



## **Volleyball Ireland**

Minutes of Extraordinary General Meeting

Saturday April 13<sup>th</sup> 2019, Red Cow Moran Hotel, Dublin, 1330pm.

Board Members Present:

Board Members: Grainne Culliton, President; Denise Tallon, Vice President; Jeff King, Board Member; Aidan Curran, Board Member; Gary Stewart, General Manager; Susan Ahern, Governance Consultant.

### **Apologies;**

Regina Halpin, Honorary Secretary

Anna Ducasz, Treasurer

Miriam Gormally, Beach Commission President

Club	Voting Delegate	Others Reps
Dalkey Devils	Magdalena Barankiewicz	
Aer Lingus	Gerry White	
Munster Thunder	Anthi Gilligan	
University College Dublin	Gianmaria Marcatelli	Clement Calvino
Naas	Orla McElory	
Trinity College Dublin	Antoine Carnec	
Santry	Darius Dubrovski	
Garda	Declan Ryan	Matteo Gubbelini

Ballymun Patriots	Audrey Burns	Alison O'Neill
Mayo	Slovakova Adriana	Hilde Koebleski
Newbridge	Martin O'Connor	

AGENDA ITEM	SUMMARY
1. Introduction and Welcomes	<p>Note: 11 Member clubs present and the Quorum satisfied.</p> <p>Grainne Culliton welcomed Members to the EGM and explained the procedure for the EGM. GC also provided an insight into background of the project that began in 2014. She highlighted the importance of good governance and that changes are essential.</p> <p>GC referred to a meeting held with Sport Ireland and Minister Shane Ross previously, where the likelihood of reduced funding for bodies that do not have compliant governance arrangements in place, is high. There will be an increased number of Governance audits in the coming years.</p> <p>GC thanked Susan Ahern for her amazing and tireless work so far on the project.</p>
2. Background Context	<p>Gary Stewart provided some further context and referenced other meetings with Sport Ireland. He also referred to the current situation with the Football Association of Ireland. He mentioned how there is a direct correlation between good governance and successful NGBs of sport.</p> <p>Gary talked about the Strategy and the importance of staff working closer with each Commission to drive growth and reach ambition.</p> <p>GS also talked about the recruitment of individual directors on a skills gap basis.</p> <p>Gary explained how working groups will be established to produce terms of reference for Section 8 (Commissions) and Section 12 (Disciplinary) of the Regulations Related to Volleyball document. The groups will be formed and will bring terms of reference for each Commission to the AGM which will be held on Saturday June 29<sup>th</sup>, in Portlaoise.</p>

<p>3. Governance Review Process and Methodology</p>	<p>Susan Ahern presented her background and experience in sports governance and law, working with World Rugby, Sport Ireland and the International Athletics Association. She then gave a thorough and in-depth overview of the process so far citing examples of change in other Federations.</p> <p>Susan referred to the Strategic Plan and the focus being on supporting clubs but also having governance over them. Ultimately Volleyball Ireland will be accountable for the governance of its clubs.</p> <p>Susan provided an overview of the main differences between the existing constitution and the proposed one. Key points being:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Status of Junior V Senior Clubs. Susan mentioned there was a typo on her slide but article 1.2 of the Constitution is correct. AC clarified as Senior club is a Volleyball Club with 4 National League competing teams, of which one is a Youth team.</li> <li>2. Commissions moving from 7 into 3 with a Competitions &amp; Development Commission, Education &amp; Training Commission and a High Performance Commission.</li> </ol>
<p>4. Questions from Members</p>	<p>Gerry White (Aer Lingus) asked, how the transition from 7 to 3 Commissions will work. GS responded that the roles and responsibilities will be assigned to each Commission with the Squads Commission more or less rebranding as High Performance. The operational aspect of the Coaches and Referees Commissions will merge with Competitions, and the education and training part will move into the new E&amp;T Commission. Susan added how she worked with Intl Athletics to reduced the number of Committees from 36 to 7.</p> <p>Martin O'Connor (Newbridge) asked, what would count as a team for Senior Club status. GS and SA replied that it would have to be black and white and participation in Volleyball Ireland National League Competitions was the best approach. Alison O'Neill asked who would have Snr Club status at present. Martin O'Connor replied, only Santry VC and Naas VC would have Snr club status.</p> <p>Gianmaria Marcatelli (UCD) raised the issue of College teams not being constitutionally eligible to have junior teams, and even though he 'loves the strategy' but it is unfair on college clubs not being able to avail of Snr Club status. SA replied that that is understandable but ultimately Volleyball Ireland has to be the highest Volleyball authority in Ireland and cannot be dictated to by other institutions rules in that regard. GS suggested that there are models in other sports where Colleges have Junior teams and a ratified school-club link could be a way forward. If there is an intention to setup a youth team then a solution to gaining Senior Club status, within the rules, could be explored.</p>

	<p>Alison O’Neill (Ballymun) suggest they become an Approved Volleyball Body, but this would still only result in 1 vote.</p> <p>Gerry White asked, does having junior players but playing in an adult team count. SA replied that would be difficult to determine and specifying the junior league would be the best solution.</p> <p>Grainne encouraged all clubs to work on the Club Mark programme and that will support and guide clubs towards developing their participation numbers. The strategy is quite clear that developing youth volleyball and a Volleyball community is the priority.</p> <p>Kevin Donnelly reiterated that point and encouraged all clubs to setup youth teams, ‘without them your club wont have future’.</p> <p>Declan Ryan (Garda), added that they only have resources to sustain adult teams. Anthi Gilligan (Munster Thunder) said they have had some difficulty but are overcoming it.</p> <p>Orla McElroy (Naas), added that this is a long term plan to grow strong clubs.</p> <p>Gary Stewart (GM), said support is there to help clubs setup new youth sections. He cited Clubmark but also funding opportunities to access equipment and coach education. There is more to come on these supports. If you want a youth section, get in touch. We will help.</p> <p>Kevin Donnelly (Comps Commission), suggested that article 4.2.2 ‘Officers’ needs to be re-arranged so that the President and Vice President are elected in the same year. The members unanimously agreed to change this ahead of Agenda Item 5. Kevin also suggested that article 10.2 be amended so that Transitional years didn’t contradict with article 4.2.3. (see item 5).</p> <p>Some small typographical errors and referencing changes were approved.</p>
5. Voting on Motions	Before voting on the four proposed Motions Kevin Donnelly formally proposed;

That the following amendments to the constitution, circulated on March 29 2019, are approved and as such the motion put to the members in attendance at this EGM for approval;

- a. Reference to Article 15 in the definition of Commission (articles of association) should read Article 14.
- b. Article 10.2 Transition Provisions, typographical error – “3years to read 2 years in line 3, and “2 years to read “3 years” in line 5. Thus making it consistent with article 4.2.3.
- c. Any other typographical or similar anomalies (e.g. numerical) may be corrected in the final Constitutional Document.

All motions were passed unanimously.

Motion One;

*As amended by the EGM, That the Volleyball Association of Ireland Company Limited by Guarantee, Trading as Volleyball Ireland, will adopt the proposed Constitution as circulated to the members on 29th March 2019.*

**This motion was passed 14:8.**

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Motion Two;

*As amended by the EGM, That the Volleyball Association of Ireland Company Limited by Guarantee, Trading as Volleyball Ireland, will adopt the newly devised Regulations Relating to Volleyball as circulated to the members on 29th March 2019.*

**This motion was passed 16:6**

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Motion Three;

*That a Working Group to review Appendix 1 of the Regulations Relating to Volleyball dealing with the Responsibilities of the Commissions Established under Regulation 8 and the Role of Commission Presidents will be immediately established. The Working Group will make proposals, consult with stakeholders and prepare a final Appendix 1 to go before the 2019 AGM of the Company for consideration.*

**This motion was passed 22:0**

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Motion Four;

*That a Working Group to review Regulation 12 (Disciplinary) of the Regulations Relating to Volleyball will be immediately established. The Working Group will make proposals, consult with stakeholders and prepare a final Regulation 12 and appendixes, setting out inter alia (i.e. amongst other things) the procedures to be applied, composition of panels, sanctions, appeal process, to go before the 2019 AGM of the Company for consideration.*

	<p>This motion was passed 22:0</p>
<p>6. Next Steps and Closing Remarks</p>	<p>Aidan Curran thanked the members in the room and showed his gratuity to Susan for all her work on this project. On behalf of the board he expressed our luck to have someone of her skillset and capabilities supporting and volunteering their time.</p> <p>He is hoping this new structure will help recruit more people into Volleyball administration within the Commissions and on the board. The next generation need to take ownership of the sport and grow it.</p> <p>Aidan said the focus will be on the club structure and unless we get it right with proper pathway we will get nowhere.</p> <p>Aidan thanked the board and especially Grainne for her tireless and trojan work.</p> <p>The meeting was closed at 15:50.</p>