

# Manly Warringah Football Referees Association

Minutes of Regular General Meeting  
held at 7.30 pm on Monday 24 May 2021  
at Beacon Hill Public School Hall, 6 Tristram Rd, Beacon Hill

## 1. Opening and welcome

The President, Toby Williams, opened the meeting at 7.32 pm, welcomed those physically in attendance and participating via Zoom.

## 2. Apologies

Had been received and recorded.

## 3. Confirmation of minutes of previous meeting

It was agreed to defer acceptance of the minutes of the previous General Meeting held on 23 September 2020 to the next General Meeting.

## 4. Business arising

None.

## 5. Members' feedback

Mark Feledy enquired about the current shortage of referees in the Association and the President indicated this topic would be covered later in the meeting.

## 6. Committee reports

### President – Toby Williams

Toby expressed the extent to which the shortage of referees in the Association was a cause of concern to himself, the Committee and to Sigrid. In particular, he noted that the shortage meant that all available members were being utilised to cover games and therefore, less referees were being mentored and assessed. He asked all members to: 1) ensure their availability remained up to date; 2) refrain from 'cherry picking' games from the list of unpublished games; 3) not undertake team referee appointments unless designated as a team referee.

In particular, Toby spoke about the issue of appointable referees 'acting' as team referees at the request of teams and accepting cash money to do so. He expressed the Committee's dim view of this practice and advised discussions with MWFA had commenced to address this issue. Toby also indicated that he was considering not paying match fees to non-team referees officiating team referee appointments.

Toby apologised for the length delay in match fee payments, which was largely due to the changeover from iCompman to Dribl. He thanked Sigrid and Mike Mulherin and Jack Morales for creating a new system that would see a return to weekly, timely payments to referees.

Toby acknowledged the issues associated with Dribl and asked members to be diligent in entering match details as soon as practicable following conclusion of the match. He then read out some notes from Sigrid regarding Dribl:

- All games are on Dribl and the filters work, so long as you click the save button.

- Ensure you are entering your details and details of the match on the correct game.
- Not entering your details on the correct game will result in non-payment of match payments.
- Match sheets should be completed at the ground immediately after the game and no later than 24 hours after the conclusion of the match.
- Access to Dribl cannot be obtained other than through the activation email.
- To search for yourself in Dribl, only enter your first or surname.

Toby was pleased to report on a number of positive initiatives currently being considered by the Committee, inclusive of an increase in match payments (up to 10%), an exciting sponsorship proposal, facilitating a female-only referee course in the latter half of 2021 to capitalise on record female membership of the Association, migration to Microsoft Teams to address technical issues and creation of a new website.

Toby concluded by thanking those members who had been refereeing as much as possible for their support thus far this season.

Seb Brennan asked where refereeing gaps were being experienced. Toby advised there were gaps from Premier League down to U/12s. Further discussion about the shortage issue and potential solutions were discussed.

Mark Feledy and Brian Barkworth enquired about development pathways for members eager to progress to higher levels of accreditation and higher level appointments. General discussion on this subject ensued and Robert Iacono explained the current process surrounding referee assessments and moving up to higher grades. Toby reiterated that the flow on effect of the referee shortage was less members available to assist with mentoring and assessing (referee development) and agreed the Committee would consider the issues/suggestions raised.

Alessandro Llana reminded members of the Association's weekly training sessions at Cromer Park from 7-8.00 pm and Toby encouraged members to attend.

#### Vice President Team Referees – Mark Pryke

Peter Carnell asked how team referees could be encouraged to referee appointable games. Mark advised an email had been sent to all team referees seeking their input on a number of matters but only three members had replied. Consideration would be given to facilitating a team referees' forum later in the year.

Mark acknowledged that most team referees do not want to referee, but he would like to reach those team referees who are interested and might like to do more.

Mark responded to earlier comments made by Mark and Brian with regard to assessments and progressing through to higher grades.

#### Branch Coach / Course Coordinator – Robert Iacono

Rob encouraged members to attend referee training and thanked Jackson Mackie and Alessandro Llana for their commitment to running these sessions.

MWFA had generously purchased communications equipment for the Association for the past several years. Rob advised an additional five kits had recently been purchased and that he wanted to ensure they were consistently used on Fridays, Saturdays and Sunday. He asked referees not using a kit in their possession to return them to him to allocate elsewhere.

#### Vice President Juniors – Jack Morales

Jack reported 60 first year referees had been mentored thus far and points of mentor focus had been on field and equipment checks, anticipation, use of angles (admittedly, more advanced skills), whistle usage and interchange management.

Cormack O'Donnell and Bailey Foster's refereeing had recently been described as "outstanding" in recent feedback and Jack congratulated them. He was also pleased to note positive feedback had been received from centre referees regarding junior assistant referees.

Issues with the mwfra.org.au server being rejected by other servers had resulted in mentoring reports not being received by the author. Jack noted the Committee's awareness of this issue and asked mentors to contact him if they wanted a copy of their report.

Moved that all Committee reports be accepted.

*David Le Ban / Brian Barkworth – Carried.*

## **7. General business**

A question was asked with regard to players wearing jewellery. Toby reminded all referees that jewellery was not permitted under Law 4 and that Law 4 should be consistently applied.

Toby reminded referees that in all competitions, regardless of age, a throw-in should be given to the opposing team when an offence necessitates this. He cited the example of junior referees giving a 'second chance' to young players and requested this not occur.

Stephen Logue requested playing rules regarding Challenge Cup be sent to members appointed to those games.

## **8. Close**

The President thanked members present and online for their attendance and closed the meeting at 8.39 pm.

