

ENGLAND BOXING LTD

Board Meeting Thursday 20th July 2023

10.30 -13.00

Online

Minutes - redacted - for publication

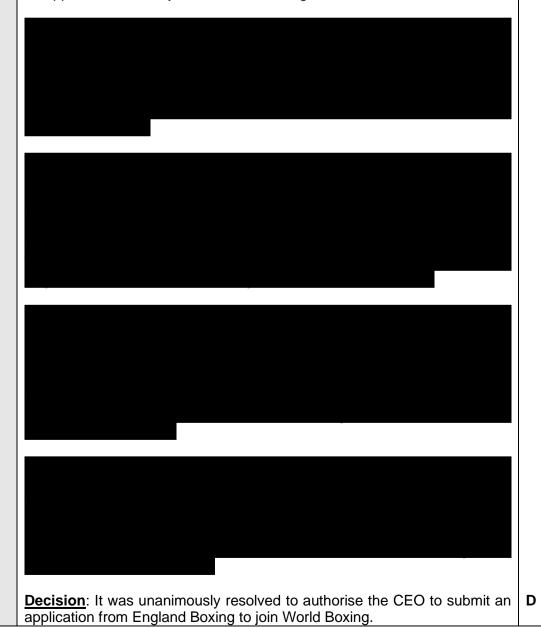
1	Welcome attendance and apologies	I= Info D=		
	<u>Present</u> : Richard Brooke (RB) - Chair, Felicity Barnard (FB), Sam Foster (SF), Mehul Kapadia (MK), Doniert Macfarlane (DM), Micky Norford (MN), Alkit Patel (AP), and Lawrence Selby (LS).			
	In Attendance: Jerome Pels - CEO (JP), Andrea Rankine (AR) – Performance Pathway Manager (Item 5), Eric Lee (EL) – Head of Finance (Item 9), and Michelle Maple (MM) – minutes.			
	Apologies: Anna Cain (AC) and Chris Smith (CS).			
	The Chair confirmed that sufficient notice of the meeting had been duly provided and a quorum was present.			
2	Declarations of interest	I		
	Directors present confirmed that they had no direct or indirect interest which they were required to disclose, in addition to the disclosures already on record.			
3	Minutes of last meeting			
	3.1 The minutes of the Board meeting held on 23 May 2023	1		
	It was unanimously agreed to approve the draft minutes from 23 May 2023 without amendment. The Chair was authorised to sign them as a complete record of the relevant meeting.			
	3.2 Matters arising			
	All matters arising had been completed or were covered on the agenda.			
4	International and IBA Matters			
	4.1 IBA – World Boxing & Application Pack			
	Following the International Olympic Committee's (IOC) decision to withdraw recognition of the International Boxing Association (IBA), the Board			

considered the invitation for all National Federations to join World Boxing, a not-for-profit, alternative international federation established to preserve boxing's status as an Olympic sport.

The CEO confirmed that England Boxing was required by Sport England to be a member of an organisation recognised by the IOC, and Sport England had been advised of the formation of World Boxing as an alternative solution to the IBA. As such, Sport England had provided a permission letter confirming that England Boxing was the body to be affiliated to World Boxing to support the application.

Whilst England Boxing's constitution required it to retain membership of the IBA, the Board was permitted the discretion to join organisations that were in the best interests of the sport. Application as a founding member would also enable England Boxing to form part of the first Congress later in the year, and provide more beneficial voting rights.

Accordingly, the Board was asked to approve a recommendation to submit an application form to join the World Boxing federation.



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5	5 5.1 Sub-committees Reports and Minutes					
	The Board received reports from the following sub-committees:					
	 CMD Sub-committee – 23rd June 2023 Championships Sub-committee – 6th July 2023 EDI Sub-committee – 4th July 2023 Medical Sub-committee – 18th May 2023 and 17th July 2023 Technical Rules and Officials Sub-committee – 26th June 2023 					
	5.2 Recommendations by the Subcommittees requiring a Board decision					
	Technical Rules & Officials Sub-Committee: Rule Book Edits MN outlined a suite of minor edits to the England Boxing Rule Book for the 2023/24 season. Two significant changes were highlighted as follows:					
	 Senior male elite boxers would be permitted a maximum of three eight counts in one round, and a maximum of four eight counts in one bout. 					
	 All boxers to weigh in wearing shorts/vest/singlet (males) and boxing shorts/vest/singlet (females), with an allowance for the weight of the clothing. 					
	It was noted that the rules allowed for Muslim boxers to wear long slacks, cover their arms, and wear a hijab.					
	The prospect of the rules being amended to allow doctors to carry out medicals on the day of a match was debated, with the sub-committee suggesting this be considered as an exception rather than a rule. Appropriate wording would be drafted, and this would be brought back for					
	discussion and a decision later in the year.	A – MN				
	<u>Decision</u> : The Board approved the edits to the Rule Book for the 2023/24 season.					
	Championships Sub-Committee: Schools Semifinals It was proposed that the School Semifinals format to be changed to enable a north and south semifinal to take place on the same weekend.					
	<u>Decision</u> : The Board agreed that the Format School Semifinals could be changed. However, other options need to be reviewed and consequences for the Championships budget need to be taken into account, especially in the light of the overspend reported to the Board in the area of championships.					

Medical Sub-Committee: Insurance

DM reported that obtaining insurance was becoming an issue for some (junior) doctors, which may require a central solution to be explored through England Boxing. Discussions were ongoing with an insurance broker to explore possible options and further details would be provided in due course.

Medical Sub-Committee

DM and the Sub-Committee were thanked for the very good work on the new Medical Guidlines

5.3 Performance Pathway Presentation

The meeting was joined by Andrea Rankine, Performance Pathway Manager, who presented a detailed summary of the England Boxing Performance Pathway, comprising the performance programme for elite boxers and development programme for aspiring boxers.

It was noted that a total of 301 boxers were currently on the pathway, covering school age to seniors. A series of camps were scheduled across the country, with senior camps taking place at Sheffield around GB activity, residential camps at Aldershot and camps in Leeds and Berinsfield to provide northern and southern based options for parents. It was hoped to have support from Sport England in the near future on the prospect of developing a permanent base for this activity at the EIS Sheffield.

The Chair enquired how performance on the pathway was monitored. AR confirmed that performance was largely measured on success in international competitions. 200 contact days had been scheduled with participants, together with increased preparation time for major tournaments. Increasing female participation also remained a key target, with an approximate 50/50 split between males and females in the programme at present.



The Board thanked AR for a comprehensive update.

6 Finance - CFO Report

6.1 Management Accounts

The meeting was joined by Eric Lee, who presented the management accounts for the period to May 2023.

A deficit of £465k was reported against the budgeted surplus of £436k, with this variance attributed to a delay in the receipt of Sport England core funding and B2022 legacy funding.

An overspend of £124k was reported in the Events Department, due to increased costs in the NACs and Schools competitions. This was primarily due to overall inflationary rises in event costs and higher security charges. EL agreed to provide further detail on the percentage increases. A full year reforecast would take place to ensure an accurate assessment for the remainder of the year, and the Head of Finance and Competitions Manager had met to review the 2023/24 budget to prevent further overspends.

A - EL

9.2 Audit Committee Minutes

The minutes of the Audit and Remuneration Sub-Committee from 14th July were noted.

9.3 Appointment of Auditors

It was noted that the onboarding process with the new audit firm was complete and the audit was scheduled towards the end of August.

7 CEO Report

The CEO report was noted, with key points highlighted as follows:

- Following the announcement that Victoria (Australia) could no longer host the 2026 Commonwealth Games, Sport England had advised that NGBs should continue with preparations whilst an alternative venue was sourced.
- Commonwealth Games England had requested that a team leader be appointed as a point of contact for meetings and all logistics, who was closely linked to the technical staff based at Sheffield. It was agreed that Chris Connelly, Performance Director, be nominated to fill this position, with support from a 'Board Champion'.
- The Regional Association Policy had been amended to require its Board and Committee members to be a member of England Boxing, thus ensuring jurisdiction over this roles and adherence to the Code of Conduct and disciplinary regulations. A revised Policy was attached for consideration under Item 7.1.

8 | Governance

7.1 Regional Associations Policy

<u>Decision</u>: The Board approved the amendments to the Regional Associations Policy. It was agreed that staff training would also be required as part of the implementation of these policies.

D A – JP

7.2 Board Effectiveness Review/Chairman review

This review remained a work in progress and performance evaluation questionnaires would be circulated in due course.

7.3 Sub-committees: Proposed Restructuring of Committee Roles and Membership

Further to BDO's Governance Review discussed at the previous meeting, the Chair presented the following proposals to adapt England Boxing's committee structure to better suit the organisation's strategic and operational objectives:

- The number of Board sub-committees would be reduced to three (Audit, Remuneration and Nominations), comprising solely of Board directors. The Nominations Committee would only be required to meet on an ad-hoc basis to discuss specific appointments as required.
- The role of the Compliance Sub-committee would need be maintained and enhanced and addressed in the final proposals
- The Technical, Rules and Officials Committee would continue to meet given its remit went beyond the operational focus of management and it played a vital role in leveraging external specialist expertise.
- All other committees would support, strengthen, and complement core operational activities and would be consolidated into two categories of Operations and Boxing Development.
- Members of the Boxing Development Committee would not serve simultaneously on the Technical, Rules and Officials Committee to avoid any potential conflicts of interest.

A paper depicting the proposed membership of each committee was also reviewed by the Board. It was intended that Board directors should chair the committees and that this would be rotated on an annual basis.



A - JP

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	The Board recognised the considerable expertise and work undertaken by volunteers on committees and were keen to ensure that the proposed changes did not deter their participation going forward.				
	Decision: The Board agreed the revised committee structure in principle, and to undertake an evaluation process at the appropriate time to assess its effectiveness. However, a more detailed proposal is needed and the Chair and the CEO are to produce a next draft, with consideration given to the points made in the discussion on the topic.	D A - RB			
9	Safeguarding				
	9.1 To note the Final Revised England Boxing Disciplinary Code				
	Further to discussion at the previous meeting, the Board noted the final draft of the revised England Boxing Disciplinary Code. It was suggested that this should be accompanied by appropriate training for staff.	A – JP			
	9.2 To note the new Complaints Policy				
	The Board reviewed and noted the new England Boxing Complaints Policy and Procedure.				
	It was noted that any grievances against the Head of Compliance would be dealt with by the CEO. The Board felt that a similar process should be considered for the Compliance Manager to avoid any perceived lack of independence if the complaint was dealt with by the Head of Compliance as his line manager.	A – JP			
	8.3 The report of the independent investigator Charles Thomas into the death of Edward Bilbey				
	The CEO advised that the report into the death of Edward Bilbey had yet to be released, and Board members would be informed once a date was confirmed. A draft press release had been circulated to the Board to be issued once the report was available from the independent investigator.				
		A-LS			
10	Risk Management				
	10.1 To review the Risk Management Matrix and Report				
	Four changes had been proposed to the risk register within the last week, and an updated version would be circulated in the next week for review.	A - SF			
11	AOB				
	11.1 World Boxing				

It was noted that Amanda Coulson had been appointed to the World Boxing Interim Sports and Competitions Committee, and the Chair had been asked to join the Finance and Audit Committee.

MN queried whether England Boxing intended to put forward any nominations for the World Boxing board at its Congress meeting in November. It was agreed that this would be considered and discussed further at the Board Strategy event on 26th September.

A – All

11.2 AGM

The Board was informed that the AGM would take place virtually on the evening of 25th September at 18.00, with Board members invited to be in attendance in Sheffield. This would be followed by a Board dinner.

12 Date Of Next Meetings 2023

Board Date		Papers due by		Venue
Thursday 20th July		Wednesday 12th July		Virtual
Tuesday	26th			
September (Strategy	Monday	18th	
day)		September		Sheffield
Tuesday	28th	Monday	20th	
November		November		London