

## Welsh Schools Athletics Association Management Committee Meeting

Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2023

10.30m Start @ Sport Wales, CF11 9SW

- 1. Present:**

Rhiannon Hawker (WA), Hannah Pretty (WA), Andrew Jenkins (WA), Jo Warner (WSAA Chair), Steve Jones (WSAA Vice Chair), Dai Williams (WSAA Treasurer), Gwilym Williams (WSAA President)
- 2. Apologies for absence**

Gareth Oldham (Powys), Gerald Davies (WSSA past chair) & Zane Maynard (WSAA International Secretary).
- 3. Minutes/Action Points from last management meeting on Tuesday 6th December 2023**

Jo Warner is overseeing WSAA Facebook & Zane Maynard the Twitter accounts, the remainder of the minutes were accepted as accurate.
- 4. Matters Arising from Tuesday 6th December 2023**

None arising.
- 5. Governance: WSAA Constitution update**

Steve Jones will undertake rewrite of the constitution linked and referenced to the WA SLA, but requested remuneration for time undertaken to do this. Once the rewrite is completed this draft constitution will go to members of the Working Group (DW, GW, GD and JoW) ahead of the consultation period for Districts, for further feedback/consultation within a 30 day timeframe. Once all replies are in on updates, an EGM will be called to approve before the next WSAA AGM.
- 6. Competition sub group - Final Sign Off**

Rhiannon gave an overview of the terms of reference of the group, roles and responsibilities, the composition of individuals will vary for each sub group meeting usually held in good timescale of 4 to 6 weeks prior to each event. Three sub groups have been held to date, for combined events, cross country inter regionals and Welsh Schools National Championships. Those who attended these felt they are evolving but effective to plan do and review. Schools need information as early as possible, so PE staff can get the logistics of buses and supply teachers in place to be able to attend fixtures approved by school senior leadership teams.
- 7. Sustainability of competitions**

How can midweek schools events become sustainable in terms of volunteers as the make up of our existing volunteer base has evolved that the majority of our volunteer officials are only available on weekends. Schools need to be advised that they must provide one team manager and one official at WSAA Cup & Plate, therefore we can then

just have one appropriately qualified UKA official on each event discipline. Competition sub groups should resolve some of the issues.

#### **8. Finance/Charities Commission**

Sport Wales financial challenges have a knock on effect on many aspects of WA, therefore need to look at income generation, and reduce costs overall. As a starter the £300+ costs on WSAA awards, can we consider streamlining the number of awards given. Need to take advantage of WSAA charitable status, there are courses that support charities how to generate revenue. Need to revisit registering WSAA for gift aid as if you make a donation to a charity that is tax deductible. Look for a sponsor for Welsh Schools National Track & Field Championships via WSAA social media. Jozie Postles will be able to support with example packages, Jo W will meet with JP to discuss an action plan.

A Trustees meeting still needs to be called, JW will set this for a date ASAP. Additionally, WSAA need to submit Charities Commission finances as deadline has passed, WSAA officers are still unaware if finance report for 2020/21 financial year has been submitted as well as the naming of change of trustees, the implication of this is that Charitable Status may have been lost if this has not been done.

#### **9. Active teacher focus group**

How can we get more active teachers involved with WSAA to be an opportunity to have ideas and thoughts of how we can help grow schools athletics engagement to act as a sounding board for WA & WSAA. Followed by an informal meeting on all aspects of schools athletics. A flyer will be put together to look for new staff in addition to those we are already aware of as our captive audience, active teams managers and those who are also past and present athletes themselves. Find out what's important to staff and WA. AJ & HP to action a plan to shape discussion.

#### **10. Teachers Education**

An update was given for bookings at Deeside (11) and Swansea (4) for secondary teachers courses. Future scheduling of courses can be more flexible once Steve Jones completes tutor training. Cardiff Met next academic are year keen for primary and secondary courses to be run as part of their students courses.

#### **11. Urdd schools partnership update**

Urdd looking to re engage with athletics in a new offering/format of track & field that the Urdd will deliver a multi discipline round robin of events for school years 6, 7, 8 & 9, similar to the new DNA format completed on 2 to 3 hours. The new developmental format will also allow smaller schools to be competitive too. This year the trial concept will be limited to Welsh Medium schools with potential to expand to more schools in following years. Provisional scheduled between WSAA Championships (Sat 1<sup>st</sup> July) & WSAA Cup & Plate (Wed 12<sup>th</sup> July).

#### **12. WSAA Executive update**

Next meeting is Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> February at 10am scheduled during half term in an attempt to boost attendance. The Agenda has been distributed to school districts and been

streamlined the meeting length by having minutes of the previous meeting pre approved.

**13. AOB (including dates of future meetings)**

Date of next meeting: Wednesday 5th April 10.30am at Sport Wales.

DW We need to inform SIAB meeting at Sefton Park on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> March 2023, where and when WA/WSAA will be hosting the 2024 SIAB Track & Field U17 Championships.

AJ are logistics for Sefton Park in hand with the performance department for travel and accommodation for athletes, team managers and the three SIAB delegates?