



Frequently Asked Questions

Items from the May/June 2017 Information Meetings

Q - NISA has identified that Nick and Penny are obtaining World Class Programme Funding - what is the difference between this and those athletes going to the Worlds etc?

A - *The World Class Programme is publicly funded by UK Sport and they base funding allocations on criteria which demonstrates that an athlete has is on a trajectory for podium potential at the Olympics.*

Q – What are NISA going to do about engaging with Rink Managers?

A – *As part of the 2016 - 2026 Strategy, NISA recognises the need to work with stakeholders and has already begun this work. NISA now engages with the Ice Rink Managers Association and some pilot projects are being created in anticipation of increased interest and participation in skating resulting from TV coverage of the Winter Olympics.*

Q – What is happening with Planet Ice Rinks?

A - *Ice Rinks are run either by private companies, such as Planet Ice, or by local authorities, and NISA will be engaging with them to increase participation and development opportunities.*

Q – You have identified a new staffing structure - how is this being funded?

A – *Changes have been made to the current NISA staffing structure and contracts with other companies. For example, we previously contracted our PR and Marketing to an independent company, but a member of staff has now been employed to bring this in house.*

Q – What about membership? - A number of volunteers are not happy about paying the level of membership fees.

A – *NISA is intending, in line with the 2016 - 26 Strategy, to examine the membership options. This would include developing better benefits packages and services to the membership across all the disciplines, and reviewing additional membership classes.*

Q - Parents invest a lot of time and money into supporting their children as ice skaters - so will parents be able to become voting members?

A - *The Board would then be able to look at the pros and cons of various possibilities for additional classes of membership within NISA. The Board would also be looking at what works in other sports - for example, some sports have a form of "family membership". At this stage we rule nothing in, but we also rule nothing out, in relation to possible additional future membership classes are concerned.*

Q – In the new NISA staff structure, which staff have experience of Ice Skating?

A – *The workforce development plan includes NISA staff being employed with a professional background in sports, whether that be ice-skating or other sports. There is extensive expert knowledge within the sport and elsewhere, and the combination of both will underpin the contribution from the future operational committees.*

Q – If there are even numbers on the board, who gets the casting vote?

A- *The Chair.*

Q – How can NISA justify an increase in the membership fee?

A – *In 2016 the membership fees increased by 50 pence. Unfortunately there has not been an increase in the number of NISA members, so there have been increases in membership fees to fund NISA's current activities. NISA recognises that we need to obtain and access opportunities from other funding sources to improve the financial position of the organisation, and the benefits of this other funding would cascade down to members.*

Q – There are some good ideas and it seems very promising, but how can you ensure you will deliver?

A – *What we can say is that we want to move the sport forward. The Board is committed to making changes. We have a CEO who wants to move things forward, and we have the right people in place. Other sports have gone through significant change and, if we look for example at Gymnastics, we can see how this has benefited their sport. They have gone from a membership capacity similar to NISA to now having over 240,000 members and medalling at the Olympics. As a sport we have rested on our laurels and have fallen behind, but these changes will improve our sport and provide new opportunities.*

Additional FAQs and Comments will be added shortly.