



Minutes of NWCL BOD Meeting 2-13-2011

The first Board of Directors (BOD) meeting of 2011 of the Northwest Cricket League was held on Sunday 13th February 2011 at the iFusionIT offices (12835 Bel-Red Road, Suite 212 Bellevue WA 98019).

Minutes drafted by Roger Harper

The meeting was called to order at 10:35am with the following officers and club delegates present:

Phani Chitneni	President
Bunti Sarai	Vice President
Vikas Sondhi	Treasurer
Roger Harper	Secretary
Sankar Jayaram	Honorary Member
Raiyo Aspandiar	Honorary Member

Ritesh	Spokane CC
Vijay	Chak de Oregon CC
Ranganath	WSU CC
Shezhad	Boeing CC
Talib	Rainier CC
Siva	Microsoft CC
Nikhil	King County CC
Sameer	Lake Washington CC
Pradeep	Olympic CC (non-voting, probationary club)
Amit	Southside CC
Sukhjeet	United CC
Vikas	Redmond CC
Naveed	Seattle CC
Mubarak	Green River CC
Rajesh	Bellevue CC (non-voting, probationary club)

The following clubs were absent:

- Star CC
- ARCC



Minutes of NWCL BOD Meeting 2-13-2011

The following business was conducted and decisions taken by members of the BOD present at the meeting:

1. **Title:** NWCL should use white balls/colored clothing for 40-over games

Proposed By: Seattle CC

Background:

- white balls will be easier to see, given that most grounds have dark backgrounds
- colored clothing in place so use Blue/Green for home/away makes logistics easy
- consistency in games T20/40 and volume purchase of balls will help
- Seattle CC has used white balls for a few of their 40-over games in the last season and the balls held up well
- Reduces the need to buy two types of balls, and reduces cost to clubs

Yes: 5 No: 5 Abstain: 1

Management voted No to break the tie. Proposal #1 failed because it did not receive a majority of the votes.

As a follow-up action, Management agreed to use a 10 – 15 game trial during the season to see how the white ball performs and this issue will be revisited next season.

-
2. **Title:** NWCL T20 should use a 2 division format

Proposed By: Seattle CC

Background:

1. Some of the T20 games were very lopsided
2. More evenly matched games will be more enjoyable for all teams and players

During the discussion of this proposal a number of questions were raised about composition of the divisions and whether it was proper to introduce the format to the teams without prior notice. After the discussions, Seattle CC decided to pull the proposal off the table. Management will announce the structure of this season's T20 competition.

-
3. **Title:** NWCL should play T20 games before 40-over season starts

Proposed By: Seattle CC/Green River CC

Background:

- The stop/start of the last T20 was disruptive; no continuity to the season
- GRCC lost players as the season went on as players went home for vacation



Minutes of NWCL BOD Meeting 2-13-2011

The BOD decided to include this proposal in the operation guideline and to pass it on to the scheduling committee to see if it was possible. Care must be taken to ensure that the 40-over season is not affected.

4. **Title:** NWCL Management should be authorized to re-examine umpiring fees

Proposed By: Seattle CC

Background:

Today's structure makes it very hard to get people to umpire 40 overs game. T20 you get \$40 for 3 hrs and in most cases the games are same day so not hard for a person to come early/stay late and earn \$40. For 40 overs it s a full day commitment of 8hrs + and fees \$50. Not a fair balance leads to difficulties to find 40 over umpires and needs to be reassessed.

Rather than propose any set numbers I would like the BOD to allow NWCL management authority to revisit the arrangements. Hope this will allow for a better solution to encourage umpires to be willing to support 40 overs games.

The BOD decided that this issue is best suited for the Operational Guidelines document. Management will consider any changes that may be necessary to the umpiring fees and re-present to the BOD.

5. **Title:** Clubs should be penalized double if fees are not paid prior to the next season

Proposed By: Vijay Beniwal

Background:

- Repetitively more than 1 club goes into next year without clearing previous dues leading to vicious cycle of credit that is never going to go to zero.
- Promotes practice that can lead to downfall of system wastage of effort by management members in something that is not cricket related
- Exception to this can be taken with time deadline for clearing the accounts from NWCL management.

The BOD decided not to consider this proposal because fines for non-payment of fees are already covered in the by-laws. These fines must be enforced.

6. **Title:** NWCL should use ICC ODI laws

Proposed By: Vijay Beniwal

Background:

- As much as practical, NWCL should update the playing laws to conform to the ICC ODI playing rules

The BOD asked management to be more specific about which of the ICC ODI laws will be adopted and to present this updated proposal at the next BOD.



Minutes of NWCL BOD Meeting 2-13-2011

7. **Title:** NWCL points system should be changed to divide the 10 bonus points among winner and loser

Proposed By: Vijay Beniwal

Background: Current bonus system doesn't allow winning team to go beyond 20 and games can become dull and boring once the result is obvious. This change allows winning team to play harder all the times and losing team to continue work harder to get points.

During the discussion of this proposal several teams noted that they liked the current system of bonus points that made games more interesting even for losing teams. Rainier CC noted that they would like a system that gave wins more bearing than bonus points. Jayaram explained the purpose behind the current system and cautioned against removing the bonus points.

Management decided to take this input from the BOD and present a proposal at the next BOD.

-
8. **Title:** Schedule changes should be done through defined rules and followed up by communication to the clubs

Proposed By: Vijay Beniwal

Background: Once the schedule is published, any changes (including venue changes) should follow clear and transparent rules that are defined by management. Communication of the changes should include updating the website, emailing BOD and informing all affected teams.

(Is this more of an Operational Guideline than a playing law proposal?)

The BOD decided to add this information to the Operational Guidelines document.

-
9. **Title:** An umpire feedback system and action plans should be implemented

Proposed By: Vijay Beniwal

Background: Management must implement an umpire feedback system so that umpiring standards are evaluated per game. This will allow feedback to umpires as well as highlighting better umpires.

(Another Operational Guideline?)

It was noted that captains are supposed to file reports on the umpires after each game and that umpires are supposed to file reports as well. The BOD decided to add appropriate information to the Operational Guidelines document.



Minutes of NWCL BOD Meeting 2-13-2011

10. **Title:** Umpires should not no-ball because of a bowler's action

Proposed By: Microsoft CC

Background: There are well established norms and practices with elaborate testing at the international and national levels for suspect bowling actions. Given that we cannot discern with the naked eye, the degree of bending of the arms by the bowler during a regular bowling action, ICC recommends the bowler be tested separately to evaluate the suspect bowling action. Our league umpires call bowlers for no-ball on the suspicion of chucking, based on existing prejudices.

Proposal: Umpires cannot call a bowler on the playing field for a no-ball due to suspect action. They would have to refer the bowler to NWCL management. If a bowler is referred for a suspect action more than once, NWCL Management can take appropriate action (Possibly setup a committee, evaluate the suspect bowlers and pass a recommendation). We are not proposing what actions NWCL should take or what committee's need to be setup. We are only proposing that umpires stop making arbitrary decisions based on existing prejudices and rather allow skilled NWCL members to evaluate and take remedial measures.

Microsoft pointed out that the title of the proposal was changed from what they had originally submitted. They were only looking for a process to be put in place, not to have the umpires decision-making powers restricted.

During the discussion of this proposal, Jayaram stressed to the BOD that they should be careful not to make any laws that would restrict the umpires from carrying out their duties as laid out in the playing laws. Raiyo was concerned about having a non-neutral batting end umpire making decisions that might not always be neutral.

The BOD decided that better education of the umpires on what constitutes chucking is necessary and this will be stressed in any upcoming umpiring classes.



Minutes of NWCL BOD Meeting 2-13-2011

11. **Title:** Umpires shall have the full authority to call no-ball for chucking

Proposed By: Rainier CC

Background: While umpiring some games, certain players with suspicious and even blatant chucking actions have gone un-noticed with an excuse that the law has been updated to 15 degrees and such things like that. Even some members of Management who were playing during the game have come in defense of these players, citing technicalities and such. NWCL does not have the equipment or nor the time to go inspect every player. Plus the onus of proving not chucking is on the player, not the umpire. And if you remember, even McGrath was deemed to be chucking on certain occasions (after technical analysis) even though the naked eye could not even spot it. Basically make things simple, if the umpire thinks the bowler is chucking, then it's a no-ball, there should be no argument as to whether its 10 degrees or 15 degrees. Umpires/League don't have such equipment. Some people come and argue that "Oh, he has played for Ranji, or I have played for This League and That". For God sake Shabbir Ahmed played for Pakistan and he was clearly chucking, I am sure that he also played for all the regional levels too.

Proposal:

Let the umpires make the call on no-ball chucking. The party in question has the right to request a review to the NWCL management, and if NWCL management deems necessary, they can review if the umpire has the right judgment and maybe prevent the umpire from standing in future games or other include it in his evaluation. BUT the Management cannot blanketly bless the player that he is not a chucker, because he might not be chucking every delivery or whether he might start chucking at later stage.

Summary:

- Umpire has the full authority to call no-ball for chucking. No Arguments from the Captain/Player. Of course they can consult, but the umpire has the final call. Teams refusing to abide by umpires decision will forfeit the game.
- The Team/Player in question has the right to report the incident to NWCL management.
- NWCL Management can take notice and include it as part of Umpire's evaluation after observing the player or noticing further infractions.
- NWCL Management cannot blanketly bless a player as non-chucker because you don't know which deliveries they might chuck intentionally. Plus, past performance does not guarantee future action changes. Plus just because you have been doing something wrong for long time, does not make it right now.

The BOD decided to not consider this proposal because it is similar to Proposal #9. The same actions apply.



Minutes of NWCL BOD Meeting 2-13-2011

12. **Title:** Powerplays should be introduced in NWCL

Proposed By: Microsoft CC

Background: Most clubs associated with USACA now follow the latest ODI rules involving power play and such. However NWCL has been lagging behind in this and we should follow suit. This we believe this will liven the action and make cricket more interesting in the Northwest. Besides, when our team (NWCL select team) travels outside of WA they get into unfamiliar territories and usually don't have good strategies in place.

Proposal: NWCL should come up with a good power play format for the 40 over (something like a 8 over, 3 over, 3 over format instead of the regular 10 over, 5 over, 5 over format....which includes batting, bowling power play etc) and define other criteria like what happens if the bowling team forgets to take the power play etc. If we vote on a power play format being implemented in NWCL, we can define this more clearly along with the playing rules.

The BOD decided that the actions from proposal #6 apply here as well. Management will present a more detailed list of ICC ODI rules that will be applicable to NWCL games at the next BOD meeting.

13. **Title:** NWCL 40-over games should start at 9:00am

Proposed By: Redmond CC

Background: Most of the NWCL games start around 10.30am and in some rare instances they start at 11.00am and finish around 5pm. We are losing players consistently because of this schedule as most of our players have other commitments and they want to spend the better half of their evenings with families and friends. We need to start and end our games early and because of the longer days it gives enough time for the players to plan other activities even after a long day at the ground. There are some limitations and we can make exceptions for any visiting teams which need to travel more than 150 miles to reach the destination. If we can start the games earlier than 9.00am that will be even better but finishing the game before 3.00pm is imperative. This league shouldn't be targeting only the cricket aficionados but also the regular Joe's who make majority of the population and are willing to play only if the schedule does not cause hindrance to theirs. They are willing to make time but are just not ready to give up an entire day just for a game of cricket, there will be some resistance from late night partiers but they can look at the brighter side too, this new schedule will give them enough time to recuperate and party hard later that evening.

If the ground availability is an issue then the team needs to put forth a request to the management regarding the delay and an exception will be given to all the home games. If the visibility is really bad because of the early morning (for some) fog then the game can be delayed by 30 mins and after that an over from each side needs to be reduced for delay of 10 minutes thereafter.

Yes: 1 No: 10 Abstain: 0

Proposal #13 failed because it did not receive a majority of Yes votes.



Minutes of NWCL BOD Meeting 2-13-2011

14. **Title:** NWCL games should be reduced to 35-overs per inning

Proposed By: Redmond CC

Background: Management should consider reducing the no. of overs to 35, this way only the aficionados are affected but the average Joe's, late night partiers and the non-morning persons will be glad and will continue playing cricket. We need to remember it's a recreational league and the majority of the people are here to play for fun and if it's disrupting their lifestyle there is no way we can sell them to play for NWCL for such a hefty fee.

Yes: 1 No: 10 Abstain: 0

Proposal #14 failed because it did not receive the majority of Yes votes.



Minutes of NWCL BOD Meeting 2-13-2011

15. **Title:** Process for selecting the NWCL team should be transparent

Proposed By: Olympic CC

Background:

PROPOSAL GOALS & OBJECTIVES:

1. Pre-Defined & Approved Processes
2. Clear Transparency
3. Accountability

PROPOSAL SOLUTION:

1. The BOD should nominate a 3-member Selection committee:
 - a) Criteria for selecting the selection committee must be reviewed and approved by BOD, prior to nominating the selection committee
 - i Of the 3 selectors, one should be an elected NWCL management member (preferably the President or Vice President), can be Active or Non-Active player
 - ii The other two selectors should be from different clubs and different divisions **than Selector#1 (President or Vice-President)**, thus giving a fair representation for players in all divisions to be picked (e.g. if the management member is from a Div I club, the other two should be from Div II and Div III)
 - b) BOD must follow the criteria as per step 1.a above
2. The Selection committee should pick a Coach
3. The Selection committee + Coach should pick a list of probables and have them practice together for 2-3 weeks
 - Having 2-3 weeks of practice will help address the following:
 - Pool of Committed players
 - Sufficient time for players to come together and gel as an UNIT
 - Sufficient time for players to recover from Injuries, if any
 - More time for players to demonstrate their commitment and skills to represent NWCL
 - Allow Selectors to take note of their current form Vs. last season/s form
 - Sufficient time for Selectors to make their FINAL selection
 - Sufficient time for the NWCL management to address issues offline, if any, before finalizing the trip plans
4. The Selection committee + Coach, should pick one among the probables as Captain
5. The Captain eventually becomes part of the Selection committee thus extending it to a 5-member committee (3 Selectors, 1 Coach, 1 Captain)
 - Not picking a Captain at the initial stage of the process will ensure some impartiality in the eventual team selection
 - Increase Availability / More participation from players
6. Selection Criteria / Process for selecting the Coach, Captain and Team must be published and approved by BOD



Minutes of NWCL BOD Meeting 2-13-2011

- a) Rules and Guidelines for player eligibility (A minimum # of games played on the qualifying season)
- b) New player/s MUST NOT be allowed to “represent” NWCL (the meaning of representing the league is lost, if a player who has never played before is picked for the representative team ahead of a regular player)
- c) Last or two season’s performance (Average, Aggregate, etc.) must be considered

Olympic CC agreed to take this proposal off the table under the following conditions:

- the selection process will be defined by the constitution committee and publicized to the league by Friday 2/18
- The process will be open for comments for 2 days
- Management will consider the comments and include the final process in the Operational Guideline document

During the discussion of the proposal, clubs provided the following feedback:

- they liked the idea of selectors being from different divisions.
 - they felt that there should be feedback from the previous team about what worked and what could be improved
 - they felt that the eligibility criteria for selection should be made clear:
 - for example, restrict the team to players who have played a number of games during the season
 - they wanted to goals of the process to be clearly defined
 - prospective players should be kept in the loop throughout the year as to what they need to improve, etc
-



Minutes of NWCL BOD Meeting 2-13-2011

16. **Title:** NWCL Annual budget should be prepared and approved at the AGM/BOD

Proposed By: Lake Washington CC

Background:

What is a Budget?

Budgeting is the systematic allocation of income to a potentially unlimited number of needs and wants expenses.

Why we need a NWCL Annual Budget?

Budgeting will bring a financial transparency to the league. NWCL Annual Budgeting will help league members to clearly understand how total income (Membership fees + Sponsorship) is going to be spent by league for course of that particular year. A well planned annual budget shall highlight all the major expenses that will be incurred by the league for that particular year. Budgeting will help NWCL management to ensure that an approved (\$ amount accepted by BOD and NWCL management) funds get allocated for the respective expense item for that particular year.

How Annual Budget Process will work?

In essence NWCL Annual budget will be a detailed process of tracking each source of income for a particular year and how it will be spent for that particular year. NWCL Annual Budget needs to be prepared by NWCL treasurer and will need approval from BOD members. Every year NWCL conducts two major Operational & Administrative events for NWCL league. One is an AGM and other one is BOD meeting. NWCL Treasurer may share Annual Budget during AGM with BOD members. BOD members will review the budget and will approve it at BOD meeting. BOD will approve NWCL annual budget via existing NWCL voting process. For Annual Budget approval 2/3 votes will be required.

BOD member should be able to amend the Annual Budget prepared by the NWCL Treasurer. Any amendment/s to Annual budget prepared by the league Treasurer should be approved via BOD voting. For amendment/s approval 2/3 votes will be required favoring the amendment/s.

Lake Washington CC agreed to table this proposal until the Operating Guidelines document has been published. That document will include instructions for budgets. They will be satisfied if the Guidelines document includes percentages if absolute dollar amounts are not feasible.



Minutes of NWCL BOD Meeting 2-13-2011

17. **Title:** Limit "External to NWCL Operations Expense" to 4000\$ per year

Proposed By: Lake Washington CC

Background:

Interpretation of External expenses:

It's easy to explain what is Paid membership, rest is mostly all external: The league that pays full dues e.g. NWCL 40 Over Men cricket tournament where teams pay dues every year.

Money not spent on running the weekly/yearly NWCL paid league games is 'External to NWCL Operations Expense'.

Examples of External Expenses:

Women's/Kids Cricket [If they are not having meaningful season dues], NWCL Select, NWCL Regional, NWCL National, Hosting other leagues at our expense, Sponsoring Coach/Manager/Selector, Any expense related to Public Relation Activities outside NWCL, USACA membership are external expenses.

How do we know if the expense is external to the league cricket playing' activities?

"Is this expense being paid for someone who is paying the league?" In case of Men's 40 Over League games, the answer will be YES.

"Is this expense needed for the yearly/weekly cricket playing activity by the paid members of the league?" should answer in Yes or No.

"Do we need NWCL management member to claim expenses to deal with USACA in order for NWCL league games to happen this weekend/year?"

For most of the NWCL cricketers, playing in NWCL is an enthusiastic hobby, an expense in time/money that they choose to invest. Some of the clubs/teams are predominantly filled with technology professionals who can easily afford these expenses. Many of these clubs/members are either engaged in professions not as lucrative or are students trying to make through college/early professional life. Many are engaged in Restaurant Jobs, where wages are not comparable and hours are odd where weekend presence is mandated.

Investment/Expense on Northwest Regional/Select/National/Coaches/Managers>Selectors, USACA Relations, Women/Kids cricket development is vital for long run of the NWCL league. With our past efforts, results have been excellent in fetching individual posts beyond NWCL and National Level recognition of league and some players. When comes to fiscal responsibility, these programs should not be passing financial burden to current paying members of the league, who truthfully might not be as prosperous as the ones receiving these benefits. Instead, these programs should bear fiscal responsibilities, just like Men's T40 over league does. Individuals needing financial help should be evaluated on case by case basis by the League, only after respective clubs have exhausted their resources.

We are not asking to kill these programs completely, the expense should be minimal fraction of



Minutes of NWCL BOD Meeting 2-13-2011

the annual income [including sponsorship]. Further expenses can still happen up on approval of BOD with needed majority.

Few tidbits:

"How many of men playing cricket, go back to work after the cricket games OR work 6 days a week, to get to Sunday and play cricket? "

"How many of NW Select team members really need such help to play cricket outside NWCL?"

"How many of Women are working professional meaning having multiple household income?"

Idea is not to get into anyone's personal financial position here, but to make us all realize that we need a lot more enthusiasm/efforts to make playing cricket affordable for everyone, starting with the core league which is standing tall still it's inception in previous century shall we say?

"A 40 over game to an individual costs 50\$ or more when we really add all expenses [Club/League Fees, Equipment, Paying for Practices, Cloths, Occasional injuries] and we should call to cut this down by using our man power and sponsorship towards doing just that first and foremost"

Lake Washington CC agreed to table this proposal until the Operation Guidelines document is published because they would like to see appropriate information included.

The discussion about this proposal raised questions about Women's cricket providing income to NWCL through membership fees, etc. There were also questions about the possibility of getting sponsorship money from USACA for our Women's and Kid's cricket. Phani explained that our programs are not established enough to get sponsorship money from USACA.

The BOD wanted NWCL expenses for Women's cricket clarified. They also wanted the previous budget to be publicized when the Operational Guidelines are published so that they can gauge the percentage of money spent on the different programs.

18. **Title:** Limit "External to NWCL Operations Expense" to 10% of the budgeted income for the year

Proposed By: Lake Washington CC

Background: Same as #15

Lake Washington CC agreed to table this proposal until the Operation Guidelines document is published because they would like to see appropriate information included.



Minutes of NWCL BOD Meeting 2-13-2011

19. **Title:** Limit "External to NWCL Operations Expense" to an amount approved by BOD

Proposed By: Lake Washington CC

Background: Same as #15

Lake Washington CC agreed to table this proposal until the Operation Guidelines document is published because they would like to see appropriate information included.

20. **Title:** Eliminate all the NWCL Expense on NWCL Select, Regionals, Nationals, Coaches, Managers, PR outside NWCL, Women and Kids Cricket.

Proposed By: Lake Washington CC

Background: Same as #15

Lake Washington CC agreed to table this proposal until the Operation Guidelines document is published because they would like to see appropriate information included.

21. **Title:** T40 Regular Season games should be wrapped up by 15th September

Proposed By: Lake Washington CC

Background: Considering that there are no T40 games on long weekends, the T40 season should end by September 15th so that the playoffs are not affected by bad weather.

The BOD agreed that instructions to this effect will be included in the Operational Guidelines document as a guide to the scheduling committee.

The meeting closed at 1:30pm.