# Goalball UK Competition Committee – Agenda

Thursday 8th February 2024, 6.30pm (Conference Call)

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

## Welcome & Apologies

Dina Murdie.

Kate Coghlan.

In Dina’s absence, DLS acted as chairperson for the meeting.

DLS opened the meeting at 6.40pm.

## Issues requiring CC discussion and action

### 2.1 Recent Communications

AB shared the recent communications that were sent to teams and officials regarding general behaviour and ruling updates. AB highlighted there had been no formal replies to the emails but speaking to teams, players, and officials at recent events there is an understanding and support for the reminders particularly around behaviour.

### 2.2 Team Viability

The committee further discussed team viability issues in the Intermediate North and South Leagues with communication ongoing with the relevant teams. The committee are committed to giving the teams in question every chance to remain in the leagues.

### 2.3 Goalfix Cup 2024, rankings for pool allocations

The committee confirmed the final 2023-24 Super League rankings will be used to rank teams for pools at the 2024 Goalfix Cup.

## Competition Framework Development

### 3.1 2024-25 Competition Development

TD presented the 2024-25 outline framework to the committee for discussion.

Available budget and rising costs dictate the number of competition days and structure will be very similar to 2023-24

At Intermediate level each region will be involved in choosing the playing format for their region and there will be no double header weekends in the league. All teams will attend all three single matchdays. It is anticipated with the reduction of potential back-to-back games court time will not be impacted in a significant way. Costs to both teams and Goalball UK a key factor here.

To support new(er) teams entering Goalball UK competitions at regional level we will look to trial 1 or 2 new competition locations.

At Super League level we will consider the reintroduction of promotion and relegation within the Super League tournaments even with 8 teams.

2024-25 Timeline:

March/April - draft calendar to be sent to teams and officials.

June - Intermediate and Super League entries open.

July - Intermediate and Super League entries close.

August - final decision on formats and all teams are confirmed in the leagues.

TD highlighted the consistent challenge of finding 2 hall venues that are suitable, affordable, and available. This availability heavily dictates competition locations particularly at Super League and Intermediate level.

A discussion took place regarding the potential structures for 2025-26 to allow for growth and to maximise resources.

### 3.2 Super League teams meeting, January 2024

The committee discussed the key issues raised from the teams’ meetings:

General support for the behaviour reminder but the competition must remain competitive and allow for emotion at times, particularly at the highest level of the sport in the UK.

Goalball UK to consider the timing of tournaments in line with Ramadan dates.

Most teams commented positively on the promotion and relegation format that was used for the 2022-23 season, Goalball UK and the committee will consider the reintroduction for the for 2024-25 season.

Several teams raised the possibility of streaming the Goalball UK Super League. Goalball UK are committed to this in the long term and will begin assessing viability with costs, logistics, and workforce key considerations.

## Updates

### 4.1 Committee Roles

AB confirmed the following updates have been approved by the Goalball UK Board and the Competition Committee from 1st March 2024:

* Dani Dillon is stepping down from her role as Officials representative. Goalball UK and the committee members would like to put on record their sincere thanks for Dani’s contribution to the committee and development of the competition framework during her time in office.
* Dina Murdie is stepping down as Chairperson and moving into the Officials representative role. Goalball UK and the committee members would like to put on record their sincere thanks for Dina’s contribution to the committee and development of the competition framework during her time in office as Chairperson.
* Dyfrig Lewis-Smith is appointed to Chairperson by the Goalball UK Board.
* Kate Coghlan, Goalball UK board member is stepping down from the committee with Emma Henwood joining the committee from the Goalball UK board. Goalball UK and the committee members would like to put on record their sincere thanks for Kate’s contribution to the committee and development of the competition framework during her time in office.

4.2 Intermediate Trophy Entries

TD confirmed there are 14 teams from 13 different clubs for the 2024 Intermediate Trophy.

### 4.3 Goalfix Cup sponsorship and plans TD confirmed the 2024 edition will take place at Worcester University, 15th & 16th June 2024.

TD confirmed Goalfix Sports have renewed their sponsorship of the Goalfix Cup for 2024 and 2025. As part of the renewal, we will introduce the Russell Warnock, Player of the Weekend award to remember and recognise the contribution Russell made to the sport.

Entries for the competition will go live in February 2024, with teams confirmed in March 2024.

### 4.4 Referee Course 2024 postponement

AB confirmed the February referee course was postponed due to a lack of sign-ups. The course will be rescheduled for September – December 2024. A new date will be announced when the 2024-25 calendar has been further developed.

## AOB

AB confirmed Mark Winder, Goalball UK CEO, will be in touch with each of the independent committee members to discuss the development of the Goalball UK 2024-29 strategy.

## Date of next meeting

Tuesday 26th March 2024, at 6.30pm via Zoom

Document Ends.