



EXCEPTIONAL BOARD MEETING
Thursday 20th July 2023 at 9.15am
House of Sport, Belfast and via Zoom

BOARD MINUTE

Present

George Lucas
 Gavin Boyd
 Denise Burns
 Wendy Elliott (via Zoom)
 Kyle Ferguson (via Zoom)
 Alison Nicholl (via Zoom)

In Attendance

Rebecca Morgan, Chief Operating Officer
 Richard Archibald, Director of Sport,
 John Hart, Head of Policy and Innovation
 Laura Carland, Board Secretariat

	ITEM	STATUS
1	Apologies Apologies were received from Kieran Harding	
2	Declaration of Conflicts of Interest None	
3	Chair's Briefing <p>The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting, which was being held, by exception, to discuss the Recognition of British Ju Jitsu Association (GB) paper following similar decisions made by other Home Nations Sports' Councils.</p> <p>The Chair took an opportunity to advise those in attendance that in response to recent difficulties in governance, financial management and delivery, the Board have established a Task and Finish Group to support the ELT with improvements required to plot out a sustainable platform for the organisation. It was noted that the Task and Finish Group are scheduled to meet (20th July 2023) following the Board Meeting and will begin by discussing the ELT cover during the CEO's absence and the COO's remaining notice period. Members were advised that the Task and Finish Group would consist of Gavin Boyd as Chair, Denise Burns as Vice Chair, Wendy Elliott and George Lucas.</p> <p>Members noted that the Vice Chair, JC, has been appointed as Chair of the Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service and will resign as Vice Chair and Chair of ARAC from 31/07/2023. The Chair stated that the Vice Chair has made a significant contribution to Sport NI during his tenure; supporting the transformation programme, the development of the new strategy and the staffing restructure to support implementation. On behalf of the Board, the Chair acknowledged the Vice Chair's expertise, contribution and commitment to Sport NI and wished Member, JC, every success in his new role.</p> <p>The Chair advised that the Board have endorsed the Chair's decision to appoint Member, GB, as Chair of ARAC, effective from 01/08/2023. The Chair stated he acknowledged Member, GB's contribution to the Board of Sport NI and ARAC and thanked him for agreeing to serve in this role.</p> <p>Members noted that in order to increase support for the ELT, the Chair and the Chair of ARAC intend to be in House of Sport every Monday from 9am to 11am to offer advice and approvals as required.</p>	
4	Derecognition of British Ju Jitsu Association (GB) Members were referred to the Derecognition of British Ju Jitsu Association (GB) paper (SNI 23 28).	Approval: Members approved the

	<p>Members discussed the paper and the issues identified within the paper.</p> <p>The Director of Sport spoke to the paper; offering contextual background to the decisions by home nations to derecognise the BJJAGB body. Members were advised that it is not anticipated that there will be a significant impact on the NI Ju Jitsu Association as this operates as a standalone, separate body nor has any impact on NI Ju Jitsu athletes, the receipt of funding or their respective athlete pathways. Members discussed the communication process between home nations and the timelines which led to the paper being brought to Board by exception. Members were advised that issues relating to BJJAGB has been discussed over a period of several years and recent progress on derecognition procedures has only recently escalated within England. Members noted that England will be impacted most by the derecognition, and Sport England colleagues have sought expedited approval from the other home nations to support their decision. Members noted that it was originally intended for this paper to be brought to Board as per the Board schedule and the Director of Sport thanked Members for meeting to consider the paper at short notice.</p> <p>After a brief discussion, the Board were content to approve the paper and the recommendation contained within i.e. 'The UK Panel is recommending that the BJJAGB is derecognised as an NGB, unless it can demonstrate full compliance with the Recognition criteria within eight weeks of being notified of the Sports Councils' decision'.</p> <p>Approval: Members approved the Derecognition of British Ju Jitsu Association (GB) paper (SNI 23 28).</p> <p>In addition, Members briefly discussed the recent decision of host city, Victoria, withdrawing from hosting the Commonwealth Games.</p>	<p>Derecognition of British Ju Jitsu Association (GB) paper (SNI 23 28).</p>
5	AOB	
	Members were advised of recent media coverage relating to boxing and this is being managed by the governing body, the Irish Athletic Boxing Association.	
6	Date of next meeting(s)	
	The next Board Meeting is scheduled to take place on 9 th August at 9.30am-12:30pm in House of Sport	

Signed by Sport NI Chair: *George Lucas.*

Date: 9th August 2023