

MEMORANDUM

To	Netball WA Member Regions, Associations & Clubs
From	Simon Taylor – CEO Netball WA
Re.	Membership & Governance Reform Update
Date	07 December 2017

Dear Member Regions, Associations and Clubs,

As part of the Membership & Governance Reform and Regional Roadshows we have been asked to provide some further explanatory information on a number of key areas in the modernisation of the Constitution including:

- Electronic Meetings
- Electronic Voting
- Board make up of Appointed and Elected Directors

Below is some information on each of these areas, as always should you be seeking further clarity please feel free to liaise with Liz Booth – General Manager Community Netball in the first instance via email liz.booth@netballwa.com.au :

Electronic Meetings:

The purpose of offering electronic meetings is to enable more members to be present, as we move from 11 voting members to 23 voting members (initially, based on 2016 numbers) the need to offer a cost-effective way to bring all parties together is essential.

Electronic Meetings also save on travel costs and save on travel time which assists in enabling our valuable volunteers a greater chance to attend and contribute without having to give up multiple days in travel to a single location. This meeting format will be utilised across general meetings, board meetings and various committee meetings from time to time.

With technology improvements over the last decade, the use of various electronic mediums for meetings has become common place. The ability to hold teleconferences and video conferences has gone from requiring individuals to book times and meet at various locations to being able to dial in or link in via skype/facetime or other video conference portals from the comfort of your office or home.

Critically it is important that for electronic meetings to be acceptable as an alternative to face to face the meeting format needs to be able to enable all delegates/members to engage in the discussion/debate in real time. We will continue to explore various portals annually to ensure we stay up to date with the latest in technology (whilst still being cost sensitive) that allows for the greatest real time engagement across the breadth of our state.



Electronic Voting:

Electronic voting has been used in various sports for some years, it is used for items such the election of directors which do not require debate and enables more members to participate in the vote. Some advantages include: ensures accuracy and certainty of votes, enhanced privacy, less risk of manual alteration, results can be quickly determined and access to voting can be more accessible to the membership. A number of disadvantages include some members may be unfamiliar with the computer/internet or have limited access to the technology, there may be miss use of a member's identity, possible data hacking and the need for computer security and internal controls.

There are a number of providers including Cirrena IVS – (utilised by the WACA) and Elections Australia (utilised by Swimming WA) that offer these electronic voting services. Netball WA would look to utilise a third party such as these providers to undertake the electronic ballot ensuring the risks are mitigated and the services are highly regulated and professional.

Board make up of Appointed and Elected Directors

Netball WA's current Constitution allows for the appointment of 2 directors and election of 5 directors. The proposed Constitution shifts this to 3 appointed directors and 4 elected directors.

There are various strengths and weaknesses associated with this proposed change, some of which are highlighted below.

A potential weakness is this possibly reduces the netball knowledge on the Board from 5 to 4 directors with this experience. Elected directors have a mandatory skill requirement to have netball knowledge where by appointed directors do not have to have this mandatory skill requirement. The utilisation of required qualifications for elected directors (a clause of our current constitution) does enable the Board to ensure the necessary skill sets not only come from the appointed directors but also the elected directors, which in part reduces the need to move to 3 appointed directors.

A perceived weakness of this proposed change, is that the sport is being governed by non-netball people through the relinquishing of a spot on the board to a non-elected person, thus reducing the voting strength of the Membership to control the direction of the organisation.

Strengths include:

Enabling the NWA Board to identify a skills gap, seek out the right candidate with the skills and offer that person a position on the Board without having to go through an election process. This significantly assists in securing specific individuals to the Board. As our sport continues to grow it becomes increasingly important to ensure the Board's skills sets matches our needs at any given point in time, the appointed Director positions provide the Board with this agility, whilst still ensuring that the majority of the Board have a mandatory skill of Netball experience. The 2-year terms for appointed directors also enable the Board to adjust the individuals more frequently if necessary to meet the skills gap needs as the organisation continues to grow and evolve.

The ASC Good Governance principles seek to ensure that the majority of the Board are elected and both the 4/3 and 5/2 ratios fit this category.



Netball WA would like to thank each of our member Regions, Associations and Clubs for your continued support.

Kind Regards,



Simon Taylor
Chief Executive Officer
Netball WA, West Coast Fever & Glass Jar

