Triathlon England

West Midlands Region

**Committee Meeting minutes**

Date: 6th March 2018

Time: 19.15

Venue: Leisure Centre, Barr Beacon School

**1. Attendance at meeting**

**Present**: Rosa Teagle, Andy Teagle, Heather Stokes, Christine Bertram, Duncan Hough, Lawrence Green, Mark Deakin, Sarah Taylor

**In attendance**: Kirsty Outhwaite (Regional Manager), Peter Pain (National Delivery Manager)

**Apologies**: Tony Smalley, Helen Seabourne, Karen Riley, Alex Sobolewski (WM Skills School Lead Coach), Steve Lloyd (WM Academy Head Coach).

The following written reports had been submitted prior to the meeting:

Skills School/Academy (to end January), Finance spreadsheet screenshots, Junior Development, Junior Race Series, TE/Council, Regional Manager activity report, Moto officials.

**2. Decisions since last meeting**

The meeting noted that a number of decisions had been made by the Committee by email since the last meeting:

* Approval of WMRC minutes from 7th November 2017.
* Warley Wasps bursary request refused (Heather Stokes not participating in decision)

**3. 2018 AGM and awards**

The date for the 2018 AGM and Awards was discussed and it was agreed that Sunday 14th October would be a suitable date (although it was noted that the timescales would be tight with the JRS ending in late September). The intention is to run two coaching CPD sessions, followed by the AGM and then the Awards (to give the CPD and Awards participants the opportunity to attend the AGM). It was suggested that one of the CDP sessions should be strength and conditioning and the committee agreed that there would be two free places for each club in the Region (for one female and one male coach).

KO agreed to investigate the YHA in Telford as a possible venue. It was agreed that the same caterers would be used (they would be able to deliver to the venue).

ST mentioned that the format for the 2018 TE Awards had not yet been set but that she was on the focus group looking at that. She anticipated a shift towards recognising contribution to the sport rather than the “best of” approach previously used.

**4. Junior Race Series**

It was reported that the JRS was up and running. With Wrekin not holding events this year it had been decided to go for a single race series, to which there had been a mixed reaction. There had been some delay due to issues on having races confirmed but PP (who leads the TE JRS Project) confirmed that the WM were generally ahead of other Regions.

PP explained that as part of the TE JRS Project it had been possible to achieve some consistency in how the JRS in each Region was formulated without having to impose conditions centrally. This had made the process of giving central support more straightforward. The new systems would be tested on the first events shortly.

PP was asked about the detail that race organisers had been asked to provide for inputting into the results service, which included information that race organisers might commonly not have access to. PP made it clear that it was not essential that all of the information was provided in every case; DH asked for that to be made clear as the current version implied that the information was required. PP reported that the there was still some doubt over whether the results service could be delivered in practice. He mentioned that it was possible that in 2019 the service would be extended to include sourcing trophies.

RT queried why Tri Start had been included as she had understood from previous guidance that participation at this age was meant to be “just for fun” rather than actually racing competitively. PP explained that it had not been intended to standardise all aspects in each Region and confirmed that this issue would be reviewed. PP mentioned that this is the kind of issue that could be discussed at a workshop that will be open to all interested parties at the 2018 TE AGM.

DH stated that the sport needs to be accommodating to duathletes and aquathlon participants in order to maintain wide participation and suggested that that be taken into account in the decisions on how many series would be run and/or in how those series are made up. PP confirmed that it shouldn’t get too triathlon-centric at younger age groups, noting that the run and swim elements are the most important parts when looking towards the elite programme. There was a general consensus at the meeting that not being too prescriptive about the event types in a series was a good thing.

PP mentioned that they may be looking to encourage clubs to put on more events for the series as they generally put on better events for children than commercial event organisers. He also asked that clubs be encouraged to enter their events onto the system as early as possible.

MD raised a related question about children racing below the age at which racing should begin by misstating their date of birth. He had the impression that this was a known problem. There was a general discussion on this and agreed that it was wrong, with multiple issues including invalidation of insurance and the risk of burn-out. It was noted that the pattern of parental behaviour that this resulted from could be characterised as child abuse. PP noted that the reasons for having a minimum age for racing were explained in the relevant code of conduct.

**5. IRC kit subsidy/sponsorship**

This item had been put on the agenda because the IRC booklet issued had said that all Regions had arrangements to subsidise the kit for the IRCs (whether directly or through sponsorship) even though the WM did not do this. The error had been corrected but it prompted an email discussion on the subject prior to the meeting. DH as of the view that there was no objection to the Region paying for race kit but only on the basis that the kit belonged to the Region and had to be returned after the IRCs.

There was a discussion on the subject and, although it was noted that there had been no complaints in the past, it was decided that the Region would purchase enough race suits for the IRCs to cover participants who did not wish to purchase their own. AT would find out how many participants would want their own kit in any case. There would be a £50 deposit refunded on the kit being returned after cleaning. It was anticipated that the cost would be about £90 per suit and the maximum number that could be required was 16.

**6. Officials**

LG passed on the details of the brief report that TS had sent to him earlier in the day. In particular, this included a request for a first aid course to be put on for the WM Moto Officials and had estimated a cost of £300. This was approved in principle and ST said that she would investigate alternative providers (preferably tri-specific) and PP said that he might be able help with that.

TS had also asked that the Region fund a first aid kit for each of the Motos and had estimated £30 each for those. There was a discussion on the cost and the possibility of obtaining a less expensive version. There was also some concern expressed on how the kits would be replenished and kept up to date. It was agreed in principle that that the Region would fund the initial kit subject to agreeing the details on the most appropriate kit etc. (it was requested that TS investigate this and then come back to the Committee on that).

ST said that she would follow up with Helen Seabourne on the needs for officials, including guidance on best practice on open water swimming, the LTO course being available to Moto officials to increase their knowledge and RTOs doing the online Moto officials course.

**7. TE/Council**

There was a discussion on the new system for delivering coaching courses, which had been referred to ST’s report. PP explained that a surplus of £20,000 had been made on courses after the payments to the Regional Committees based on numbers attending the courses. Of this, 10% (£2,000) has been paid into the “innovation” fund which is available for Regions with a bank balance of under £50,000 to apply for to support specific projects in line with Sport England priorities. The £2,000 was less than expected and TE was looking at how that could be supplemented to give a more significant initial amount.

On Skills School, PP said that this currently costing £50,000 a year to run and there was a working group looking at how to move to a self-funding model including how costs could be cut and where extra contributions could be sought (e.g. from schools). RT asked how the £4,000 that the Region had contributed had been spent as no information had been given accounting for this money. PP confirmed that £5,000 had been allocated for spending directly in each Region.

RT made the point that the Region would like the WM Skills School to move around the Region more to facilitate a greater number of participants and coaches to be involved.

RT also expressed a concern about the way that the Activator course was being portrayed, with Activators being able to lead a session with a coach; PP said that he would look at that to see if the wording needed to be changed.

**8. Data protection/GDPR**

There was a brief discussion on the new data protection requirements under the General Data Protection Regulation, which comes into force on 25th May. LG stated that he would follow up with PP more specific input following the meeting.

**10. Any other business/date of next meeting**

The dates for the next meeting were discussed and narrowed down to 21st May at Netherton or 29th May at Barr Beacon, to be resolved through a doodle poll.