



A G E N D A

ANNUAL FORUM

of

NATIONAL WATER POLO LEAGUE CLUBS

to be held

NSW INSTITUTE OF SPORT, SYDNEY OLYMPIC PARK, NSW

SUNDAY 8 AUGUST 2010 AT 10.00AM.

AGENDA 1 WELCOME

AGENDA 2 ROLL CALL

AGENDA 3 APOLOGIES

AGENDA 4 FINANCIAL STATUS OF TEAMS/CLUBS

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

AGENDA 6 BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

6.1 All Clubs to enter teams in AWPI Club Championships
see attachment

6.2 Prize money
The NWPL Commission recommends that prize money not be applied in the NWPL

6.3 Inter-club transfers
The NWPL Commission recognises the reasoning behind inter-club transfer fees, however, recommends that further work be done in evaluating an appropriate mechanism for the oversight of such a scheme

6.4 Strength of the NWPL
Delegates were asked to provide feedback on ways in which the NWPL could be strengthened, by 31 October 2009.
None was submitted

6.5 Number of teams

The NWPL Commission recommends a cap on the number of teams in the league, being 12 women's/12 men's teams.

AGENDA 7 CONFIRMATION OF COMMISSION

7.1 Mr Warren Hawtin and Ms Danielle Woodhouse are re-appointed unopposed

AGENDA 8 MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION

8.1 Financial Reports

8.2 Recommendations from the Commission

8.2.1 that 2011 season commence the 1st week of February

8.3 Structure of the competition

8.4 Finals Series format

8.5 Finals costs equalisation submitted by Vic Tigers

8.6 Wagering

8.7 Television coverage/publicity/Live-streaming

8.8 Matters submitted by UWA

8.9 NWPL Review by AWPI CEO

8.10 Other business

AGENDA 9 CLOSE OF MEETING



MINUTES
ANNUAL CONFERENCE
OF
NATIONAL WATER POLO LEAGUE HELD
RYDGES CAMPERDOWN, MISSENDEN RD, CAMPERDOWN NSW
SATURDAY 22 AUGUST 2009 AT 10.00AM.

AGENDA 1 WELCOME

Chairman, Warren Hawtin, declared the meeting open at 10.00 am and welcomed Delegates and observers.
 He welcomed Chris Harrison, as CEO of AWPL.

AGENDA 2 ROLL CALL

Those present

REPRESENTING	DELEGATE	VOTES
Brisbane Barracudas	Tony Young	2
KFC Queensland Breakers	Chris Corbin	2
Hunter Hurricanes	Fergus Bennie	2
Sydney University Lions	Greg Turner	1
Sydney University Women	proxy	1
Balmain Tigers	Nick Falzon	2
Wests	Ray Swinnerton	1
Cronulla	John Zagame	2
Drummoyne	Michael Hahn	2
UNSW	Peppi Kearney	1
Victorian Tigers	Ian Jones	2
Adelaide Jets	Jon Harmer	2
Fremantle	Tim Neesham	2
UWA	Doug McGhie	2
NWPL Chairman	Warren Hawtin	1
Australian Water Polo & NWPL Commissioner	Chris Harrison	1
OBSERVERS		
National Women's Coach	Greg McFadden	
National Men's Coach	John Fox	
NWPL Commission	Danielle Woodhouse	
Referees Commission	Michael McNeill	
OFFICERS		
NWPL General Manager	Peter Hobday	

AGENDA 3 APOLOGIES

John Birch - NWPL Commissioner
Phillip Bower - NWPL Commissioner
Bruce Hammond – Sydney University Lions Women

AGENDA 4 FINANCIAL STATUS OF TEAMS/CLUBS

Peter Hobday advised the meeting that all clubs had met their financial obligations for 2009 season.

AGENDA 5 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF NWPL FORUM MEETING HELD 30 AUGUST 2008

Moved Danielle Woodhouse, seconded Greg Turner, "that the minutes from the meeting of 30 August 2008 be taken as read"

CARRIED Unanimously

AGENDA 6 BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

Nil

AGENDA 7 ELECTION OF NWPL COMMISSIONER

Peter Hobday advised the meeting that Phillip Bower was the retiring NWPL Clubs' Elected Commissioner. On the count of votes, Mr Stephen O'Keefe was elected as a NWPL Clubs' Elected Commissioner.

SPECIAL BUSINESS

National Coaches John Fox and Greg McFadden addressed the meeting.

- **All Clubs to enter teams in AWPI Club Championships.** - PH to monitor.
- **Format of Competition** - The coaches expressed their preference for a two tier system as they believe this direction will produce more high quality and closer games. After general discussion Chris Harrison advised that he had been charged by the AWPI Board to conduct a review of the NWPL and to that end he would be conducting a road show prior to making his recommendations. It was agreed that the meeting, therefore, was not in a position to make any decision on this matter until this review has been completed.
- **Training of Players** - The coaches outlined their expectations of training for National League clubs. They will monitor this with Club coaches.
- **Finals prize money** - The coaches outlined the contribution by the High Performance Program to the NWPL, and their desire to see this money redirected towards prize money - PH to gauge club/team view on this by 30 September.
- **Inter-club transfers** - It was suggested that a range of transfer fees be implemented and applied to players changing NWPL Clubs. Discussion took place around international transfers but it was noted that this is a National Federation matter - PH to gauge club/team view on this by 30 September.
- **NTC coaches coaching in the National League** - After discussion, it was agreed to place the following resolution before the AWPI Board:
That NTC coaches be allowed to coach in the NWPL (either gender) providing they continue to fulfil the core requirements of their NTC employment and any national appointments. A panel comprising the CEO, 3 NWPL Commissioners and the two

National Coaches would review and subsequently approve/revoke any player movement.

AGENDA 8

MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION

8.1 Financial Report

After discussion, the meeting resolved that the Financial Statement from the 2009 season be accepted.

Carried by majority

8.2 Recommendations from the Commission

8.2.1 The meeting sanctioned Woy Woy and Wollongong University pools

8.2.2 The meeting agreed that Sydney based clubs play derbies on a home and away basis.

8.2.3 The meeting agreed to commence the 2010 season in the first week of February 2010.

8.2.4 On the recommendation of the Referees Commission, the meeting agreed to continue with FINA's interpretation of penalties applying to coaches who receive a red card, regardless of the reason that the card is issued.

8.2.5 The meeting agreed that the Operations Manual be amended to clearly reflect that if a player/coach/team official is suspended as a result of a misdemeanour, then that suspension applies to that gender in all activities and roles of the NWPL. A suspended player/coach/team official cannot extinguish that suspension in another role in a match in the other gender.

8.2.6 After discussion, the meeting resolved to leave the voting for the All Stars team with the referees.

8.3 Structure of the competition

Following the announcement that Chris Harrison is to conduct a review of the NWPL, it was decided not to pursue the matter of format at this meeting further; however, three supporting items were discussed

- Matches over Easter - it was agreed that PH should poll clubs on their willingness to play derbies over Easter
- Road Trips - it was agreed that six day road trips to and from Sydney would continue, PH to poll clubs on their timing preferences
- Cap on number of teams in league - The Chairman suggested a cap on the number of teams in the league, PH to poll clubs on a cap of 12 women/12 men's teams.

8.4 Finals Series

Several formats were discussed; visiting teams expressed their wish to avoid a day's break when they did not play. Most debate revolved around the desire for the team finishing top to have some advantage in the finals series. It was agreed that Gold Medal games to be played on a Saturday. PH to circulate Finals format options.

8.5 NTC Coaches

West's Magpies delegate, Ray Swinnerton, acceded to accepting the resolution regarding the NTC coaches detailed in Special Business above, and its delivery to the AWPI Board.

8.6 Television coverage & publicity

The meeting expressed its disquiet about publicity specific to the league and more generally to the sport. PH to raise the matter with AWPI Media Manager.

8.7 Other Business

8.8.1 2010 Budget PH tabled a budget and told the meeting that it would be altered to reflect 6 day road trips. PH to circulate revised budget.

8.8.2 Confirmation of the Operations Manual PH led the meeting through the Operations Manual for 2010, some changes need to be made and recirculated, along with a draft draw.

8.8.3 Strength of the NWPL - Delegates were asked to provide feedback on ways in which the NWPL could be strengthened, by 31 October.

AGENDA 9

CLOSE OF MEETING

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

Meeting closed 3.40 pm

ATTACHMENT A - Item 6.1 All Clubs to enter teams in AWPI Club Championships

Team	2009 16 & Under	2010 14 & Under
Brisbane Barracudas	✓	✓
KFC Queensland Breakers	✓	✓
Hunter Hurricanes	✓	✓
Sydney University Lions	✓	✓
Sydney University Women	✓	✗
Balmain Tigers	✗	✗
UNSW Wests Magpies	✓	✓
Cronulla	✓	✓
Drummoyne	✓	✓
UNSW Killer Whales	✓	✗
Victorian Tigers	✓	✗
Adelaide Jets	✓	✗
Fremantle	✓	✓
UWA	✓	✓

ATTACHMENT B - The following is submitted by John Fox, National Men's Coach, for consideration by the Forum.

Dear Peter,

as I will still be overseas I will not be able to attend the NL forum.

However I would like the following points to be raised for general discussion and consideration please:

- **Currently the men's program contributes \$20,000** towards the overall costs of the NL. Last year Greg and I made a presentation to the forum that suggested rather than this money being split across all the NL clubs, it should be rewarding those clubs that are providing the proper training environments that are required for the preparation of international senior players. This will invariably mean that the successful clubs will receive benefit of the High Performance Program allocation. It makes sense that the HPP money goes towards exactly that- high performance!

The intention is for this money to be allocated as prize-money in the following manner

- o 1st place- \$8000
- o 2nd - \$5000
- o 3rd - \$3000
- o 4th - \$2000
- o 5th - \$1000
- o Southern Cross winner- \$1000

Total \$20,000

I am not comfortable with the current arrangement whereby the money being simply divided up, and if the prize money is not voted in for 2011 then I will have to assess the value of contributing \$20,000. Greg may have differing views and indeed more money to contribute from the women's program but for the men's team the purse strings are tight. You may be aware that this year I was not given approval to overspend my budget by \$24,000 to attend the Commonwealth championships, which in effect meant that if we were to attend it was going to be user pays. Surely high performance would indicate that international competition would have priority over national competition- especially one that has ½ the clubs not meeting national training protocols for their players.

I understand that our contribution towards the NL has not changed over the past 5-6 yrs, but our funding has not increased either. In real terms (costs) it has dropped!

If my budget allows as an added incentive to vote this in, if the contribution was to increase to \$25000 then there would perhaps be an extra \$1000 for 1st 5 placegetters.

Your comment from last season:

PRIZE MONEY

3 said yes 4 said no..... my suggestion is that Prize money is ratified for 2011 season.

- **The finals series:**

- o The 2nd v 3rd game after the initial round robin must be dropped.

These are my comments from last year:

If you lose the 1st game you can 'tank' the 2nd and 3rd games as a team did last year, and basically the team are no worse off if they lose these games or if they win them. The round robin is not cut throat enough- everyone gets a 2nd chance!! I would have thought 1st v 2nd play each other to see who makes the GF and the 3rd placegetters in each play for 5th and 6th.

You could have cut the finals by a day, saved everyone money on accommodation and pool hire and had a more cut throat finals series.

In the pre finals briefing this year you even indicated yourself that 'Once the finals start on Thursday.....'.

The finals need to be high pressure, with teams putting it on the line from day one. In theory a team does not have to turn up until day 3.

- **Transfer Fees.**

- o Not sure why there would be any opposition to this, especially from the lesser clubs when they are the ones missing out on the benefits and possibly threatening their existence when they continually lose their better players to more 'cashed-up' clubs.

My comments from last year:

Almost all other leading water polo nations in the world implement a transfer fee system to PROTECT the development of their players and their club, and not completely lose the benefits of developing players through a well designed development program.

Italian clubs place up to E\$100,000 on players to protect their investment in their player development.

The money would go to the club of the player and could be used for a number of purposes:

Eg: to further player development coach employment or simply to offset costs and the loss of the player.

Your comment:

TRANSFER FEES

6 said yes (albeit 1 qualified yes to suit themselves) 1 no..... my suggestion is yes, introduce in 2011

I personally think this should be a commission policy and not a club voted agreement if you want to retain a viable league and encourage junior development, especially in the weaker areas and teams. However I am not aware how the constitution works, although when the current MOU ends I am sure it will be a very valid point for discussion and consideration.

An example of a transfer fee system could be as follows:

- o National senior team members (eg: current world championships players) \$3000
- o National senior squad members (World league participants, touring players) \$2000
- o National junior squad members (20/under and 18/under as selected from national championships) \$1000

Thank you in anticipation for tabling these points and please accept my apologies for non-attendance

Kind regards,

John Fox
Head Coach
Australian Men's Water Polo
PO Box 823
Gungahlin ACT 2912
Ph: 61 414 425975

ATTACHMENT C - The following is submitted by Victorian Tigers for consideration by the Forum.

Peter,

We would like to raise the issue of cost equalisation for finals. Currently the only cost that is made equal amongst the finals teams is accommodation at \$60 per player/coach/manager up to 15 persons. For clubs travelling to the finals destination there is another significant cost being car/bus hire. In our last finale series this cost was \$1,500 per team (for Vic Tigers \$3,000). In consideration of this we are requesting that this cost be equalised amongst all finals teams. I should point out in this request that travelling teams also have further miscellaneous costs which they have to pay vs local teams who play in finals.

Could you please confirm receipt of this request and its inclusion as an agenda item for the National conference.

Regards
Russell Small
Victorian Tigers

ATTACHMENT D - The following is submitted by UWA for consideration by the Forum.



UWA Torpedoes
University of Western Australia
M408
Aquatics
School of Sports Science Exercise and Health
35 Stirling Highway
Crawley WA 6009

28 June 2010

Mr Peter Hobday
General Manager
National Water Polo League

UWA TORPEDOES: MATTERS FOR NWPL FORUM CONSIDERATION

UWA Torpedoes Board members and coaches have contributed to the following issues for consideration, some might be general business but others could be considered for resolution by the forum.

Board members have asked for clarification of the vision for and objectives of the National League. The objectives are listed on the AWPI web page. Are they still current? Are they being achieved? Does the NWPL review its progress against these objectives? The objectives should be included with the Forum papers.

UWA Torpedoes board would like to see the NWPL Forum consider the concept of developing the NWPL into a league in its own right similar to other National Sports and not simply a vehicle to train the Australian Squad as it now appears to be heading.

UWA Torpedoes believes in the potential of NL Water Polo to grow to become a televised sport that evolves to attract ever increasing crowds and associated sponsorship with the flow on important benefits to across the board growth and participation in the sport. We request that the Vision and objectives of the NWPL be opened up for review and agreement from all current NWPL clubs.

Other issues for consideration include the following:

1: **6 Day Road Trips to Sydney for UWA Teams:** These remain a difficulty for our club with many young members, most of whom are at university and some at school. In spite of having our 2010 Sydney/Hunter 6 day trip scheduled as we requested before the university year actually began we still lost many players to school and university commitments. It was demonstrated that the problem for those players was the length of the trip, with the absence being for 6 nights, as much as the timing. I understand that a draft budget that included two 3 day road trips instead of the one 6 day road trip was developed in 2009 for the 2010 season and that it did not show much impact on cost for the season. We ask that this be developed again for the 2011 season for affected clubs, so it can be considered. Such a schedule would help the UWA club to maximise player availability for all away games. The four day road trip to Brisbane or Melbourne and Adelaide should remain as per previous years. The general attempts to program road trips to satisfy the travelling club's requirements should continue.

2: **Team equalisation, competition balance:** Last year discussion that was encouraged by national coaches investigated the opportunity or need for two divisions of 6 teams in each gender.

a: UWA is strongly opposed to this model as it removes incentive to improve. Apparently such a system has been used in Russia and the competition subsequently suffered.

b: Other difficulties associated with the divisional system include the potential separation of travel for male and female teams from the one club and the potential loss of the very important "Derby" games in cities such as Perth and Brisbane.

c: Given the NWPL Competition is a core program and an integral part of the high performance athlete and officials pathway within QWPI, NSWWPI, ACTWPI, VWPI, SAWPI, WAWPI it is most unlikely that this NWPL objective can be satisfied when some teams in one state are in the upper division and the others in the lower. In fact the Institute programs should be encouraging development and

membership of their squads from all NWPL (and contributing or related State league) clubs.

d: Given the size of the country, the amateur nature of the competition, voluntary management, and separation of the competing cities it is difficult to consider a draft of developing players.

e: An alternative that deserves consideration is the availability of an additional import player to teams that finish down the ladder. This would be a concession available as a result of the previous completed season, so it applies for only the one (subsequent) season.

One possibility is:

- **either** allowing three imports to play in these teams,
- **or** allowing a “lower finishing” team to have three imports on its list with only two of them able to play in any one game.

Another, preferred, approach is to consider even greater access to imports by:

- **increasing the import allowance** for lower ranked teams in the subsequent season - i.e. bottom 3 teams for 2010 season allowed up to 4 imports in 2011, all of whom can play in any game, next 3 teams allowed 3 imports, finals teams allowed only 2 imports; but also
- **treating Australian players** who play professional seasons in Europe / Other as part of the import quota when they return to finish off the season, so competition during the season is reflected in the finals.

While there is obviously a question over affordability, young teams like UWA could only benefit from having access to more experienced import players to help speed up the development of junior players, hopefully leading to better results in both the short and long term.

Affordability can be managed by carefully selecting the countries from which the players come, so influencing their ability to supplement their income while in Australia. Teams do not have to use the available concessions if they are happy with their development programs.

These options could be put for discussion and resolution.

3: A **programming issue** for teams visiting Perth and for the UWA and Fremantle clubs is that after meetings during the 2010 season UWA is due to have three sets of games rostered as Thursday and Saturday, with the other two being Friday and Sunday. It would make sense to alternate the games between the two options during the season, beginning with the first as a Thursday/Saturday for UWA. There should be no other influence on the programming other than discussion and agreement between the Western Australian clubs, and that happened with NWPL commissioner Daniel Woodhouse during the 2010 season.

You may contact me directly on 041 9988 488, 9447 0515, or by email on doug@sciencematters.com.au.

Yours sincerely



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