



SSS Competitions Committee Meeting (73)

Zoom

27th July 2020

MINUTES - Meeting 73

Present

Chris Sellar (CS)
Eamonn Laird (EL)
Iain Christie (IC)
Sophie Tyler (ST)
Eilidh Sneddon (ES)
Yubo Rasmussen (YR)
Chris Purdie – SSS (CP)
Jess Barrows – SSS (JB)

Apologies

1. Welcome and Apologies

CS welcomed everyone and thanked them for their time. It was recognised ST was due to join the meeting one hour in, and YR would only be able to attend for the first hour.

2. SSS Return to Play Survey Data

CP identified that it would be best to start with this agenda topic for ease of setting the scene. CP used a powerpoint presentation to display the trends in data from the SSS member institutions. Abertay was the only university who did not respond and was expected to. It was also recognised that only one college (New College Lanarkshire) responded, though this is because the survey was released during the summer holiday.

Key trends included:

- Most institutions would like programmes of competition to begin again based on each individual sport. Most responded 'Unsure' as to whether sports should return in their previous format, though trust SSS to make a good decision
- Institutions would be more inclined to host SSS Event and League activity than National Squad activity, as most feel they should prioritise the former for their students
- Hosting of any activity is dependent on a number of factors e.g. government guidelines, business models and the needs of their own members, and semester 2 bookings are more likely to be available
- There is a general consensus stating that the Football Cups should run if at all possible, with most saying that the Finals could play behind closed doors if necessary
- Most institutions would not want fixture deadlines to be extended due to academic teaching time

Overall, the institutions want SSS to be flexible, prevent a crammed semester 2 as far as possible and prioritise participation over performance.

The Committee agreed with the themes presented and further underlined a few points: that the sector will understand why National Squad activity is reduced and that as long as SSS's approach to sourcing facilities is sensitive, the sector will do their best to accommodate.

3. SSS Competitions, Events and National Squad RAG Overview

CP notified the Committee that the final survey responses were received two days prior to the meeting therefore it was difficult to send the relevant information in advance. He explained that the SSS Competitions Staff (CP, JB and Leah Davidson) had jointly completed a RAG overview of all competitive activity, by sport, and proceeded to explain this to the Committee. In this instance, red = the sport is unlikely to go ahead, amber = variables may prevent the sport from going ahead, but there is room for innovation to change that and green = at the current time, the sport should be able to go ahead. This RAG document will be shared with the Committee after the meeting.

In general, the Committee agreed with the conclusions and plans drawn by the SSS Staff, but advised the following areas to be considered:

- The aim should be for all amber sports to be turned to green if at all possible
- The document should include a column which includes potential adaptations of the sport's competition format e.g. virtual races
- Community spirit will need to be maintained this year therefore participation should be prioritised over performance. If no activity is possible in semester 1 for a certain sport, then action should be taken to bring the students together in another fashion
- Consultation with the Sports Chairs may provide additional ideas for competitive structures e.g. Indoor Cricket event, regional competition, small-sided competitions or simple online challenges
- Additional resource can be found in the sector, so SSS should ask if a regional delivery model may be best
- Reward and recognition is an integral part of sport and should be considered in all decisions

4. AOB

a) Sports Chairs

JB updated the committee to say that all sports, barring Rugby (which doesn't currently have a competitive outlet), now have at least a Sports Chair in place for the coming year. Some sports have moved to a Development Group or a Committee structure to provide additional resource and student voice. CS thanked JB for her efforts on this.

b) SSS Summer Social

JB reminded the Committee that SSS were hosting a virtual Zoom gathering on Friday 31st July to see off the 1920 Season, and encouraged all Committee Members to sign-up.

5. Date of Next Meeting

The next Competitions Committee Meeting will be on Wednesday 26th August 2020

Actions:

- SSS to consider creation of an indoor cricket event
- SSS to compile a draft competition calendar for 20-21 to be presented on 26th August