



EASTERN SUBURBS FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

MEETING OF THE EASTERN SUBURBS FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

SMALL SIDED FOOTBALL COUNCIL MEETING

THURSDAY 11 September 2014

ESFA Office, Level 3, Suite 407 Office Tower, Westfield Eastgardens

COMMENCING AT 7.20PM

Minutes

Attendance: Gerry Frittmann (Dunbar Rovers); Marc Flior, Chris Kopsi(Easts); Frank Friedmann (Maroubra United); Phillip Carabitsios (Mascot Kings); Moray Vincent (Chair of Small Sided Football Council); Sean Fenton (Director of Small Sided Football); Ron Ogilvie (Director of Junior Football); Aaron Dibdin (General Manager).

The meeting opened at 7:21pm.

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Heffron Hawks, Maccabi Hakoah Juniors, Sarah Husselmann and Ian Robinson from Maroubra United and from Olympic Eagles.

2. Confirmation of minutes

The minutes of the June meeting were agreed to be a true and accurate record, pending the correction of the date.

3. Review of the Season - comments from clubs what went well what could be improved, general comments

a. Inter- club leagues

- Easts and Dunbar both raised concerns about the state of the pitches at both Christison Park and Waverley 3 – in both cases the pitches were very bare and uneven, presenting a potential hazard to players
- The council discussed the issue of inter-club matches and it was generally agreed there have been far fewer issues in the last couple of seasons than previously. In nearly all cases matches are starting within five minutes of the agreed times and all teams are turning up when and where they are supposed to.
- The council discussed a couple of matches where there was a miscommunication resulting in a late start or cancellation, in the week following a re-grading. It was resolved that ESFA would make special efforts around communication at re-grading times to improve this aspect, but having difficulties with 2 matches out of a total of around 1,300 around the season while two too many was still an excellent result
 - The meeting talked about the merits of having a club administrator at each ground who functions as the point of contact – Sean noted that this would come up in his presentation
- There was general agreement that we need to build on the consistency/universality of understanding of rules and processes.
 - The notion of setting a series of minimum standards for how things ought to operate and minimum standards of coaching was discussed – Sean again noted that this would be covered by the presentation later in the meeting
 - It was noted that in past years, there used to be RTO training and if RTOs had not done their training they would not be recognised.
 - It was suggested that ESFA and clubs could re-introduce an RTO training system and so that we ensure that clubs bring all RTOs up to speed
- On coach education, Maroubra raised the idea of having more coaching courses through the course of the year hosted by ESFA and not just courses at the top and bottom of the season and not putting the responsibility on clubs to host.
 - Aaron noted that a full set of courses were offered at the start of the season, but the Association had

coordinated courses this way in recent years because we struggled to get sufficient numbers for in-season courses and had probably cancelled more than we had successfully conducted.

- Easts noted that they had good success organising a core of their own coaches to do a skill training course, and approaching the Association to help with the coordination. The extra bodies required were filled in through the normal FFA online registration process.
 - While ESFA will continue to conduct centrally coordinated courses, the door is open for clubs to coordinate courses for a core of their coaches (perhaps on a one-night-a-week for four weeks basis) and thus do it in their normal home ground or any other ground or reasonably format of their choosing
- On re-grading, there was some discussion about the mixed standards of the teams regraded between age groups in the final phase of the SSF program
 - Moray noted that re-grading always works best when we collect all results from games, and when we collect all results it means we can re-grade mid-phase if needed.
 - There was brief discussion about ascertaining the level of U11 sides with a view to pushing them up to U12 but only if done early in the year so as to not interfere with the U12 competition.
 - Will we see U10 sides regraded to U11 in Phase 3 skip U11 entirely and go straight to U12s in the 2015 season? If they want to they're free to.
 - Sean noted that the mixed hub was a great success and congratulated the clubs involved.
 - The Girls' divisions were better than last year with the combined age groups
 - On Gala Days, the meeting agreed that it would be good to get the timelines sorted out on gala days so that it is less last-minute.
 - It was noted that part of the problem is that participating teams are often not confirmed until very late in the piece, so a lot of the operational detail is necessarily done late

- To control for this, given that the gala days are set in the calendar as a part of the program, we can simply enter all teams into the gala day unless otherwise notified by clubs, and that way draws and other organisational items can be locked in well in advance
- There was a suggestion from Gerry that Gala Days should be full-day events, involving teams from other areas etc.
 - It was noted that the fields aren't available for this on days where the rest of the competition is running, so if it was done it would have to be on an off-week (e.g. public holiday, holidays, etc.), but this presents additional operational challenges as it would be unwise to enter all teams for the dates given absences are likely to be greater on public holidays, holidays, etc
- Chris reported that Facebook and social media generally are great tools for engagement and for information dissemination particularly around ground closures and we could all make better use of them.

4. Ideas and improvements for next year

Sean ran through his presentation outlining his review of SSF 2014 and recommendations for SSF in 2015.

It was discussed in detail and Sean took questions from clubs. Aaron stated that he would email out the presentation for clubs to consider and Sean said he planned to have a get-together dedicated to the proposals for clubs to work out whether they wanted to go with it.

5. Election of the SSF Chair for 2015

Moray re-stated that he did not intend to renominate for the position of Council chair, and opened nominations to the floor.

There were no nominations forthcoming, so the position will remain vacant for the time being.

Moray noted that potential candidates ought to consider what their ideas for SSF are and what their vision is, and Moray expressed his view that it was best practice for candidates to share their ideas and plans with the clubs so that they then have a mandate to carry it out if elected.

Both Sean and Moray agreed that a current consideration for the incoming SSF Chair would be his/her views on the hubs proposal as if anything other than minor changes were to be made there would likely be a large involvement and workload for the SSF Chair and therefore having someone who “believed in” the changes to be made would be desirable from a motivation perspective

For the time being, the election will be held off until we determine our plan for 2015.

With no further business to attend to, the meeting closed at 10:00pm.