



Women's Standing Committee Meeting
Wednesday July 16, 2014
Football West Boardroom, Lord St, Perth

MINUTES

No	Item	Comment
1 7.05pm	Welcome & Apologies	Present: Tras Young (North Beach), Alexis Pelham (Leeming), Keith Wood (Football West), Jessine Bonzas (NTC Football West), Dave Scragg (Quinns FC), Conrad McKelvie (UWA Nedlands) and Penny (via phone for some items). Apologies: Helen Lumley-Nestoridis (Geraldton), Emma Smith (Subiaco), Elisa D'Ovidio (Football West women's representative) In Penny's absence, Tras Chaired the meeting
2	Confirmation of Minutes of Previous Meeting April 16, 2014	Yet to be signed off- to be done next meeting
3	Business arising from previous minutes	Nil

4	General Business	<p>1. Women's Forum Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⌚ Content covered was insightful, informative and well delivered to those that attended. ⌚ However, there was a concern that only 7 clubs represented and attended (even though some clubs had a multiple attendees). These clubs included State League clubs of Balcatta, Beckenham, Melville and NTC. Other clubs included Subiaco, Perth Soccer Club and Sorrento. ⌚ A concern was raised with the date as it clashed with Junior Cup games and a coaching course being delivered and was a barrier for some coaches and club attendance. Better forward planning for future forums is recommended to maximise attendance and impact. Other factors like being in the middle of the season were also raised as having a negative impact on attendance. ⌚ The only Women's Standing Committee members that attended were Penny, Jessine and Elisa. In future it would be beneficial for all WSC members to attend as they represent the community and advocate for improvement, change and development in the women's game. ⌚ <u>Strategies to improve attendance included:</u> ⌚ Personal emails to Head Coach of all State League and State League Division 1 clubs. ⌚ WSC could contact the clubs that are in their region or designated to them. ⌚ Email directly to clubs – rather than a generic one that probably won't be read or is easily dismissed. ⌚ Advertise on the website. ⌚ In future appeal to administrators and coaches to improve attendance and run side by side workshops. ⌚ Address topics that are relevant and support clubs like player retention/attrition, coach education, state league interest etc. <p>2. Night Series</p> <p>That the season seems really long and that night series contributes to this. Conversation centred around that it might be held a little too early, is the cup worth it as it adds length to the season, can other alternatives be investigated in future meetings.</p> <p>3. General discussions about the State League and State League Division 1 in regards to professionalism and that this needs development and continual improvement. WSC members chatted about injuries, fatigue at this time of the season, numbers at training, depth issues and holidays.</p>
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4. **Women's Football Strategic Plan**

Coaching is a priority especially supporting junior coaches to improve the game.

One strategy that Jessine and Salv are trying to do to is support clubs is by offering the free SAP workshops. Feedback was that this is a great initiative to support junior coaches, novice coaches, it is female friendly and regular contact throughout the four workshops. Other benefits included the opportunity for coaches to discuss how to deal with behaviour issues of players, transition between activities, challenging or making activities harder or easier for players.

How do we promote and get every club to deliver FFA's curriculum and Skill Acquisition Programs to 9 to 13 year old girls and these teams.

- Encourage State League coaches to attend, as they are usually the personal driving football in their clubs.
- Try and find a 'Club Champion' of juniors that is passionate, enthusiastic and then get them to encourage those to get on board.

That progress on the Strategic Plan is slow and needs more attention to complete identified areas.

- Tap into expertise of passionate people that can assist with each area.
- Organise workshops for each area to develop specific timelines, personal responsibility for completing or actioning each item. This will then hold people accountable and prioritise items.

Website

- That there is a lack of information getting out to community, how can this be addressed.
- Propose to Peter Hugg a Women's Website that is linked to Football West.
- This would increase women's football web presence, support coaches with resources, assist with advertising trials, forums, girl's day out and promote successes like State Teams etc.
- Conrad was interested in looking into this with Jessine.

5. **Penny Tanner via phone call**

School Sport and the impact of State School Girls Team on State League fixtures.

Some clubs will find it difficult to field a team when School Sport State Team away.

Keith clarified why Football West can't sanction games to be re-scheduled, but clubs can do this if they both agree. This is due to School Sport not being affiliated with Football West.

If Football West agree to make clubs re-scheduled where does it stop Catholic State Teams, Futsal and School Tours.

Men's NPL have mandated that boys can't do School Sport State Team – is this the direction of Women's Football as well???

Penny encouraged WSC members to read the FFA School Sport Strategy.

Night Series.

Venue concern with Beale Park – they didn't get enough support over the bar to make it worth their while. Therefore, considering not hosting in 2015.

If this happens, then another venue maybe required. Would Murdoch be an option? What other clubs north of the river have suitable facilities, lighting and might be available?

Female Referees.

Sam addressed WSC last meeting and also the Women's Forum about increasing the number of female referees.

Are clubs aware that they can have a private course conducted at their club to encourage the development and interest for female referees and also referee assistant support?

Can older players be encouraged by their clubs to referee junior games eg small sided football? This could even include 15-18 year old girls?

Barriers and concerns for young females refereeing included being intimidated, parents on the sideline shouting or abuse. Strategies to combat this, support the young female referee could include making sure they take their parent, ground marshals being vigilant during these matches and addressing inappropriate behaviour from parents.

6. Women's State League Reflection and Discussion

- Standard of football in State League is getting better and all clubs trying to play a possession based game.
 - All teams competitive, however there are three teams at the top and a bit of gap for the rest.
 - NTC have always played a good brand of football, but more effective and competitive this season.
 - Identified that there is movement between clubs each season and this can affect depth and quality. In future will Women's NPL consider a points based system like the men's have in place.
 - At this point with all teams being competitive, is it the right time to review the league and see if the State League can be expanded into a ten team league in 2015.
1. If no relegation in 2014 and promotion of two clubs eg Quinns and East Freo into State League in 2015.
 2. This impacts including two new teams into the State League Division 1 to ensure their competition has at least eight teams.
 3. Therefore, as a priority in the very near future. It is recommended that Football West start the forward planning now, not at the end of the season. Can an expression of interest be put out for clubs from metro competition wanting to come up be organised.

4. Target clubs that are good candidates including Wanneroo City, Bassendean, Stirling Panthers and Freo United.
5. This expression of interests needs to meet the deadline of the next WSC standing meeting – so it can be reviewed.

7. FFA Youth National Championships Review

U13 State Team.

Coached by Darren Young and competed in Pool A.

Fantastic campaign with competitive performances in all games (except NSW). Defeated Victoria metro team – shows progression and development.

From trials until tournament, massive improvement in players technically and their tactical understanding. Darren did a great job with these players.

U15 State Team.

Elisa D'Ovidio coached the U15 State Team and competed in Pool B.

They won their pool (in both 2014 and 2015) which is a great achievement. They had outstanding results and performances all week. They also defeated South Australia's team.

Played a proactive and high scoring brand of football. There are definitely some standout players – we need to continue to challenge and plan for their development going forward.

FFA recommendations.

Each national championships FFA conduct a meeting and give women's football direction: this centred around ACL injury prevention, talent identification and extending talented players.

ACL injury a massive concern for women's and girls football. Every club should have an ACL prevention program in place and this can be supported by FIFA 11+. ACL injury prevention should be a focus for players from 10 years of age onwards. In SAP and NTC we need to address this and put into place ACL injury prevention programs in U10 SAP, U12 SAP, U13 NTC and U15 NTC. U19 NTC already has a program in place. Recommended to be delivered a minimum of twice a week to have an impact.

Talent Identification – continue to promote these players to Ante.

It is recommended by FFA that talented players are:

- ✓ Playing up age groups in NTC eg best 15 year olds full time with U19 NTC Team or best 13 year olds full time with U15 NTC.
- ✓ Best 13's pushed up into U15 State Team and best 15's pushed into NTC Challenge (don't attend youth nationals).
- ✓ Best 13 and 15 year olds with boys if this is the best fit.
- ✓ Other alternatives is for them to train up once a week eg best 15's train once a week with U19 NTC, best 13's with U15 NTC.
- ✓ We need to review this with Cris Ola and start this before the end of the season.

✓ It also assists with retention, attrition, development and extension.

8. State of Women's Football

There are some 'gaps' in women's football currently. Some of these stem from within Football West.

Some gaps include

i. lack of role clarification for FW staff ii. leadership in the women's game is lacking from within Football West
iii. accountability is an issue iv. drive and passion from outside but maybe a lack from within and this needs to be addressed v. Keith is taking on a new role within Football West and will manage operational matters. He will be looking into the above but encourages the WSC to make recommendations about these gaps so he can look into them and for them to be addressed in the future.

Keith communicated that role clarification, overload on some staff members, accountable for programs (SAP and NTC) and that these maybe affecting women's football and as a result it may be suffering.

Keith identified that Emma Highwood has been appointed to FFA and this may also assist with the above. But that also Football West need to address these from below.

Therefore, can the WSC identify the 'gaps' in areas like leadership, role clarity, accountability, funding, and budgets.

The WSC needs to be proactive and vocal to ensure women's football is making progress and receiving everything in requires to improve and for the game to develop.

9. Regular WSC meetings

- Agreed that regular meetings need to be planned. These will be every even month (Feb, Apr, Jun, Aug, Oct and Dec) and the second Wednesday.
- Therefore, dates for 2014 would be
 - o August 13th 2014 o October 8th 2014 o December 10th 2014
- Therefore, dates for 2015 would be
 - o February 11th 2015 o April 8th 2015 o June 10th 2015 o August 12th 2015 o October 14th 2015 o December 9th 2015
- Tras will advise all WSC members of these dates.
- If more meetings are required – then this can be arranged and a meeting added in.

