



EASTERN SUBURBS FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

MEETING OF THE EASTERN SUBURBS FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

COMBINED SENIOR COUNCIL MEETING

TUESDAY 31ST JANUARY 2016

Newmarket Hotel

COMMENCING AT 7:45PM

MINUTES

Meeting opened at 8:05pm

Attendance:

Eddie Sweeney, Joe Peters (Barnstoneworth); Amy Singh, Chris Calverley (Coogee) Lyndall Ridley, John Sweeney, Oliver Gee, Scott Sadler (Dunbar); Riccardo Larriera (Easts); Gary Toase, Paul Liveridge (Glebe); Kosma Tzannes (Kytherians); Rob Gertskig (Lions) John Choi (Lokomotiv); Patrick Hardy (Maroubra); Angela Palogiannidis (Mascot); Glenn Reading, Julia Chernoukha, Deanne Parker (Pagewood); Terry Brady (Phoenix); Max Lyandient (Queens Park); Wally Holzer (Redfern); Marty Misanikes (South East Eagles); Roy Belcher, Andy Dorey (Waverley); Sean Fenton (ESFA President); Jaleh Shafie (Director of Senior Football); Tom Adam (Director of Junior Football); Sarah Ferris (Women's Council Chair); Adam Gwynne (Men's Council Chair); Aaron Dibdin (General Manager); Caroline Oaks-Ash (Referees Coordinator); Adrian Larson (Competitions Coordinator).

Agenda

1. ESFA President Speech
2. Season Calendar
3. Women's council chair nominations
4. Player suspension changes proposal
5. O35 Friday nights - players/spectators conduct, O35 CoC eligibility
6. Other business

Apologies

No Apologies

1.ESFA President speech

"I hope that many of you have had the chance to recharge the batteries through the Christmas and New Year period. Now the holiday are over kids are back to school most parents are back to work its time for us to get serious for the upcoming 2017 season.

Before I start I would like to inform you all that the Board has approached John Harris to be a board member in 2017, to which John has kindly accepted. John is a Barrister whom brings not only his legal nous to the table but experience as a player and previously a referee. Please welcome John aboard.

I would like to address you all tonight on a few topics in regard to management of the 2017 season.

- I have met with the staff of ESFA yesterday to indicate to them my expectations of them in roll for 2017. Before I do that, I would like to remind all that the office staff work for ESFA and report to the GM and they are not there for each club's individual needs and or requests. They work for the Board and the members of ESFA as a whole.*
- My expectation as stated and written to them as a reminder to ensure they meet KPI set for them is that they will enforce the rules, they will enforce the deadlines and they will treat all clubs equally and without prejudice.*
- The competition managers will have a minimum of 5 weeks draw ready and set 1 week prior to comp start date. 5 weeks of comp structure will be the minimum when publishing.*
- Changes to the draw will ONLY be accepted via the process described in the rules and with proper notification period.*
- The staff will NOT allow changes to game inside that period (UNLESS EXTREME CIRCUMSTANCES) i.e. field damage, ground damage or reasons that are quantified and accepted by the director and GM.*

What does this mean for you as a club?

- Your nominations need to be in on time. Late requests will be put to the side and addressed if possible when possible.*
- Your registrations need to be completed on time so cards are available week 1.*
- Late registrations will not play week 1 – END OF STORY*
- Change request and special time request information needs to be completed in advance.*
- Clubs whom agree to change a game of their own accord and without following the correct process will have that game null and void. No points, no replay.*
- Instruct your coaches/managers, committee and club employees to follow the rules.*

Referees

As stated at the AGM last year the referee branch has failed to fill a full management committee and thus in 2017 there will be no RMC.

The board took the opportunity to meet with the referees reps from 2016 to understand their concern and issues to see if we could address their concerns.

The list that was comprised, we saw as manageable and with some changes in communication, administration changes and addressing the main issue of abuse of officials, the board sort to meet again with the referee reps.

However, this was declined and as such the management of the referees will be taken on by the ESFA and the staff of ESFA.

In saying this, we still need to address a few points:

- We need to find an experienced referee to be branch coach as this is vital to support the mentoring, coaching and training of referees.*
- We need to appoint a director for referees so as to support Caroline as her role will have even more significance.*
- And last but not least, we need to clamp down on abuse of referees and officials.*

On the last point, the board will be reviewing the schedule of penalties when determining outcomes for abuse of officials which is and has been the biggest concern raised by the referees. This is not only for players, coaches and managers but for spectators whom the club is responsible for.

The punishments will not only include heavier suspension of individuals but we will start to administer loss of points to teams or clubs who have serial offenders. This is currently being written to add to our rules and schedule of penalties and we will be asking referees to complete a small report on abuse after all matches.

Caroline has organised for referee's course to take place and I strongly urge clubs to support these courses and send players, coaches and manages to undertake these courses as it not will only provide those with an understanding of refereeing but also potentially provide more referees to replace some of those not returning in 2017 due to the mentioned above.

Technical Director

This year we again have Jaime Gomez on board to help deliver all levels of coaching in 2017. Jaime has started to organise courses such as grass roots level and game leader training. He will also be organising skills and game level courses, along with another C level course for the end of the year.

I encourage all clubs to organise their coaches and game leaders to attend these courses as I would like to see a future by where in 2018 all coaches and game leaders must be accredited before taking a team.

I also strongly urge clubs to contact Jaime and utilise his skill for your club. Do not wait for Jaime to contact you, be proactive and talk to Jaime about the needs for your club and work together to improve and up skill your coaches.

Cost of Football

As discussed at last years AGM; ESFA are reviewing the cost of football and registration costs. Available to you tonight is an estimated cost of football that has been scribed by myself as an indicative cost that I recommended to the board.

The board has agreed with these costs and as such we ask that clubs review this cost and feedback to the association, and any reason why your registration costs would be above these amounts.

I understand that I have worked these costs based on my own assumptions and experience but I do acknowledge that I do not have the intricate details of each clubs costs; like ground hire and thus these numbers may be out of expectations. This is why we would like to understand why your cost may be higher.

Please also understand that we have been contacted by local councils and they are very conscience of the concern that some clubs are engaging private businesses and are profiteering through the use of clubs whom hire grounds through the club. Councils wish to be notified if ESFA are aware of this happening. So please we need to know if you are charging over the recommended fees as suggested.

Lastly, I wish to inform you all that ESFA has been approached by two senior clubs whom are wishing to join our association to play in the Premier League and senior competitions.

Glebe Gorillas and Randwick City FC whom have both completed the documentation required and have presented these to the board.

These clubs come from the Amateur Association which again has struggled to fill a competition. Canterbury Association has already taken one team, although these two clubs would prefer to play in ESFA, as their grounds and players are predominately from the Eastern Suburbs.

The board has endorsed their application and communication will be send to clubs inviting all delegates to a general meeting to vote upon their acceptance.

Thank you”

2. Season calendar

A final copy of the 2017 ESFA calendar was distributed to clubs.

Key dates highlighted:

- Final nominations, Field availability, and Special time requests due 1st March
- The Senior grading meeting has been moved from 6th to 8th March, to avoid the clash with Senior certificate
- ESFA Cup/Trophy 1st round games will commence 18th March for teams able to play that week. All remaining 1st round games must be played before April

- 1st round of the regular season begins on the 31st March (O35 Friday night), 1st/2nd April weekend
- Finals are scheduled to begin 18th August
- Wet weather weekends will be applied over different weekends for each division, similar to the successful application of last seasons schedule.

3. Women's council chair nominations

Sarah Ferris was nominated for Women's Chair. Everyone welcomed Sarah to her first council meeting.

4. Player suspension changes proposal

As discussed at last years post season council meeting, something needs to be put in place to combat referee dissent and the ongoing problems of referee abuse.

Therefore, it was proposed to:

- Reduce the amount of yellow cards before suspension from 5 to 4 cards
- A player will serve an automatic one week suspension for two yellow cards in one season for referee dissent (may be trialled at Men's Championship before being applied to other competitions). This would be recorded on system as a Y2R.

The above will be reviewed by the disciplinary committee before being applied to competitions.

5. O35 Friday nights – player/spectator conduct, O35 CoC eligibility

Coogee, Dunbar, Glebe, Mascot, Pagewood and UNSW have agreed to enter into a Friday night O35 competition, separate from the O35 Sunday competition.

Clubs and Team officials must manage player and spectator conduct on Friday night; including excessive alcohol consumption on sidelines which may lead to negative behaviour. We had issues with some Friday night games last year- this season there will be zero tolerance, with problem people serving maximum penalties.

Champion of Champions eligibility will be discussed at the grading meeting. An O35 Friday Champions vs. O35 Sunday Champions playoff may be considered.

6. Other business

New fines will be in place for the upcoming season i.e. No ropes at games, incorrect team sheets, late submission of team nominations and forfeits etc.

ESFA will be distributing RTO vests marked "Team Official" to all teams before the season begins (picked up from the ESFA office with player ID cards). These vests will allow RTO's to be identified on the parks and give them confidence to fulfil their duties.

Meeting closed at 8:44pm