

Squash NS Board Meeting Minutes

July 19th @ 7pm - 8:30pm

In-person at the Sport NS Classroom and online via Zoom

Present: Leah Boody, Craig Gibbs, Ryan Breetzke, Josh Rudolph, Chris Lien, Cameron Reid, Emily Burke, Bikramjit Singh, Adam Morris (PSO Admin Coordinator)

Regrets: Vishesh Bhat, Nathan Crouse, Dave Thomson

Leah calls meeting to order at 7:04pm.

1. Approve Agenda

Craig motions to approve the agenda. Cameron seconds. Motion passes unopposed.

2. Approve Minutes from Previous Meeting

Craig motions to approve the minutes from May 18th as distributed. Cameron seconds. Motion passes unopposed.

3. Blue Sky Planning – roundtable

Leah emphasizes the importance of planning for the organization. What we identify in this planning session should be the goals that we focus on as a new board.

- a. What Went Well (WWW)*
 - Membership growth, especially among young people (university age) and women
 - o Dal in particular is doing well with membership growth. They run two drop-ins per week and have Chris coaching there consistently.
 - Competitions
 - o Organized and executed well
 - o Incredible value
 - o Good reviews – participants enjoyed them
 - o Tournament schedule is out early
 - We sent a Canada Games team who competed well
 - Coaching courses led by Janet

- Two leagues (Halifax Squash League and Premier League) and box leagues (Dal and SMU) running in HRM
- Women's night in Halifax
 - o Incredible growth
 - o Calcuttas
- Funding athletes to compete out of province
- Officials sent to Canada Games and Nationals
- Growing junior program
- ClubLocker
 - o Aligned with Squash Canada and other provinces
 - o Works well to encourage membership growth and track local events
- Community-minded and inclusive environment

b. What Can We Improve (WCWI)

- More depth / availability for leagues
 - o Premier League: structure change so there is quicker reactivity
 - o HSL: drop-out rate and overall review of structure
- Officiating (more officials, better pathway for officiating)
- Junior development
 - o School squash programs
 - o Continued growth in junior programming
- Continued momentum for club growth and development
- Common drop-in pass for HRM
- Coach development, particularly at the grassroots level
 - o Follow through with LF development of Josh and Chris
 - o Create programming to utilize newly trained community coaches
 - o Address coaching gap for adult squash participants
- Communications
 - o Marketing and advertising for our existing programs and initiatives
 - o Yearly schedule on the website
 - o Awareness of SNS at the community level and the membership level

- Newsletter
- Common platform to communicate at the community level (targeted social media)
- Develop a pathway for people to get involved with squash from first introduction
- Integration with HSSC
- Collaboration within the Maritimes for competitions
- Fundraising committee
- Organization at the board level
 - Board members are assigned with tasks
 - Board is present in the community
 - Succession planning for board members
 - Financials
- Lunch and learn sessions
- ClubLocker training for users and admins
- Financials
- Communication on where and how to buy squash equipment.

4. Review roles and assign board members

Leah emphasizes that each board member is a director. Board members do not have to do all the work, but they are responsible that it gets done. Leah encourages directors to delegate tasks within the major areas that a director is responsible for.

Emily is interested in communications & advocacy. She is interested in developing the social media aspect and featuring what SNS is doing in the community.

Cameron is interested in learning about and administering ClubLocker.

Bikram is interested in developmental programming. His vision is for more events to bring community together and get more people playing squash. Bikram wants to develop a common drop-in pass for the city.

Chris is interested on finishing his LF training and growing the base of community coaches to grow the player base. Chris is also interested in being Cameron's second-in-command for ClubLocker.

Josh is interested in continuing his development of high performance junior programming at SMU. This includes targeted time with athletes, developing older athletes as coaches, and developing a pathway for the Canada Games in 2027.

Craig is interested in continuing on as competitive director, organizing tournaments and helping with leagues.

Craig and Chris will revamp the board descriptions before the next meeting.

5. Competition Calendar

There is a common calendar we will use to plan out competitions this season. Craig hopes to have list of confirmed tournaments by mid-August. Craig will contact various clubs and tournament organizers to determine the schedule.

6. Programming - what and who (lead)

Discussion tabled. Board is to brainstorm programming for the upcoming season.

7. Sport Nova Scotia Orientation – Adam

Orientation tabled for next meeting.

8. PSO Coordinator Update – Adam

a. Tier 6 Criteria

Each year, SNS gets a \$750 credit from Support4Sport to use as a “Provincial Card” to distribute between 1-3 athletes. If the credit doesn’t get used by March 31, it gets lost and reset for the next year. Adam suggests SNS creates a policy or guidelines for how the Tier 6 Funding gets allocated annually.

b. Sideline Learning

SNS has adopted Squash Canada’s screening policy, which means we are to screen all coaches, key volunteers, and board members. SNS has access to Sideline Learning, which can be used as a database to send screening requests and keep track of screening requirements. Adam suggests to pilot using Sideline with the board, before we roll it out to coaches and volunteers. Adam will send links for the board to login to Sideline. From there, board members will upload the required documents. Adam will check on how to get access to MyBackCheck so that individuals who

don't have a current background check can get one quickly and easily and have the fee invoiced to SNS.

c. Merch

The previous board suggested getting SNS merch. Adam followed up on a few quotes. Using 50 athletic t-shirts as an example, the total cost would be between \$700-800 plus tax. For 50 hoodies, the total cost would be \$1400-1600 plus tax.

d. Strategic Planning

The Sport NS Organizational Effectiveness (OE) consultants offer a framework for strategic planning. They are willing to guide us through the process free of charge. This framework helps us perform better on our next funding assessment and makes our annual goal setting with the provincial government much easier. Adam will connect Leah with one of the Sport NS OE consultants to start the process.

9. Dates for next meetings

Board agrees to meet monthly at 7pm. Thursday and Friday nights do not work for the board to meet. Moving forward, a Doodle poll will be sent out after the board meeting for the following month's meeting. Options will be the Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday nights of the third week of the month. Adam will send out a Doodle poll for the August meeting.

10. Meeting Adjournment

Leah adjourns meeting at 8:36pm.