



## EASTERN SUBURBS FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

### SSG MEETING

Wednesday 10 February 2010

7:00pm – Maroubra RSL

946 Anzac Parade, Maroubra

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## MINUTES

### 1: Apologies: Pagewood

**In attendance:** Dr Andrew Field (Director of Technical Development and Modified Football); Blaise Fagan (ESFA Technical Director); Jeff Saul (General Manager); Taleah Neowhouse (Competitions Manager); Coogee Utd; Easts; Kincoppal Rose Bay; Maccabi Juniors; Maroubra Utd; Mascot Kings; Olympic Eagles; Queens Park; Waverley Old Boys

**Absent:** Bondi Utd

### 2. Opening Comments

Andrew welcomed everyone to the meeting then went around the room and everyone introduced themselves. Andrew introduced Blaise Fagan, the newly appointed ESFA Technical Director who has previous experience at Ku-ring-gai District Association in the SSG program.

### 3. Queens Park / Pagewood Situation Update

Andrew introduced Jeff Saul (General Manager, ESFA) to the meeting to explain the Queens Park / Pagewood situation. Queens Park and Pagewood had been invited to this meeting, and a Queens Park representative, their age marshall for the U10 age group was present.

Jeff explained to the meeting that most would already be aware of the current situation from the email sent to parents and secretaries from Peter Hennessy (President). Jeff mentioned to clubs that Queens Park and Pagewood have decided to stand outside of ESFA in relation to the SSG program, Queens Park in the form of an academy and Pagewood in the form of a newly founded football club. Jeff mentioned that he did not want to get into the politics of the matter but that ESFA and the board had a number of concerns with what these two clubs had done:

- These included, but were not limited to

- There was a potential lack of quality control in their programs and no central ESFA based grievance policy if people had a grievance
- The level of insurance provided by these two clubs in their SSG structure was currently uncertain

Jeff explained that ESFA has taken the matter up with FNSW and that other clubs including ESFA affiliated clubs will not be able to participate with Queens Park & Pagewood if they choose not to register their SSG players with ESFA and therefore FNSW and FFA. Queens Park & Pagewood have placed themselves and their SSG players outside the ESFA, FNSW & FFA football community.

Easts voiced the opinion that ESFA should be looking at strengthening the SSG program rather than concentrating on this matter. Andrew agreed that tonight's meeting would showcase the work ESFA is doing in relation to strengthening the SSG program in partnership with clubs.

Easts raised concern how ESFA would control the restriction of interaction with these clubs considering Easts and Queens Park shared the same field. Jeff explained that whilst ESFA can not, and will not, stop people talking at grounds etc, the restrictions will be on formal interactions and that no sanctions or permission will be given for clubs to engage in formal games / activities against Queens Park or Pagewood due mainly to insurance concerns.

Clubs raised opinions on why Pagewood was not present at tonight's meeting but the consensus was that the product ESFA showcases tonight and produces during the year will be more important in determining whether these clubs return to the program. Jeff stated that ESFA will not be isolating these clubs. ESFA will keep a dialogue open with both clubs. and explained that they could be back in the fold in a couple of weeks but it could take 12 months.

Maroubra mentioned that they had been thinking about moving to a similar program but at the December meeting and with Andrew on the Board they had gained faith that ESFA would improve the SSG program.

Andrew explained to clubs that in 2009 ESFA was one of only 5 or so associations who were actively involved in SSG up to Under 8's and that development of SSG requires a partnership between ESFA and the Clubs. Clubs need to understand and support that partnership.

Jeff left the meeting

#### **4. ESFA SSG Program & Schedule for 2010**

Andrew presented clubs with a detailed draft ESFA 2010 SSG Program document that Jeff, Blaise and himself had prepared based on the 2009 SSG club meetings chaired by Rick Flowers and the presentation that Andrew had made in December 2009 to all ESFA clubs. Andrew explained that the document covered all areas of the SSG program, and was open to discussion with the clubs at this meeting with an aim to resolve any issues and finalize a program as far as possible for the fast approaching season. Andrew stated to clubs that ESFA did not want to reinvent the wheel and thus had closely followed the FFA guidelines and rules..

Andrew informed clubs that all resources were available on the FNSW and FFA website and that a lot of work would be done with the referees to make sure they are up to date with the program and make referees aware of the rules.

It was explained that FNSW had very recently confirmed that they would be running 11v 11 in the U10 Champion of Champions. Andrew stated that he believed that ESFA players should have the opportunity to play in this tournament and that the only fair way to arrive at the most competitive U10 team was to keep a table in the

U10 Division 1 competition Andrew put it to the floor to see whether clubs wanted only 1 division to be competitive, all divisions or no divisions competitive (in which case ESFA would not submit a Champion of Champions side). Clubs discussed the issue. Some clubs suggested that no division in the U10s should be competitive as it is not in line with the FFA recommendations, while others stated that they had sold the SSG program to the Under 10's by convincing them that it would be competitive. It was decided by the meeting that all U10 divisions would be competitive with tables and that this will be reviewed at the end of the year.

Taleah explained to clubs that Champion of Champions will allow composite teams from an individual club (that is, to bring the numbers up from 9v9 to 11v11) and that they would play the off-side rule. Taleah then asked clubs, that now they are competitive, should clubs adopt the off-side rule or play with no-offside in the U10s.

Andrew and Blaise believed the no deliberate offside rule should still apply and that the onus should be on coaches and referees to deter abuse of the rule. Clubs discussed the issue. Taleah raised concern over the lack of assistant referees if offside was to be introduced, and explained that the referees are still young and may not have the confidence to approach coaches or players to explain. The off side rule will be played in Champion of Champions and Taleah mentioned to clubs if it would be possible for the players to learn the off-side rule in the short time. Andrew stated that it was up to the coach to actively discourage deliberate offside with the referees at matches also making it plain to coaches and players. Blaise stated he would talk to clubs to deter them from abusing the rule.

East's mentioned that the Under 10's Champion of Champions issue should be taken up to FNSW to scrap Champion of Champions in under 10's.

Queens Park asked whether the U10 girls will be the same as the boys (mixed) in 2010. Andrew stated that the girls will now be on par with the boys (mixed) and yes would be 9v9 on Sunday. A decision could be made as to whether the U10 girls should be competitive with points tables at the next meeting.

Taleah asked clubs who would be running U8 and U9 Girls. Maroubra, East's and Maccabi were the only 3 clubs who showed interest in the Girls U8 and U9 years. Clubs are free to mix girls or have girl only teams in the U6 and U7.

### **Interclub Days**

Andrew asked clubs whether they would prefer to play 3 or 4 interclub days in the Under 6's and 5 or 6 in the Under 7's. Andrew mentioned that the concept is to keep the players intraclub to establish football skills and introduce interclub days gradually.

Mascot were confused believing that there would be no interclub days in the Under 6's however Andrew stated that it had been presented at the December 2009 meeting and agreed to have interclub days in the Under 6s.

Andrew asked clubs how many players the clubs would be putting into a SSG squad and believed all clubs should be running with squads in the U6 and U7s of 8, 9 or 10. This allows teams to separate and play each other in the new game based and focused coaching programs coming from the FFA and FNSW. Clubs opened a discussion, concerns were from the smaller clubs who did not have sufficient numbers of players or of parents to look after the squads, yet other clubs believed it was easier to organise groups of 8,9,10 players rather than one large group in a particular age bracket, facilitating training and match days (where a squad simply splits into two teams to play the two teams from another squad of similar size). U8s and U9s, playing 7v7, should run 10 player squads, with match day constant interchange and prominent usage of 5v5 at training.

Andrew stated that ESFA wanted all clubs to have a coaching director / head coach so that Blaise can start coaching the coaches at updates. It was recommended that clubs should aim where possible to run each of the 6, 7, 8 & 9 age group training sessions at a particular time each week. Blaise will organise a roster with clubs to

attend each age group training session on a regular basis, to coach the coaches and their players. Having all of a club's teams from a particular age group train at the one time helps clubs supervise these sessions. This is not to say that some coaches will not be coaching their teams at different times due to work or other commitments. Andrew asked that clubs strongly encourage parents and current coaches to undertake a junior license coaching course. Junior license courses are currently being run by Blaise locally. The Grassroots courses designed for new coaches in the U6 to U8 age groups will be run in March by Blaise at club grounds, and clubs are asked to book Blaise to run these courses at times that are mutually agreed between the clubs and Blaise. Smaller clubs and other coaches can join these course which will be advertised once times are arranged with Blaise and ESFA, on the ESFA internet site. Grassroots courses will be free and the Junior is roughly \$70 per person. Andrew mentioned to clubs that Blaise will also assess coaches and mentor coaches at their routine games and training encouraging those with potential to do further courses and work with him at coaching courses and ESFA camps.

Andrew asked clubs to refer to interclub or interhub not "Gala days". Interclub is one club v another club whereas a Gala Day is all clubs. Andrew mentioned that ESFA would be looking to host another single or all age groups ESFA Gala Day similar to the Under 6 day in 2009 in August. Andrew mentioned to clubs if they still wanted to run their own Gala Days on Sundays, that ESFA would support them and assist them with the draw and referees. These club gala days, that also invite clubs from other associations, are to be encouraged.

Andrew explained that with U6 and U7 interclub days - ESFA will publish a generic draw (eg 7A Easts versus 7A Maroubra, 7B Easts versus 7B Maroubra, etc) and clubs can then insert whichever team they decide into the draw. Andrew stated that ALL teams in an age group from a club should attend inter club days. A club should not allow individual teams from their club to not participate based on the whim of parents.

Kincoppal asked whether the interclub days would be held on Saturday or Sundays? Saturday was the answer with the proviso that when Maccabi was involved, that Sundays would be used.

Maroubra suggested that the interclub days should be called inter hub days not interclub.

Easts raised the concern as to how ESFA would match clubs due to the varying number of teams in each club. Andrew explained that at each interclub day, clubs would be matched so that the number of opposing teams will be matched as far as possible eg. Mascot hub might combine with Coogee to play Easts etc. On some occasions a team may be asked to play 2 games.

## **Grading**

Andrew mentioned that in the 8's and 9's the FMC will review and assess the results in each division and after 3 or 4 rounds regrade teams so as to have fair matching of ability. but asked clubs to put the teams into beginner, intermediates and advanced grades so that ESFA in making up the draws can balance different levels of players. The same applies to the 6's and 7's eg if a team of U6s has already had an U6 season when they were all 5, then the club should alert ESFA of this.. On intraclub days in the U6 and U7, clubs are obviously free to match their teams and squads so that no team is unfairly matched.

Easts asked if it was possible in the U8 and U9 divisions to host all of a club's teams in a particular age group and division at one venue in a series of games to assist clubs eg Easts 8C (or reds, whatever the designation the club is using) play at 9am, 8Bs at 10am, and 8As at 11am at QP., Taleah stated that she felt this would not be possible every weekend but she would look at it.. Andrew agreed to raise the issue in March once team nominations have been received.

## **Sunday Matches**

Andrew mentioned to clubs that Maccabi had traditionally run their SSG program on Sunday and asked clubs that with Interclub days in the U6 and U7s if they would mind playing on Sundays when they had to play Maccabi which would be once maybe twice in the 6 and 7's season. The published ESFA draw would give plenty of warning. Clubs agreed with this. In the U8 and U9 draws Maccabi games would be on Sundays..

East's raised concern that some parents might not be happy with playing Sundays to which Andrew replied that ESFA had always acknowledged the diversity of backgrounds in the eastern suburbs. This was ESFA's policy in the best interests of all players, and it was a question of leadership within the clubs to state this policy.

## **ID Cards**

Andrew stated that ID cards either as single cards or sheets of cards, assisted clubs with their internal governance and administration and were a practical way to stop non-registered players taking the field at training or in games, where there are insurance questions re responsibility. Clubs discussed this issue. Some clubs did not feel it was necessary that it should go back to club management of players however others raised concern over moving players between teams..

Clubs agreed to print ID cards for players on which in the U6 to U9 there is no designated team, The ID cards could be presented as sheets of ID cards, or as individual cards. Clubs are to actively discourage any stacking of teams by regularly getting better quality players to play in more than one team on any match day. ID cards are required in the U10s..

## **Goalkeepers**

8's & 9's will play with goal keepers and clubs must insist on rotation of the goalkeeper. In the 8's and 9's there is also constant interchange to allow all players to have a fair time on the field, with the one proviso being that the player to be substituted must be off the field before the substituting player goes onto the field. It is recommended that U8s and U9s have a squad of 8, 9 or 10 players to allow for players missing games through sickness etc and for training to involve the 4v4 or 5v5 game. ESFA provides an incident and grievance procedure if parents are not happy allowing clubs to concentrate on providing an enjoyable experience.

## **Standardization**

Andrew asked clubs to standardize their goals and fields and suggested to clubs that if they wanted to use cones to mark sidelines, corners and even penalty areas (with flat discs or low cones) then that was acceptable, but with the growth of SSG it was hoped that all clubs, whether they hold leases on their grounds or not, will be able to liaise with the organization providing them with the grounds to get SSG fields marked if at all possible. It was noted that formal touch football fields can be easily divided up with cones and most of the markings already in place .

It was suggested for clubs to use small fold away goals in 6's and 7's and portable goals in 8's and 9's which as far as possible meet the FFA and ESFA requirements. Clubs should inform ESFA if their goals do not meet the recommendations and ESFA will work with those clubs to standardize goal sizes across ESFA clubs. Full adult width or height goals are not acceptable in U6 to U10 SSG. .

Coogee asked about marking the penalty area. Andrew explained that clubs can use plastic discs or soft flat cones if need be.

Andrew asked clubs to stop using the term 3/4 as it is a 1/2 field. Clubs discussed concerns over whether 1/2 field was too small, again Andrew suggested to clubs that

it was a question of following the FFA requirements and joining the rest of the football community in Australia.

Where new goalposts need to be purchased by clubs, the goalposts should comply with the FFA and ESFA requirements. Goal posts and their prices from FNSW Warehouse and Love Football were handed out at the meeting, and these meet the standards set by FFA.

### **Referees**

Andrew stated to clubs that ESFA will organize cadet referees in the Under 8's and U9s and referees in the U10 age groups, but that team managers will be required to run the match in the absence of a referee. Andrew mentioned to clubs that 120 referees had gone through the referee courses run by ESFA since the 2009 season, and these teach the FIFA and FFA rules. Andrew has asked ESFA to ensure that cadet and other referees know the SSG rules from U6 to U10.

Taleah explained to clubs that ESFA has decided to charge the same amount for 8's and 9's since they played the same SSG format, although the FNSW traditional referee fee schedule listed these as \$11.50 and \$14.50 respectively. ESFA is taking it up with FNSW to have it changed. Clubs agreed.

### **Webpage**

Andrew explained that it would be April / May before the dedicated SSG page would be up but that the page would be used for updates, fundraising etc.

### **Gala Days**

Andrew asked clubs to think about Gala Days and if they wished to hold these gala days for any age group they should liaise with ESFA and pick a Sunday so that the dates can go onto the ESFA calendar. The August All ESFA Gala Day will also be discussed at the next meeting for the end of year.

### **Review**

Andrew mentioned that a review SSG meeting will be held Wednesday 17 March at the ESFA Office to decide on the interclub dates and discuss with clubs any issues. Andrew also asked clubs to send through the details of the SSG co-ordinators to his email [a.field@stvincents.com.au](mailto:a.field@stvincents.com.au)

A review will also take place at the end of the year to review the 2010 SSG program and make changes as required for the 2011 season. Such issues will be raised as the roll out of the Under 11's and the possibilities of referees for 6's and 7's etc

### **Technical Director**

Blaise spoke to the clubs about his role as Technical Director in particular the role he will be playing with the SSG program. Blaise stated that his role was to increase the number of accredited coaches, to mentor and develop these coaches, and to increase the participation rates of players. He will encourage clubs to encourage their Under 13 and older youth players to do coaching courses, coach in their clubs, and then mentor these younger coaches and use these 'home grown' coaches as coaches in the ESFA academies and holiday programs, Senior coaches will also be developed, and some of these will become involved in representative coaching.

Blaise mentioned to clubs that coaching courses were all about participation and that if you create a platform where they enjoy coaching they will continue to do so.

Blaise asked clubs to organize a time and date with him to run a Grassroots Certificate at their grounds, and in the meantime, to strongly encourage coaches to do the junior licence courses that are being held in February.

Andrew explained the recent FFA and FNSW changes in coaching courses, where those wishing to coach can enter the Community strand of coaching at a Junior level for U8 to U11, a Youth level for U12 to U15s, or a senior level for U16s and all age. Blaise will be running Youth and Senior licenses for ESFA in April and May at local venues.

## **Rules**

Andrew asked clubs to peruse the document handed out which are the FFA rules for SSG put into a format to match the ESFA Rules and Regulations document. The only current difference in the rules relate to the U10s (see above). The rules come from the FFA handbook, and will be reviewed by the ESFA FMC.

## **5. General Business**

Easts asked if clubs were going to get a chance to review the draw. Andrew stated this will be on the agenda for the March meeting.

Maccabi thanked clubs for their understanding about Sunday matches and thanked ESFA and Andrew for their progress of the SSG program.

Andrew handed all clubs a copy of the 2009 Hans Berger FFA letter explaining the minor changes the FFA made to the the SSG program.

**Meeting closed 9:40pm**