

PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE OSF WORKSHOP NOTES

Saturday 13th October 2012



Present

Col Clapper	President
Murray Day	Immediate Past President
Carol Kawaljenko	Executive Officer
Etuale Sefo	Samoa
Jim O'Grady	New Zealand
Neven Barbour	New Zealand
John Lee	Australia
Jeff Wollstein	OSF Coaching Committee
Edmond Pereira	PNG
Dick Best	OSF Masters Committee
Trevor Smith	Squash Australia

1) TOURNAMENTS AND CHAMPIONSHIPS

a) Oceania Championships

The updated draft version of Oceania Championships Regulations was tabled and discussed.

Perpetual Trophies – currently taken back to winner's country for display. That country has the responsibility of ensuring the trophy is returned in good repair for the next Championships. Some trophies are old and beyond repair and it is very difficult to assess their condition if they are only returned at the Championships. If the trophies were retained by OSF they could be kept in good repair and engraved at the conclusion of each Championships. There were varying opinions at the meeting. Member countries to be canvassed on their views.

Inclusion of Australia & NZ into the Championships was discussed. A separate Pacific Cup could be awarded to the Island Nations winning team. Needs to be explored further by incoming Committee.

The proposed dates for the 2013 event in Norfolk Island will clash with the WSF AGM to be held in Christchurch, New Zealand from Sunday 20th to Wednesday 23rd October. Important that OSF and member countries be represented at the WSF AGM. To avoid a clash NI to be asked to be reschedule to either the week before or week after the WSF AGM. Members to be advised asap.

b) Oceania Junior Championships

Current regulations refer to Individual, Team and Doubles Events. The 2012 event was hosted by Squash Vic in conjunction with the Victorian Junior Age Championships and included singles events only.

OSF needs to ensure that the event is scheduled regularly. Proposal that Australia host the event in January 2014 and NZ in 2015. Australia and NZ prepared to host alternatively until a smaller country is able to host.

Regulation to be reviewed by new Committee to consider current needs, especially the introduction of the WSF Ranking Points.

- c) Oceania Masters Championships
 A successful 2012 event was hosted by Cook Islands. Fiji have expressed interest in hosting the 2013 event however they have recently changed management and this needs to be confirmed with them.
 There is no regulation to guide hosting countries. New Regulation to be drafted asap.
- d) 2015 Commonwealth Youth Games - Samoa
 Samoa reported that the squash association has been briefed and they have formed a Planning Committee. The Tournament Director and Referee are WSF appointments, however OSF has been asked to assist in identifying suitable persons in the Region. All expenses are covered by WSF.
- e) 2015 Pacific Games – PNG
 Squash confirmed as a participating sport. PNG Association working closely with government for the construction of new courts. Original plan to have courts included in Tennis Complex not the preferred option. Now working towards a standalone complex.
- Squash is an optional sport in Pacific Games and OSF needs to continue to work closely with hosting countries to ensure squash is selected as a optional sport at future Games. Team entries are restricted in squash due to the small number of countries with courts, whereas other optional sports have more countries playing their sport.
- f) Oceania Open
 PNG were allocated the Oceania Open for a period of 3 years – 2010, 2011 and 2012. Events in 2011 and 2012 were cancelled due to the lack of courts. The allocation of the event needs to be re-evaluated and EOI called for potential hosts.
- g) Arafura Games – Darwin
 Information distributed. An ideal opportunity for players to gain more experience and competition prior to Oceania Championships.
 Opportunity to run Referee course during the Games to be explored, especially for people from smaller island nations.

2) **DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES**

- a) Coach Education Program – PNG
 No official advice has been received, however unofficial advice is the CGF have allocated \$49,000 to the program on a \$ for \$ reimbursement arrangement. Funding is to enhance the strength of countries competing at C'wealth Games and geared at grass roots programs – not elite.

WSF Ambassador Program to support program. If program held close to Australian Open (or another Regional major event) a number of top players would support the program. Ambassador program fully funded – minimal local funds may be required.

Concerns as to when the program could be delivered with no courts in Port Moresby at present and the who would be the target group. OSF Officers need to work closely with PNG to implement program. PNG advised they are able to raise \$10 kina.

- b) Club Development (Jim O'Grady, NZ Chief Executive)
Several Club Development Videos were shown that may assist smaller countries – these are available online through the NZ Website “For Clubs” tab.
- c) OzSquash (Trevor Smith, Squash Australia National Development Manager)
Australia developing OzSquash Junior Program in conjunction with Aust Sports Commission, including development of specialized equipment to support the program. Successful pilot programs for the Phase 1 Active After School Communities Program have been completed. The next phase will be an In-Schools Program followed by an In-Centre program. Uptake of the AASC program has been very pleasing. A demonstration of equipment proved that old squashies never let go!!
- d) Oceania Development Officer
The appointment of a Development Officer in the Oceania Region should be a priority for the incoming Committee. Australia and NZ encouraged to take a lead role, especially in sourcing government funds that may be available (eg AusAid). Programs need to be tailored to individual country needs.
- e) Advanced Sport Management Courses – ONOC
Advice of these programs is normally received through the National Sports Federations at least 9 months prior to the prior beginning. Associations need to seriously consider taking advantage of these courses to improve their capacity.

3) **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING ISSUES**

- a) Immediate Past President Status (Murray Day, NZ)
Motion to change the Constitution so that the IPP is an ex-officio of Federation, and not a voting member, was discussed. The reasoning behind the motion is the outgoing President will be available for advice at any time and there is not need for he/she to be a full member of the Committee. Support for the motion was agreed and will be voted on at the General Meeting.
- b) Succession Planning (Carol Kawaljenko, OSF EO)
The need for succession planning was discussed with several options put forward that could improve the governance of squash across the Region. Agreed that new Committee should explore options.
- c) Member Protection Policy
Paragraph 9.2 of the new constitution refers to a MPP, however OSF do not have one at present. A draft was tabled for review by new Committee.

OSF does not have any Officer's Insurance which is a risk factor for the Federation. Squash Aust has a national insurance scheme and may be able to assist. Insurance to be sourced as a matter of urgency to indemnify the Officers.

- d) Life Membership
OSF does not have a policy regarding Life Membership, however there are guidelines. With Butch Gifford retiring after many years of devoting his time to assist the smaller countries throughout the region, discussion ensued as to his eligibility to be awarded Life Membership. Motion to be put forward at AGM.

4) **STRATEGIC PLANNING**

a) Strategic Plan

The current Strategic Plan was briefly discussed. It has a lot of detail but it is difficult to determine what has been achieved since its adoption as there is no way to measure its success and no timelines indicated.

After consultation with members a new plan to be developed that is simple and prioritises goals – a one page document should suffice. Once the goals are determined an Operational Plan can be developed by the Officers outlining the strategies to achieve the goals, performance indicators and realistic timelines. This should be a priority of the new Committee.

b) Standing Committees

A review of Standing Committees was undertaken during 2012. Currently they align with WSF Committees, with a person designated as the WSF representative to the WSF Committee. The majority are dysfunctional, there are no terms of reference to guide them and there are far too many for such a small organisation. More emphasis should be put on establishing Committees that are actively working towards the future development within our Region and having positive input into OSF's strategic planning.

The recommendation to the Workshop was that rather than having Standing Committees aligning with WSF, OSF should determine their own needs. It may be more effective if OSF forms Working Groups to undertake specific tasks rather than having set committees. This way specialized persons can be sourced to take on a project within a specified timeline. New committee to explore options.