



Squash Australia Memorandum – 24th July Board Meeting

1. 2018 National Conference

The 2018 National Forum and AGM will be 20/21st October on the Gold Coast at the Carrara Sports Complex. The core focus for this National Forum will be:

1. The Sporty HQ platform and Matrix – we encourage each State to send two Matrix administrators;
2. A status check of the Squash Australia Strategy
3. We have confirmed Murray Stafford as a Key Note Speaker – Murray has a strong squash background as former performance lead for England Squash, before taking a lead role in the English Sports System and is currently Head of Innovation at High Performance Sport NZ.

Accommodation is booked at the Gold Coast Mercure Hotel and there will be a Forum dinner on the Saturday night booked at the Mercure Hotel, please contact Kay to make bookings membership@squash.org.au by the 1st August. For flights Gold Coast City airport is only 15 minutes from the hotel or you have the option of Brisbane and commuting down which is approximately 60 minutes.

2. ASC Participation Strategy

For information the ASC has launched a new Participation Strategy as part of their new National Sport Plan. There will be some major changes to funding processes and change in the focus of their participation funding. There will be an increasing focus on female participation and other specific target groups within society e.g. indigenous, 60+, Sporting Schools, etc.

As per the good work by Anna Walker the past years, the Squash Australia Participation Plan already covers these segments, however these are not strong pillars of our sport and it is something we need to improve.

The risk to Squash Australia now is that we have to apply separately for each programme and lose the safety of annual funding. We had increased this \$250,000 over the past two years and passed the benefits on to the States through the State Investment Agreement initiative. It now seems our entire \$450,000 funding is now at risk year to year.

3. High Performance Criteria

The Winning Edge Criteria has been updated and approved by the Board of Squash Australia. The criteria allows players to access the Winning Edge Squash and related funding associated with the programme.

[Please click here to see the Winning Edge Criteria.](#)

The National Junior Coach criteria for 2019 will be published shortly if you can ensure all your coaches know they can apply for one of the four coaching positions.

4. Paris 2024 Olympic Contribution

As discussed at the Presidents Council there has been a request from the WSF for funds (minimum \$15,000 a year for two years) from member nations to support the Paris 2024 Olympic bid. Obviously we all know the Olympics is crucial for the sport and we need to try and find the resources to support the sports push for the Olympics in 2024.

This item was discussed at last months Presidents Council and all States have graciously agreed to donate \$1 per player each year, for two years to contribute to the fund raising efforts, with Squash Australia filling at least to the minimum \$15,000 level each year, if not more.

The first invoices went out late June.

Attached are some background information in relation to this bidding process for you to share with your boards.

- Bid Update – May

- Bid Update - Annexures
- Bid Funding and Budget

5. Mid-Year 2019 Conference

In previous years we have had a Mid-Year conference to brain storm around strategy and other ways to improve the sport. The last Mid-Year Conference was in Melbourne in February 2016 where we set immediate priorities for the Squash Australia Strategy.

The proposed date in 2019 would be mid-June around the World Doubles Championships and Annual Awards date on the Gold Coast.

I would appreciate feedback on the suitability of those dates – ceo@squash.org.au.

6. Working Group Updates

The next Working Group meetings are set for Friday 19th October prior to the Squash Australia National Forum. Moving forward after this date the Working Group meetings will be held quarterly.

The following Working Group changes have been confirmed:

- Fiona Young – has moved from Event to Facilities
- Ray Dorsett (AIS) has been replaced by Adam Gerasimou (AIS) on the High Performance WG
- Jeremy Ryan is a new member to the Profile WG
- David Palmer is a new member of the High Performance WG
- Shane Lemcke is a new member of the High Performance WG

7. Governance Project

At the 2017 Squash Australia National Forum we discussed some of the challenges around governance:

- The need for external board evaluations by State Departments and the increase in cost
- Multiple issues within each State with Constitutions
- The need to have consistent terminology through the Constitutions, feeding in to the National Constitution.

Through the past couple of months Squash Australia has run a Governance Tender for this work and the selected provider was Ian Fullagar. Ian will be contacting you all individually to see how he can assist with your individual board evaluations and in constructing a consistent State Constitutions with the various Association Boards.

All of this work for the States comes at no cost.

8. New SQA Director

Following an extensive search by the Squash Australia (SQA) Nominations Committee following the resignation of Director David Whan in February, Robert Nicholls has been approved by the Board. Robert is from Queensland and is a legally trained specialising in Business Law. I am sure you will all welcome Robert to his new role at the National Forum in October.

9. Squash Australia Event Locations

The attached 'Event Location File' indicates the location of SQA events over the next five years. All unattached events are open for bidding except the AJC which operates on a rotational structure. If there is additional interest then **please can you submit tenders for these events to ceo@squash.org.au with the required expression of interest for which can be found on the Events Policies section of the website.**