

WWCHA General Meeting Minutes

Monday 6th September 2021



Date: Monday 6th September 2021

Time: 7.30pm

Location: Zoom

Chaired by: Ken Larkin

Board Membership:

Ken Larkin (President), Amy Smart (Secretary), Brad Ristivojevic (Treasurer), John Marshall (Competitions), Pat O'Donnell (Development), Marcus Manning (Officiating), Craig Knowles (Representative), Phil Stone (Facilities), Vacant (Events).

Club Membership with Voting Privileges: Cavaliers, CSU, Harlequins, Lake Albert, Rosellas, Royals

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Present (A-Z):

Board Members: Ken Larkin, Marcus Manning, John Marshall, Pat O'Donnell, Brad Ristivojevic, Amy Smart, Phil Stone

Apologies: Craig Knowles

Club representatives: Karen Boyd, Aaron Crump, Charmain Gay, Emma Lynch, TerryAnn McBeath, Alicia Rose, Chris Skillen, Greg Smart, Sharon Smith, Sharyn Wellham

Apologies:

Acknowledgement of Country

I would like to begin by acknowledging the Wiradjuri people, Traditional Custodians of the land on which we meet today and pay my respects to their Elders past and present. I extend that respect to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples here today.

Minutes of Previous Meeting

[July 2021](#) (located on WWCHA website)

- Sharyn requested a change to the minutes regarding her comments about officiating/umpires.

Accepted: Sharyn Wellham

Seconded: Alicia Rose

Actions arising from previous minutes

Actions arising from previous meeting minutes	Person Responsible	Timeframe	Progress
Paying Juniors for Umpiring	Marcus Manning / Brad Ristivojevic	2 months	HOLD
Refunds	Amy Smart	1 month	Some are processed. Working with Revolutionise Support.

Correspondence In

Correspondence	Club/Person	Format	Date	Action
<u>Suspension Rule Change</u>	Rosellas / Sharyn Wellham	Email	26/08/2021	Include in discussion of current meeting
<u>July Meeting Minutes</u>	Rosellas / Sharyn Wellham	Email	30/08/2021	Board reviewed and actioned

New Business

Competition Post Lockdown – John Marshall

- Looking at the format for the rest of the season if Lockdown is lifted.
- We are still in the hands of NSW Health
- Lockdown is due to be lifted 10th September however may be extended
- John Marshall has shared our current options on progressing and asked for feedback from the clubs. Email correspondence:

As part of the agenda for tonight's meeting, we will go over the board's proposal for the continuation of our winter competition. The board holds a strong view that we would like to see the competition be completed, albeit this could be in a very different structure.

To simplify the decision moving forward, we are proposing the below two options, pending government regulations. A few points to note regarding the below proposals;

- Lockdown currently set to end 10/09/21, however high possibility to be extended
- Summer sports typically start 9/10/21
- Long weekend 2/10/21
- School holidays 20/9/21 – 5/10/21

Senior Competition

Lockdown lifted 10/09/21

- First round back 11/09/21
 - o All Divisions that only have one game left, will play their final game. Divisions where there is more than one game left and the extra games could potentially change the ladder standings, will play an extra game across the week of 11/9 and 16/9. Division two women's scratch matches, will not be played.
- First round of finals 18/09/21
 - o 1 v 4 & 2 v 3
- Grand final 25/09/21

Lockdown extended past 10/09/21

- Competition to move into a twilight structure, with games played mid-week and all three rounds of finals incorporated.

Junior Competition

Little flickers and under 8's will unfortunately not recommence.

Lockdown lifted 10/09/21

- First round back 17/09/21 and Grand final 24/09/21

Lockdown extended past 10/09/21

- Consider recommencing when able or ending the competition where the ladder currently stands.

Please note the above is only a proposal and we ask for your feedback and any ideas. I look forward to agreeing on a structure tonight in which we can provide to all of our members Tuesday morning.

Feedback from the clubs:

- Cavaliers:
 - o Would like to finish the competition
 - o What would happen with the games that weren't played on the Saturday where we went into lockdown
 - Response provided by John Marshall that these games would still be played
 - o Not sure what the response will be for weeknight games, but starting up this weekend should be fine.
- CSU Hockey Ducks:
 - o If lockdown ends then move into finals 1v2, 3v4 as it stands.
 - o After October – abandon season and award Minor Prem, then hit hard with Summer Comp
 - o Will Vaccination status become part of the decision making?
 - o Difficult for CSU with many players returning home (if they can) with the University being closed
- Harlequins
 - o Keen to get back to normal life, whether that involves hockey or not.
- Lake Albert
 - o Happy to scrap if lockdown goes into October.
 - o Straight into Grand Finals if it is before then, except for Div 2 Women who need the extra games.
 - o Do we have a weekly plan for each week of lockdown that is extended/lifted?
 - John Marshall to put something together to send out to all members
- Rosellas
 - o As above – Minor Prem if we don't come out of lockdown
 - o Can we look at discounting the start of next season if we are unable to proceed with the finals considering the turf fees etc
 - o Would like to poll their club members regarding availability if lockdowns lift etc.
- Royals
 - o If we come out of lockdown, 1 v 2 grand final, and play last two rounds (excluding Div 3 since they were able to play their games prior to lockdown)
 - o Polled members (5 out of 70) replied saying that they will play whenever the games are available.

If the lockdown extends past the end of September, then we close off the season. If it lifts before then, we fit in as many games as we can to finish the season. Secondly, the lockdown may lift but there may still be restrictions on community sports.

Pending announcement from NSW Health.

John will release the plan tomorrow (7th September) to set expectations for club members.

Juniors will match the Senior Comp. 11s, 13s, 16s only.

Suspension Rule Change – Amy Smart

- Discussion around the feedback provided by the clubs. The only clubs to provide feedback were Lake Albert and Rosellas, despite 2 meetings and several reminders about it. The Board expressed their disappointment in the lack of engagement by the other Clubs.
- Coming full circle, it was realised that the confusion may have stemmed from the Suspension Rules being kept as a separate document to the Playing Rules, and being treated as such. Discussion around pulling all of the rules regarding these rules into one document, which can then be reviewed by the Board and Club Officiating Panel Members, prior to going to a vote.
- The processes are already in place, we need to follow these rules.
- Discussion around shades of grey – part of the Officiating Panel discussions can be to review infringements that may have varying levels of punishment.
- Umpire Commentary:
 - o Charmain Gay commented that it may be of value to provide a template for the umpires to be able to complete when giving a report on a red card
 - o Ken Larkin noted we have had a problem with Umpires providing reports – shouldn't be paid if they can't provide the reports as part of their responsibilities. This process is being looked into at the Board Level
 - o Umpire Training: Ensuring that the Umpire's are aware that they are in control of the degree of punishment. For example, if they see a stick thrown on the field that does not necessarily mean they *must* issue a red card, it may be delivered as a yellow or a green based on the severity of the action.

Refunds Update – Amy Smart

- Still a work in progress. All members that meet the criteria to receive a refund have had their refund issued via Revolutionise, or if they did not play this year, have been contacted to provide their bank details to issue the refund via bank transfer.
 - o The members that have been issued the Refund via Revolutionise will experience further delays, since Revolutionise is stuck in a pending state. Amy has been in contact with Hockey NSW, who were unable to explain why this is occurring. From there, Amy is to work directly with Revolutionise Support Team to try to figure out what the problem is.
- Brad Ristivojevic noted that it has been a difficult process and when even Hockey NSW are not sure what the problem is, we are in unknown territory.

Facilities Report

- Scoreboards delayed due to lockdown. Looking at Oct/Nov.
- Council have contacted us to start getting quotes for cementing the grounds leading into the gates of each of the fields.
 - o Looking at getting between the two fields done as well, but may be a future project depending on cost

Treasurer Report

- The Association is currently owed ~\$18000
 - o \$300 from schools

- \$3300 rep players. They are not allowed to play finals if they have not paid. Clubs have been notified of these players. Problem with a few players who are not willing to pay the full fees based on mixed communications.
- Most of the remaining outstanding invoices are for turf & light fees issued to clubs on 2nd September.
- Looking to change the process next year for Representative Players – ensure clear communication re fees and make sure paid prior to departure for rep games.
- Polytan payments pending until they can get to do their review
- Scoreboard payments pending

Secretary Report

Nil

Officiating Report

Nil

Development Report

Academy and CoD are open. CoD starts in November. Emails have been sent out.

Competitions Report

Trophies – collecting from clubs and get them updated

Meeting closed: 8:39pm

Next Meeting: TBA

Ken Larkin (President / Chairperson)

Amy Smart (Secretary / Minute Taker)