

**MEETING TO TAKE INPUT ON THE DRAFT CALENDAR 2011-12**  
**Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> April 2011, UCD**  
**Meeting Minutes**

**Attendees;**

High Performance: D. Passmore, G. Muller, P. Revington  
Competition Chairs: I. Cooper, P. Deering, N. Gartside, H. Hurley, P. O'Brien  
Branches: P. Shearan, E. Donohue, A. Shiels, A. Morris, R. Morrow  
IHA: A. Kirkland, D. Hall  
Apologies: M. Canniffe (Technical Officers)

**Minutes:**

IC took the meeting through the presentation covering the Consideration and Constraints for the upcoming season and the guiding principles for drawing up the Calendar – see separate attachment.

The meeting used illustrative draft Calendars to show what the season might look like under different Olympic Qualifiers dates. IC stressed these were illustrations only. The FIH dates were announced only the day before and while most of the HP training dates have been included these were applied late, without going back to eliminate obvious scheduling contentions.

The following points were agreed and any actions are noted at the end.

**Guiding Principles**

The Guiding Principles were agreed, except for the proposal to schedule competitions in 'blocks'. It was felt that this did not aid the non-IHL teams as intended and left them with larger gaps in their programs.

It was agreed that it would be better to follow a similar pattern to the season just finishing.

In addition, the following were clarified and/or agreed:

- When a weekend date is assigned to an IHA Club Competition (IHL, Cup, Indoor), a branch can use that date to schedule competition matches between teams that are not competing or not remaining in that competition, e.g. non-IHL teams can play provincial league matches between each other on an IHL weekend
- There is a difference between 'scheduling' and 're-arranging' postponed matches. Clubs should not be scheduled to play 2 matches over a weekend between Tier 2 and Tier 3 competitions. During the season, re-arranged matches MAY have to be arranged close to scheduled matches but this can only be done on a case by case basis, e.g. the clubs are reasonably local and neither team had a long away travel for the scheduled match

**Prioritising Competitions**

The meeting agreed the priorities for the various competitions and recognised the 'tier rules' that have been /will be used (see presentation).

**Indoor**

- The 3 weekends set aside for Indoor Competition were agreed.
- This will allow clubs commit to entering the National Indoor Competition, knowing that they are not creating a scheduling issue for themselves with regard to outdoor competition.
- Branches agreed to only use the Indoor dates to schedule branch competition WHEN:
  - teams are not entered in the Indoor competition
  - AND ONLY if they need these dates due to congestion
  - OTHERWISE dates around Christmas should be considered for giving Senior players a genuine rest period
- Indoor WG will issue the invite to clubs within the next week in advance of Board approval to the Calendar. This was acceptable to all at the meeting.

- The closing date for application is end of June. Once participants are known, the Indoor WG will provide these to all the Fixtures Secretaries to facilitate branch scheduling. Once the draw is also done, this will also be notified.

### **Underage Interpros (U16/U18)**

After some discussion, it was agreed to run the 2 weekends dates along gender grounds, keeping U16/U18's together. The dates agreed were as follows:

- Girls: 22/23 October
- Boys: 19/20 November

The Schools & Colleges WG provided suggested dates for the following season (12/13) and requested confirmation of these asap to facilitate schools planning.

### **Schools & Colleges Competitions**

#### ***Intervarsities***

The October Bank Holiday, 30-October (ROI only) is traditionally the date this competition is held and this date was agreed. The Competition runs from Sunday to Tuesday.

IC confirmed that if an IHA Competition is scheduled over that weekend, any University teams in the IHA Competition will play 'catch up' on the weekend of the 17<sup>th</sup> Dec (same as any clash for a team participating in the EHL in October). Indoor pool scheduling will need to take note of this.

#### ***Kate Russell & John Waring Competitions***

The proposed dates from the Schools & Colleges WG were agreed as follows

- Kate Russell: 22/23 March 2012
- John Waring: 28 March 2012 (note U14 event now)

#### ***Schoolboys Competition***

There seemed to be some divergent views on the timing of the Schoolboys event (traditionally played around end Oct), but this has caused issues around proximity to Interpros and concerns around over-playing, etc.

Two points were agreed:

1. The proposed date of 26-28 October was agreed, subject to following the agreement of last year with regard to playing restrictions for players during the period from the Schoolboys to the Interpros (19-November). This agreement needs to be formally documented somewhere (include in the SCHOOLBOYS Rules & Regulations?) and monitored.
2. The Schools & Colleges WG need to set up a meeting with other involved stakeholders to agree the positioning of this competition for future years. It is not for 1 to 2 people to set this date without consultation. Other stakeholders include: HP and Interpros.

#### **Senior and U21 Interpros**

Again there was some discussion around the issue of how do we ensure sufficient preparation time for teams, given the congestion in the schedule. This year is going to be even worse with the OQ's.

The Interpro WG and HP both want to see U21 Interpros, however, these teams MUST have adequate preparation time.

There was also a discussion on getting a fourth team for the men to ensure a viable competition. There are obvious attractions to using an Irish Selection as the 4<sup>th</sup> team – more players on display, cheaper genuine competition preparation for an Irish U18/U21 squad, etc. However, this all depends on the scheduling of the competition, as if it is not within a cycle of preparation, it is likely to cause over-playing and injury issues.

The following points were agreed:

1. HP players in the Irish panels for Euro and OQ /Olympics to be EXCLUDED from consideration for Interpros this season.
2. Interpro WG to propose (to the Management Board) that the 4<sup>th</sup> team for the men's interpros is an Irish Selection and to agree and document the rules for selection priority in the Interpro Rules & Regulations
3. Seek to schedule both a Senior and U21 to ensure the HP coaches are able to attend (not clashing with HP events) and also to facilitate the inclusion of an Irish Selection as the 4<sup>th</sup> team in the men's competitions
4. Given the Calendar still remains congested it is likely that the ideal preparation requirements for Interpros teams will not be met and this may require some compromise from the HP team for this season.

### Completing the Calendar

IC outlined the steps to getting to the next draft of the Calendars taking on board:

- The FIH dates for OQ – will now have 3 versions
- Re-aligning competitions around training dates
- Incorporating the agreed points from the meeting

The Calendar needs to be with the Management Board in May in order that it can also be published to the Branches and posted on the web.

The attendees all felt there would be value in meeting again prior to having a final version and confirmed they were willing to give up time for another meeting.

No.	Action	Resp.	Date
1.	Discuss proposed dates for Underage interpros for the season 2012/13 with the Interpro WG and revert to Schools & Colleges asap to facilitate School Planning.	NG	30-May-11
2.	Schoolboys Rules & Regulations to be amended to include playing restrictions post the event through to the Interpros.	HH	30-Jun-11
3	Setup meeting between S&C and other involved stakeholders to agree the positioning of the Schoolboys for future years.	HH	30-Jun-11
4	Propose that Irish Selection is the 4 <sup>th</sup> participating team in men's Interpros. Irish U18 in the U21 interpros and Irish U21 in the Senior interpros. Write up the Rules & Regulations for selection priority	NG	30-Jun-11
5	Draft up new versions of the Calendar (x3)	IC	19-Apr-11
6.	Identify next meeting date and venue asap	IC	19-Apr-11