



MINUTES

Community Board Meeting

Location:	Microsoft Teams	Date:	Tuesday 7 th December 2021
		Time:	4.00pm – 5.00pm
In Attendance:	Sqn Ldr Damian Clayton MBE, Peter Moran, Trevor Hunt, Sue Taylor, Jan Robinson, Steve Curtis, Lee Mitchell	Chair Person:	Sandy Lindsay MBE
RFL Officers in Attendance:	Marc Lovering, Kelly Barrett		
Apologies:	Fred Baker, Stuart Prior		

Item No.	Agenda Item	ACTION
1.0	Welcome & Apologies Ms Lindsay welcomed everyone to the meeting and the apologies were noted from Mr Baker and Mr Prior. It was intended that the meeting would be face-to-face however with the unavailability of Board members and the impending bad weather the meeting had been moved to teams where an update would be provided.	
2.0	Minutes of the November meeting The minutes of the 2 nd of November were agreed as a true record of the meeting.	
3.0	Matters Arising The Action Tracker review was shared with the group. Ms Barrett presented on each individual action. 1) Primary Rugby League. The Foundation Staff Coach Moderation Day takes place on Thursday 9th December, each Foundation will then be tasked with running the CPD for coaches from community clubs in their area prior to the 2022 season commencing. New PRL Coaches handbook to be produced and sent via CRM to all PRL	

	<p>registered coaches prior to the 2022 season commencing. Parents information sheet to be produced and sent via CRM to parents of all PRL registered players. Content for both these have been sent to our content/design team to produce first draft by early January.</p> <p>2) Community Strategy – Agenda item for the meeting.</p> <p>3) LeagueNet - RFL Executives will continue to work with all Leagues to encourage them to use LeagueNet.</p> <p>4) Our League Active Frequently Asked Questions – Have been circulated with the link included within the November meeting minutes. In addition, linked to these the video which was created with R Hicks and F Dainton has been circulated.</p> <p>5) Our League Active Operational Rules – Amendments have been made to the Operational Rules to reflect the introduction of Our League Active. The 2022 rules have been placed on the Community Board SharePoint site which can be found HERE</p> <p>6) Our League Active document – Has been created and a separate meeting held to go through any questions Board members had.</p> <p>7) Post RLWC2022 Activity – Agenda item for the meeting.</p>	
<p>4.0</p>	<p>Community Strategy/Sport England Update</p> <p>Mr Lovering gave an update on the Community strategy which had been circulated in advance of the meeting and will be shared with the Council on the 8th of December. In addition, a Club webinar took place last week with no comments made by the Clubs.</p> <p>Mr Lovering has also presented to Youth and Junior Leagues, Open Age Leagues, and a separate meeting with Hull Clubs.</p> <p>The new strategy format has been aligned to the RFL strategy and is more concise. Any visuals will be added later.</p> <p>The only other update is the Sport England investment application which will go before the Sport England Board on the 15th of December. After this point we should have an indication of our funding allocation.</p> <p>The Board asked for a family tree to explain what each of the areas are for Our League, Our League Active and Our League Life.</p>	<p>K Barrett</p>
<p>5.0</p>	<p>Enjoy the Game</p> <p>Ms Barrett provided an update on the progress made on the implementation of Enjoy the Game. In summary:</p> <p>Review of the 2021 season has seen several issues within the Community Game including:</p>	

- Increase in Match Official abuse cases
- Increase in Racism cases
- Increase in general discipline cases
- Increase in poor crowd behaviours within the Professional Game.

A Community Game summit took place on Saturday 6 November 2021 which included Stakeholders from across the Community Game, Match Officials, Coaches, Club and League Administrators and Disciplinary Panel Members.

Areas to investigate were broken down into:

- The environment
- Ownership
- Regulation
- Education

Outcomes from the meeting:

- There was consensus that adult behaviour at Youth and Junior level was not acceptable and required action before the start of the 2022 season.
- The behaviours of the Coaches/Game Day Managers need to lead parents and supporters to make sure they set the right tone for acceptable behaviours.
- RFL need to support and educate the disciplinary panels.
- More visual messaging of what unacceptable language and behaviours are, and what sanctioning will be made for those who offend.

Actions

- With immediate effect, all abuse of Match Officials at Youth and Junior level will now to be referred to the Safeguarding Case Management Group for assessment (this could result in an immediate TSO for the offender).
- The education of key leaders (Coaches / Game Day Managers) will be delivered as part of the online mandatory Coach Right programme in 2022, and the Game Day Manager course.
- Current rules and regulations on compliance to be reviewed and publicised, to have greater sanctions applied to those who are in breach.
- Enjoy the Game campaign and the Respect Policy to be made more visible throughout the game within all clubs.
- Posters in clubs, CRM all stakeholders, players, parents etc and make everyone aware of their responsibilities before commencement of the new season.
- Clubs to be held to account for actions and behaviours of their crowds and supporters (as they are tied into the Operational Rules).
- Professional Clubs to receive an updated ground safety note which is to assist Clubs in managing their crowds at both home and away matches, and we would hope provides Clubs with a series of ways of protecting themselves when fan behaviour drops below the standards, we would all expect and wish to see.

The Board asked if we had investigated creating a video of what it is like to be a Match Official when there are negative behaviours on the touchline. Ms Barrett stated it was something that we have discussed and believed there would be merit in doing this.

Mr Moran provided an update on an initiative the NCL is working on with the Match Official's Department which would see Match Officials wearing head cameras. These would not only film any on field incidents but could pick up on touchline behaviours. The pilot is due to take place from January.

K Barrett

	<p>Mr Mitchell suggested that we utilise the Foundations to provide added value. They could link up with ambassador Clubs and help with messaging and rolling out the parent workshops. Ms Barrett to pick up separately with Mr Mitchell.</p>	K Barrett
6.0	<p>Community Board Structure</p> <p>Ms Lindsay stated that she would like to have a discussion on the structure of the Board going forward, however it was suggested this item be moved to a meeting in the New Year.</p>	S Lindsay
7.0	<p>Post RLWC2022 Activity</p> <p>Ms Lindsay asked Board members if they had any thoughts on post RLWC2022 activity.</p> <p>Mr Lovering stated that the Professional Clubs and Foundations have a role to support this and run activity so it would be good to have a full discussion on this at the next meeting.</p>	M Lovering
8.0	<p>Any Other Business</p> <p>Standing Report – Ms Lindsay asked the Board if they found the standing report covering Development, Community and Operations, useful. The Board agreed that this should be circulated to the Community Game as it reiterated and supported all the work that the RFL do. Mr Lovering agreed to pick up with our content team.</p> <p>Foundations – Mr Mitchell stated that he would share his Foundation report on what they as a Foundation have achieved over the duration of the Sky Try programme.</p> <p>2022 Dates – Proposed dates will be shared as soon as possible.</p>	<p>M Lovering</p> <p>L Mitchell</p> <p>K Barrett</p>
9.0	<p>Meeting Close</p> <p>Ms Lindsay wished everyone a Merry Christmas and closed the meeting at 17.08pm.</p>	