

SPORT MATTERS IMPLEMENTATION GROUP (PERFORMANCE) MEETING

The minutes of the 8th meeting of the Performance SMIG held on Wednesday 5 November at 1.30pm in the House of Sport.

PRESENT

- Danny O'Connor (Sport Northern Ireland)
- Ian Taylor (SkillsActive)
- Roy Millar (Northern Ireland Sports Forum)
- Dr. Eugene Young (Gaelic Athletic Association)
- Michael Black (Irish Rugby Football Union – Ulster Branch)
- Stephen Martin (Olympic Council of Ireland)
- Elaine Reid (Disability Sports Northern Ireland)
- Stephen Hood (Golf Union of Ireland) *For part of the meeting*

In attendance:

- Dr. Paul Donnelly - Sport Northern Ireland (Secretariat)
- Dr. Shaun Ogle - Sport Northern Ireland

1. APOLOGIES

- 1.1 Apologies were received from Liz McLaughlin (Student Sport Ireland), Shane McCullough (Sport Northern Ireland), Michael McGeehan (Coaching Ireland¹) and Paul McDermott (Irish Sports Council) and Jerry Bingham (UK Sport).

2. CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

- 2.1 The Chair welcomed members to the 8th meeting of the Performance SMIG and thanked everyone for their attendance. Following a short introduction from all Members present, the Chair provided a short update on two key areas that are considered worthy of discussion:

1. Commonwealth Games Glasgow 2014 - The Glasgow 2014 Commonwealth Games took place 23 July – 3 August. Sport NI, working in partnership with the Northern Ireland Commonwealth Games Council (NICWGC) provided an extensive media hub to service all NI media platforms and subsequently secure a high volume of media coverage for Team NI over the course of the Games. This media hub service proved invaluable for the local media and Sport NI were congratulated widely on the excellent service provided.

Action 1: All Performance SMIG Members congratulated Sport NI and the NICWGC for their efforts [including the athletes/teams that attained medal success/personal bests

¹ Coaching Ireland is now integrated with Irish Sports Council

during the event], and queried the current status of 2014 Commonwealth Games Review that is currently being undertaken Sport NI. SO confirmed that the Review has been initiated and the he would be more than willing to present some key findings at the next meeting on the Performance SMIG in April/May 2015.

2. **Sporting Ambassador Initiative** - Sport NI launched its Sporting Ambassador initiative in October 2014. Some Sporting Ambassadors who helped to launch the initiative included Dame Mary Peters, David Healy, Kelly Gallagher, Tommy Bowe, and Oisin McConville. The message to young people was '*to get up, get out and get active!*' The Sport NI 'Sporting Ambassador' initiative encourages local high performing and high profile athletes to act as positive role models, volunteering in communities, particularly those in areas of high social need, inspiring the next generation of athletes and young people to reach their goals in life. Through the initiative, Sport NI is helping to inspire the next generation of sports stars, breaking down barriers within sport to help build a united community. The initiative encourages young people to get inspired and try new sports, strengthening the link between high performance and participation in sport and physical activity.

Action 2: All Performance SMIG Members congratulated Sport NI, governing bodies, athletes and other involved in the development of this great initiative, but did highlight that there is some confusion in the sector with regards to who is responsible for identifying and managing the use of Sport Ambassadors. For example, the Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure (DCAL) has made use of a number of sporting heroes to promote various events, but there seems to be no obvious link to athletes involved in this initiative. The Performance SMIG Chair agreed to clarify this issue with relevant staff/officials within DCAL and Sport NI.

3. REVIEW OF MINUTES OF THE 7TH PERFORMANCE SMIG MEETING HELD ON 5 NOVEMBER 2014

- 3.1 The minutes of the previous meeting were considered and approved by all in attendance.

4. MATTERS ARISING

- 4.1 The Chair reviewed the actions from the previous SMIG meeting and asked members to update on their respective actions:

*Action 1 (point 2.3): Performance SMIG Chair to raise the above points (re sports facility needs) with the Places SMIG Chair in advance of the next SMMG meeting – **COMPLETED.***

*Action 2 (point 4.4): Performance SMIG to raise this matter (£150m for schools in UK) with Participation SMIG and agree how best to raise this matter at the next meeting of the SMMG - **COMPLETED.***

*Action 3: (point 5.2): MMcG to provide SMIG Members with information/details relating to the planned Coaching Conference in September 2014 in order to promote and support the event - **COMPLETED.***

*Action 4 (point 6.1): All SMIG members to complete and return progress reporting template within the specified timeframe - **COMPLETED.***

4.3 The Chair thanked all members for their contributions to Matters Arising.

5. MEMBER UPDATES

5.1 The Chair asked Members to provide a verbal update on significant actions that have been undertaken (since the last meeting) by each of the representative organisations which contributed to the implementation of Sport Matters.

5.2 Members heard of a range of initiatives and areas of progress, such as:

- ❖ People development programmes i.e. support to talented golfers that want to turn professional (Olympic Council of Ireland);
- ❖ Update on opportunities presented by the EU in terms of funding and partnership working (Skillsactive);
- ❖ Wheelchair Hurling, Hurling/Shinty Internationals, recent Handball success (GAA);
- ❖ International team success, including u17's qualification for European Championships, current focus on the transition of athletes 16 years + (IFA);
- ❖ Recent developments in BOCCIA and support to athletes funded under Sport NI's Athlete Investment Programme (DSNI);
- ❖ Integration of Sport Institute NI into Sport NI, 2014 Commonwealth Games Review (Sport NI); and
- ❖ Support in the development of Female Sports Forum and the establishment of an '*All Party Working Group on Sport*' in preparation for the next Comprehensive Spending Review (NISF).

Action 3: IT to provide SMIG Members with further information/details relating possible EU funding opportunities.

6. PROGRESS REPORTING (1 October 2013-September 14)

- 6.1 The Chair asked if Members had any comments on the fifth progress report covering the period 1 October 2013 – 30 September 2014. The Chair also thanked all Members for the contribution and advised that there are two outstanding contributions to be included in the final draft.
- 6.2 Members approved the fifth progress report for consider and approval by the SMMG.

7. SPORT MATTERS ACTION PLAN (2015-2019)

- 7.1 The Chair informed all in attendance that Sport NI will be issuing Members with a new Sport Matters Action Planning Template for completion following the finalisation of the Sport Matters Review that is currently being undertaken by DCAL.

Action 4: Performance SMIG Members agreed to complete and return the Action Planning Template within the specified timeframe.

8. PRESENTATION BY STEPHEN HOOD - Golf Union of Ireland (GUI)

- 8.1 SH provided Members with a detailed presentation on the talent/performance pathway(s) in Golf.
- 8.2 The Chair thanked SH for his presentation and congratulated GUI on their efforts in creating an effective sports development system for Golf.

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- 9.1 No other business was recorded.

10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

- 10.1 The Chair advised that dates for the next SMIG meetings will be confirmed following the Sport Matters Monitoring Group meeting in June 2015.

Signed: _____

Dated: _____