



MINUTES
ANNUAL CONFERENCE
OF
NATIONAL WATER POLO LEAGUE HELD
NSW ISTITUTE OF SPORT, SYDNEY OLYMPIC PARK, NSW
SUNDAY 8 AUGUST 2010 AT 10.00AM.

AGENDA 1 WELCOME

Chairman, Warren Hawtin, declared the meeting open at 10.00am and welcomed Delegates and observers.

AGENDA 2 ROLL CALL

Those present

REPRESENTING	DELEGATE	VOTES
Brisbane Barracudas	Phil Howden	2
KFC Queensland Breakers	Jordan Votan	2
Hunter Hurricanes	Mick O'Brien	2
Sydney University Lions	Greg Turner	1
Sydney University Women	Arlene Gofers	1
Balmain Tigers	Proxy	2
Wests	Ray Swinnerton	1
Cronulla	John Watkins	2
Drummoyne	Michael Hahn	2
UNSW Killer Whales	Peppi Kearney	1
Victorian Tigers	Marcus Corr	2
Adelaide Jets	Peter Bayne	2
Fremantle	Damian Kelly	2
UWA	Doug McGhie	2
NWPL Chairman	Warren Hawtin	1
Australian Water Polo	John Whitehouse	1
OBSERVERS		
AWPI CEO & retiring NWPL Commissioner	Chris Harrison	
NWPL Commission	Danielle Woodhouse	
NWPL Commission	John Birch	
OFFICERS		
NWPL General Manager	Peter Hobday	

AGENDA 3 APOLOGIES

Stephen O'Keefe - NWPL Commissioner
Balmain Tigers
John Fox - National Men's Coach
Greg McFadden - National Women's Coach
Suzie Fraser - newly appointed AWPI Commissioner

AGENDA 4 FINANCIAL STATUS OF TEAMS/CLUBS

Peter Hobday advised the meeting that all clubs had met their financial obligations for 2010 season with the exception of the Adelaide Jets club which has the last two payments for both men and women outstanding. Peter Bayne lodged payment for one of the two outstanding payments. It was moved Doug McGhie, seconded John Watkins, that Adelaide Jets have normal voting rights.

CARRIED Unanimously

AGENDA 5 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF NWPL FORUM MEETING HELD 22 AUGUST 2009

Moved Michael Hahn, seconded Greg Turner, "that the minutes from the meeting of 22 August 2009 be taken as read"

CARRIED Unanimously

AGENDA 6 BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

6.1 All Clubs to enter teams in AWPI Club Championships

Whilst most clubs have entered teams in age championships, it was noted that the reason for not entering teams mostly involved club coaches not being available, rather than lack of player numbers. Some clubs had feeder teams enter in their own right. Whilst it is not compulsory for clubs to enter teams in age championships, it is to be encouraged. The General Manager is to seek valid reasons from clubs who do not enter junior teams.

The Consolidated Sports 23 & Under event is not an AWPI event, as such clubs are free to enter at their discretion.

6.2 Prize money

The position paper submitted by the National Men's Coach, John Fox was discussed. The question was raised whether the Coach has sole discretion in the allocation of the funds to the National League or did the High Performance committee have some influence.

It was noted that in the paper, John Fox stated that if the funding from the two High Performance Programs was not used as prize money, then "I will have to access the value of contributing \$20,000". Discussion took place on what this statement actually meant, and what the impact on the league clubs would be if the money was not forthcoming.

Some delegates stated that prize monies would lead to the strong clubs becoming stronger at the expense of those clubs which traditionally do not make the finals series, but contribute to the development of high performance athletes.

As a result of this discussion, it was moved John Watkins, seconded Peter Bayne, that the NWPL Commission seek sponsorship money for the enhancement and development of the NWPL.

Carried

John Whitehouse undertook to take the feedback to coaches in view of the meeting's discussion.

6.3 Inter-club transfers

John Whitehouse stated that the feedback from the survey undertaken after the meeting last year indicate that clubs were in favour of a transfer fee of some sort.

Ray Swinnerton commented that the players are not contracted players, and that it was not a professional league. Discussion followed comparing transfers and fees applied in the European leagues.

Michael Hahn sought a standard player contract endorsed by AWPI.

John Watkins believed that it should be the intent to support clubs who develop players.

John Whitehouse suggested that an administration fee should be applied to transfers, rather than having a transfer fee per se to which the meeting generally agreed.

The meeting resolved that a strategy be developed for the transfer fee system considering the following

- how do you compensate the clubs
- how do you value the compensation
- a need for a coherent strategy

In light of the NWPL review to be carried out by the Chief Executive Officer of AWPI, it was agreed that this matter be part of the review with a report back to the clubs on the strategy.

6.4 Strength of the NWPL

At the 2009 Forum Delegates were asked to provide feedback on ways in which the NWPL could be strengthened, by 31 October 2009. The General Manager expressed his disappointment that none were submitted.

6.5 Number of teams

The meeting agreed to cap the number of teams in the league, being 12 women's/12 men's teams.

AGENDA 7

ELECTION OF NWPL COMMISSIONER

Peter Hobday advised the meeting that Danielle Woodhouse and Warren Hawtin were the retiring NWPL Clubs' Elected Commissioner. Both were re-elected unopposed.

The current AWPI nominated Commissioners are Chris Harrison and John Birch. Due to his commitments as CEO, Chris Harrison is to stand down, with Suzie Fraser being nominated by the AWPI Board to take his position effective immediately.

AGENDA 8

MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION

8.1 Financial Report

It was noted that sponsorship from Moves Travel had not been included in the financial analysis for 2010 as AWPI and Moves Travel were in contractual dispute over the payment of sponsorship. If the resolution is in favour of AWPI, then there would be a flow on to NWPL of approximately \$7000, however if this could not be resolved to AWPI's satisfaction, the current accounts would stand

Expenditure on referee travel had increased significantly due to referee resources not be available in some centres.

After discussion, the meeting resolved that the Financial Statement from the 2010 season be accepted.

The budget for 2011 was tabled and noted.

8.2 Recommendations from the Commission

8.2.1 The meeting agreed to commence the 2011 season in the first week of February 2011. A draft draw was tabled, with clubs asked by the General Manager to provide feedback no later than Friday 17 September 2010.

The General Manager drew the attention of the meeting to Thursday night games which had been nominated as games for live streaming which would involve some Sydney clubs hosting games at SOPAC.

8.3 Structure of the competition

It was agreed that this matter be left to the review of the NWPL by the CEO.

In the meantime, it was felt that support could be given to teams finishing in the bottom six by allowing an extra import player (which would be optional for these teams).

Moved Doug McGhie, seconded Phil Howden, that the teams finishing in the bottom six positions have access to three imports, while the top six remain at two imports.

Carried by majority

8.4 Finals Series

The General Manager outlined some feedback he had received on the finals series. Several alternative models were discussed following which the meeting resolved that the alternatives be circulated for further consideration.

Warren Hawtin said that in his opinion stability in the finals series was important and radical changes should not be considered, but stream lining the current series was the way to go.

8.5 Finals costs equalisation submitted by Vic Tigers

The position paper from the Victorian Tigers on finals accommodation equalisation was tabled.

John Watkins said that he felt that all clubs have an investment in the finals series.

All other costs such as air travel, referees, pool hire are spread across all twenty four teams.

The General Manager advised the meeting that if there were six (6) interstate teams in the series, it would cost all teams approximately \$1700 additional.

After discussion which centred on the history of the agreement, how much the compensation should be, and which clubs should contribute, it was moved Michael Hahn, seconded John Watkins that the finals series accommodation allowance be \$90 per day per player up to 15 players, and that all clubs contribute to this equalisation.

Carried by show of hands

The General Manager was asked to submit a new budget showing various scenarios of based on the number of interstate teams participating in the finals

8.6 Wagering

Chris Harrison outlined a situation during last year's finals series of the NWPL when some players allegedly bet on the results of games through an on-line book maker. It was felt that whilst water polo is an "amateur" sport and as such has little control over non contracted players, it is important that reference be made to wagering in any contracts, codes of behaviour or other advice handed to players.

Damian Kelly suggested that the CEO of AWPI investigate policies on betting.

8.7 Results/Live-streaming

The General Manager reported that live-streaming of games would take place on Thursday nights from various venues with the expectation that viewers would become familiar with the Thursday night time slot and become regular viewers.

An on-line results service for teams would be available this coming season with more detail on how to achieve this from the club's point of view (eg passwords etc) available closer to the season.

Clubs/teams were urged to have media liaison staff with close ties to their local media.

8.8 Matters submitted by UWA

Doug McGhie spoke to his submission saying that he had spoken to the General Manager and understood the request not to have 6 day road trips was prohibitive by costs. All other issues had been dealt with in other parts of the meeting.

8.9 NWPL Review by AWPI CEO

Chris Harrison outlined the Terms of Reference for the review of the NWPL and the time lines, being a draft report by 31 January 2011, with a final report by 31 March 2011. He reassured the meeting that all stakeholders would be consulted, face to face, and that all parties would have the opportunity to have input to the review. A

committee has been appointed by the Board of AWPI to assist in this review as a reference point for Chris.

8.10 Other Business

- Peter Bayne gave an outline of the new Aquatic Centre in Adelaide
- John Watkins detailed the proposal for a new pool at Cronulla.

AGENDA 9

CLOSE OF MEETING

Warren Hawtin thanked the Delegates for their attendance, and thanked them for their contribution.

Meeting closed 1.50 pm