

Converting athletes to coaches

This was the first agenda item of the last meeting. Brainstorming on the topic concluded that not enough athletes are qualifying as coaches because:

- Lack of knowledge on qualification process, and limited location/date options.
- Cost, qualifying as a coach is not seen as a good investment financially.
- Athletes are often despondent and negative to the sport upon retirement.

Strategies for tackling this:

- Increasing knowledge that PDA for WCPP on levels A, B and C can be used for coaching levels. Done over email to athletes.
- Bespoke athlete to coach course; there are issues over the course but it's presence is promoting the idea of international athletes converting to coaches.
- Increase knowledge of ways to make money in coaching; we would like to see this included in this bespoke course, as case studies.
- Shift of attitude of clubs towards professionalisation of coaching – charging athletes more. This idea is well received by many younger athletes and coaches. Resistance from older volunteer club coaches/staff. Relevant discussions with Nigel Holl in reference to the Scottish athletics progress with Club Together at next meeting.
- Mentoring. We feel that increasing WCPP member mentoring is a good stepping stone to coaching. Could count as appearances for WCPP members, received positively by relay athletes. Challenged by David Bunyan, coaching doesn't equal mentoring. To be discussed at next meeting.
- Push from BA staff and coaches to encourage coaching qualifications as duty of care. Not all athletes make good coaches but qualification means insurance and increased skills and a potential means of income.

Making good coaches great

- Professionalisation of coaching, see above, could be club driven or individually driven by coaches charging more. Increased income increases motivation and ability to develop. How? Education? Club and coach education? There needs to be a sustainable club structure.
- Increase paid coaching opportunities. BA coordinating with large clubs and universities.
- Endurance are educating get coaches on approaching private sponsorship – is this successful, can it be copied for other event areas?
- WCPP coaches mentoring other coaches – part of their contract, how well is this being done?

Selection Policies

Large point of contention between athletes and governing body. We feel there is room for improvement over communication. Athletes and coaches should understand completely what is required to gain selection (WCPP and teams), there should be no surprises with selections. We are spending time understanding what BA think they are communicating and ensuring this is what is comprehended by athletes and coaches.

- Input on draft selection policies (SP)
- Suggestion of summary documents and videos to cover key points. I.e. Lack of appeals for World Indoor Championships.

Pushed for presence in selection meetings to complete perspective on what athletes are comprehending they need to do to be selected versus criteria used to finalise selections. Richard Yates is attending WIC selection meeting Monday 19th February

REDs Coach Education

No presence in EA coaching syllabus.

Carolyn Plateau (PhD, works in the Centre for Research into Eat Disorders and Behaviours) has developed an online CPD course on female athlete triad and REDs. She needs coaches to trial the course I have linked her with Georgina Williams (coach education?) to allow athletics coaches to be part of the trial and hopefully lead to BE and EA supporting the course. Either by integrating into syllabus or running alongside.

Relay Camp

I attended to promote athlete engagement with the commission, and to inform them of what we are doing.

Issues raised were:

- Request for staff appraisals, if athletes can be appraised with consequences, why not staff.
- Concerns over quality of social media, BA has huge following but don't feel this is utilised for athletes benefits. I've begun discussions with Liz Birchall.
- Request for knowledge on how to report staffing concerns. I am developing a protocol for the AC on how to deal with co plants and issues from athletes.
- Lack of knowledge on appeals. We would like to develop an educational summary sheet for athletes.
- National level events in pre program of DL/World Cup.
- Request for financial clarity.

Conflict of interests

Richard Yates has created a conflict of interests protocol for us, with myself responsible for the register.

Going Forwards

- Ongoing SP input.
- Asses where best to focus efforts regarding transition of athletes to coaches.
- Input into televised events.

Next meeting March 16th 2018, we will have Neil Black attending to discuss various performance topics that will likely drive some of our action points going forwards. Nigel Holl is talking on professionalisation of coaching and Scottish Athletics Club Together. Mike Cavendish is presenting the Tokyo Strategy – improving our knowledge on this will enhance our understanding on what is driving descisions and developments.