



Berkshire Rugby Union Referees Ltd

(operating as Berkshire Society of RFU Referees)
c/o Reading RFC, Holme Park, Sonning Lane, Reading, RG4 6ST

Summary Minutes of ExCom Meeting held on 5th September 2023 at 8pm via ZOOM

Present: PL, DL, SB, RC, KP, NC

ACTION

1. Apologies

n/a

2. C/fwd actions

(Aug'23) MOD Consistency/Admin 'Event'

DL to arrange follow-up event to April session with MODs before the end of the year

DL

(Sept'22) Referee Feedback Forms on WTR (completed by clubs, post-match)

On RFU 'WTR roadshow' call (25/10), Mark Brown (WTR owner) confirmed availability of existing templates on WTR, as used by several other RefSocs for some time - MB took action to share details
Update: NC has chased-up, repeatedly, via RFU MODO team, with no success

- SB to follow-up directly with Mark Brown (WTR)

SB

Resources/Succession Planning

Ongoing action for ExCom to consider succession planning & resourcing

- RC outlined need for support in coordinating CRefCs and YMOs, for both existing and potential new YMO/Club Ref recruits, from clubs or via the impending RFU ERR/ITR cycles, and suggested asking an existing member if they could assist (having previously volunteered to do 'something')

ExCom

Action: RC to speak to individual about role(s) and assess suitability/bandwidth for one of them, or possibly something else.

RC

CRefCs

RC to coordinate a face-to-face/Zoom session with all CRefCs

RC

(Aug'23) 50/100 game 'awards' (KP)

DE/AG now coordinating collation of up-to-date stats on member appointments completed (not just 'games reffed') which applies to both MOs & MODs.

RC

Whilst continuing with the 50-game bag award (via online shop), KP suggested a revision to the 100-game award

Sept'23 update – agreement to revise 100 game award, going forward

Actions:

- NC to announce change to the membership
- KP to liaise with Andy Green on procurement of award items & with AG/DE on confirmation of who may now qualify for award

NC
KP
(AG/DE)

3. Hosting of Sending-Off forms on WTR

Recently WTR communicated that they can now 'host' RC forms, allowing for online submission by refs with (direct) transfer to 'home' CB Disciplinary Sec's.

The potential pros & cons were discussed, and the following actions agreed:

SB to contact Mark Brown (WTR) to confirm:

- Whether a 'review' mechanism exists/can be added (to allow Chris Parker (BRR's Disciplinary Officer) to 'QA' any forms before onward transmission)?
- Who would have visibility of 'published' reports?

SB

4. Kit issue (rebranding/75th season)

It was agreed to progress an issue of kit to (i) reduce the 'surplus' held in the current account, (ii) commemorate the 75th season of activity (BSRFUR having been founded in 1948), and (iii) help publicise the name-change from 'BSRFUR' to 'BRR'

NC shared details of the RFU 'club hub' procurement platform, with clothing/kit options available, bearing the England Rugby rose (at v.low prices), to which the BRR logo could be added.

It was subsequently agreed that members would be issued with a new t-shirt (colour TBC) and backpack.

Actions:

- NC to announce to membership
- NC/KP to coordinate procurement with AG

NC
NC/KP,AG

5. Tackle Height DLV update

Anecdotal evidence/feedback suggests most players & referees are adapting well to the revised tackle height; recognition given to need to focus on 'game mgmt' to maintain discipline, prevent unnecessary escalation of sanction, and ensure clarity/understanding of decisions taken – to be an ongoing focus area in monthly training sessions (NC to confirm with Crispin Davis)

NC

6. Finances

KP confirmed HMRC are now asking for Corp.Tax returns (despite previous acceptance of 'non-commercial' nature of BRR and therefore no need for tax returns)

KP, NC, PL to attend RFU-arranged webinar with tax expert on 7th Sept – hopefully they will be able to provide suggestions/guidance on how to respond to HMRC

Subsequent update: PL to take lead on correspondence with HMRC, given his past relationship with the RFU's Corp.Tax expert (through work)

KP,NC.PL

7. Fitness testing (& referee grading)

The previously issued guidance on fitness testing has been queried, so ExCom reviewed it, reaffirming that:

- The guidance, whilst no longer mandatory is still a useful marker for both BRR and individuals in maintaining/improving their fitness (and, as a consequence, their refereeing)
- No referee should be re-graded purely as a result of attaining/failing to attain a particular fitness target, though it may result in them not being prioritised for an appointment versus a ref that has done so

8. AOB

(RC) – c.10 DBS checks o/s for active members

- DL to follow-up with o/s MODs (since they would need clearance if appointed to watch a YMO)

DL

NC to send out minutes for review, publish summary minutes on website and agree agenda for next meeting. There being no other business, the meeting closed at 20:52

NC

The next ExCom meeting is scheduled for Tues 3rd October 2023 – NC to circulate Agenda in advance, point members to previous Summary Minutes on website, etc.

NC