

Policy Update

February 2007

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1. SPORT & POLITICS

1.1 Culture, Media & Sport Committee report on 2012 provokes debate

This CMS Committee Inquiry had closely scrutinised preparations for the 2012 Games and on many scores congratulated LOCOG and the ODA on their progress. However, as expected the report raised serious questions about the budget and funding package for the Games and strongly warned the Government against diverting further lottery funding to pay for 2012. This line was strongly supported in the media by CCPR, Sport England and other non-sport distributors.

Scope

UK

CCPR objective

To ensure a lasting legacy of increased community participation as a result of hosting the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

Next steps

CCPR awaits the Government's formal response to the report and will maintain pressure on DCMS to continue investment in community sport.

2. REGULATION AFFECTING SPORT AND RECREATION

2.1 Licensing Act 2003

2.1.1 Independent Licensing Fees Review Panel singles out sport

The main thrust of this long-awaited report is that the new licensing regime has cost local authorities £43 million more to implement than they have been able to recoup through fees. Nonetheless the report recommends that fees should rise by no more than 7% over the next three years.

The report acknowledges CCPR's arguments with regard to the cost to sport, and includes one of CCPR's proposals for reducing fees. It says, 'should the Government wish to do so, a case could be made for introducing a system whereby all clubs in the Community Amateur Sports Clubs (CASC) scheme could have their licence fee calculated at 20% of their rateable value'.

The report gives CCPR a platform from which to pursue reduced fees for sport, and members can rest assured that we will do so. To access the report paste this link into your browser (the paragraphs specific to sport can be found at page 37):

<http://www.culture.gov.uk/NR/rdonlyres/741DB3A4-439F-4058-AD31-F8BAAC98DF05/0/feepanelfinalreport.pdf>

Scope

England and Wales

CCPR objective

To ensure the Government fulfils its promise to develop a licensing fee structure that 'will be welcomed by sport'.

Next steps

To build upon the report's recognition of the special case of sports clubs and to seek reduced fees accordingly.

2.1.2 Revised licensing guidance out to consultation

During 2006 the Government reviewed its guidance to local authorities with regard to carrying out their duties under the Licensing Act 2003. The revised guidance is now out to consultation until 11 April. To access the consultation document visit:

http://www.culture.gov.uk/Reference_library/Consultations/2007_current_consultations/section_182_licensing_consultation.htm.

Scope

England and Wales

CCPR objective

To ensure the guidance recognises the special nature of sports clubs.

Next steps

CCPR intends to respond to the consultation, and as ever, would welcome members' input to inform this response.

2.1.3 Register of public spaces for licensed events

A 'Register of Local Authority Licensed Public Spaces in England and Wales' has been published by DCMS. The register is designed to help event organisers determine whether licensable activities can take place in a particular location without the need to obtain a separate premises licence, or to give a temporary event notice. However, the permission of the relevant local authority will be needed. The Register can be found at: http://www.culture.gov.uk/what_we_do/Alcohol_entertainment/licensed_public_spaces2.htm

2.2 Proposed London Low Emission Zone (LEZ) to cost £100 per day

The proposed 'LEZ' will affect all sport and recreation organisations that use minibuses to travel to activities, transit-sized vans to carry equipment or tow trailers or vehicles such as horseboxes or HGVs.

Under the scheme, as of October 2010, any minibus or large van not meeting specific emission levels would be required to pay a fee of £100 for driving within London. Failure to pay would result in a penalty charge of £500 (reduced to £250 if paid within 14 days). Vehicles registered before January 2002 are unlikely to meet the emissions criteria without modification.

Scope

All roads within the M25 (other than motorways).

Next steps

Following a meeting with Transport for London on 22 January CCPR members have been given until 16 February to respond to the consultation at www.tfl.gov.uk/lezlondon. Please state that you are a member of CCPR when responding.

How you can help

To construct a meaningful response we need to know what impact this will have upon members. If your sport uses vans and minibuses to transport kit and participants please contact Judith Wood (jwood@ccpr.org.uk). Please also send information concerning competitions or events within Greater London that you believe will be affected.

2.3 Gambling Act 2005

2.3.1 Gaming in pubs and clubs

Do clubs in your sport ever hold bingo nights or have a fruit machine? If so then you need to know about this consultation on the new regulations for these activities. To access the documents paste this link into your browser: http://www.culture.gov.uk/what_we_do/Gambling_racing/QuickLinks/Consultations/.

The deadline for responses is 20 April 2007.

Scope

England, Scotland and Wales

Next steps

CCPR intends to respond to the consultation and would welcome members' views.

2.3.2 Gambling advertisements

Does your sport receive any sponsorship from bookmakers or on-line betting providers? If so here is another consultation that concerns you. To view the document paste the link below into your browser:

<http://www.gamblingcommission.gov.uk/UploadDocs/Contents/Documents/Advertising%20impact%20on%20responsible%20gambling.pdf>

Scope

England, Scotland and Wales

CCPR objective

To enable members to balance responsible advertising with income generation.

Next steps

CCPR intends to respond to the consultation and would encourage members to do so also.

3. COUNTRYSIDE AND WATER

3.1 Research into non-statutory accreditation schemes published

The Adventure Activities Industry Advisory Committee has recently published research into the extent and nature of voluntary accreditation schemes in the adventure activities sector. No less than 23 schemes were investigated and the report identifies the key similarities and differences between these, and concludes that it could be possible to establish an over-arching brand, which would assure customers of the robustness of the various voluntary schemes. This scheme would not seek to replace statutory licensing, but to provide voluntary accreditation for non-licensable activities.

To view the report visit www.ccpr.org.uk and click on the Committees button.

Scope

England, Wales, Scotland (separate research is currently in progress in Northern Ireland)

Next steps

The AAIAC will shortly consult industry on the proposals contained in the report.

3.2 Rivers access campaign gains momentum

On 24 January Des Turner MP introduced a ten minute rule bill – Public Access to Inland Waters Bill 2007, securing a second reading on 23 February 2007. Should the legislation succeed it would identify water users' right to access the waters as well as codify their responsibilities. It should be remembered that as this is not a Government Bill it has only a very small chance of making it into law.

According to British Canoe Union Chief Executive, Paul Owen: "Opening up rivers would enable us to assist in reaching the Government's aims for participation in physical activity. Currently if you want to watch wildlife from a boat/canoe, put your hot feet in the water after a walk, or allow you children to wade in a river on a hot summer's day you could be committing trespass if there is no access to or along that waterway. This Bill gives everyone (non-motorised users) statutory access rights to and along most inland waters. However, people will only have these rights if they exercise them responsibly."

3.3 Proposed traffic regulation orders for National Parks

This consultation invites views on detailed proposals to enable National Park Authorities to make Traffic Regulation Orders to regulate traffic on Public Rights of Way and roads with a predominantly unsealed surface. The proposals are put forward primarily to help control excessive or inappropriate use of mechanically propelled vehicles away from the ordinary road network within National Parks. The relevant documents are available at:

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/consult/npa-trafficregs/consultation.pdf>.

The consultation closes on 20 April 2007.

Scope
England

Next steps
CCPR intends to respond to the consultation, and would welcome members' views in doing so.

4. FISCAL

4.1 Community amateur sports clubs

www.cascinfo.co.uk, a website dedicated to the promotion of the CASC scheme, has received over 7,500 unique visits since its launch on 16 October 2006. The website provides NGBs and clubs with up-to-date, accessible information about the scheme to help more clubs register as CASCs and reap the significant financial benefits. CCPR continue to operate a helpline for clubs and work with DCMS, HMRC, Deloitte, runningsports, Sport England and Bates, Wells and Braithwaite to administer the CASC scheme.

Figures provided by Deloitte show there are now 4,141 clubs registered as CASCs with an estimated total cash benefit of at least £16.8 million in rate relief, corporation tax savings and Gift Aid repayments. The sports of cricket, bowls, lawn tennis, rugby union and football continue to grow and make up 61% of the total registrations.

Scope

UK

CCPR objective

CCPR will campaign for additional benefits to be added to the CASC scheme.

How can you help

Help promote the site and the CASC scheme by linking to www.cascinfo.co.uk from your own website and by passing this information on to other organisations which could benefit from registration. Please also publicise the success and benefits of the scheme within your organisation and to clubs.

4.2 NCVO responds to unclaimed assets consultation

NCVO has published its response to the consultation on unclaimed assets that are held by banks and building societies. The four principles for investment of these funds in society are independence, sustainability, responsiveness and reunification. Further information can be accessed at <http://www.ncvo-vol.org.uk/press/releases/?id=3823>.

5. HEALTH

5.1 Sports stadia, marquees and tents – smokefree or not Smokefree?

As of July 2007 smoking will be banned at all ‘fully or substantially enclosed’ venues.

According to the regulations, premises are substantially enclosed if ‘they have a ceiling or a roof but there are permanent openings in the walls which are less than half of the total area of walls including other structures which serve the purpose of walls and constitute the perimeter of premises. When determining the area of an opening, no account can be taken of openings in which doors, windows or other fittings can be open or shut. This is known as the 50% rule. A roof includes any fixed or movable structures, such as canvas awnings. Tents, marquees or similar will also be classified as enclosed premises if they fall within the definition.’

All club-houses will be deemed fully enclosed and most sports stadia substantially enclosed. However some smaller open-ended and temporary structures may not.

CCPR objective

To support member organisations in complying with the regulations.

Next steps

Member organisations will need to consider whether their premises fall within the definition of ‘enclosed’. If they do so, they will need to take appropriate steps to implement a smoking ban. For further information visit www.smokefreeengland.co.uk.

6. VOLUNTEERING

6.1 Volunteer management at sports events

A national research project looking at volunteer management practices at sports events is currently in progress. The project aims to evaluate and improve practice and lead to increased support for volunteer managers. To take part, please visit: www.surveymonkey.com/s.asp?u=777533022545 and ensure the views of volunteers in your sport are heard. If you would like any further information, please email tristan.hale@northumbria.ac.uk.

6.2 Commission for the Future of Volunteering Review – making sport heard!

As reported in the December 2006 update, the 'Commission for the Future of Volunteering' is developing a long-term vision for volunteering and has challenged sport to make sure that its voice as the largest involver of volunteers in the country is heard. The Commission has established three themes and is seeking comments/evidence on each of these prior to publishing its final report in October 2007. The Commission has extended its deadline to enable this to happen.

CCPR objective

To ensure that the Commission's vision for volunteering is informed by sport and recreation input.

Next steps

CCPR will be responding to the consultation and would encourage members to do so also.

How you can help

Visit <http://www.volcomm.org.uk/getinvolved/> for details of how to respond, and submit your responses by 25 May 2007.

7. COMPLETED CONSULTATIONS

Migration Advisory Committee – this forms part of the development of the points-based migration system, and explores the potential value of an independent advisory committee on consultation. CCPR's response has stressed the subjective nature of skills within sport, and the need for NGBs to retain a role in the system.

If you do not wish to receive this service, please inform info@ccpr.org.uk.