Ian Danby who will take over CD's liaison with the sponsor.

5. Proposed FIS Moguls Competition at Chill Factore (Sept 2015)

There was a detailed discussion regarding this proposal. It was emphasised that the event must be financially viable. Snowsport England would not underwrite a major financial loss. A cut off date of 2nd September was set for entries to ensure viability. The programme would be different from last year with no Olympic format. Singles and duals qualification could be mixed FIS & non FIS, but scored as separate entities in the computer program. There would have to be separate finals for the FIS and non FIS events. There would be ample time for athletes to train but younger competitors needed to be counselled not to overtrain.

The suggested timetable was Wednesday 16th September – 1 x duals event; Thursday 2 x singles event; Friday morning - 1 event.

Action 4 (June2015)

CD to send out invitation which emphasises cut-off date and amends the timetable as agreed.

After meeting note – this action may need to be taken by Ian Danby who will take over CD's role. (CD moving to new post in UAE at Ski Dubai)

6. Selection

KB reported on the selection for the forthcoming year. The process had been relatively straight forward. Two athletes who had applied for 'A' level status had been turned down because they did not meet the selection criteria. This was explained to them in a letter. KB was congratulated by PM, IM and others on her management and chairing of the selection process.

LM reported that Park & Pipe would be reviewing criteria for APA (Athlete Performance Awards) but nothing would change this coming year. LM would update at the next meeting.

Action 5 (June 2015)

LM to update on APA criteria at next meeting

7. BSS Board

IM reported that the present chair (John Brewer) is to step down and the process of finding a successor is ongoing. It was also reported that the Home Nations were proposing to have more representation on the board. This would have to be brought up as an amendment to the constitution at the A.G.M. It was noted that members of this committee felt that this would be a retrograde step – the current system whereby the disciplines had a major influence was felt to be the way forward.

8. Park & Pipe Academy

LM updated on progress.

Mark Ritchie is the pathway manager and is ensuring that there is a coherent approach to athlete coaching/development. The structure comprises the British Team, The National Academy and the Home Nations Academies. It was noted that not all team members were in receipt of APA funding. There are two pathway coaches commencing work in Scotland. The best way forward for coaching in England was being considered. A training camp at Saas Fee starting on 17th July would include both Scottish Coaches plus Joe Tyler and Dom Harrington. The summer training would concentrate on the British Team and UK National academy athletes with camps aimed at other athletes in October and/or at Christmas. Currently there are 60 academy athletes with a roughly even split between England and Scotland. One concern is the lack of Female representation at Home Nation Level in both Ski and Snowboard – ways to address this problem are being considered.

9. Skills Development

PM updated on the proposal to develop a training facility for Freestyle and Snowboard based on the Chiba Kings System. 3 potential sites had been identified in Scotland and there had been a huge response from facilities in England. A short list was being drawn up.

10. FIS Calendar Conference

IM reported back (more detailed reports had been previously circulated)

Harmonisation of Snowboard and Freestyle skiing Technical Delegates was ongoing. IM actively involved in the process.

Discussions ongoing re format, and course structure of dual moguls. Also its inclusion in OWG replacing single moguls.

The proposal to allow mixed nations teams in aerials was defeated.

The rule allowing late entry after the draw on payment of CHF100 is being removed.

Big Air has been accepted for Snowboarding as an Olympic discipline (but not for skiing)

11. AOCB and Actions from previous meeting

LM reported that she heard that FIS were possibly going to run a “super series” in 2016/17 and possibly for qualification for the Olympics. She would need to know as soon as possible re entry qualifications for such a series.

Action 6 (June 2015)

LM to investigate “super series” from Snowboard coordinator and to keep IM informed

Tara Wilkie had requested an upgrade from D level to C level as a moguls judge. Committee agreed that she needed to provide evidence of having satisfactorily judged both turns and airs in competitions.

Action 7 (June 2015)
PB to email Tara and ask for a record of competitions judged.

The following actions from March are being carried forward as new (amended) actions:-

Action 8 (June 2015)
GT and Dan Brier to report on progress with plan to bring terrain skiing into Skicross training

Action 9 (June 2015)
IM to confirm with PM what access was allowable to selection appeals panel minutes.

12. D.O.N.M

Two future meeting dates were set:- Thursday 20th August and Wednesday 4th November

Action 10 (June 2015)
PB to circulate future meeting dates

Summary of actions below. Please check any items against your name and ensure the item is completed before the next meeting. You will be asked to update!!

ACTIONS FROM JUNE 2015 MEETING

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Peter Bates (July 2015)