

Club Standards Framework Proposal

Proposal: that the board agree a clear accountability framework for ensuring universal standards within the IHNZ and affiliate ecosystem.

Background

IHNZ is bound by various requirements as the national body for the sport, and these must be enforceable down to club and player level. This requires an accountability chain managed by agreements, standards and policies.

- Affiliation Agreements are the primary mechanism by which IHNZ binds the local clubs to IHNZ requirements.
- The Charter and supporting Policies are the way standards are set.
- Processes may be defined by policies to describe the way they are enforced.

All these mechanisms evolve, so there must be a mechanism for change and a periodic review to ensure they continue to meet the requirements of IHNZ's stakeholders, and the broader expectations of society.

Gaps

There are several known gaps in the framework.

- The affiliation process has unclear criteria and standards.
- There is no 'refresh' in the affiliation structure (they should be renewed periodically to allow continuous improvement).
- The status of the IHNZ Charter is confused.
- Many policies have gaps, have not been reviewed for currency and in some cases are just missing.
- There is no attestation process by which clubs confirm they are meeting the standards on a regular basis.
- There are no clear criteria and process for providing support to clubs who are not meeting IHNZ standards.
- There are no clear criteria and process for the termination of a club's affiliation.

As part of the current policy reviews the affiliation process should be included in scope to ensure there are clear paths to (and from) affiliation, and that IHNZ and clubs are accountable for maintaining adherence.