

**SCOTTISH FENCING LTD**Meeting of the BOARD of DIRECTORS of SCOTTISH FENCING LIMITED  
14 JULY 2021 BY MICROSOFT TEAMS

Present	George Liston Sheila Anderson Paul Vaughan Hugh Kernohan Mhairi McLaughlin Stan Stoodley	Chair (GDL) Director of Operations (SA) Director of Talent and Performance (PV) Director of Governance (HK) Director (MMcL) President (SS)
In Attendance	Jacqui Dunlop	Minute Taker

	Item	Action
1	<p><b>Introduction</b></p> <p>1.1 <u>Welcome and Apologies for Absence</u></p> <p>The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were intimated on behalf of Adam Szymoszowskyj, (Director of Development), Vincent Bryson (Chief Executive Officer) and Barry Cook, (sportscotland, Partnership Manager)</p> <p>1.2. <u>Declaration of conflicts of interest</u></p> <p>There were no new conflicts of interest declared.</p>	
2	<p><b>Minutes of Previous Meeting and Matters Arising</b></p> <p>2.1 <u>Review of Minutes of 17 June 2021</u></p> <p>HK noted that there should be an agenda for all Board meetings and it was noted that the minutes had not been widely circulated in advance of the meeting so were unable to be approved. GDL agreed to check on access to Sharepoint Folder where the Board paperwork was stored, and it was agreed that the minutes would be approved at a later date.</p>	GDL
3	<p><b>COVID-Guidance – Moving to Level 0</b></p> <p>GDL updated the Board that he had sought clarification from BCo (sportscotland partnership manager) on what Level 0 meant in practice and to clarify Clubs’ understanding of what this means for them. It was noted that facility access would not return to normal and there would still be restricted numbers and COVID safety requirements.</p> <p>Indoor adult contact sports would be able to resume in Level 0 from the following Monday and sportscotland was working to develop facility guidance to support this. There needed to be an understanding that public premises have a strong dependency on local authorities, which would be struggling to manage change across a lot of facilities so any changes would not happen overnight and these would be implemented at difference paces across different local authorities. There had also been the change of use for some facilities (eg being turned into vaccination centres) and it would be for clubs to manage their members’ expectations as this was not a return to normal.</p>	

Sportscotland had been working to develop the guidance for facilities and sports governing bodies since the First Minister's announcement and the sign-off for this was expected soon. The clear message would be that just because things can happen doesn't mean they will start happening right away.

GDL suggested that the Board and Staff team could play a role in working with clubs to find out which were gaining reasonable access and those that were struggling, and work could be done through the sportscotland network to raise issues with particular local authorities.

PV gave an update from the perspective of a local authority. He noted that the school estate was highly unlikely to open between now and the middle of August/start of September, there would be no access over the summer holidays due to the schools being shut and there was an enhanced summer programme taking place in schools across Scotland. The start of the new school term may see some of the school estate become available for external bodies to use, although that would come with the caveat that no guidance had been provided on schools for social distancing, isolation or the vaccination programme for 12 to 18-year-olds.

For sports halls and facilities a large number of these had reopened across Scotland but activity had been curtailed, as adult indoor contact sport had not been allowed. It was unclear whether one-metre social distancing would be replicated in the guidance from sportscotland; this was what would increase capacity at sports centres. There may be an increase in capacity but this would not happen immediately given the volume of work which would need to be done by sports centres. PV noted that, beyond level 0 there may still be some restrictions like face masks in place.

In summary PV noted that he anticipated no access to the School Estate before end-August/mid-September; access to sport halls was possible over July and August, although there would still be capacity issues although probably less than currently. He suggested that there was engagement with clubs through social media saying that facility guidance was awaited from sportscotland so there would be no immediate change but Scottish Fencing would be working through the guidance. Clubs should make contact with their facility providers directly as early as possible and maintain this as risk assessments were likely to be required.

GDL noted that BCo had confirmed that facilities guidance was being developed. PV explained that there would be other groups such as youth work organisation who would also be trying to access the same space as sports clubs and there would be capacity issues.

PV noted that, in terms of competitions, advice would have to be sought from Inverclyde regarding their capacity once the facilities guidance was issued.

PV noted that the resumption of indoor adult contact sport was the main change under Level 0 and when the updated guidance from sportscotland was issued this would give more clarity on what restrictions would remain in place, such as social distancing, access for spectators, and wearing of face masks.

SS noted that the move to Level 0 would be a welcome improvement for Scottish Fencing members and Club Committees should be aware of the changes, and it was important that COVID Officer training should be taking place now in order that clubs were prepared.

SA agreed that, for the clubs that had not yet been able to be open, there may need to be refreshment of COVID Officer training and any events that VB and BC ran previously

	<p>regarding the reopening of facilities would be worth re-running. She noted that there may be some expectation from Clubs that, from Monday when the new level 0 guidance comes into force that clubs can just go back to normal and it was important that a statement is published by Scottish Fencing explaining that this was not the case, even if it was issued before the official guidance was published. GDL explained that the sportscotland guidance should be with Scottish Fencing before the weekend. PV noted that Clubs that have their own facilities will be aware of the facilities guidance and when he receives a copy of this he will share with the Board.</p> <p>HK noted that he was in favour of an early message going out stating that things were not back to normal and that the real driver would be access to public facilities: if Clubs used these they needed to find out what restrictions the operators of the facilities were requiring and concluded by saying that Scottish Fencing was awaiting Guidance from sportscotland. GDL also agreed to liaise with BCo to ensure that Scottish Fencing was mirroring the messaging from sportscotland. GDL agreed to draft and circulate to the Board members ahead of publishing.</p> <p>SA noted that there may be questions about the Scottish Open when there was a move to Level 0 and whether the event would go ahead. PV noted that the consultation document on selection for the Commonwealths had yet to be issued. He also noted that, until Inverclyde confirmed their capacity under Level 0, a decision would not be able to be made.</p> <p>There was a discussion about holding an event and SS suggested that it should be made clear to members that Scottish Fencing was keen to hold the Scottish Open as soon as feasible, but there were a lot of variables to consider.</p> <p>PV agreed with SS noting that the next date of importance for the Guidance was 9 August and the decisions surrounding this were completely unknown. He noted that engagement should be had with Inverclyde on capacity but the decision on whether a competition could go ahead would depend on the Guidance issued nearer the time.</p> <p>HK noted that the issue of selection for the Commonwealths and the running of the Scottish Open should be kept separate. Although Scottish Fencing had previously noted that travelling across the UK to gain ranking points should not be encouraged, if the guidance permitted travelling to the Scottish Open then it would be an individual decision on the risks involved, but this was separate from the selection process.</p> <p>SA noted that there might have to be a version of the Scottish Open twice this season, once in November if members wanted a competition and feel Scottish Fencing should deliver one and again during 2022 as a selection event if that was the only possible method of selection.</p> <p>MM felt that members were keen for any type of competition. GDL cautioned that it may be unfair that some members would get into their facilities a lot later than others, but HK noted that this was not a reason not to run a competition, although it would be unfair if the competition was used for selection purposes.</p> <p>SS noted that the costs of running a competition need to be considered if the capacity at venues was restricted. GDL noted that the finances would be considered carefully. PV suggested that competitions need not necessarily be held at Inverclyde as there would be no reason why a club couldn't host a competition.</p> <p>GDL thanked everyone for the useful discussion and agreed to get a pre-emptive statement on both the guidance and competitions issued.</p>	<p>GDL</p> <p>GDL</p>
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11	<p><b>Any Other Business</b></p> <p>a) <b>Actions from Previous Meeting</b> SA noted that due to personal circumstances she had not been able to progress her actions from the previous meeting although the advert for the additional director and independent director had been issued. She will arrange a meeting with MM to discuss the equalities portfolio.</p> <p>b) <b>Junior and Cadet Commonwealth Championships</b> PV asked if there had been any confirmation of whether the Junior and Cadet Commonwealth Championships had been moved to the northern hemisphere and GDL noted that this would likely be raised at the CFF Annual General Meeting later that month.</p> <p>c) <b>Board Safeguarding Training</b> GDL noted that he had completed the Board Safeguarding Training and felt that it was very worthwhile, noting that it was for all Board members to complete.</p> <p>d) <b>Board Minutes</b> JD agreed to send the previous minutes to LA for distribution to the Board members.</p>	<p>SA/MM</p> <p>All</p> <p>JD</p>
	<p><b>Date of Next Meeting</b> Thursday, 19 August 2021.</p>	