

British Freestyle Executive Meeting - Minutes

Wednesday 1st May 2013 – On-line/Telephone Conference

1. Participants, Apologies

Participating - Simon Ashton (SA), Kay Bates (KB), Peter Bates (PB) from 20.30, Martin Carr (MC), Chris David (CD), Ian Findlay (IF), Becky Hammond (BH), Iain Mackay (IM), Gladys Marr (GM), Paddy Mortimer (PM), Pat Sharples (PS)

Apologies: Dave Edwards (DE), Neil MacGrain (NM), Craig Robinson (CR),

2. Actions from previous meetings

Action 1 (Feb 2013) SA to contact HN Wales to hopefully confirm CD as their rep.

Confirmed

COMPLETED

Action 2 (Feb 2013) PM to contact HN Scotland to hopefully confirm NM as their rep.

Issues concerning Scotland and BSS need to be resolved. Neil to be on this committee as an observer meantime.

ONGOING

Action 3 (Feb 2013) PB to add Selection Panel Terms of Reference to next agenda

Carried forward to next meeting

ONGOING

Action 4 (Feb 2013) SA and PM to open dialogue with various bodies. KB and PB to brief SA, PM and CD on their meetings with French at recent EC.

Report sent to SA and IM from KB.

COMPLETED

MC highlighted the need to review the structure of team/licence structure as England were currently reviewing theirs. IF urged that as simple a structure as possible be established.

Action 8 (Aug 2012) IF to follow up as part of his new job

ONGOING, NEEDS FURTHER INPUT

3. Priorities and Targets

Simon had sent out an email giving various buckets to discuss. The email is shown in blue with the discussion points in black.

Iain's comment was that we need to distinguish between means and ends so we looked at specific areas and identified targets.

Buckets

Athlete safety

Agreed that safety is a number 1 priority but number 2 is high performance. There is a balance of risk between these.

- **Lobby FIS to ensure courses are fit for purpose (recent example Slope-style at World Champs) – align with other nations and coaches**

It is a risky sport but coaches need to decide when to pull competitors from competing if courses are not safe.

PS said that at first courses for HP and SS were small and amateur but this year at WCh there were the biggest jumps he had ever seen. Only 10-15 of the men could use these and many athletes pulled out on safety issues.

- **Ensure appropriate levels of insurance for competitors**

Insurance needs to be for coaches and staff too. In USA this is the responsibility of the rider/skier. Lift passes there have waivers written into them but this is not so in the UK. Freestyle Parks are relatively new and there is no requirement to have a coach or a minimum age for their use.

PM said that other disciplines are ahead of us due to parental activities. We need to take advice from gymnastics and trampolining.

GM said that in other sports the governing body is responsible for insurance cover for athletes and coaches.

- Ensure athlete reps are in contact with athletes re concerns

Becky and Craig need to communicate with all GBR athletes via the team managers.

Action 1 (May 2013) SA to ask BSS office to communicate with all GBR licence holders regarding how to raise their concerns with athlete reps.

Athlete Development

- Ensure close working relationship with HNGBs on all levels of development
- Identify appropriate routes of talent transfer from alpine, gymnastics, trampolining etc. – ensure plan in place for each discipline
- Ensure athletes based abroad remain British

Advocacy

- Ensure British voice is heard on technical committees

Technical Staff Development

- Ensure succession planning is in place for coaching, judging and TD roles

MC outlined English developments on coaching and squad management. Mogul coaching is taking place at Manchester and Jeff Fozzard and Ian Danby are getting involved in squad management. Similar is needed in Scotland. A Mogul course and Park and Pipe are scheduled in Manchester.

Team Management and Performance

- Ensure all teams are supported within the restraints of funding and volunteer staffing availability
- Ensure Team managers are aware of all BSS and Committee targets (expectation is these will be discussed and agreed with Team managers)

Team managers need to communicate with PM over the teams, especially safety. Sports Science to be used especially if it is free.

- To ensure that GB teams at major championships are supported by top level administrators and medical staff

Teams need good support at major events and this needs to be written into our procedures so athletes are cared for especially if they become injured.

- Ensure that Freestyle uses all the sports science levers available and aspires to 'best practice' in all off snow preparation as well as on snow

Funding and Sponsorship

- To work to ensure teams are funded
- To work to ensure where desired that all teams receive GB branded suits

Selection

- Ensure selection criteria are in place to promote the headline targets of BSS to generate podium potential athletes at Olympic level and Olympic medals

Media

- To put media programmes in place to maximise the profile of the Freestyle disciplines and their sponsors

Specific Activities

Athlete safety

- Work with other nations to define list of minimum standards and requirements for slope-style events. Iain to then take forward to FIS

Action 2 (May 2013) IM and PS to look at Slopestyle course safety and make a GBR proposal to a FIS meeting.

Conditions of Sochi aerials courses to be discussed at the next meeting.

IF commented that FIS SX courses are sometimes put together too quickly and can be unsafe especially at EC. An informal group of SX coaches are reporting to FIS.

Action 3 (May 2013) IF to report to IM on SX course building and safety.

Athlete Development

BSS needs to link with HNGB. IF is working for England. NM is concentrating on Freeski in Scotland but not much happening in Wales. In disciplines, IF works in SX, Gladys in AE and CD working with Mo in England but there is no MO in Scotland. CD is also organising SX and BX at Manchester each month.

Action 4 (May 2013) Discipline managers to write up how BSS and HNGB interface for their discipline to identify any gaps. SA will help managers with this.

Talent ID camp is planned for women. We also need cross over camps e.g. possibly have Moguls at the groom Camps?

GM and IF already have talent transfer in place but the problem is how to fund the initial stages. CD suggested a weekend at Manchester to train athletes from other sports.

Action 5 (May 2013) SA, PM and IF to discuss ideas for getting new athletes trained, especially how to fund this.

There is a gap in female Half Pipe below the top 10. BH could do something with the Freeski Camp in Cevinia.

Action 6 (May 2013) BH, IF and PS to get information to the HNGB to send to alpine clubs about the Freeski Camps.

- Run a HP Talent Transfer camp for women in July (Zermatt), head coach should be female but can be supported by coaches of either gender. Use SSE and SSS to promote to alpine skiers – we should not see the usual suspects in fact we should not allow usual suspects to attend other than those skiers such as Rowan Cheshire who would be there more as an example than true participant
- Consider the same for Moguls

Advocacy

- Can we with recent British success get Iain a vote on all committees

IM said that he didn't know how votes were allocated but he will try to find out.

Technical Staff Development

- Iain has identified he would like to see a second TD in place – how do we do this?

MC said that lower level judges at competitions tend to random number judge. We need to get more judges at the lower levels, give more training and perhaps we will get TD's too from this.

Action 7 (May 2013) MC, PB and KB to look at judge and TD succession.

- Revisit job descriptions for each role and ensure they are aligned with the overall plans

Action 8 (May 2013) SA to revisit the job descriptions of team managers and discuss with them.

Team Management and Performance

- Ensure that once TASS ends in 2014 we find replacement funding streams to ensure a Chef at every major champs as well as physio support

Action 9 (May 2013) PM working to share off snow training across events.

PM can't co-ordinate who is where.

Action 10 (May 2013) Team managers to find out where each of their athletes is going each month and email to the committee.

Action 11 (May 2013) IM to send draft FIS calendar for 2013/4 to committee.

Funding and Sponsorship

- Secure suits/ clothing sponsorship for 2013/14. As discussed before can we have a GB suit designed that will give us a more bespoke suit but which the vendor can also retail raising our profile?

Action 12 (May 2013) CD to report back on suits at next meeting.

- How do we raise sponsorship? Do we set specific yearly targets for each discipline

Woodsy and Katie have increased the profile of SlopeStyle but other disciplines need more.

PS has contacts with agents who may be able to help with other areas.

Selection

- Set skills based selection criteria that push athletes to continually improve to gain the next level and even retain the current level of licence

IM said that changes should not impinge on who is selected during the Olympic year. We should get criteria together for use post-Sochi. There will be a separate selection meeting to discuss this.

Media

- To utilise the new media to grow awareness and work with brand partners/sponsors to use them to extend our footprint (need more detail around this)

PM suggested we could offer in-service training packages to sponsors. F1 are already doing this.

4. AOB

No items

5. Agenda For Next Meeting / DONM

Selection Panel Terms of Reference
Selection Panel Policy for Oct 2013
Licence Structure link with HN
Conditions of Sochi aerials courses
CD to report back on suits

PB to circulate possible dates at end of June for meeting in July2013.

Summary of actions on next page.

Peter and Kay Bates
May 2013

ACTIONS

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