



COMBINED JUNIOR COUNCILS MEETING

Date:	12 Sep 2013	Meeting Number:	CJC 01.2013
Venue:	ESFA Office		
Opened:	6:45pm	Closed:	8:30pm

Attendance: Oonagh Power (Easts)
Peter Siles (Heffron Hawks)
Tracy Chorev (Maccabi Hakoah Juniors)
Frank Friedmann, Angelo Torrisi (Maroubra United)
Ted Bragg (Mascot Kings)
Con Pavlou (Olympic Eagles)
Mark Kraljevic, Ian Levitt (Pagewood Botany)
Peter Vaneris (Queens Park)
Nick Procopiadis (Redfern Raiders)

Ron Ogilvie (Director of Junior Football)
Mark Puterflam (Director of Small Sided Football)
David Owens (Chair, Boys Council)
Alan Charak (Chair, Girls Council)
Moray Vincent (Chair, SSF Council)
Aaron Dibdin (ESFA General Manager)

Apologies: None

Clubs not represented: Coogee United, Reddam House

Chair: David Owens
Minutes: Aaron Dibdin

Meeting opened 6:45pm.

1. Welcome/Apologies

David took the chair and welcomed all present. There were no apologies received.

2. General review of 2013 Season.

- Gradings/Regrading Protocols
- Finals Formats
- Playing up rules for Finals

David offered up the floor for attendees to do a 'data dump' of things they liked and didn't like about the season just gone. Matters raised included:

- Where we have only one division in an age group with a definite break between strong and weak sides, consider dropping the weak teams down an age group
 - Make a bigger effort to have two skill levels per age group, condensing groups into 2-year brackets where required; prevent kids being flogged all year and leaving.

- Perhaps if teams are dropped an age group, make them ineligible for finals; idea being that they still have a good footballing experience but the younger teams aren't robbed of a finals spot
- Tidy/consistent naming for teams and divisions to make identifying teams and competitions simpler
- Try to get a greater focus on development rather than just competition and less focus on minutiae of rules
- Train refs more and expect more of them
 - Put greater priority put towards the top divisions, but still don't forget the lower divisions
 - Ongoing training offered up by the association
 - Question about role of referees: are they to enforce only the Laws of the Game, or are they to adjudicate on/enforce competition rules as well?
 - Ground officials/marshals should be assisting here
- Responsibility (club or association) for rescheduling matches should be clearer
- Greater clarity and enforcement on players playing up and being regraded
 - Lists of players playing up each week
 - Move back to pre-populated team sheets?
 - Move back to having both sheets on one page?
 - Go to a system where each team hands in one sheet to the referee and another sheet to their opposition?
 - Re-examine the system of plater cards, player IDs and photos
 - Delete all photos from MFC, ask every player to submit an up to date photo

3. 2014 Season Calendar

Aaron briefly spoke about the draft calendar, and asked clubs to be aware that while these dates may change slightly, they provide a reasonable guide to start planning for 2014 pre-season.

4. Competition Rules Review

David talked through a table of potential rule reviews. Matters arising from that discussion were that:

- In addition to the score, cautions and expulsions, team sheets should also clearly indicate who has played 'up'
- On the interchange rule, it's a big job for referees to have to tell a coach that they are not able to use an interchange.
 - *Aaron was asked to look up any FIFA interpretations that are useful – there isn't anything in the Laws of the Game or the interpretations that clarifies when a referee is entitled to refuse permission to complete a substitution, other than to say that the substituted player can only leave with the referee's permission and the substituting player can only enter with the referee's permission; it says nothing about the context.*
- On finals series, should we consider an 'all-in' finals series? The regular season is for the league championship and 'seeding' into the finals, but everyone gets extra games
- On forfeits, should we consider introducing a mercy rule and setting the forfeit score to be the same as the mercy rule to both discourage strong sides from annihilating weaker opponents and encourage weaker teams to still show up for games against strong sides because their losses are limited
- Toughen up the timelines and reasons for rescheduling:

- If clubs want to reschedule a game (including for State Cup or other deferral reasons), they must apply by 12pm Monday prior to the weekend in which the match falls
 - Tighten up the reasons for rescheduling – eliminate frivolous reschedules
- If a match is washed out in an early round, if it is not played by 2 weeks before the return fixture in the next rotation, that return match automatically becomes a 'double game'
 - Some thought will need to be given to 4-team competitions here
- Some concern was raised about the 'A, B rule' governing players playing up within one division – this rule might need some gentle re-working so that will only work as intended

5. Junior Championship League

David talked through the circulated proposal for the re-branding of our Division 1 competitions to be known as the Junior Championship League.

It was emphasised that the intent is to put some greater encouragement to nominate and compete in the highest division possible and reward those sides who do compete at the top level with greater recognition and a better venue for Grand Finals etc.

Some concern was expressed that if all of the division 1 grand finals were taken to Hensley that there would be less atmosphere and excitement at the Heffron finals for division 2 and lower grand finals and pennant finals. Aaron stated that with enough pennant finals we can still have a very exciting day at Heffron and it was also raised that we can simply compress the day to get more games alongside one another rather than a stretched out but quiet day.

The proposal will be circulated to all clubs for comment.

6. FNSW Regional League

Moray spoke to the circulated proposal for the ESFA Regional League program.

The meeting discussed the program and how it might run in conjunction with the ESFA competition. In particular the meeting discussed the idea of a cap on selections from any one team. Aaron noted that the Champions of Champions rules prevent any team participating which has five or more players from Regional League, and the meeting discussed whether to implement a cap at three or four.

7. 2014 Recruitment

Aaron reported that Football NSW intends to build on the 2012 and 2013 recruiting campaigns with a larger hit on digital media to target the teenage years that we are struggling to hold on to.

Aaron suggested to the meeting that we call for a nominee from each club to join a recruitment working party to plan our push for season 2014.

8. 2014 Coaches Council/Standing Committee

David spoke about getting junior coaches groups together regularly to meet and discuss coaching and technical development for their teams. He raised the idea of bringing groups

together on an age group by age group basis to allow coaches to get to know each other and develop a spirit of collaboration over competition.

Initially, ESFA should call meetings of all coaches at which we can break the age groups off into groups, but the age groups might be able to meet independently thereafter.

ESFA can put more effort into coach education to ensure that coaches (particularly in the Championship divisions) have the appropriate coaching qualifications.

9. Election of Council Chairs

There was one nomination received for Junior Girls' Council Chair from Alan Charak.

There was one nomination received for Junior Boys' Council Chair from David Owens.

There being one nomination for each position, the nominated persons were declared elected unopposed.

10. General Business

The meeting briefly discussed age groups in the girls competition, particularly in respect of the older age groups; 16 and older.

Alan reported that there had been some discussion of a G21 competition being introduced as a means to provide a stepping stone into senior football.

Aaron noted that at recent women's council meetings, senior clubs (particularly the University clubs) have indicated that they may be interested in recruiting particularly for a 21s competition so it might provide somewhat more depth to the competition and provide a better product for the girls graduating from 18s. Aaron argued that it is a way to provide a pathway and that it has been strongly suggested on the boys side as well.

Ron also noted that the idea has been raised that the 21s could function as a 'reserve' grade to the women's Premier League competition.

Clubs were asked to go back and consult with their players and coaches on the potential introduction for 2014.

There was a brief discussion regarding the G12s age group too, and whether we should combine the 11s and 12s and run the competition as a 9v9 competition on SSF pitches to strengthen the numbers and depth of the competition.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8:30pm.