

Mr Dave Reece

7th June 2011

Dear Dave

ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION/CONSTITUTIONS – REGIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

As you will all know be aware from my letter dated 20th September 2010 the new Articles of Association were passed at the AGM, 25th July 2010 along with a Framework detailing the functions of the business alongside these Articles.

I know it has been a very busy year again and I can not believe we are already at AGM times, but in view of this I write formally to ask for your help and assistance with items related to your role within the business. I have asked Lisa to ensure Senior Staff can make time in their diaries to come along to your AGMs to provide support and answer any questions that may be raised overall from a Volleyball England perspective.

In terms of Board business - In section 2.5 of the Framework it details the wide roles and responsibilities of regions, detailed below, along with the requirements of membership to Volleyball England. As you will recall the Framework is indeed a working document and it is within the remit of the Board to amend as and when required, following feedback or changes to the business.

Regional Associations

There are nine Regional Associations each representing one of the English regions recognised by Sport England, namely North East, North West, Yorkshire, East Midlands, West Midlands, Eastern, London, South East and South West. Each Regional Association is an associate member of the Association.

Role of the Regional Associations

Each Regional Association shall be responsible for implementing and administering the policies promulgated by the Association from time to time for the development of the sport of volleyball in all its disciplines within their jurisdiction.

The role of the Regional Association shall include (but not necessarily be limited to) producing and managing a regional strategy for the sport, arranging coach and referee education courses, administering regional/area/local leagues in conjunction with Area/County Associations, managing and coordinating the regional talent development programme, providing a link between Volleyball England and the members, arranging competitions for all forms of the game, directing people to clubs when requested, providing facility advice and, where appropriate, source funding to support talented individuals.

Constitution and operation

Each Regional Association shall ensure that the Association is provided with an up-to-date copy of the constitution of the Regional Association from time to time, including any amendments that may be made to that constitution. Each Regional Association must ensure that the following principles are reflected in the terms of their constitution:

- 1.1.1 A mechanism for the appointment of Chair of the Regional Association must be included and such appointment shall be subject to the approval of the Executive Board;
- 1.1.2 Each Regional Association must hold an annual general meeting (AGM) in each year, to which the Chief Executive of the Association will be invited;
- 1.1.3 The constitution must include provisions relating to the scheduling and frequency of board and general meetings, including the AGM and notification of such meetings to the Secretary of the Association;
- 1.1.4 Each Regional Association must have a financial year which runs from 1 April to 31 March;
- 1.1.5 Details relating to the form and frequency of reporting of financial matters and other activities to the Executive Board, including as a minimum submission of annual returns and balance sheets to the Executive Board within three months of the end of the financial year; and
- 1.1.6 On dissolution of the relevant Regional Association, any funds remaining shall be passed to the Association.

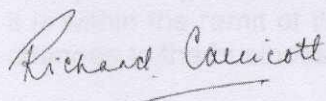
I know Janet, Lisa and Charlie have been discussing these with you over the year and I would welcome an update from your region on progress on each item listed above, so I can confirm with my fellow Directors that we are compliant. Thank you in advance for your help.

I am also aware of a number of recent communication issues and challenges we have had between both staff to commission and between commission and commission – we are all extremely busy and I can only thank you for your continued support – I know for one, we are all just trying to deliver and develop volleyball for a better future – but sometimes, lack time or external constraints can get in the way!!! In view of this and the changing sports business we are now in I would really welcome your help on how we can make the role of the regions more effective obviously in line with our stated aims. It's a continuing struggle (but one we are happy to have) that 90% of our funding is directly related to outcomes for Government (Sport England) so in affect this gives us little room for moving funding into areas we would like to develop, as you'll appreciate the commercial world at the moment is very challenging. Nevertheless, we have still managed to attract our largest ever grant from Sport England and I know we can do even better in delivering the outcomes required of us by Sport England. So for my part, I would really welcome a one side of paper note from your region to help me focus the Board and the Commissions' support or provide more direction to delivery. We really do want to listen to you and even though we may not always be able to act on all your ideas I know a number of you have undertaken a 'planning roadshow' which I hear were very positive. I know Stuart is planning more of these and I hope these will help further detail each outcome for your region and the support that can be given.

I must reiterate my gratitude to you all for your continued support, things do indeed change and we need to ensure we are ready more than ever for the next steps post 2012 – but remember many of us are just volunteers also trying to do the best we can and the staff we have are very committed to making our sport the best we can – I know together we will achieve so much more.

If you would prefer to call me rather than write – this is fine, as I say I'd just welcome your thoughts.

Best wishes



Richard Callicott
President
Volleyball England

cc. Lisa Wainwright
Janet Inman