



DIRECTOR'S MEETING 27 May 2020, 10:30am

MINUTES & PROCEEDINGS

Present: Richard Martin (chair), Nick Brooks, Dave Coles, Pete Lavery, James McIntyre, Lawrence Selby, Mike Williams, Neil Williams

Apologies: Simon Hayes, Rodrigo Souza, Cat Elder

Agenda:

1. Covid-19 Elite Athlete Return to Sport, UKBJJA response
2. Sport England Update
3. Rankings 2020
4. International Open postponement

There being more than 3 directors present, in accordance with article 24 of the Constitution, the meeting was declared quorate

Proceedings:

- 1) Richard Martin (Chairman) shared an annotated version of the Government's Elite Sport Return to Training Stage 2 guidance, with a view to exploring how this will affect BJJ athletes. See appendix.
- 2) Commenced with a discussion on the definition of Elite Athlete.
 - a. For the purposes of BJJ, the relevant definition is "an individual who derives a living from competing in a sport". Agreed that many athletes within the BJJ community could qualify under this definition, including athletes under contract to promotions such as Grapplefest or Polaris or who had won prize money in elite competitions such as the UKBJJA International Open. There is potentially a need for further discussion as to whether the guidance applies solely to fully professional athletes or whether it includes semi-professional.
 - b. Discussed whether the definition of an athlete "aged 16 or above and on an elite development pathway" applies – LS raised the issue that development pathways are usually clearly defined documents, which we do not currently have in place. RM suggested that the belt and ranking system might provide an argument to allow clubs to nominate athletes. This would need further discussion/development and might provide an opportunity for us to begin work on an Elite Development Pathway for future use.
 - c. We do not qualify as a Relevant Sporting Body under the guidelines and as such the other two definitions are not relevant
- 3) All agreed that the guidance definition of "Combat Sports Sparring" does apply to BJJ.
- 4) All agreed that any elite athlete programme needed to minimise the risk of the virus spreading and avoid extending or repeating the lockdown restrictions on clubs and that we need to be careful to avoid clubs seeing this as a free-for all return to normal training
- 5) PL raised the issue of how we can ensure qualifying clubs have completed Stage 1 of the guidelines before commencing Stage 2. Can we as an Association assist with equipment (e.g. thermometers) and possibly do spot checks



- 6) LS raised the issue of differences in guidance in the regions. All agreed that where a region has more onerous requirements than the UK wide guidance, the regional requirements would take precedence.
- 7) RM discussed that we have a unique opportunity to make sure that clubs are complying with UKBJJA guidelines on Safeguarding, First Aid, Insurance etc – which is an objective that we have had for some time. This would become part of the record-keeping mandated in the government guidelines. MW confirmed that we would be able to handle this in system terms.
- 8) MW raised the need for clear instructions and resources (e.g. record-keeping guidelines and risk management templates) for any clubs applying for elite sport training. LS raised the need for Cat Elder’s oversight to ensure no safeguarding issues. NW has a contact who will be able to assist with the risk management documentation
- 9) All agreed that we were happy to work with the promoters of Polaris and Grapplefest – as part of defining elite athletes and developing Elite Return to Training. NW has already made contact and both promotions are hoping to run behind closed doors events in the summer.
- 10) RM suggested a ‘National Closed’ tournament to allow clubs to nominate a set number of elite athletes – these would then be invited to compete, to show that every individual we identify as elite has an invitation to a professional event. LS suggested that this was not necessary at this stage, but further discussion needed on how clubs could identify and nominate elite athletes.
- 11) Discussion on whether non-elite training partners could be part of the small groups of 2-3 allowed in the guidelines. This needs further investigation and clarification.
- 12) Under the guidance, we need a mechanism to stop participating clubs’ athletes from training if the virus spreads. Temperature monitoring systems are one mechanism. The guidance does not specifically mention testing, but anti-body testing may also provide a useful mechanism, but we need to refer to scientific advice around their use.
- 13) We need to set up a Covid-19 committee, to include a Covid-19 Officer and an appropriately qualified Chief Medical Officer.
- 14) MW to draft updated press release addressing the Elite Return to Training programme and re-emphasising our existing guidance for grass roots participation.
- 15) RM left meeting at 11:30, discussion continued
- 16) Discussion on athlete ranking points. MW proposed that 2020 athlete rankings be cancelled, as any results for the year will be non-representative (only results from competitions in January/February and late in the year) and that the prize fund be re-invested in other ways.
- 17) Brief discussion on the International Open and proposal that this event be postponed until spring 2021. All present in agreement

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:48 am



APPENDIX

Links to government guidance:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-on-phased-return-of-sport-and-recreation/elite-sport-return-to-training-guidance-step-one--2>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-on-phased-return-of-sport-and-recreation/elite-sport-return-to-training-guidance-stage-two>

Annotated Stage 2 on following page