



Combined Junior Councils Meeting **Monday February 17, 2014, 7pm, Juniors @ the Junction**

Minutes

Attendance: Oonagh Power (Easts); Peter Siles (Heffron); Craig Behrmann (Maccabi); Frank Friedmann, Ian Robinson (Maroubra); Ted Bragg (Mascot Kings); David Booker, Mark Kraljevic, Tom Mattioli (Pagewood Botany); Peter Vaneris (Queens Park); Wally Holzer, Nick Procopiadis (Redfern Raiders); Alan Charak (Girls' Council Chair); David Owens (Juniors' Council Chair); Ron Ogilvie (Director of Junior Football); Aaron Dibdin (General Manager); Adrian Larson (Competitions Coordinator).

Opened at 7.11pm, David in the chair.

1. Welcome/Apologies

Apologies were received from Olympic and Reddam House

2. Minutes of previous meeting

Minutes of the previous meeting were taken as a true and correct record.

Moved: David Booker,
Seconded: Peter Vaneris
CARRIED

3. Season Timetable for Team Nominations , Rego's & Games etc

Aaron ran through the season dates with clubs:

Pre-season dates

5-Feb, 6:00 PM	Junior FMC meeting
17-Feb, 6:00 PM	Combined Girls' and Junior Council meeting
24-Feb	Clubs to submit indicative teams and possible gradings on the prescribed ESFA form
27-Feb	ESFA issues summary of indicative teams as submitted by clubs with some comments
3-Mar, 7:00 PM	All Clubs Meeting (Season Launch)

10-Mar, 5:00 PM	Clubs to resubmit team nominations and grading requests with reasons & Special Time Requests
12-Mar, 6:30 PM	Girls' Council meet to discuss & confirm competition structures and gradings
12-Mar, 7:45 PM	Junior Council meet to discuss & confirm competition structures and gradings
13-Mar	Junior FMC meets to ratify council gradings and rule on any unresolved issues
14-Mar	Competitions and gradings advised to clubs
19-Mar, 5:00 PM	Final date for Clubs to lodge objections to gradings
20-Mar	Junior and Senior FMCs to review and rule upon objections
21-Mar	Final gradings issued
24-Mar, 5:00 PM	Final Registration Players, Coaches & RTOs to play Round 1 and 2
27-Mar	Draw for Round 1 & 2 published
3-Apr	Player & RTO Cards ready to collect

4. Introduction of Competitions Coordinator

The new ESFA competitions Coordinator, Adrian Larson, introduced himself, running through his experience in coordinating a not for profit football tournament and experience in project management.

The clubs gave Adrian a warm welcome.

5. Match Cards & Players/RTO Cards

David and Aaron ran through a few features of the new ESFA team sheet which will be issued in draft form to clubs this week.

Aaron also reiterated that as a backup to player cards, ID sheets will be deemed acceptable if printed in colour.

The meeting discussed having RTO contact lists available, and decided that ESFA should maintain RTOs lists so they can act as a conduit in case of an issue.

Wally asked about pre-populated sheets, and Aaron replied that we no longer use the Compman system we used to get the pre-populated sheets, and that they were a hassle in cases where the home RTO didn't do their job and bring the sheets.

Wally opined that the job is harder for us to check the sheets, but Ian noted that the sheets were often incorrect, with wrong names and wrong spelling. David said that

managers can simply copy the sheet for the year and manually add any borrowed players.

Oonagh asked whether RTO cards should indicate the RTO's registered team or teams. The idea was not broadly supported.

Peter asked about the formats of match sheets and Aaron replied that they will be distributed in doc, xls and pdf formats.

Craig asked about referees checking match sheets and Ron said that that is being worked through with the referees' branch but that it is a little difficult for a young junior referee sometimes to be the enforcer between strong-willed adults.

On working with kids requirements, Aaron committed to checking the requirements for clubs' coaches.

POST-MEETING NOTE:

FNSW has a great guide step-by-step guide available [here](#).

6. Champions League

The top divisions of each age group will be dubbed the ESFA Championship and their grand finals are scheduled for Hensley Athletic Field on the 30th and 31st August. We will have flexibility to work through 2 and 3 week finals issues.

7. Regional League

Aaron ran through the regional league trials and noted that Barry Walker and Andrew Field have selected 4 very strong squads. Aaron noted that we are still trying to secure coaches so if clubs have interested people they should get in touch with Aaron.

Craig asked whether if 8 players are in same age group, can they play together in ESFA?

A discussion ensued. It was clarified that at present, the ESFA rules hold no prohibition, but that the FNSW champions of champions rules prohibit any team with more than 5 RYL players.

The notion of having a hard cap of 5 players per team was put on notice for the 2015 season.

A suggestion was made that we should send out lists of selected players so teams know who is who in their age groups.

A suggestion to limit RYL players to Div1 competitions was rejected, as the high standard of an individual player doesn't mean their team will be division 1 standard, so for small clubs with one team this would be unfeasible.

Ian proposed that only ESFA registered players in a given year ought to be eligible to trial in for the following year's squads. As the 2014 teams are already selected it was agreed this would be put on hold for future debate relating to the trials for 2015.

8. Rule Updates

David led a rundown on the JFMC's recommendations for rule changes for 2014, with a view to take recommendations from the combined councils for the Board to consider as they finalise the rules.

The JFMC proposed that in respect of the "A team and B team rule":

- We would cap team size at 16 except in extraordinary circumstances
- Clubs would still be able to nominate an A and B team.
- Players will still be entitled to play up 3 times in a season in a team in a higher division before they are re-graded to a higher division.
- Players will only be entitled to play 'across' 2 times in a season and will be ineligible to play for that team a third time.

Ron explained that the proposal is to address concern about systematic gaming of the system. There were allegations about abuse last year; we want to ensure that this is nipped in the bud for 2014.

Marko noted that his club had not supported the rule to begin with and the clubs hadn't supported it; it only got up because of the Board's votes and that it should be done away with.

David laid out the options before putting the matter to a vote:

- A: no change to the 2013 rule
- B: adopt FMC recommendation
- C: abolish the rule

David put the motion and the votes were as follows:

- A: 0 votes
- B: Heffron 2, Maroubra 3, Easts 3 (8 votes).
- C: Maccabi Juniors 3, Redfern 2, Mascot 3, Pagewood 3, Queens Park 3 (14 votes).

David declared that the recommendation of combined councils is therefore to repeal the rule.

Other rules proposed

- Stopping Interchange in last 5mins of finals except in case of injury – after discussion the meeting resolved that the referee can deny the interchange, do it via direction to referees
- Limit to number of players that can be registered to 16 (except in exceptional circumstances)
- Allowing requests for deferrals in Week 1 of July school holidays if lodged by the end of Easter – It was suggested that we could get those teams likely to want a deferral to be scheduled to play on that weekend. A similar option will be provided for special religious holidays
- David reminded the meeting that there is potential to reschedule games to mid-week fixtures including night games.
- Forfeits – we will require teams who forfeit to provide a written explanation to the JFMC and sanctions may apply

9. General Business.

David wrapped up the meeting with a quick note to say that all clubs will be expected to enter all of their 12s and 13s, including Pagewood and Queens Park.

David Booker suggested that ESFA issue a bulletin on the changes to football rules so that RTOs and coaches are aware of any rule changes and then stay off the back of the referees.

Marko asked about upfront referees' fees, and Aaron noted that the upfront fee covers the cost of their gear and registration with FFA and FNSW as well as replacing the old 10% administration fee which used to be taken from each match's fees.

It had worked in 2013 and in fact tonight's referees' training course was over booked.

With no further business to transact, David closed the meeting at 7:40pm