



SGM MINS 25/2/12

England Touch Association SGM

Venue: The Woodstock, 139 Barlow Moor Road, Didsbury, Manchester, M20 2DY

Date: Saturday 25th February 2012

1. Opening Address and Welcome

GC opened meeting at approx 18.20

2. Apologies

Apologies received from Steve Cleary (Membership), Claire McIntosh (HP), Mike Abromowitz (In2Touch).

3. Registration and accreditation of nominated delegates

Present: Voting rights denoted in brackets

Gregg Cropper (President); Mike Roa (VP); Carly Heselwood (Governance); Taryn Pile (Development); Jack Linstead (PR/Marketing); Shelley Grace (Referees); Tom Bedkowski (Tournaments, Bristol Touch); Marnie Wills (Galaxy); Dave Wooley (TV); Tim Osborne (Hot Custard); Chris Simon (Perfect Motion); Lesley McCallion (Percy Park); Neil Bowden; Julie Walker (Secretary, Manchester Chargers).

The meeting was determined as quorate (having in excess of 10 members who are eligible to vote present at the meeting).

4. Motions for amendments to constitution (v3.3): CH / GC

The motions for amendments to constitution (as detailed in SGM agenda) were voted upon and the changes were carried unanimously. The updated constitution (V3.3) can be found on the ETA website <http://www.EnglandTouch.org.uk/wp/index.php/why-eta/policies-procedures/>

5. Governance items: Approval of 'Election of Office' template and 'Terms of Reference' template: CH

The above two governance documents were accepted and agreed for use by ETA for all future relevant post appointments and sub-group activities. These documents will soon be available on the website. (<http://www.EnglandTouch.org.uk/wp/index.php/why-eta/policies-procedures/>)

If anyone has any questions on these documents or is interested in becoming involved in assisting the ETA please contact Carly Heselwood (Governance Director) at Carly@EnglandTouch.org.uk

SG raised the issue of the newly formed 'ETA advisory and disciplinary panel' and this was explained further by CH and GC: The panel has been set up to be independent arbiters on any contentious issues brought to the attention of the ETA committee. Terms of Reference for this sub-group will be available

in the near future. The initial permanent members of this committee are: Carly Heselwood; Jeremy How; Caroline Evans-Jones and Carle Skein.

It was decided that a referees representative will be appointed to this group on an 'as needs' basis under the advice of SG.

6. Nationals Tournament Update

Neither a written or formal verbal update had been provided prior to the meeting from HP. A number of issues were raised by numerous members of the committee concerning the progress of the organisation of this event and after lengthy discussion the proposal was formulated that the tournament organisation would be formally handed to a subgroup committee consisting of Tom Bedkowski, Claire McIntosh and Marnie Wills. This proposal was carried unanimously. TB will take the lead in tournament organisation and competition structure, CM to be responsible for coordination of regional coaches and selectors seeing players. Other people will feed into this sub group as and when necessary to advise on eg playing schedule and demands (DW) and Referees requirements (SG).

Rules

- Latest FIT rules, Clarity around drop-offs How are disputes handled (Copy to be sent to teams)

Dates

- First a prelim submission of teams by: 12th March
- Disputes over teams submitted by: 19th March
- Final cut off for team: Monday 2nd April
- Named teams on the website: Wednesday 4th April

7. Masters Trials Dates and Venue

Date and venue for the masters trials has been set as Saturday 28th April 2012.

Times: 10.30 am to 3pm Registration from 10am.

Address: Gresham Park Road (off Wilford Lane), West Bridgford, NG2 7YF.

For further info <http://www.Englandtouch.org.uk/wp/index.php/2012/02/national-squad-trials/>

The 'Masters' trials will in addition be used as a 'sweep up' session for other England-eligible players who have either not been selected for their regional side or who have a legitimate reason for not having been involved in the regional competition. For further information see the above link or email Mike Roa at mike@Englandtouch.org.uk

8. Use of Dropbox / File sharing for ETA documents



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The use of online file-sharing site Dropbox will be used in future for storage of all 'live' ETA policy documents. The link to these documents will be available to all committee members and also to all eligible voting members on request to association secretary (jules@englandtouch.org.uk)

9. RFU and RFL update

The ETA is currently in discussion with the RFU over various aspects of Touch development and league affiliation. Negotiations are at an early stage and further information will be shared when appropriate. A working party consisting of highly qualified coaches and administrators within the ETA has been formed and will report back in the near future.

10. AOB

Lesley McCallion raised concerns re Regional Boundaries (specifically the split of NE and Cumbria = NE; NW and Yorkshire = NW) and also the impact that the current ETA stance on affiliation has on the NE region in particular. It was decided that a review of regional boundaries will take place following the Nationals competitions this year especially with regards to regions that are struggling for players. The current ETA stance that 'players who want to play regional or national representative Touch cannot take part (play, referee or organise) any non-affiliated Touch' was accepted as being a massive issue currently for the NE regional team. Due to the lack of availability of affiliated Touch opportunities within the region it was decided that for this season the NE region will be granted exemption from this policy. This will also be reviewed following this years competitions.

Taryn Pile raised the issue of Youth Development and would like each region to consider a Youth Development plan to include development days in the region and formation of youth teams. Chris Simon and CH to provide info on Sportivate funding (6 weeks of funding to provide sporting opportunities to 14-25 yrs age group).

Coaching course dates have been confirmed for this year and can be found below:

17- 19 August - Level 2 : Manchester
07-09 September - Level 1 : Bristol
1st/2nd September - L2 Coach Assessment (L2 attenders from previous years and 2012 cohort) - Lilleshall

Meeting Closed