Goalball UK Competition Committee Minutes

Thursday 30th April 2020, Conference Call

In attendance Dina Murdie (DM), Dani Dillion (DD), Dyfrig Lewis-Smith (DLS), Sarah Leiter (SL), Sammie Korosi (SK), Paul Holloway (PH), Tom Dobson (TD) and Alex Bunney (AB).

1. **Welcome & Apologies**

* DM welcomed the committee and opened the meeting at 11am

1. **Goalball UK update**

* AB confirmed all Goalball UK staff are currently working full time from home.
* Senior staff are in touch with key sporting and visual impairment organisations relating to advice and guidance for COVID 19. Mark Winder Goalball CEO is part of a CEO forum who are holding meetings around the re-start of recreational sport – AB to send updates to the CC to guide decision making
* TD reported all clubs have been contacted to understand the impact of COVID 19 on the club network and offer appropriate support where possible.
* DLS also highlighted the main Goalball UK Board are meeting monthly until further notice.
* AB thanked members for their time in completing the Campbell & Tickell Goalball UK committee review surveys.

1. **Individual Updates**

* DLS provided an update on the development of a policy for transgender athletes, volunteers, etc. A proposal about contents will be drafted for discussion with CC and Board members.
* TD shared plans for the development of the player level guidance document. SL highlighted the need for GBR and talent coaches to be involved in the process. Committee members agreed.
* TD to co-ordinate the completion of a draft document to share with the committee.

1. **Player Levels**

* The Committee agreed that all players will retain the level they currently hold and will play at this level when competition re-starts.

1. **Readiness for Competition**

Committee discussed the challenges and ideas for the potential re-start of competition

* Any activity must be in line with government advice
* Welfare of the goalball community is the number one priority
* The challenges of social distancing for blind and partially sighted people are different from the general population
* We will have vulnerable players, officials, coaches who maybe shielding
* Travel distance and restrictions will affect ability to get to competitions
* The committee will maintain an open mind on plans with a flexible approach as long term planning highly provisional at this stage
* 2020/21 season very unlikely to look like previous seasons
* At present it seems likely there will be opportunity for clubs to deliver more localised tournaments with Goalball UK support
* Re-start will be an opportunity to ensure that all clubs are fully signed up to all necessary policies and codes of conduct
* Committee will issue communication in May 2020 providing clubs and the wider community an update

1. **Issues received to the CC**
   1. Intermediate Trophy, March 2020

* General complaint received and discussed from a person attending the competition regarding behaviour and language used by unidentifiable goalball players on public transport.
* All clubs and players to be reminded of their responsibilities and conduct when re-signing necessary policies.
  1. Sporting Chance (ongoing)
* AB confirmed the committee is now working with Sporting Chance to support players returning to competition from a sanction.
  1. National League decision
* One comment had been received after the communication of the decision. DM thanked the committee members for their speedy input into the response.

1. **Communication from the Committee**

* Committee discussed how decision and updates on competitions should be published acknowledging the different platforms, challenges, and the impact of decisions.
* Communications will follow agreed Goalball UK processes, except where the specific case requires a different approach

1. **National League Rules Review 2020/21(TD)**

* TD highlighted the current rules and code of conducts need to be reviewed by members of the committee.
* TD will circulate revised rules based on reflections from how rules have operated this season
* Finalisation will also depend to some degree on format for season 20/21

1. **Player of the season and Keith Lound Award 2019/20**

* Committee agreed there had been enough play across the season to make both awards. Members noted the player award was not just about on court contributions.
* TD to lead the process of collecting nominations from the Goalball community in May / June 2020
* Shortlisting and voting will take place at the next committee meeting

1. **AOB**

* DM requested an update from Goalball UK Workforce and Talent Leads regarding potential activity to support officials’ courses.

1. **Date of next meeting**

* 25th June via conference call 11am – 1pm
* Other meetings maybe called in line with the evolving COVID 19 situation

Meeting closed by DM 12.35pm.

END