



Board Meeting #6 Minutes	08.02.2022
Meeting of the Board of Officials	8:30pm-10:30pm
#6	Approved for Publish

Attendees:

Tom Thornhill (TT) President, Christian Carter (CC) Senior Affiliated League Commissioner, Erik Gustafson (EG) National Teams Programme Official, Lee Manning (LM) Development Official, Earl Dix (ED) Secretary, Chris Deacon (CD) Officials Commissioner

Apologies:

None, it was noted that CC would arrive later

6.1 Chair's Welcome, introductions and apologies

TT said thank you for attending this meeting largely to address outstanding items in regards to the upcoming WBSC Europe congress to be held in Ljubljana, Slovenia on the 11th and 12th of February.

6.2 Declaration of Interests

It was agreed that the Declaration of Interests would remain as a standing agenda item, and only addressed in detail if there were changes. EG suggested that Board members should recuse themselves from voting if the matter in question created a conflict of interest for a Board member.

Declarations were as follows: EG Commissioner at Londonsports. LM Currently on a sub-contract with BSUK also associated with LYBL and Herts Baseball. TT Associated with the Norwich Icenis Baseball Club and the East of England Baseball League. CD Associated with Legends Baseball.

6.6 Slovenia WBSC

There were no Board additions to the briefing's recommendations and the Board resolved to approve TT's recommendation.

TT suggested that he and EG would look at candidates at the event and would feed back to the Board with any changes to their strategy. The Board agreed to that approach.

The Board also advised TT to speak to the other candidates on a call before the election.

Action – TT & EG would update the Board on any updates to their voting strategy on Friday evening.

Action – TT to arrange to speak to candidates that have not already been spoken with.

6.3 Review and Approval of Minutes of the previous Board meeting(s)

It was resolved that ED would complete the minutes for previous meetings for the approval of the Board at the next Board meeting.

BRITISH BASEBALL FEDERATION

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Action – ED to complete the minutes of the previous meetings for the approval of the Board at the next meeting.

6.4 Summary of voting outcomes of the 31 Jan 2022 EGM.

There were several constitutional changes approved at the Extraordinary General Meeting of the membership held on the 31/01/22. These changes were ready to be published barring one last check through.

Action - CD to check that the correct version is in place.

Action - TT to publish the updated version on the website.

6.5 Summary of 4th Feb meeting with WB-UK and any action items.

The BBF Board were invited to a meeting of the WB-UK Board on Friday 4th February. A number of action points were delegated to BBF Board members.

Of the immediate actions from the Board, the Board composed the following action points, pending sight of the WB-UK minutes:

Action – the Board would wait for the minutes of the meeting from Tracey at WB-UK before putting together a complete action list.

Action – TT to schedule a call with WB-UK to discuss regional structure

Action – LM to find storage space for WB-UK equipment at Farnham Park

Action – LM to help Amanda Hocking with a coaching session later in the year.

Action - ED to forward the issue regarding facilities with WB-UK, especially where women play or watch.

Action - TT to listen back to the recording of the meeting to clarify the discussion points about the funding for the Women's GB programme and the need to clarify exactly what those requirements were.

The following actions were discussed separately between EG and Amanda Hocking:

Action - EG to forward on to WB-UK any communication from CEB/WBSC that referred to the Senior Women's European Baseball Championship in Montpellier this August.

Action - EG will speak with the appropriate person at CEB/WBSC to obtain the details of certain footwear, bat composition and other details particular to this year's Women's European Baseball Championship and forward on these details to Amanda Hocking.

6.7 Bank Accounts & Mandates

CD moved motions to rationalise BBF accounts and finances.

The Board voted on and approved a resolution to open new Secondary Accounts to the BBF Main Account and the change the names of BBF Secondary Accounts.

The Board agreed to a resolution reflected in separate minutes that names of signatories will be added to the BBF accounts and names of previous Board members will be deleted. EG said that the minutes should reflect that CD is the Officials Commissioner and not Interim Treasurer.



6.8 Youth Affiliated Clubs League Commissioner Role

Following Kent Boswell's resignation as the Youth Affiliated Clubs League Commissioner, it was agreed by the Board that LM and CC would share the responsibilities of this role. It was noted that they would not be co-opted into the role but that they would perform the duties of the role. It was agreed that this Board seat would remain vacant so that a potential volunteer could be found to be co-opted into this role. Further to this, it was agreed that the next BBF newsletter should feature the vacant Board seats and ask for interested parties to contact the Board if they were interested in a specific role.

Action – TT will include the vacant Board seats in the next newsletter and ask for volunteers.

6.9 Next Board Meeting

6.9.1 Agenda Points

ED suggested to the Board that we include standing agenda items for each meeting which includes reports from each Board member (if applicable). If there was anything else to add, then Board members could add these items to the agenda.

TT asked EG if the Collaboration Agreement with BSUK needed addressing before the next meeting. EG said the Board would be kept informed, but once the negotiations had reached a more advanced stage, he would submit a report to the Board. This report would either be a recommendation to abandon negotiations with BSUK, or it would be a recommendation that EG be given the formal approval to sign this contract on behalf of the BBF. He suggested that there might not need to be a meeting per se, but that the Board could consider the recommendation and make a decision by return correspondence. The deadline set by UK Sport to have the BBF and BSUK sign this contract is 31 March 2022.

6.9.2 Time & Location

The Board agreed to meet in person on the 7th March 2022 in London at 4pm.

Action: ED to arrange venue of next meeting.

6.10 AOB

6.10.1 Senior Leagues Disciplinary Group (CC)

CC discussed the proposed Senior Leagues Disciplinary Group. He said that there were comments at the League Managers' meeting that some disciplinary actions in the 2021 season took too long to resolve. In addition, CC pointed out that he did not believe that there was a need for a disciplinary committee, but that this type of event would only need to have a volunteer appointed that would assist CC in addressing any disciplinary issue. EG suggested that CC draw up a detailed proposal for this structure for the next meeting and the Board would consider this.

Action - CC to make a proposal that provides for a solution to address disciplinarys for the Board to consider at the next meeting.

6.10.2 Invoicing of 2022 Membership Fees (EG)

EG asked if any teams that registered were going to be invoiced. CD said that he would issue invoices as soon as he knew who they were. EG understood that a number of teams had already registered for the season, so there could be invoices issued. CD would also consider phased payments on a case-by-case basis. CD also suggested that we would need to set up a process that penalised late payments.



6.10.3 International Steering Group (CC)

CC asked about the International Steering Group. TT said that there was no formal decision-making process. The paper that proposed the group stated that the members should be President, Secretary, and now a GB athlete representative. There was further discussion about the related contract. EG reiterated his previously stated concern that the contract signed between UK Sport and BSUK created a breach of the BBF Constitution, due to the contractual recognition by UK Sport that BSUK was the NGB for Baseball (and Softball). EG asked that the Board immediately rectify this constitutional breach and that UK Sport agree to vary its contract with BSUK to this effect. TT mentioned that he should get assurance from UK Sport that they recognise that BSUK is not the NGB but that BBF is. CD highlighted some inconsistencies in the contract and TT said he would address them.

Action: EG to send a proposed email to TT regarding a letter that should be sent by the BBF to UK Sport that specifics how the existing contract shall be modified so that UK Sport no longer contractually agrees that BSUK is the NGB, and granting this recognition to the BBF.

6.10.4 Player Financial Liabilities

LM highlighted a recent issue regarding players who don't meet their financial commitments to their respective clubs. The outcome of the subsequent discussion by the Board was that there should be wording added in the handbook that players would need to be fully paid up with their clubs before transferring to another club.

Action - CC, LM and CD to agree wording to add to the handbook.

6.10.5 BSUK Insurance Flyer

EG summarised the content of a flyer that had been sent by BSUK to its chartered members in respect of their ability to purchase insurance cover from BSUK. In this flyer, BSUK states that clubs affiliated should approach the BBF separately to have their cover obtained. Based on advice from Howden, EG highlighted that it could be interpreted by some that the BBF was in the business of selling insurance, which is a risk for the Federation. EG was given advice by Howden on how to rectify this appearance that had been created by BSUK.

Action – EG to send the Board proposed wording of a statement to be issued by TT to ask BSUK to rectify the current flyer, and any future flyers that they may distribute that addresses insurance cover.

- *End of Meeting* -