



**Minutes of the UK Sport Board Meeting held
from 9.30am to 3.30pm on Tuesday 11 March 2014**

Present

Chair Rod Carr

Attendees: Brian Henning
Nick Bitel
Jonathan Vickers
Louise Martin
Mark Hanson

UK Sport Staff	Liz Nicholl	Chief Executive
	David Cole	Chief Operating Officer
	Simon Timson	Director of Performance
	Vijay Parbat	Head of Legal
	Paul Buxton	Head of Performance
	Jonathan Bennetts	Sports Investment Manager

Board Secretary Jo Hitchings UK Sport

1. Introduction and Apologies for Absence

Action

The Board being quorate the Chair commenced the meeting. Apologies were received from Sarah Springman, Lis Astall, Laura McAllister and Philip Kimberley.

The purpose of the meeting was to hear representations from sports, which were confidential and closed sessions, arising from the Annual Investment Review decisions on the 31 January 2014. The Chair highlighted that the key consideration for the Board was whether the Board accepted that there was in fact performance evidence to support moving a sport to a higher Priority Band within the Meritocratic Table, and any resultant funding recommendation or decision that would follow.

The Chair stated the options available to the Board were either to i. reaffirm its previous decision; or ii. change its decision from 31 January 2014; or iii. defer the decision if the Board felt further work was required by the officers.

To assist the Board the considerations and decisions the Board made the previous day were reviewed and summarised.

2. Declaration of Interests

No interests were declared.

3. Approval of Minutes

The approval of the minutes from the meetings on 31 January 2014 and 10 March 2014 were not tabled, instead being deferred to the meeting on the 18 March 2014.

4. Matters Arising

As the Board was convened to hear representations all matters arising since the meeting on the 31 January 2014 and 10 March 2014 were deferred to the meeting on 18 March 2014.

5. Representations

For each sport it was confirmed that the Board had received the representation papers sent in by the sport and also the response from UK Sport's Executive Team to those papers. The process of the session was explained and it was clarified that the representations made to the Board was to give the sport an opportunity to provide their comments on the decisions of 31 January 2014; ask questions of the Board on the rationale of the original decision; and to request Board reconsider its original decision. The representations were not a legal appeal. The Board's decision would be notified to the sport on 19 March 2014 and will include information on the subsequent appeals process (if appropriate).

5.1 Weightlifting

Peter Rowley, Ashley Metcalfe and Tommy Yule from British Weight Lifting joined the meeting. It was noted that Peter Rowley is a Board Member of Sport England and also sits on the Audit Committee of UK Sport. RC introduced the Board and Executive Team members and confirmed they had received the sport's updated presentation. The current position was summarised as follows. Entering the 2013 AIR Process, Weightlifting were categorised in Priority Band 6. Following the 2013 AIR Process Weightlifting were re-categorised to Priority Band 7 (Possible 4-8th in Rio & possible medal in 2020).

The sport made its presentation to the Board. A question and answer session followed which included discussion on the assessment of what performance standards were likely to be required to achieve medals in Rio and Tokyo, junior athletes performances and lifting in senior environment, analysis of juniors going on to succeed at the senior level, data analysis, plans for a semi-centralised programme and the interaction with athletes and personal coaches over the course of the year, the importance of creating the right culture and environment for the athletes and clarification of the team and individual qualification opportunities.

The Board considered all factors presented and the documents submitted (including the Guide, the Investment Principles, correspondence etc.) as well as the presentation and points discussed at the meeting.

The Board believed there was sufficient evidence to change its original decision of 31 January 2014 and reclassified Weightlifting to Priority Band '6'.

The Board asked the UKS Executive to provide a proposal as to the appropriate level of investment in the sport at the next meeting. In considering the proposed investment in the programme, executives were also asked to factor in the impact on the Powerlifting programme that any reduced investment would have. The Board asked executives to consider appropriate conditions around the operational delivery of the programme to ensure that the potential to deliver 4th -8th in Rio and a medal in Tokyo was maximised. The above proposals will be presented for decision at the UK Sport Board meeting on the 18 March 2014.

It was noted there were other amendments arising from the 2013 AIR Process that will be made to the Weightlifting funding agreement which, along with any conditions relating to this decision, will be confirmed by an e mail of variation in due course.

5.2 Basketball

Roger Moreland and Warwick Cann from British Basketball joined the meeting. RC introduced the Board and Executive Team members and confirmed they had received the letter from FIBA. The current position was summarised as follows. Entering the 2013 AIR Process, Basketball were categorised in Priority Band 7. Following the AIR process Basketball were re-categorised to Priority Band 'Unclassified' (little / no prospect of medal in Rio and 2020).

The sport made its presentation to the Board. A question and answer session followed which included clarification on Home Country engagement with development players within the proposed agreement for a GB NGB, on the progress being made on moving to a GB NGB and FIBA's role in wanting to have a GB NGB, the time of and players engagement with the programme, NCAA athletes, the movement from Priority Band 7 to Unclassified and where the sport felt it actually was placed in the Priority Bands, the qualifying route to the Rio Games, the limited routes to obtain funding at the talent level against UK Sport's performance based decision, the impact the decision will have on the GB team and the financial commitments the sport has made and the consequences this may have if they renege them on when funding runs out.

The Board considered all factors presented and the documents submitted (including the Guide, the Investment Principles, correspondence etc.) including the presentation and points discussed at the meeting.

The Board believed there was sufficient evidence to change its original decision of 31 January 2014 and reclassified British Basketball to Priority Band '8'.

In reaching their decision, Board noted that whilst participation in the sport is important it is not within UK Sport's remit to fund this element and that there remains an elite tier to the sport within the national and international Basketball leagues.

In response to the contractual obligation that British Basketball are to compete at the European Qualifiers and other reasonable commitments, Board agreed that the Executive Team should seek further information and clarify how this is best resolved.

5.3 Goalball

John Coles, Mike Reilly and Jackie Sheldon from Goalball UK joined the meeting. RC introduced the Board and Executive Team members and confirmed they had received the updated presentation and note in reply to the Executive Team Response to the representation. The current position was summarised as follows. Entering the 2013 AIR Process, Goalball UK were categorised in Priority Band 5. After the 2013 AIR Process Goalball UK were re-categorised in Priority Band 8. Funding to the sport was withdrawn.

The sport made its presentation to the Board. A question and answer session followed which included clarification on the illness and injury of key players at the 2013 MST, plans for increased blocks of training together pre-competition, the period between London 2012 and April 2013, routes to qualification, other nations planning and preparation, performance against teams above GB, world ranking, contact time with athletes and priorities since the Performance Director's arrival in April 2013.

The Board considered all factors presented and the documents submitted (including the Guide, the Investment Principles, correspondence etc.) as well as the presentation and points discussed at the meeting.

The Board were not convinced that there was sufficient new evidence to change its original decision of 31 January 2014. As a result, Goalball would remain in Priority Banding 8.

In reaching its decision, the Board noted the points made by Goalball. However, Board concluded that there was not sufficient performance evidence to revise the Priority Banding as qualification for Rio and medalling in Tokyo remained a challenge (despite the changeable nature of the sport). The injury issues highlighted a lack of depth in the sport and created reliance on a few athletes in a fragile environment and despite the semi centralised plan (which was well received) the athletes would still receive limited technical coaching for approximately 40 weeks of the year.

5.4 Wheelchair Fencing

Viv Mills, Justine Willmott, Peter Rome and Derek Martin from BDFFA joined the meeting. RC introduced the Board and Executive Team members and confirmed they had received the updated presentation. The current position was summarised as follows. Entering the 2013 AIR Process, Wheelchair Fencing were categorised in Priority Band 6. As a result of the AIR process Wheelchair Fencing were moved into Priority Band 7. Funding to the sport was withdrawn.

The sport made its presentation to the Board. A question and answer session followed which included clarification on the Priority Band the sport felt they should be placed in and assessment against performance progress required by athletes and achieving medals, contact time with the UK Sport Performance Advisor, contact time with athletes in a training environment, qualification route to Rio and interaction between young athletes and their education.

The Board considered all factors presented and the documents submitted (including the Guide, the Investment Principles, correspondence etc.) as well as the presentation and points discussed at the meeting.

The Board were not convinced that there was sufficient evidence to change

its original decision of 31 January 2014. As a result, Wheelchair Fencing would remain in Priority Band 7.

That decision was based on a consideration that a) the current gap that appears to exist between the top athlete and the current medal zone is too large; and b) a lack of confidence felt by Board as to the level of understanding required within the programme regarding just what was necessary to deliver the performance improvements essential to progress.

6 Any Other Business

There being no other business the meeting was closed.

7 Date of next meeting: Tuesday 18 March 2014 at 9.00 am.