

## Annex 'B'

### NWT Soccer Association – AGM 2008

#### AWG Selection Process – Discussion

Presentation began with Doug Rentmeister from Sport North presenting an update from the 2010 AWG debrief in Grand Prairie.

Age divisions posted on our website. Yukon forwarded concerns re: missed generations – Host Society may bring about review.

Venues are viewable – pics provided.

What's a Regional Coordinator – who assigns, who pays what and where are guidelines for clarity.

Different roles/responsibilities at each level; resources/processes at various regions/levels for funding etc.

NAIG – subsidy now from federal gov't so same as CSG process. Req't is standards for team and coach selection. TSO may play big role in future.

Representation of demographics of NWT... directed by team selection process... camp vs competition. Trick is to decide how this works. At this meeting considering input for discussion and decision.

Louise Cumming and Louise Matthews @ SNF Forum – LM there in capacity of another sport but participated. Issue regarding regional / demographic representation needs to be discussed further. Lines are not clear and understanding is up to selection of NWT Team it has to be Regional selection then Territorial trials. No real mandate in place. AWG is competitive so we need to be careful that it's all about demographics.

KC – mandate needs to be looked at re: participation vs competition from top down to be clear – need to reflect reality.

DR –SNF encourages participation to have representation need TSO assistance to have quality players competitive with larger regional centres and on to AWG's themselves.

MB – clarification? DR: need territorial trials participatory than actual AWG's

MB – but at Regional level mass attendance. T's more important than the Games as if you don't win there you don't go. Need to take the best team you've got from each region.

LC – our system is set up for regions participatory where Yk is more competitive. Regional athletes need to be strategic about choosing their sport in order to get to the Games.

RA – clarification re: number regions? Could we as NWTSA decide regions?

DR – put proposal to MACA to review ahead of time. May get a directive that it has to go exclusively camp.

LC – if we put proposal to put two regions? We only team sport not camp besides curling. Individual sports don't have issues in regions like team sports do... it wouldn't affect the others.

CM – if picking number best players, those from central region, if they are the best, they'll get picked.

LC – limited number of coaches who may become that team's coach, subject to bias once in play.

CM – selection process more transparent (not by coaches).

RF – need clarity on selection process

**MB – benefits of Yk vs regions:**

Personal level: two years would never have suggested that. Six teams @ AWG (5 soccer) for most part was able to staff solid team. Now can't find enough players in home community now.

See e-mail notes. If you have solid player from Wrigley without a team from his region, he/she will never compete at Territorial or Int'l level. Spotted talent throughout NT vs Yk huge pool.

Pool talent from communities to be competitive with Yellowknife.

RF: benefit over single camp format?

MB: not saying one or the other would be better – at this time. Another time, there were communities with solid enough team to compete on their own.

One Communities Team vs Yk would be exciting and competitive game.

JS: obvious benefit to 5 regions is 200~ athletes involved, 160 o/s Yk. Options rural all-star vs Yk all-star or a all-in-one camp process – need to look at products of population at the time and what programs available to athletes currently (it will vary).

An all-star process doesn't offer any competition is somewhere in the middle, 20K vs 20K (rural vs city) does. Quality and competition. This still heavily favours Yk (training time).

Alaska mandates numbers from each region. We wipe floor with them because our teams play together prior to the Games – time training together is tantamount to success (maximize potential). Tactics + Chemistry \* Time = success.

RA – likes T vs Yk teams competing, hopes working groups make decisions. North and South vs Yk not just two teams. Need idea how many avail in each pool. Camp issue: so little time practice, so not best team put forward under this format. Need to put purpose forward for decision(s). Basketball has their players move to central region for couple months prior (or where coach(es) are).

RF: whatever format, unanimous, develop mechanism for team to come together prior trials and Games (money and planning).

DR – philosophical decision – fans/energy best at T's – Soccer may lose that eliminating participation.

LB – agrees with community vs Yk – problem is mentality of communities vs Yk. Attitudes and issues abound. As an athlete and a coach, came close to walking away because of bad vibes. Participation needed from regions. Suggests;;;

JS – took product of regional all-star selection process allows participation outside Yk, with an all-star product get through. Please remember that same number of Yk players on outside looking in as those in communities on outside looking in.

LM – not time to make decision. Input from top coaches and from athletes too. Important that implications and consequences considered before decisions made. By changing plans be sure that community development is brought to higher level.

LC – need to have comments into a panel within a week (DR has input).

LB – experience with NWTSA as youth player you go with what's decided, but as coach, change is looking long-term, doesn't have to be end-all, go with what needs to be done ie what happened in Yk do outside in regions too (we solved the politics in one region, it could work throughout).

JS – careful in terminology – is it political or rivalry? Not NT specific issues.

LC – regions regularly combine teams to attend tournaments. Will be opportunity to train together.

LB – tying in to sponsorship and long-term planning for training.

MB – rivalry is fine line, even within same community, with history. Focus on positive.  
NAIG – 10-11 different communities on one team. Vital (no time prior to practice) is knowing each other – doesn't mean you're ready.

BW – listening now rural vs Yk putting rural doing same thing as Yk will have played together whereas the rural will not have. NWTSA is to promote soccer throughout the NT. Present system we're not doing our job.

Creating us vs them unhealthy rivalry. Camp style however with knowledgeable coach from each region with head coach final say would work best.

RF – unhealthy rivalry seen – wants to increase participation. Bring all in to central region – evaluators from various regions.

LC – some won't shine if with players s/he doesn't know. Don't wait until T's to decide team. Need done WELL in advance (at least six months).

FR – competition well in advance – pick every team in advance, use resources, '

DR – all this may be moot – look at all number options – maca will look at TSO as expert

RA – don't lose focus – it was ½ and ½ only since club teams / training athletes has yk started dominating. If yk continues and communities have no training, the same thing will continue. Communities need to start training.

LM – need to remember development throughout. See MANDATE!!!  
Clarification of deadline for decision? Need to gear up for selections.

DR – probably after Games Review in January 2009. Insight back to TSO's and expecting 3-month input period. NWTSA needs to develop soccer-specific solution.

RF – this is input only today. Motion tb for working group. Terms of reference, purpose, and options tb presented in next few months.

INSERT R. LANG input here – series of camps for instruction and evaluation.

KC – see notes – as Chair strong comments reiterated well with input from all. Lots great talent not getting picked up – R Lang had great solution to get several birds with one proverbial stone.

LB – AWG's is not solution to getting coaches and catch-all.

RA – need to recognize coaches at tourneys etc. Have coach meetings for support.

RF – coaching strategy – need training for in-house.

CM – selection process – need radar throughout so recognized athletes have somewhere to play.

RF – on-line database should help.

JS – supporting camp with long-term in mind, idea of U14 @ 2010 Games – will be U18 @ CSG's. Strategically we need to identify athletes and bring them together for Team NT HP program on regular basis (ie at least 20-30 at a time). Needs to be bigger than AWG's.

BW – down South teams for NEXT CSG's is picked already, we don't even have our current team picked.

VH – don't miss so many other kids in communities – keep grassroots not just focus on HP.

RF – GRASSROOTS is FOCUS. Discussion here is Games.

Needs to not be at Executive level, but sub-committee.

LM – Motion – NWTSA Executive develop terms of reference to establish a Working Group to bring forward recommendations for the selection process for the 2010 AWG's. This will include at least regional and coaching representation.

2<sup>nd</sup> MB – carried.

(a sub-committee, working group for options (pros and cons) required in changing, producing a report with recommendations; requirement of input from broad base, all regions and participants with experience in AWG process are represented. )

MB – if no crease at Games then Territorials same.

LB – will have to look at venue – details to be worked out for appropriate venue.