



Minutes of the Waikato Federation, Senior and Youth Leagues Meeting, held on Tuesday 3rd December 2019, 6.30pm at Sport Waikato, Brian Perry Sports House, 51 Akoranga Drive, Hamilton

PRESENT: Keith Fraser, Claudelands Rovers; Alan Wilkie, Claudelands Rovers; Roger Wilkinson, Melville United; Zeya Hussaini, Melville United; Wytse Bouma, Melville United; Jared Williams, Ngaruawahia United; Perry Kendall, Northern United; Robert Dol, Northern United; Albert Rodrigues, Northern United; Karl Freaney, Northern United; Daniel Hopping, Otorohanga AFC; Derek Roberts, Putaruru Rangers; Jim Grainger, Te Awamutu AFC; Robin Slade, Waikato Uicol; Anthonni Hall, Waikato Uicol; Stephen Quinn, West Hamilton; Karyn Walters, WaiBOP Football; Ken Cresswell, WaiBOP Football; Graeme Blake, WaiBOP Football; Tracy Wrigley, WaiBOP Football; Catherine Clark, WaiBOP Football.

APOLOGIES: Dwayne Barlow, Matamata Swifts

Review

- **Federation Men's Leagues – WaiBOP Premiership and Championship**
Thanks to clubs for working to ensure that all games in this league were played by the end of the season to enable the league to be completed. The 2020 season will start in the last weekend of March – if clubs have limited availability to their grounds at the start of the season, please ensure this is communicated on the Field Information Form.
- **Federation W-League**
Clubs present were happy with the format of the W-League and the season.
- **Mens Waikato Leagues**
Clubs present were happy with the format of the Mens Waikato Leagues and the season.
- **Womens Waikato Leagues**
Clubs present were happy with the format of the Womens Waikato Leagues and the season.

Membership and Competition Fees

- The fee sheet for 2020 has been sent out to clubs. If clubs need quotes for Funding applications, or require Letters of Affiliation, please send the requests through to Karyn.

Updates to Regulations for 2020:

PLAYER REGISTRATION

Players will be able to register to a club at any time during the season with the exception of the following leagues: WaiBOP Premiership, WaiBOP Championship and WaiBOP W-League. The competition regulations for these leagues will state that only players registered to the Player Catalogue by 30th June 2020 will be eligible to play in these leagues after that date.

FEDERATION LEAGUE COACHING REQUIREMENTS

In 2020 the WaiBOP Premiership, Championship and W-League competitions will begin aligning coaching standards to those already operating within the Federation wide Youth Leagues.

All Head Coaches for 2020 will be required to have attended and be accredited with an NZF Senior Level One award. Teams entered in the W-League will be required to nominate a female coach as part of their coaching group involved with their respective squads – this coach will be required to attain a Senior Level 1 by 2021.

WaiBOP Football Federation will be offering opportunities to attend Senior Level 1 courses in both the Waikato and Bay of Plenty as well as a Female only Senior Level 1 during Girls and Women's Week on Saturday 22nd February 2020. The Female only Senior Level 1 will be fully funded for those female coaches who are part of the W-League coaching staff (funding 2020 only). Details of 2020 Senior Coaching courses will be updated on our website shortly.

The Coaching requirements are a starting place for coaches to start on the Coaching Pathway. Clubs should encourage coaches to continue on the pathway. The minimum coaching qualification will be reviewed in coming years.

YOUTH DISPENSATIONS

Any player who wishes to play Senior Football and is aged 15 years old (has not had their 16th Birthday) will need to apply for dispensation. Specific information on the dispensation process and criteria will follow.

Review – Team Sheet Processes

- Online Team Sheets
The Online Team Sheet process worked well – thanks to clubs for working with this process. Catherine to follow up if it will continue with the current leagues or if it will be extended to the Championship league.
- Submitting team cards via electronic form
- Thanks to everyone for following the process – worked successfully. Everyone happy with process. Query re what Waikato league teams cards are used for. Team sheets used for identification of players with regard to disciplinary matters, disputes, spot checks on player registrations

Federation Junior and Youth Leagues

J-League – Ken outlined the proposed changes to the J-League. The overall aim of the revised competitions will remain the same with the focus on skill acquisition and continuing to provide the necessary opportunities for players in this age group to maximise their development. With the J-League now being regionalised, it will also mean reduced travel requirements and the opportunity for more clubs/teams to be involved at this level. There is a reduction in the level of Coach Qualification required from Junior Level 3 to Junior Level 2 which recognises the challenges clubs had to get coaches upskilled to Junior Level 3. Coaches would still need to Junior L3 qualification to coach a team at Weir Rose Bowl. It also recognises the recent commitment by NZ Football to the Sport NZ 'Keep Up With the play' campaign ([HERE](#)). Games will be on Saturday mornings.

Clubs present raised concerns over:

- Coach availability if played on Saturday mornings (Clubs can request that their home games are played at 9am – could all clubs agree to play J-League games at this time.)

- Players that play for Intermediate Schools not being able to play for the school and J-League football
- Level of competition if the Waikato and Bay leagues are split.
- Hillcrest advised that changing the coaching qualifications would work for clubs like theirs that do rely on parent volunteers.
- Will there be an U12 Girls Federation J-league? Based on current numbers we would not have enough players for this league to go ahead.

If clubs have any feedback on whether they would prefer the Waikato U12 J-League to remain on a Sunday, then please email this to Ken by Friday 13th December. A final decision on the playing day will be made by Friday 20th December.

Y-League

The majority of the WaiBOP Y Leagues remain the same for 2020, however there are some minor changes.

Change to age groups

- New u15 League for players born 2005
- U17 League for players born 2004 – 2003 (replaces u16 league)

These changes reflect the number of teams involved in our WaiBOP Y Leagues in 2019 that potentially could move up an age group in 2020, as well as aligning our competitions to the new NRFL – Youth leagues.

U14 and U16 Girls – we have asked for Expressions of Interest for these age groups, and will communicate with clubs again early in the new year to confirm entries, and advise the league format.

The level of coaching qualification has been reduced to Youth Level 2 for the U13, U14 and U14 Girls leagues; while coaches of the U15, U17 and U16 Girls league teams must have attended the OFC/NZF C Licence course.

As Junior Level 1 and 2 and Youth Level 1 and 2 are pre-requisite courses, they need to be done in order. i.e a coach needs to have attended a Youth L1 course, before they can attend the Youth L2. Courses dates will be set for early 2020, and the Coaching calendar will be available on our website shortly.

Comet Update:

- **Removal of Red Flags**

If a player has been red flagged the club has to advise the player that they have been red flagged and the reason for the red flag. If a player approaches WaiBOP about the red flag, the club would have to provide proof that they have contacted the player and advised them of the outstanding fees/item. If the club is unable to provide proof, then WaiBOP Football can remove the red flag. Please click on the link below for instructions on how to remove a Red Flag:

<https://www.nzfootball.co.nz/asset/downloadasset?id=2efb18f8-8a37-48c2-bd67-83d071bb2a3f>

If players can't register via MyComet and clubs do a manual registration, it is recommended that clubs get these players to read and sign the terms and conditions, including the NZF code of Conduct. If an issue arises with the player, then you can fall back on the Code of Conduct, which all players have agreed to when registering. Attached is the hand out that Graeme gave out at the meeting.

General Business

- Submission by Waikato Unicol – Changes to League Structure
- Waikato Unicol submitted a document with proposed changes to the League structures.
- There was a discussion around the document.
- Changes would not be made for the 2020 season, but if clubs have any feedback can you please send this to Catherine.c@waibop.co.nz by the end of February. This will allow clubs time to take the submission back to their committees. The submission will also be sent out to the Bay teams.

Over 35s league

Clubs would like to see the Over 35's league offered again, as this is an area that they feel could have a good increase in playing numbers. The regulations will be updated to allow three underage players of any age. WaiBOP Football will promote the league to clubs and players via the monthly newsletter, and other mediums. Clubs were happy for the league to go ahead with a minimum of 5 teams, and fine with a bye round.

Updates to Laws of the Game

CK Kawana-Waugh will send out updates to Laws of the Game – this will include information about access to the IFAB website and App. Updates will be sent out in early January. If any clubs would like someone to visit their club to discuss the changes to the Laws of the Game, or to raise awareness to club members, coaches and players of expected behaviour, and rules, then please contact CK.

Waikato Mens leagues – Clubs present would prefer to not play Easter weekend. Once we have final team numbers and league formats we can confirm the playing dates.

Otorohanga FC passed on their thanks to WaiBOP Football Staff for their work during the season.

Coaching Courses - Concerns were raised over advertised coaching courses not being held in 2019 and these needing to go ahead in 2020 due to the introduction of the coaching criteria. Courses are generally only cancelled due to low registrations. It is important that people pre-register for coaching courses by the close off date, as decisions regarding the course going ahead are made based on registrations.

Dealing with racism in the game – is there a process? Referees can only act on what they hear so dealing with spectators can be difficult. Karyn advised that clubs have been more proactive at bringing concerns to our attention, and good behaviour bonds have been put on clubs. The Board has also been meeting with clubs directly that are involved. NZF are working on campaigns to raise awareness about different types of racism – as well as unconscious bias training for referees and coaches. The responsibility is on clubs to set clubs standards and expectations.

Meeting closed at 8.15pm