

BOARD BASKETBALL ENGLAND



BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Date: 29th October 2024

**Location: F2F
Loughborough**

Present:

Paul Blanchard (PB)
Born Barikor (BB)
Chris Walsh (CW)
Mat Newby (MNY)
Sadie Mason (SM)
Egemen Onen (EO) – Remote
Joel Baynes (JB)
Brandie Deignan (BD)
Katie Simmonds (KS)
Paul Mundy-Castle (PMC)

Executives:

Stewart Kellett (SK)
Victoria Jones (VJ)
Pete Griffiths (PG)
Anthony Jepson (AJ)
Steve Bucknall (SB)
Marc Dring (MD) – Remote joined at item no. 5, left at item no. 7

Apologies:

Sandy Gill (SG)

Externals representing NBL D1 Working Group:

Russell Bell (RB) – Remote joined at item no. 8
Garry Johnson (GJ) – joined at item no. 8

Note Taker: Karen Bailey (KB)

Item No. 1 – Regions / Board Response

The Board discussed feedback from the Regions and the Regional Reforms.

Item No. 2 – Apologies for Absence

RB took the opportunity to welcome KS to the meeting as a newly appointed NED. Apologies were accepted from another newly appointed SG

Item No. 3 – Declaration of Conflicts of Interest

No new conflicts of interest were disclosed.

Item No. 4 – Minutes / Action Tracker / Calendar of Key Events

The Board approved the minutes from the meetings on 6th & 19th September, with an update to reword the minute action from Leagues and Competitions to Officiating action. The Action Tracker was acknowledged.

Item No. 5 – Organisational Health Dashboard

MD joined the call.

The Organisational health dashboard and contents were acknowledged.

Item No. 6 – Season Start

Firstly, SK expressed gratitude to the Board and JB for their support in the activities around the membership and portal issues, also acknowledging the work of the Basketball England (BE) staff.

SK provided an update on the season start, noting financials are against target. PG shared statistics, highlighting a current gap of 22% in officials to games (300 light), with some officials covering multiple games. [Redacted for confidentiality] emphasised the need for a strategy session focused on game and referee growth over the next five years.

[Redacted for confidentiality] provided insights on challenges faced, noting [Redacted for confidentiality] tickets raised by the end of August.

PB requested a breakdown of the issues contained in the CRM tickets, it was agreed that this data will be contained in the organisation health dashboard. It was noted that there are currently 30 outstanding tickets, with MD tasked to provide detailed feedback and categorise these issues.

Action: MD to provide detailed feedback on the number of outstanding issues and categorisation of outstanding topics. Add CRM data into the dashboard for monthly reporting.

Item No. 7 – Digital Partner(s) and Related Budgets

MD presented the digital tender process, detailing a timeline and the shortlist of four providers from ten submissions. The Board approved the tender process, with an emphasis on ensuring high-quality service. PB noted the importance of investing in the best service available.

Item No. 8 – NBL D1 Proposition

RB and GJ joined the meeting.

The Board welcomed the report and thanked RB and GJ for their time to prepare the excellent report and presenting at the meeting. The Board discussed the matters for some time after the presentation, recognising it is a pivotal moment for the game and wish to support the trajectory proposed. The Board were very supportive of the partnership principles presented but also recognised that there was still a significant amount of detailed work to be undertaken to support this start-up phase.

The Board agreed the following:

- Support the NBL D1 proposals for change as an innovative and progressive development that will help progress the prospects for improving the league product, club sustainability, and leveraging investment in the future.
- Support the need to be resourceful and more commercial from a club and BE perspective and we are keen to strengthen the partnership further in this development.
- Agreed that a new company formation was a positive vehicle to progress the league product, standards, and investment prospects and agree to its formation at this stage.

The Board specifically requested that:

1. Consistent with the partnership approach proposed by the Clubs, the BE representation is changed from 2 to 3 representatives.
2. To ensure that sufficient due diligence is undertaken on the detailed proposals, BE ask their Legal Advisors to undertake a final assessment of the company status, formation, ownership, governance, powers etc., for its suitability to achieve the objectives stated.
3. For clarity, the league ownership and governance will remain with BE. The new company will focus on raising standards, marketing the league, and attracting investment, of which the clubs and BE will work in partnership to achieve the shared goals.

In addition, the Board discussed the wider implications of the proposal beyond a single division. The matters relating to the detail (e.g., promotion, relegation, future entry fees, fixture volume, impact on servicing, how this reflects across the women's game) should be discussed by the NBL D1 clubs with the League and Competitions Group so that the Board can be clear about the impact, opportunities, and risks. This process will add value and transparency to the whole process.

This work will be undertaken by 28 November 2024 and more detailed proposals should be discussed at the next BE Board on 6 December 2024.

https://basketballengland-my.sharepoint.com/:w:/g/personal/karen_bailey_basketballengland_co_uk/ESEPeFyPVRVNIc5ajGGam4cBql9j-tokpufiz72DLiNV8g

Meeting Close 16:55