

# Manly Warringah Football Referees Association

## Minutes of Regular General Meeting Held at 7.00 pm on Monday 26 June 2023 at Cromer Clubhouse

### 1. Opening and welcome

The President, Toby Williams, opened the meeting at 7.07 pm and welcomed those in attendance. In particular, he extended a warm welcome to Peter Robson, Life Member, and two guest speakers for the meeting: Edward Ferguson, Head of Football and Strategy, and Ben Abraham, Referee Technical Advisor, both from Football NSW.

### 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 20 March 2023 be accepted.

*James Barnes / Brian Barkworth – Carried*

### 4. Business arising

None

### 5. Committee reports

#### President – Toby Williams

Toby led a discussion on the unacceptable rise in instances of referee abuse, citing several local examples and the very public violent attack perpetrated against Khodr Yaghi.

Along with Colin Stocks, Toby had met with the Chairman and CEO of Manly Warringah Football Association to discuss this issue. This meeting followed the distribution of an email from the CEO to all registered players to remind them to behave appropriately, or suffer the consequences.

In light of this escalating issue, Toby confirmed he had contacted an Employee Assistance Program provider to enquire about a partnership with the Association, where counselling service would be made available to all members.

Referees have an active role to play in dealing with instances of abuse, and Toby implored all members to give yellow and red cards and submit citation reports when appropriate. He conveyed Manly Warringah Football Association's request that referees always give a red card when they witness a send off offence, and submit a citation report in all other instances.

Toby also requested that members:

- Strictly enforce Law 4 with regard to the wearing of jewellery;
- Ensure they are correctly attired and in possession of the correct equipment when they are refereeing (i.e., shirt tucked in, socks up, wearing a watch, etc.);
- Complete the electronic match day on the same day of the match, and also ensure that all referees have been marked as present;
- Submit their availability before Sunday night and provide information about where and when they were playing, if applicable; and
- Not request to referee certain games.

Toby was pleased to report that referees officiating a grand final match in 2023 would receive a commemorative coin instead of the medals that had been provided in the past. He acknowledged Wayne Plant for coming up with the idea and Linda Ward for making it happen.

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Toby asked members to note the following in their diaries:

**Sunday 29 July** – Level 3 course. Expressions of interest to be requested soon.

**Tuesday 18 July** – senior referees' dinner at Dee Why Chinese Restaurant.

In closing, Toby thanked all members for their contributions, be it as a referee, mentor, assessor or as a Member of the Management Committee.

### Vice President Seniors – Colin Stocks

Colin provided an update on the issues he had raised at Manly Warringah Football Association's Club Forums throughout the season. He confirmed he would continue to liaise with David Mason and David Wilson in relation to issues of referee abuse.

He thought it was fantastic that several members had 'stepped up' to officiate higher levels of football, including 18/1, AL1R/AL1 and PLR/PL matches. He was also pleased to report that senior referees had been providing very positive feedback in relation to the performance of junior assistant referees.

The Management Committee was considering alternate venues to host this year's fitness test, due to the track closure at Sydney Academy of Sport. Colin confirmed the fitness test would be non-compulsory and Toby added the focus would be on participation.

### Vice President Juniors – Jackson Mackie

Jackson provided an update on the Association's mentoring program. 96% of first year referees had been mentored on their first game. Additional mentoring included: 15 second years, three third years and one fourth year referee. Jackson thanked mentors for their efforts in ensuring the Association's new referees were supported.

Jackson also promoted an upcoming training session, to be held from 7.00 pm to 8.00 pm on Monday 3 July at Cromer Park. He encouraged all members to attend this session, the focus of which would be on improving technical refereeing skills.

### Treasurer – David Page

David reported the Association had recorded a net loss of \$4230 as at 23 June 2023 but noted the Association's financial position changed rapidly, with money regularly going out to referees and coming in from Manly Warringah Football Association.

Members were interested to learn that around \$400,000 in referee disbursements had been made, for trial games, summer soccer and the winter competition, since October 2022.

David noted a payment to mentors would be made shortly.

### Disciplinary Committee Liaison Officer – Craig McBurnie

Craig provided an update on matters of interest relating to the Disciplinary Committee.

### Registrar – Frank Maiuolo

Frank was pleased to confirm positive growth in registrations, including a 7% increase in registered referees, an 11% increase in appointable referees and a 22% increase in returning referees (junior and senior).

Registration figures were reported, as follows:

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Category	2023
Senior referee	153 (of which 16 are new)
Junior referee	273 (of which 123 are new)
Team referee	283 (of which 83 are new)
<b>Total</b>	<b>709</b>

### Administrative Officer – Sigrid Mulherin

Sigrid requested additional availability for Friday evening matches and matches held at 11.30 am on Saturdays and Sundays. These are the periods where the Association is struggling to achieve full coverage.

Availability remained fickle, with Sigrid referring to one Saturday where 100% coverage was achieved, only for it to be followed by two Saturdays where very few members were available to referee.

Sigrid had received positive feedback from members with regard to the use of Dribl for availability and entering end of match details but confirmed issues remained from an appointments perspective.

Moved that all reports be accepted.

*Steve Martin / Peter Robson – Carried*

The meeting was adjourned at 8.00 pm to allow members to avail themselves of refreshments.

### **6. Guest speakers – Edward Ferguson and Ben Abraham**

The meeting resumed at 8.15 pm and Toby invited Edward and Ben to introduce themselves:

Edward – current Head of Football and Strategy at Football NSW since November 2022. Previously the Community Football Manager and subsequently, Chief Executive Officer of Northern Suburbs Football Association.

Ben – recently appointed Referee Technical Advisor at Football NSW. Long term referee and member of the A-League referee panel since 2019.

Edward and Ben presented on several topics, including Football NSW' response to rising instances of referee abuse, the importance of grassroots associations and pathways available to members seeking to advance their careers as a referee.

Members engaged by asking questions throughout and following their presentations, after which Toby thanked Edward and Ben for making themselves available to attend the Association's meeting.

### **7. General business**

Peter Robson reminded members of the upcoming FIFA Women's World Cup, to be held from 20 July 2023 to 20 August 2023.

### **8. Close**

The President thanked members for the attendance and closed the meeting at 9.10 pm.

**Date of next meeting:** 24 July 2022 (TBC)

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### **Attendance:**

Toby Williams (President), Colin Stocks (Vice President Seniors), Jackson Mackie (Vice President Juniors), David Page (Treasurer), Craig McBurnie (Disciplinary Committee Liaison Officer), Alex Cowdrey (Floor Member) Frank Maiuolo (Registrar), Brian Barkworth, Jeremy Denham, Peter Robson, Michael Aiello, Rodrigo Calbiague Garcia, Mario Tisano, Scott Turner, Stephen Logue, Gary Siddons, Avedis Fesdekian, Geoff Hunt, Richard Evans, Toby Hall, K B Wilson, Tony Ruttyn, Julian Humphrey, Alex Cramp, Benjamin Cramp, Oscar Harley, Ben Abraham (Guest), Michael Grinbergs, James Barnes, Ryan Berlee, Ben Last, Ivica Covic, Warwick Turpin, Callum Eason, Bec Mackie, Mark Feledy.

### **Apologies:**

Mark Pryke (Vice President Team Referees), David Le Ban (Secretary), Robert Iacono (Branch Coach and Course Coordinator), Chris Melville, Frank Best, Robert Brennan, John Haslam, Lyle Hudson, Mariano Llana, Alessandro Llana, Simon Burchett, Chris Paul, Michael Handcock, Andrew Best, Daniel Duran, Charles Elliot, Ivan Jones, Gus Mawein.