

Manly Warringah Football Referees Association

Minutes of Regular General Meeting held at 7:52 pm on Monday 22 April 2024 at Manly Warringah Football Club, 101 South Creek Road, Cromer.

1. Opening and welcome

The President, Toby Williams, opened the meeting at 7.10 pm and extended a warm welcome to all in attendance. He extended a warm welcome, in particular, to Peter Robson, a Life Member.

He thanked Alessandro Llana for conducting the earlier technical seminar and confirmed the Association would continue to facilitate a technical seminar prior to each General Meeting each month for the remainder of the season.

Toby also thanked and congratulated Tony Ruttyn, Hannah Sheridan and Mason Kaines, all of whom had been the subject of positive feedback received via email.

2. Apologies

As noted at the end of the minutes.

3. Confirmation of minutes of previous meeting

Moved that the minutes of the previous General Meeting held on 25 March 2024 be accepted.

Robert Iacono / James Barnes – Carried

4. Business arising

None

5. Report from the Management Committee

President and Registrar – Toby Williams

On behalf of the Management Committee, Toby thanked all members who had been actively involved as referees, mentors and assessors noting that, aside from ensuring match coverage, mentoring and assessing were current areas of focus.

During a week where payments to referees had been slightly delayed, Sigrid received a barrage of text messages and emails. As a result, Toby confirmed he had directed Sigrid to ignore such messages and requested that members be patient whenever delays were being experienced.

Toby reminded members that, if they were registered players and received a suspension from Manly Warringah Football Association, they would likely receive a suspension from refereeing as well.

On registrations, Toby provided the following update:

Membership	April	
	Approve	Pending
Junior Referee (not including first years)	140	3
Senior Referee	109	8
Team Referee	149	40
Life Member	3	0
Transferring Member	6	0
Total	407	51

He confirmed the junior and senior categories included 104 new juniors and eight new seniors respectively. He also gave the following figures to give a comparison with 2023:

Membership	2023	2024
Junior	273	243
Senior	153	125 (senior, transferring, Life)
Team	285	149
Total	711	517

Vice President Seniors – Colin Stocks

Colin had extended an offer to all clubs to visit and present on changes to the Laws of the Game and the Association's focus areas for 2024 but was disappointed to note only four clubs (Brookvale, BTH, Mosman and Seaforth) had accepted.

He also confirmed the Veo Sports Camera had been received and was being used for assessment and training purposes.

Saturday afternoon availability had been challenging, with Colin expressing his hope that more of the Association's senior referees would be available in future weeks.

Vice President Juniors – Jackson Mackie

Jackson provided an update on mentoring and thanked members who had assisted with mentoring duties. Over two rounds, 37 first years had been mentored on their first matches, equating to 72% coverage and Jackson would be aiming for 90% in future.

Treasurer – David Page

As of 15 April 2024, the Association had a cash balance of \$195,500 and had recorded a year-to-date net profit of \$38,159. David noted the Association's strong financial position was largely due to MWFA's pre-payment of match fees for the month of April and that trial game income of around \$13,000 would be received in the coming months.

Assessors Convenor and Course Coordinator – Robert Iacono

Robert confirmed the Association would facilitate a Level 3 Referee Course on Sunday 16 June, with all details emailed to members in due course. As this course would be limited to ten participants, Rob encouraged those interested in participating to register their interest.

Branch Coach – Ivica Covic

Ivica was pleased to report that 28 members had completed the Association's fitness test, although he was disappointed that more PL/PLR referees had not participated. He then encouraged members to attend the Association's next training night, to be held at 7:00 pm on Monday 29 April 2024 at Cromer Park.

Disciplinary Committee Liaison Officer

Craig reflected on cases of interest that had appeared before the Disciplinary Committee, highlighting the pragmatic approach adopted by the Disciplinary Committee to date. In particular, he provided a summary of cases involving racial abuse and referee abuse.

He emphasised the following in relation to the necessity of reports from assistant referees:

1. Not required for DOGSO cases, although if a referee was required to consult with an assistant referee prior to making a decision, they should mention so in their report;
2. Required to confirm a sent off player left the field of play without further issue or incident; and
3. Always required where the referee was not a witness to the send off offence.

Administrative Officer – Sigrid Mulherin

Insufficient referees had been available on Saturday and Sunday mornings, which had been challenging from an appointments perspective, however, this was partly due match scheduling. Sigrid requested members make themselves available in Dribl if they could assist in those timeslots.

Moved that all reports be accepted.

Tony Ruttyn / Brian Barkworth – Carried

6. General business

Reflecting on positive feedback received in relation to his performance as a referee, Peter Robson reminded attendees that referees are appreciated and should always strive to the best job possible.

7. Close

The President thanked members for their attendance and closed the meeting at 8.33 pm.

Date of next meeting: 7:40 pm on Monday 27 May 2024 at Manly Warringah Football Club.

Attendance:

Management Committee: Toby Williams (President & Registrar), Colin Stocks (Vice President Seniors), Jackson Mackie (Vice President Juniors), David Page (Treasurer), Robert Iacono (Course Coordinator) and Craig McBurnie (Disciplinary Committee Liaison Officer).

Life Members: Peter Robson

Members: Simon Ashari, Stephen Logue, Geoff Hunt, Toby Hunt, Gus Mawein, James Barnes, Gary Siddons, Mic Handcock, Brian Barkworth, Steve Alexander, Georgia Calleia, Tony Ruttyn, Julian Humphrey, Adrian Barlow, Frank Maiuolo, Jeremy Denham and Mark Feledy.

Apologies:

Management Committee: Mark Pryke (Vice President Team Referees), David Le Ban (Secretary), Ivica Covic (Branch Coach) and Alex Cowdery (Floor Member).

Members: Tahnee Kneiling and Lachlan Rozier.