

SPORT MATTERS IMPLEMENTATION GROUP (SMIG) MEETING

PERFORMANCE SMIG

The minutes of the 3rd meeting of the Performance SMIG held on Thursday 29th March 2012 at 13.30pm in the House of Sport.

PRESENT:

Chair: Danny O'Connor, Sport Northern Ireland

Members: Jerry Bingham, UK Sport
Tony Cunningham, Irish Sports Council
Sarah Collings, Sportscoach UK
Alan Money Penny, Sport Northern Ireland
Eugene Young, Ulster Council GAA
Robert McVeigh, NI Commonwealth Games Council

In Attendance: Richard Honeyford, RYANI
Alastair Brown, Ulster Branch IRFU
Robin Gregg, Sport Northern Ireland
Jill Poots, Sport Northern Ireland
Paul Donnelly, Sport Northern Ireland
Jamie Uprichard, Sport Northern Ireland

AGENDA ITEM

ACTION

1. CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

- 1.1 The Chair, Danny O'Connor welcomed everyone to the 3rd meeting of the Performance Sport Matters Implementation Group (SMIG).
- 1.2 The Chairman commented on the changes of personnel within the Performance SMIG and thanked outgoing members, Olive Brown and Alan Strong for their time, effort and commitment to the group.

2. APOLOGIES

- 2.1 Apologies were received from Gary Longwell (IRFU Ulster Branch), Louisa O'Riordan (BOA), Michael McGeehin (Coaching Ireland), Stephen Martin (Olympic Council of Ireland), Finbarr Kirwin (Irish Sports Council), Desi Curry (IFA) and Murray Cowan (SNI).

3. REVIEW OF MINUTES OF THE PERFORMANCE SMIG MEETING HELD ON 22nd SEPTEMBER 2011

The Minutes of the previous meeting held on 22nd September

2011 were approved as an accurate record and signed.

4. MATTERS ARISING

- 4.1 There were no matters arising from the minutes and the Chair confirmed that all actions from the last meeting would be covered in today's agenda.

5. SPORT MATTERS ACTION PLAN 2011-15 MEMBER UPDATES

- 5.1 Tony Cunningham updated the group on recent work of the Irish Sports Council and its positive and developing relationship with SNI. In particular, Tony cited hockey as a good example of a sport that was being developed through collaborative work between the two Institutes (IIS & SINI).

- 5.2 Robert McVeigh updated the group on the success of the Northern Ireland team at the recent Commonwealth Youth Games in the Isle of Man. The team returned with 8 medals in total (3 gold, 2 silver and 3 bronze). Robert commented that the Youth Games offers a platform for athlete development and several of the NI young athletes produced personal best performances at the games. The medal winning performances came in Swimming (3 gold and 2 silver) and Boxing (3 bronze).

The General assembly met in November 2011 and awarded the 2018 Commonwealth Games to the Gold Coast in Australia. This announcement is particularly challenging for the NI team due to previous poor performances in the southern hemisphere.

The Chair congratulated the Northern Ireland team on their success at the Commonwealth Youth Games in the Isle of Man.

- 5.3 Eugene Young highlighted a number of winning performances by Ulster clubs including Crossmaglen, Loughgiel, St. Michaels Enniskillen and Loretto Grammar School Ladies, Omagh. Eugene also commented that SINI were supporting a number of handballers ahead of the World Championships. In addition the UCGAA were delivering an innovative programme whereby the organisation was working with schools (Year Group 13 pupils) on video analysis.

- 5.4 Jerry Bingham provided an update from UK Sport, where governing bodies are submitting performance plans ahead of the four year cycle leading up to the Rio 2016 Games. UK Sport has also been working with the DETI and NI Tourist Board in the development of a UK Events Strategy.

Jerry also commented that a new body was being established to help attract funding for governing bodies from the private sector.

- 5.5 Jill Poots updated the group on recent work undertaken by Sport Northern Ireland including investment decisions to fund over 100 athletes through the Athlete Investment Programme. Governing bodies were entering the fourth and final year of the "Investing in Performance Sport" Programme and work is ongoing to develop a new investment programme "PerformanceFocus 2013-17 which will have an emphasis on governance and culture, talent identification and development, coaching and high performance.

Jill highlighted an aim to align the timing of SNI's investment decisions with those of UK Sport and the Irish Sports Council to avoid any potential for duplication between the 3 bodies. Jill provided an update on the SNI Governance audits which have shown a substantial increase in assurance level across all funded governing bodies.

The group heard that the Delhi Preparation Committee had signed off an evaluation report which included a number of recommendations, which will be implemented when planning towards the 2014 Games in Glasgow.

- 5.6 Robert McVeigh questioned whether UK Sport recognised the Commonwealth Games as a marquee event. Jerry informed the group that UK Sport is fully committed to supporting governing bodies' aspirations to Commonwealth Games performance as long as reconcile with UK Sport's objectives. Robert highlighted a risk for the NI Commonwealth Games Council as there is the potential for NI athletes to miss the Commonwealth Games in preparation for the Olympic Games. Jill Poots concluded that all Ireland sports will be required to show a commitment to and promotion of the Commonwealth Games ahead of investment decisions.

- 5.7 Robert McVeigh asked whether there was enough lobbying taking place within central government to have sport play a key role within schools and also advocating the issue of 2 hours of physical activity per week. Furthermore, Robert enquired whether schools were offering a variety of sports within curriculum PE and whether this was taking place in all schools. The group were informed that the next Sport Matters Monitoring Group meeting was scheduled to take place at the Belfast Girls Model school and it was hoped that this meeting will address these questions.

Paul Donnelly informed the group that the offer of 2 hours PE and 2 hours of extra-curricular sport was being promoted within the Participation SMIG.

Robert McVeigh concluded that following school inspections, it was evident that some schools do not have enough resources

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or leverage to provide a variety of sports.

Action: SNI to contact DE to determine whether statistics are available on the sports offered by schools.

6. REVIEW OF DRAFT SPORT MATTERS PROGRESS REPORT OCTOBER 2010-SEPTEMBER 2011

- 6.1 Members heard that a draft Progress Report covering the period October 2010 to September 2011 had been produced. The Chair reiterated the deadline for submission and encouraged all Members to feed into this report which would be presented to the SMMG on 18 April 2012.

7. CONSIDERATION OF SPORT MATTERS TARGETS REVIEW

- 7.1 Jamie Uprichard provided the group with an update on the current position in relation to the attainment of the 26 high level targets. A traffic light system was applied to each target and this analysis highlighted that 5 targets had been achieved, 17 were rated as Green or 'on track for achievement', 3 were rated Amber or 'on track but with some delay' and 1 target was rated Red or 'at risk for achievement'.

- 7.2 Of the 9 Performance targets, the group were informed that 2 targets (PE12 and PE13) had already been achieved; 1 target was on track but with some delay (PE14) and the remaining 6 targets were all on target to be achieved.

- 7.3 Jamie provided the group with an update in relation to the progress that had been made towards each target. PE14 - 48% of SNI funded governing bodies achieved at least a satisfactory level of assurance following a management and governance audit. PE16 - 30 of 34 governing bodies have nationally recognised coach accreditation systems (CDPI, UKCC or recognised by a national or international federation). PE17 - A total of 60 athletes have attained 138 medal successes since the beginning of the Strategy. Jamie explained that some medal winning performances needed checked to ensure they qualified as "European, World and Olympic/Paralympic" standard. In addition, it was argued that NI's 3 recent major winning golfers would qualify and therefore need to be added to the list. Robert McVeigh sought clarification on the definition of PE17, namely "World, Olympic and Paralympic" level.

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Action: SNI Performance Team to check the list of medal winning athletes.

- 7.4 PE18 and PE19 - Jamie informed the group that the NI Sport and Physical Activity Survey (2010) reported that 5% of the NI adult population were involved in coaching. Furthermore, the NI Coaching Workforce Survey (2010) found that of the 1468

coaches surveyed, 80% coached in a voluntary capacity, 24% were paid on a part time basis and 12% were employed as full time coaches. Jamie outlined however that the target referred to "appropriately qualified" and suggested further work needed to be undertaken in order to provide a more accurate assessment of progress towards the 700 full time and 45,000 part time and volunteer coach targets.

Eugene Young informed the group that information on all GAA coaches was entered into a Coaching Ireland database, however he was unsure whether the system recorded whether coaches were full-time, part-time or voluntary. It was requested that Coaching Ireland provide the group with an update on their database and how this could be used to provide information for measuring progress of these targets.

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Action: Coaching Ireland to provide an overview of the Coaching Ireland database at the next meeting

The Chair suggested that the target of 700 coaches should be rationalised, breaking the figure down by participation/performance coaches and should differentiate between education, community and club. Paul Donnelly and Robin Gregg both suggested that a bottom-up approach should be adopted in order to provide a robust measurement of appropriately qualified full time coaches. The Chair queried whether physical trainers within the private sector and P.E teachers who have Physical Education qualifications should both be counted. It was agreed to discuss this in greater detail at the next meeting and it was also suggested that SNI should develop plans for consideration and discussion on a suitable research project.

Action: Definition of PE18 and PE19 to be included as an agenda item at the next meeting.

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Action: SNI to develop an outline research plan to measure PE18 and PE19 for discussion.

Robin Gregg highlighted that the aim of having 700 full time coaches by 2019 required continued investment from DCAL and DE. Robin explained that any decision to cut this funding would have a detrimental impact on whether this target would be achieved.

- 7.5 PE20 – It was agreed that all members were contributing to this target. Paul Donnelly informed the group that SNI's SPLISS research project will establish a baseline position for NI relating to its high performance system and provided the group with an update on the research.

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Action: SNI to provide an update on SPLISS findings at the next meeting.

8. PRESENTATION: COACHING SYSTEM DEVELOPMENT - ALISTAIR CAMPBELL (UBIRFU)

- 8.1 The group received a presentation from Alistair Campbell, the Coach Development Manager within the Ulster Branch IRFU on Coaching System Development. Alistair outlined the work that had been undertaken over a 2 year period to evaluate the IRFU coaching workforce, determining the levels that coached are working at in order to deliver coach education in line with player capacity and needs.

9. PRESENTATION: SAILING PERFORMANCE PATHWAY AND SYSTEMS – RICHARD HONEYFORD (RYA NI)

- 9.1 The group received a presentation from Richard Honeyford, Performance Manager at RYANI on Sailing Performance Pathway and systems. Richard outlined the Olympic aspects to the sport and that from the 10 key disciplines, RYA NI focuses on the Laser men, Laser Womens radial, 49er skiff and Star Men's Keelboat classes. Richard also commented that with the increase in training hours there has also been a distinct improvement in attitude towards training and this has culminated in improved sporting performances and the depth of NI athletes increasing.

The group were informed that the Rio 2016 Games will have narrow opportunities for achievements given the challenges associated with uncontrollable barriers such as the logistics required to get the boats to the correct location. University fees were also cited as another uncontrollable challenge for RYA NI and young athletes.

- 9.2 The Chair thanked both Richard and Alistair for their presentations, adding that it was extremely helpful to hear from those working within Northern Ireland's high performance systems.

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- 10.1 The Chair made Members aware of a series of Sport Matters road shows that would be delivered across Northern Ireland in April and May 2012.
- 10.2 In addition, the Chair informed Members that a Sport Matters 2012 Newsletter will be distributed to over 300,000 households across Northern Ireland in April 2012, with the aim of raising the profile and public awareness of Sport Matters and encourage further commitment and engagement.
- 10.3 Members heard that the next SMMG meeting is scheduled for 18 April 2012 at the Girls Model School, Belfast.