

Minutes of the NSA AGM held on 28 October 2019 at 18:00 at PHSOB

1. Welcome

Blaar Coetzee (BC) welcomes everyone to the AGM and explains the purpose is mainly to discuss the changes to the by-laws. This will not be a discussion of the bylaws, but a vote on the proposed changes. The opportunity to discuss the proposed changes at length was available at the Delegates Meeting on 21 October 2019.

2. Apologies

No apologies received except for Piet Jordaan who mentioned that he will be late.

3. Attendance

An attendance register was circulated and BC requests that everyone present signs it. A copy of the attendance register is attached to the minutes. A quorum is established as it requires as more than 50% of the clubs are present.

4. Acceptance of minutes of previous AGM held on 29 October 2018, as well as acceptance of minutes of the Special General Meeting, held on 9 May 2019

At the Special General Meeting, the change to the Green Dot ball was discussed

Both sets of minutes: Proposed by Brett Cousins and seconded by Toepie Wood.

5. Matters arising from previous minutes

None

6. Proposed changes to the by-laws for approval by the Northern Squash Federation for the 2020 season. For discussion and approval

A document with the proposed amendments was distributed. The main objective to the proposed amendments is to tidy up and the by-laws and for the clauses in general and to make more logical sense in the way they are grouped and organised. Definitions are also defined accurately. BC will be discussing each proposed change as in the order of the document that was distributed.

BC asks if anyone is against the general rearrangement and re-organisation of the clauses.

Vote: Yes No-one against the above

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1. Ladies playing in Men's league for another club

Current by-law: 6.5 Lady Players Playing in Men's League and Vice Versa Lady players may be allowed to play in the men's league, based on the principles of strength as set out in clauses 6.1 to 6.5. Men will not be allowed to play in the ladies league.

Proposed by-law:

6.5 Lady Players Playing in Men's League and Vice Versa
Lady players can play in the Men's league, on the same basis as men. Men are not allowed to play in the Ladies league.
Ladies may play for one club in the Ladies' league and for another club in the Men's league. She must be registered on the system under the club for which she plays Ladies' league and NSA must be informed in writing by the cut-off date for inter-club transfers, if she wishes to play in Men's league for another club for the season.

Vote: Yes

2. Changing a team for a fixture affected by load shedding or a general power failure

Current by-law:

7.8.1 Each captain must write the team order down with the players who are able to play on the evening, the team members may not be changed once a fixture is affected by load-shedding.

7.8.7 Player names can be changed on application.

Proposed by-law:

7.8.1 Once a fixture is affected by load-shedding or a general power failure the clubs may change the team members for the fixture within the by-laws regarding playing order.
7.8.7 to be deleted.

Vote: Yes

3. Determining a winner if 2 teams end on equal points at the end of the season

Current by-law:

8.3.1 When teams end on equal log points at season end, the team that won more matches in the season wins, if matches are also equal games won (less games lost) will be compared to determine the winner, if games are equal then points won (less points lost) are compared to determine the winner.

8.3.2 If still drawn the results between the teams will determine the league winner on the same basis as 8.3.1.

8.3.3 If still level, a play-off is required for 1st and 2nd places, and 9th and 10th places only.

Proposed by-law:

8.3.1 When teams end on equal log points at season end, the team that won more fixtures in the season wins, if fixtures are equal, then matches won (less matches lost), if matches are also equal, games won (less games lost) will be compared to determine the winner, if games are equal then points won (less points lost) are compared to determine the winner.

8.3.2 If still drawn the results between the teams will determine the league winner on the same basis as 8.3.1.

8.3.3 If still level, a play-off is required for 1st & 2nd places, 2nd and 3rd places, 8th and 9th places, 9th and 10th places, only if promotion/relegation is at stake.

Vote: Yes

4. Load shedding and general power failures to be treated the same

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Current by-law:

7.8 Fixtures Affected by Load Shedding

Proposed by-law:

7.8 Fixtures Affected by Load Shedding and General power failures

(add the words General power failures after each instance of load shedding)

Vote: Yes

5. Next available player rule to apply in cases of re-scheduled matches

Proposed by-law:

6.10.3 The next available player rule will be applied where a team accommodates another team by allowing a player to play early in his/her normal position but by the scheduled date of the fixture they have players in higher positions not available. To avoid transgressing the leap-frog rule, the team may use the next available player.

6.10.4 In order to avoid penalties, the team must record the early play in writing with the NSA before the match is played.

BC explains that early matches will be arranged/recorded on the website in order to keep track

Vote: Yes

6. Compulsory promotion if a team wins the same league 2 years in a row

Proposed by-law:

4.3 If the same club team wins the same league 2 years in a row, the team must take promotion, unless it's impossible due to having 2 teams in the higher league already.

4.3.1 A club may appeal against taking promotion in writing to the NSA, with motivation, if the club won't have the same players available for the next season.

Vote: Yes

7. Penalties for No shows

Current by-law:

3.5.4.1 In the event that a club is unable to field a full team, but is able to inform the opposition before three o'clock on the afternoon of the fixture, this team will be allowed to enter the name of the player who could not be at the fixture without the penalties being applied.

3.5.4.2 In the event that no communication is received regarding a no show, an email must be sent to admin@northerns.co.za so that the necessary penalty points can be applied.

Proposed by-law:

Delete 3.5.4.1 and 3.5.4.2

Discussion: BC explains that the proposed by-law. James Daniels is opposed to the change he argues that players just want to play and should be allowed to play earlier. BC – valid point and can be looked into in the future. The general feeling is that Clubs are opposed to the change.

Vote: No – the status quo remains.

A copy of the vote is attached.

Status quo: 103

Change: 51

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8. No shows not allowed in 1st league

Proposed by-law:

7.9.5 No shows will not be allowed in 1st league teams. A club must move players up from its next league team to fill the 1st league team.

7.9.5.1 If a No show in a 1st league team is as a result of something happening to the player while he or she is on the way to the venue, special application must be made to the NSA to decide on penalties.

7.9.6 If there is a No show in a 1st league team, the club's next team shall be penalised for the #1 playing out of position, in accordance with the by-laws, subject to 7.9.5.1.

Discussion: BC explains that the background of the existence of the Reserve League team is so that these players are actually reserves for the 1st League team but they have evolved into an actual league team, As a result of this there are no shows in 1st league which is unacceptable as these are the elite teams of the squash league.

Cornelie Read argues that this by-law should only be applicable to men's teams as ladies teams are already struggling and by applying this by-law to the ladies league teams will have a negative impact on participation. Liz MacKenzie agrees with Cornelie Read.

Stats show 120 no shows in 6000 matches.

Vote: Yes, but only applicable to men's teams

9. Penalties to be standardized

There are 2 groups of penalties: Administrative penalties and ineligible players (or playing out of position).

Administrative penalties are for a new player not registered, not transferred on the system between clubs, not registered with Squash SA, not paid up with Squash SA, etc. It is proposed that all administrative penalties be the same: lose the match 0-3 and 2 penalties against the transgressing team, per transgressing player.

Ineligible player penalties are for too many external players, playing twice in the same round, playing out of position according to the leap-frog rule, etc. It is proposed that penalties for this should all be the same: lose the match 0-3 and all players below that player also lose their matches 0-3, with an additional 2 points penalty against the team for every transgressing player.

Vote: Yes

10. Marking & refereeing qualifications required

Current by-law:

9.3 No 1st league match result shall be recorded unless refereed as required in the applicable World Squash Singles Rules, Rule 18: CONTROL OF A MATCH, by a player or referee with at least a level 2 Marking and Refereeing qualification.

Proposed by-law:

9.3 Option 1

9.3 After 31 March all members of every 1st league team playing in a fixture shall have a valid Level 2 Marking & Refereeing qualification.

9.3 Option 2

9.3 After 31 March at least 2 members of every 1st league team playing in a fixture shall have a valid Level 2 Marking & Refereeing qualification.

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Vote on 9.3: Yes for Option 2

9.4 Option 1

9.4 After 31 March at least 2 members of every team playing in a fixture, other than a 1st league team, shall have a valid Level 2 Marking & Refereeing qualification.

9.4 Option 2

9.4 After 31 March at least 1 member of every team playing in a fixture, other than a 1st league team, shall have a valid Level 2 Marking & Refereeing qualification.

Vote on 9.4: Yes for Option 2.

PCC and PHSOB are the only Clubs in favour of Option 1

For all options:

9.5 For every player under the required number, the team shall be penalised by deducting 1 penalty point.

9.6 The NSA shall create a reasonable number of opportunities for players to obtain the Level 2 Marking & Refereeing qualification before the cut-off date each year.

Discussion: BC explains that is an existing by-law that has not been enforced implies that most of the 1st league matches were invalid. This is a Squash SA rule. In essence, Northerns wants to promote that the players are up to date with marking and refereeing rules and qualified. The general feeling is to implement this rule by easing it in and addressing the problems as they arise. Eventually, the aim is that all league players are qualified.

11. Accommodating players who must play early/External players to play 50%

Proposed by-law:

Option 1:

7.6.4.3 In the event that a player registered with the PSA/WSF is playing in an official PSA/WSF tournament, he/she will be exempt from the league week(s) he/she is away provided he/she can prove that they have been entered in an official PSA/WSF tournament **on the fixture date(s)** concerned or can prove that they have been travelling to/from an official PSA/WSF tournament in which they are entered, whereby those league week(s) would not form part of the quota of the 50% of the total league matches the external player is required to play."

Explanation: This would mean that if an external player is away and can prove that they have been entered in official PSA/WSF tournament(s) for e.g. 8 league **rounds** of a season, the player would be exempt from those 8 league **rounds** and would then not form part of the "total league matches" they are required to play. Therefore, the player concerned would only need to play 50% of the remaining 10 league matches (18 minus 8) of the season.

Vote on Option 1: No – the status quo remains

A copy of the vote is attached

Status Quo: 81 votes

Change: 73 votes

Option 2:

7.3.2 If the requesting player gives notice 14 days before the last date that the requesting player can play the match, the opponent must find a time to play, or forfeit the match (but lower players in the team will not be penalised). Notice will be limited to a maximum 30 days before the scheduled date.

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7.3.3 If less than 14 days' notice is given before the last date that the requesting player can play, the opposition player can decide if he wants to accommodate the request, otherwise the requesting player's team must send a reserve to play or they forfeit the match.

7.3.4 A player may only request a specific club to play earlier once in a league season.

Vote on Option 2: Yes with the proviso that a sub-clause will be written in to provide that the NSA gets involved with the mediation if necessary.

Discussion: BC explains the background of the above by-law is primarily as a result of what happened to Centurion Club during 2019 league with no. 1 player JP Brits playing PSA and other tournaments, resulting in that he did not meet the criteria of playing 50% of his league matches. Centurion Club was penalised by JP Brits losing all his matches and as a result, Centurion will be relegated. BC explains that it is not in the spirit of squash to that these top players cant play and Northerns want to retain these players for the league.

Brett Cousins – The NSA must get involved in the sense of trying to mediate so that the situation can be resolved between players and clubs. BC – a clause must be written in which it states that the NSA must get involved in determining the date and mediating a date.

8. Financial Report

Club fees and levies: BC – small increases are made every year rather than a large increase after a few years. The proposed levies are R 1900 per team and R 110 per league player. No one is opposed to the increase.

Draft financial statements were circulated and is available on the website. The following changes will be made to the draft financial statements:

- In the Detailed Income statement on p13, NSF player levy will show under league fees and not Tournament fees.
- In the Supplementary information, p 14, Note 2, the following disclosure will be added: "The cost of professional players to compete at the Jarvis tournament is included in "Jarvis tournament expenses" in the prior year. This amounted to R131,808. In the current year, this is shown under "Sponsorship of professional players" and amounted to R84,825."

These statements are unqualified and not audited as the auditors had computer problems. BC Coetzee summarizes the NSA financials. The NSA is in a good financial state.

BC requests that the Draft Financial Statements be accepted as the Financial Statements for the NSA for 2019 with the 2 above changes. Should anything else change a Special General meeting will be held to accept the Financial Statements.

Proposed: Mark Southwood

Seconded: Brett Cousins

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9. Chairmans Report

BC reads out the Chairmans Report and this report will be available on the website.

BC thank the NSA Committee for their input and hard work with special mention to Gerda Dreyer as joint administrator for the 3 association for her hard work.

No questions on the Chairman's report.

10. Election of Office Bearers for 2020

Toepie Wood has resigned and is not available for re-election. Reinardt Saayman was co-opted and due to work commitments will not be able to serve on the committee.

There are 2 openings on the committee. A proposal was received from PCC for Innes de Vries. No one is opposed to Innes being voted on to the committee.

BC enquires if there are any other nominations from the floor for Committee members for the NSA. Liz MacKenzie nominates Blaine Verhage. BC explains that according to the Constitution nominations have to be made 24 hours prior to the AGM. No one is opposed to the late nomination and Blaine is voted onto the committee.

11. Appointment of Auditor for the year ending 30 September 2020

BC proposes that NSA continues with current Auditors Frits Beyers Incorporated

Seconded: Mark Southwood

12. General

No additional items.

The meeting closes at 19:30