



MEETING OF THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE OF THE SCOTTISH HOCKEY UNION LTD

Brief Notes of meeting held on Monday 10th August 2020 at 6.30pm

Invited Attendees: John MacKenzie (JM), Peter Gillespie (PG), Andy Tennant (AT) Jamie Frail (JF), Stewart Gilmour (SG)*, Anne Wotherspoon (AW), Martin Shepherdson, Barbara Morgan (BM) David Bond (DB)

*Denotes observer

Meeting held electronically

1. Apologies

Peter Gillespie, David Sweetman

2. Minutes from Previous Meeting.

The minutes were agreed by the members in attendance at the previous meeting.

3. Matters Arising

JM addressed the recent events that had affected the sport, alluding to the new composition of the Management Committee, and encouraged members to look forward and make positive decisions on behalf of the sport and members.

This was re-iterated by a number of members, with a unanimous consensus that this is how the committee would commit to operate.

4. Reports

Given the extenuating circumstances, general reports were waived to allow for discussion and decision making around the tow key areas of Covid-19 Return to Sport Guidance and Competitions.

5. Covid-19 Return to Sport Guidance

JF informed the meeting of the process and mechanism for communicating with **sportscotland** re government guidance.

General feeling that the guidance issued by SH had been informative, well presented and timely.

The meeting discussed a number of ongoing challenges and barriers to the sport returning to the pitch, but particularly the issues of facilities – particularly access to toilets, travel to matches and number of players and umpires available – along with the numbers permitted on a pitch at once.

In general it was felt that while recognising the challenges and uncertainty presented by Covid-19 that we should remain positive and have a “can-do” approach to resolving any issues and returning to the pitch as soon as it is reasonable to do so.

It was agreed that a consultation process with clubs participating in SH competitions would be required.

There was discussion on the sanction should a player spit on the pitch. This was subsequently discussed as a matter arising at the Management Meeting in September, where it was agreed that a player spitting should be a 10 minute yellow card.

Actions

JF & AT to facilitate a meeting of the Premiership Clubs (both men’s and women’s) to gauge the willingness to return to the pitch and to address the key challenges.

SH competitions staff to contact a number clubs out-with the premiership to gauge response.

6. Competitions

It was agreed unanimously by the meeting that the weekend commencing Friday 2nd October should be targeted as a provisional start date for domestic hockey.

Every effort should be made to facilitate the return of national competitions, failing that then a regionalised competition model could be considered as a fall-back position.

Competition entries have been finalised and were circulated to the meeting. It was agreed staff would finalise numbers with a view to confirming competition structures to clubs as soon as is reasonably possible.

General discussion around contingency planning. JM suggested that the 12 team format was ideally suited to provide options in the event of a curtailment. Staff to brief clubs on this during consultation process.

Actions

SH Competitions Manager to confirm participants and provide a provisional fixture list for consideration by relevant parties prior to next meeting.

JF & AT to facilitate discussions with relevant other sports, Sports Scotland and Scottish government if necessary to try and establish whether guidance is likely to change to allow team sport to return - and how other sports may be interpreting the guidance. Feedback to be provided to support ongoing discussions with clubs.

JF & AT to brief clubs on contingency planning should the season require to be curtailed or any local lockdowns prevented teams participating.

7. AOCB

SG commended the meeting on the positive approach being taken to returning the membership to the field of play.

Date of Next Meeting – Monday 14th September 2020 to be held electronically via Zoom.

Meeting finished at 8.30pm