

WCFMC proposal to WCF Council meeting on 23rd August 2010:-

World Team Championships will be open to entries from individual WCF members only

Explanation/Clarification

This is a statement of principle that will be embodied in Regulations for events that are licensed by the WCF as World Team Championships. It is **not** intended to be enshrined in WCF Statutes.

It is intended to apply to all events licensed by the WCF as World Team Championships no matter under which set of Laws/Rules the event is being played (AC, GC etc).

It means that a team entering a WCF licensed World Team Championship must represent one, and only one, WCF member association and its respective nation. Thus there will be no so-called composite teams – that is teams representing more than one WCF member association or WCF member nation.

In practice the regulations for a WCF licensed World Team Championship will have to deal with such situations as a WCF member entering a team and then, when called upon to play, being unable to field a team of the required number of players. How such situations are resolved is outside the scope of this statement of principle, other than to say that a composite team will not be allowed to play.

Questions have been raised as to how this statement of principle affects the ongoing discussions of the five UK member associations about how they wish to be represented in the MacRobertson Shield and/or World Team Championship. Was this statement of principle to be become accepted as WCF policy then the following options would be available to the UK associations:-

1. Decide to play separately in the MacRobertson Shield and/or World Team Championship, i.e. as England, Scotland, Wales etc
2. Decide to play as “Great Britain” and form a UKCA applying to have it recognised as a WCF member in place of the five existing UK member associations
3. Decide to play as “Great Britain” without forming a UKCA and accept that the MacRobertson Shield would cease to be Tier 1 of the World Team Championship

The option that would not be available to the five UK associations would be to decide to play as “Great Britain” in the World Team Championship while also maintaining their separate status as WCF member associations.

Rationale

In considering how best to regulate the format of events licensed by the WCF as World Team Championships, the WCFMC recognises that one key issue is whether or not to allow composite teams. In part this is prompted by the “GB issue”, although the Committee recognises that it has to consider what best meets the interests of all WCF members. The Committee considers that the statement of principle contained in the Motion best meets those interests for the following reasons:-

1. It encourages development in that a member has to find sufficient players in order to enter a team, so more players get exposed to international experience and gives the players "back home" something to aim for
2. All members get treated fairly and equally - no artificially strong teams, each member competes on a level playing field
3. Each member is in full control of its own fate - no issues with, for example, who selects players, or whether a member can join or leave a composite team
4. Singles championships and team championships are treated in the same way - single member/nation representation for both