

Athletics Northern Ireland

Management Summary

2nd August 2023

UKA Licensing

Eilish Ward presented an update on the transition arrangements for UKA coach and official licencing from UKA to ANI which will come into effect from October 1st. All apart from top tier coaches who are involved with athletes competing on the international stage, will be affected. Various legal agreements and operational plans are almost in place with the Athletics Hub portal continuing to be used.

Finance Report

Treasurer provided an update on the audit process as well as the preparation of events' budgets and business cases which will be reviewed by the Audit and Risk Committee ("ARC"). The International XC has received an offer of some funding. The final decision as to whether it is proceeding is yet to be made.

Work continues introducing new internal financial controls. The budget for 2023/24 will also be presented to the ARO next week. The vacant post on the ARC will be advertised and expressions of interest invited within CEO's next blog.

Draft Strategy

Consultation with the staff is scheduled. Feedback is encouraged from the Board. The Chair emphasised the need to have a Strategy in place to guide the organisation into the future and the need to build an operational plan into it. There is a sense of urgency in getting the new Strategy published and circulated.

Governance Project Update

KW outlined key decisions required in relation to the latest draft of the M&As. KW continues to liaise with Colin Atkinson from SNI. Meeting is scheduled to progress Byelaws. The next draft to the M&As to be circulated and available for all members by early September.

CEO's Report

A full report was circulated in advance. Staffing of finance role was discussed. Outsourcing the HR function to be considered. Status update given on staff contracts.

Safeguarding

An update on live cases was provided and the Safeguarding Dashboard circulated in advance of the meeting.

Anti-Doping

AD rules were presented to the team travelling to the Youth CWG. Ongoing issues with registration on OpenTrack. Permitted events NOT using OT need to provide evidence that their competitors are adhering to AD rules. Permits will not be issued to event organisers in future unless compliant with AD rules.

Mary Peters Track

Manager's report was circulated in advance. The potential change in status between MPT and ANI is still with Edwards & Co. for consideration.

The contract between ANI and Belfast City Council (“BCC”) expires on 30/9. Chair to meeting BCC to negotiate and will report back afterwards. Costs of running the facility eg staff and utilities have multiplied and need to be considered in any extension or new contract. The track surface also requires work. The asset register is almost complete. Question was raised about the likelihood of TrackMark being achieved once the cages are repaired. There is difficulty in getting a firm understanding of TrackMark’s minimum standard requirements but this is being followed up by ANI staff.

President’s Report

Circulated in advance. No further discussion.

Senior Management Reports

Query was raised about the “in credit” bookings at the facilities in Jordanstown. CEO is to investigate and revert.

Subcommittee Reports

Reports received in advance from XC&RR, T&F and AAI.

To improve communication between the Board and subcommittees, minutes will be shared all round. Board Members will attend subcommittee meetings on a rotational basis.

A suggestion was made to cross reference the AAI Strategy in the new ANI Strategy being currently written.

JA expressed satisfaction with a good T&F season. The Senior Championships were poorly attended which is an ongoing issue. The date for the Combined Events was changed due to input from England Athletics but will revert to its usual date in 2024. The NIMAA T&F is the final event of the season which will be held on 19/8.

MC, on behalf of Ulster Schools, expressed thanks to all the officials who supported the recent schools’ event. The new Ulster Schools website is now live. Entries for schools events in 2023 were deemed to be at a good level. A discussion ensued as to how Ulster Schools could benefit from using OT in future.

Joma Kit Supply

A draft supply agreement was circulated in advance. CEO to talk to other HCAFs that use Joma. It was agreed that a review of all contracts and purchasing/procurement processes was required.

AOB

CEO to apply for grant funding for Board training from SGA.

Athletes’ Agreements – Performance Pathway team, the Competitions & Events and the Selection Committees will need to review future agreements and ensure full compliance. ANI will seek legal opinion on the content of the agreements.

CWG post event report is expected to be completed by 11/8. Various Board members expressed disappointment that this has taken so long to produce. A draft Youth CWG report is due by the end of October, with the final copy due before Christmas. In future, all post event reports are to be published within 10 weeks maximum.

ANI’s IT contract is due for renewal. Chair to investigate options.

ANI’s complaints policy requires an amendment to include a referral process to Sports Resolutions.