



## **The Chair's Summary of Strategic Issues and Decisions – September 2013**

The Board held its most recent meeting in September in Auckland and is delighted to welcome Nicki Sutherland as an incoming Board member and Dave Norris as the newly elected President of our sport.

Below is a brief summary of the strategic issues and decisions that your Board has recently considered.

### **STRATEGIC ISSUES & DECISIONS**

#### **NZ Children's Association Engagement**

The Board sees considerable benefit to further and more detailed engagement with NZ Children's Association. A better understanding of each organisation's respective roles, responsibilities and expectations would be very beneficial. The Board has asked the Chief Executive to explore the possibility of forming a working group with NZ Children's to advance this objective.

#### **President's Role & Reporting**

Given the recent By Law change, the Board discussed with the President the future role that he would play at Board meetings. It was agreed that as Dave had suggested at the AGM, it would be very useful to build a job description for the role, using some of the key "senior" personnel in the sport to help develop the draft. Dave is to facilitate the drafting, seeking feedback on the role. The Board is very supportive of this process and approach.

#### **By Law Consideration**

Five By Law changes had been received from the Rules Committee. The changes had been through the 50 day notice period with John Smart, the Convenor of the Records Committee, noting in his submission to the Board that minimal feedback had been received. It was agreed that the changes were approved subject to some grammatical tidy up.

#### **Association Levy**

The Levy remains a key discussion point at nearly all AGMs and remains contentious. It was acknowledged that the current system provides a disincentive for centres and clubs to declare their full memberships as it relies on all clubs and centres providing honest, accurate and comparable data year on year for the model to function fairly. Evidence suggests that this has not always been the case.

A new approach to the Levy was always part of the governance transformation project, with the ultimate goal being identified as individual athlete registration through a new member management system.

The Chief Executive had circulated a discussion paper in regard to the Association Levy and outlined some suggestions for a new interim approach that moves towards the ultimate goal in stages. The recent adoption of the new member management system, which is capable of handling individual registrations online, is a significant first step forward in being able to consider and implement a new levy and registration system. The goal of any new system has to be to ensure the full declaration of membership and participation occurs.

Ensuring that the details of the “real” membership and participation levels are established and maintained will be of significant benefit to all members and participants in athletics in New Zealand and will provide the sport with new opportunities in terms of products and services that can be provided. The ability to communicate with all members and participants through the new member management system is one of the key practical benefits of registration.

The Board explored several options to consider and develop a new model, including the possibility of forming a small working group that would include centre and club representatives to consider and be a sounding board for some initial basic principles for a new membership fee model. The Board considers engagement with stakeholders in the sport as an important aspect of developing a viable replacement for the existing structure.

The Board also highlighted that any new membership fee model must relate back to the strategic objectives that have been set, in particular around growing membership and diversification of revenues for the benefit of the sport. The Board agreed that it would appoint a sub-committee to provide governance to the review project and to liaise with any working group, should one be established.

### **2014/15 Association Levy**

The Chief Executive tabled a proposed structure of the Association Levy as it would apply to Centres based on By Law 6.2 for 2014/15. The Board noted that, given the changing proportions of declared memberships, two Centres in particular would see significant decreases in their Levy for 2014-15. Given the proposals for change to the levy system and in order to facilitate further discussion, the Board proposed that for this year there would be no CPI increase in the total amount levied for 2014-15. The Association Levy is to be advised by 1 October.

### **Club Affiliation**

The Club Affiliation (membership) Fee for 2014-15 was set at \$110 (excl GST) for 2014-2015.

### **Board Appointed Committees**

- Board Appointments Panel: decision to be carried over to the next Board meeting
- Risk & Audit: Roger Carruthers and Nicki Sutherland
- Remuneration & Performance: Annette Purvis, Malcolm Phillips and Cameron Taylor
- Ombudsman: Craig Purdy
- Team Selection, Policies and Appointments: Trevor Spittle and Cameron Taylor
- Rules: John Smart, Don Mackenzie, Rod Syme and Andrew Orme
- Honours & Awards: Alan Stevens as Convenor is to confirm the rotation of the Committee

It was agreed that Records had now become fully operational as part of the Statisticians role, however records still need to be tabled at each Board meeting. It was felt that no Board appointed panel was required.

### **Next Meeting Date**

The Board’s next formal meeting will be held on the 1<sup>st</sup> of November in Auckland.