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MEETING OF THE EASTERN SUBURBS FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION JUNIOR FOOTBALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

**Tuesday 6th of May, 2014 at 6.45pm, ESFA Office, Eastgardens
(Mtg 05/14)**

MINUTES

In attendance: Ron Ogilvie, Alan Charak, Sean Fenton, Moray Vincent and Aaron Dibdin (General Manager), Adrian Larson (Competitions Coordinator).

Meeting opened at 6.45pm

1. Apologies

David Owens

2. Agenda

Summarised by Ron.

3. Structure and decision making

Aaron explained the structure of the association.

- In the Past, the board had no previous direct link to football side of things.
- Board now has specific Directors for Senior, Junior and SSF.
- Council's ran with no review process etc. and run by bullies. A compromise was met; split operations of football into Senior and Junior, to help manage from strategic to governing bodies. The Single FMC was split into JFMC and SFMC to give better focus. SSF was included under the Junior FMC but with its own Council and Board member.

4. Role of Board/JFMC/Council

By constitution, the board must have direct control. The board will normally not over rule the decisions of the council and management committees. The board will only step in to resolve unconstitutional biased or, unsolvable issues i.e. a reserve power, so to speak.

Theory of structure, was essentially to specify and to split seniors and juniors.

Alan highlighted the issues of the decision making process made by the council in the past: Highly unorganised, decision making process was very flawed, etc.

Club officials are there to represent the majority views of the club as a whole. Therefore, the Club delegate election process is highly important.

Sean explained that the Single FMC structure was broken down due to too many football issues coming to 'the top'. He highlighted the importance of the 5 chair people and in essence the Councils elect these Chairs to represent the views of the Councils at FMC meetings.

Is the current fundamental structure correct? Generally, Yes, Club members fundamentally want a well-run competition.

However, all council members are at meetings to represent different parties of the association, to make the decisions of their represented parties.

Council has elected a Chair to represent the Councils views at the JFMC.

FMC's are therefore there to make the decision in a neutral manner.

- Agreement was that rather than Councils being the first point of discussion, that the FMC's present recommendations on which the councils give their views (unlikely any benefit in taking votes at Council meetings as it then locks in views) then the FMC's make the final decision.

5. Place of SSF on JFMC

Small Sided Football and Junior Football are both junior football players. Therefore, there is an importance for the SSF Committee to work together with the Junior Committee. There is also value in sharing ideas and seeking input from people not directly involved, this works both ways.

Ability matching has been of higher importance in SSF, as its non-competitive football, compared with competitive junior football.

Sean pointed out that experience is highly important and that the role of both SSF and junior members are the same. The transition between U11 and U12's is a topical issue that the SSF and junior committee need to discuss.

Moray suggested; junior competitive football should focus more on ability matching, than worrying about the '6 goal mercy rule'. Encourage a junior competition that is less competitive, therefore making it more attractive to all players. A new structure of competition proposal; less focus on 'the premiership', the finals should be more competitive than regular season.

The 'no goal difference' rule was highlighted, as it was used successfully in the past. This could mean splitting teams finishing equal on points not by goal difference but based on results between those teams as is done in world cup etc. A key advantage of this is to remove the need to maximise goals scored during the season thus removing need for Mercy rule. Final discussion agreed that other models should be looked at in the near future.

Modification of existing competitions rules and reward structures to discourage behaviour that is deemed detrimental to the competition (such as teams being reluctant to reschedule games

when they haven't got their strongest teams available for fear of losing points, teams looking to maximise goal difference, teams putting "winning at all cost" above playing the game in proper spirit").

These could include only the Championship Division being competitive while lower grades would be "fully organised but less competitively structured" Possibly no points recorded but with finals Gala Day/Series etc. The thinking here was that many of our players/parents are that serious, this might remove lots of pressure and even attract a wider range of players. There is more work to do, but may be time to start "rethinking our approach".

6. Wet weather catch-ups

- Field availability was highlighted as an issue for ESFA to enforce clubs to play catch up games.
- ESFA need to enforce deadlines.
- AGREED as has been announced previously, junior games to be scheduled for June Long weekend immediately. If clubs wish they can reschedule BUT must be played before the June long weekend.

7. Coogee U12 Championship

- Coogee have entered a new team into the U12 Championship. They will be entering the competition in round 5. Therefore, rounds 1-4 catch up games should be played, including over June Long weekend.

8. Match card

- ESFA are not currently effectively checking match cards are handed in, who yellow and red cards given to, players 'playing up', and player suspensions. BUT agreement was that this is important & needs to be done (Aaron to work with Ron on how to do it!)
- Competition results are not coming in on time.
- Penalties will be given to clubs that are late entering results i.e. no results entered = no points for the team, fines per result not entered e.g. \$5-\$10per result. AGREED this would be introduced across both SSF and Juniors (RO to check with Seniors). Clubs must have all results entered by 5pm Monday; they would get 1 weeks grace i.e. first a reminder but no fine, then a fine per game not entered.
- Weekly suspension list, checking all match results are entered correctly, is highly important and the possibility of hiring an extra person to help in the office to help with the 'time consuming tasks'.
- Player ID cards have been available to be picked up by clubs for a long time.

9. Other business

- Need to understand- what is and isn't an Academy, and act accordingly i.e. not allow entry of an 'Academy team' into a competition based on, creating unhealthy competition etc.
- Issue for Board to consider.

- Guidelines may need to be set for registration and coaching fees for juniors; this could include suggested fee ranges for paid coaching at various groups.

- A final proposition of 'social' leagues to possibility be made in the future, with one top league and the other leagues being a social competition.

- The meeting closed at 8:53pm.