



WPV Council Meeting Minutes

Saturday 21 July 2018 15:30 – 17:00

Venue: Outdoor Marshalling Room, MSAC, Aughtie Drive Albert Park

Attendees

Dan Arber	Finance, WPV Board
Daniel Brueckner	Footscray
Jo-Anne Dal Santo	WPV Board
Scott Emerson	Melbourne Collegians
Zaccheus Evangelsoes	Monash University
Gareth Hunter	NYP Dragons
Sally Jones	EO, WPV
Matt Keen	Melbourne University
Michael McNeill	WPV Board
Steve Mulligan	WPV Board
Dan Murphy	Old Xavs
Oliver Nunis	NYP Dragons
Julie O'Callaghan	Geelong
John O'Callaghan	Geelong
Thao Phan	Melbourne University
Richard Phillips	President, WPV Board
Anna Schofield	DVE
Cathy Steere	Essendon
Chris Stoupas	WPV Board
Alberto Vela	DVE
Rod Woods	Melbourne Collegians

Apologies

Michael Defina	Life Member
Tamar Erickson	WPV Board
Andrew Gilchrist	DVE
Jesse Godfrey	Surge
Kai-Xing Goh	Monash University
Deb Johnson	St Caths
Marcus Jones	Essendon
Alby Morrison	Life Member
Perri Randall	WPV Board
Alex Steere	WPV Board
Jenna Ward	Loretto
Bryan Wee	Secretary, WPV Board

Business

1. President's Report

- Richard Phillips, President WPV
- Attendees welcomed and apologies noted
- Introduced the two new co-opted members appointed by the WPV Board - Jo-Anne Dal Santo and Tamar Erickson (apology)
- Noted the current WPV Board commenced in October 2017 and the first order of Board business was to agree on several key focus areas believed to be the most relevant/important to the sport. The key focus areas are:
 - Pool Access

Ongoing issue of access to water space to play water polo. WPV Board tries to stay abreast of new developments and assists the office with any submissions, endorsements and meetings in order to support water polo friendly facilities.
 - Competition

WPV Board began by reviewing the Winter Competition. However, after trialling some innovations during the eight-week competition, agreed to revert to old rules for the 2019 Winter Competition. The WPV Board was keen to try a new format and will look to innovate in order to grow and move the sport forwards.
 - Constitution and Co-Opted Board members

The WPV Constitution is currently being reviewed with the assistance of law firm, Maddocks, which is undertaking the work pro-bono. The current Constitution needs to be modernised and brought into line with the current governance principles and statutes. Once this work is finalised, there will be community consultation.
 - Finances and funding

WPV is on track to make a small surplus in the 2017/2018 financial year. However, the on-going issue of improving the funding and financial position of the sport remains. The WPV Board acknowledges the sport is costly for participants due in most part for the need to access costly facilities. The President noted that high-level meetings had been held with Sport and Recreation Victoria and Water Polo Australia (WPA) to discuss how to go about improving the funding position of the sport in Victoria and that there were no quick fixes.
 - Gender diversity

WPV Board is committed to increasing female participation and retention in the sport and is currently looking at a variety of programs and options in order to address this important focus area.
- Australian Water Polo League (AWL) has been added as a WPV Board key focus area.

WPV Board recognises the importance of a Victorian AWL team as a pathway for aspiring athletes. However, the Board understands the importance of taking into account the learnings from past Victorian NWPL teams and ensuring a sustainable model is set up moving forward. Particularly, WPA estimates the current cost of fielding one AWL team is approximately \$150K, which cannot and should not be wholly player funded. Consequently, we have been working with Water Polo SA to work through whether it might be possible to create a combined team. The combined SA/Vic AWL team would create a stronger team and reduce costs for Victoria and South Australia. It was noted that WPA had expressed preliminary support for the concept of a combined SA/Vic team in the 2019 and 2020 seasons as a plan to ensure Victoria is represented nationally and to strengthen the overall performance of the AWL team. We are currently working through various issues in order to determine whether there are options for moving the discussion forward.

2. Operations Report

- Sally Jones, EO WPV
- Pool Access - There has been some progress in some areas. As an example, in the area of pool access WPV Office continues to work with Municipal Councils, State governments and other key stakeholders as new pool projects arise including:
 - Oak Park Pool - YMCA and Moreland City Council
 - Fisherman's Bend - Fisherman's Bend Taskforce, the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning
 - Wyndham Aquatic centre - Wyndham City Council
 - Yarra Pools - City of Melbourne
 - East Keilor Leisure Centre – Mooney Valley Council
 - Rosebud Aquatic Centre – Mornington Peninsular Shire
 - St Albans Leisure Centre – Brimbank Council
- Pathways:
 - WPV Academy of Excellence –been running each term since Term 4 of 2017. Two excellent Program Coaches and up to 20 athletes in each gender-based squad ranging in ages from born 2005 and older. We believe the Academy will grow and is an excellent start for Victoria to re-build programs and pathways
 - Participation in Pan Pacific Youth Water Polo Festival (Pan Pacs) – three teams went away (16/U Boys, 16/U Girls and 14/U Girls teams)
 - 2019 will see the introduction of a State Teams competition in the June/July school holidays that has been endorsed by WPA that we will aim to field teams across each age group and gender.
- Communications:
 - Revamped website
 - Newsletters
 - 14 newsletters sent to all members since October 2017.
 - Instagram
 - increased followers from 574 (1/10/2017) to 1,046 (20/07/2018)
 - Most popular post was the 16/U Victorian Boys Pan Pacs victory post with 1,474 reached, 104 likes and 1,979 impressions. It was also reposted on Channel 7 News Melbourne Instagram account (27.6K followers).
 - Facebook
 - Increased Facebook likes from 1,691 (1/10/2017) to 1,837 (19/07/2018)
 - Most popular original post – Jessica Loftus Pan Pacs interview (24 June 2018) with 8,876 reach, 5,609 views and 783 reactions, comments and shares.
- State Championships began this week
 - Much earlier start due to Swimming Australia hosting National Short Course Championships in October (4-year agreement)
 - 81 team entries
 - Only 3 teams competing in MSL1 and so again combined with MSL2 and playing 'cross grade' games.
- School Sports Victoria (SSV) and Schools competitions
 - WPV currently assists with the running and management of both the APS and AGSV competitions
 - WPV is currently running an All-Schools Secondary Schools Competition (August) and an All-Schools Primary Schools Competition (November) as well as working towards hosting an exclusively 'government' schools competition in Term Four with the assistance of SSV.

3. General Discussion

The President opened the floor up to general discussion. The discussion was wide ranging and included the following topics:

- Schools and school-based competitions including the need to continue building relationships with SSV. Additionally, the group recognised the difficulties of recruiting juniors from schools, particularly those schools with little to no resources for aquatic sports.
- Regional development – The Office is currently working with interested/motivated parties in both Ballarat and Rosebud. Both regions are interested in building water polo clubs. However, the focus of each region differs slightly insofar as Ballarat is predominately working with juniors and Rosebud is predominately working with ‘social’ and ‘older’ players. Regional development is important but challenging given the limited resources of the Office.
- Strategic plan – It was noted that the strategic plan is published on the WPV website.
- Pathways for aspiring athletes.
- Junior development including the need to increase the total number of juniors participating in and taking up the sport. The group discussed the role of the Club versus the Office in Junior Development and acknowledged the limited resources throughout the water polo community including a lack of coaches particularly in regional areas.
- The WPA on line Learning Portal – National program currently available for coaching courses/accreditation but into the future will include courses/accreditation for referees, spectators and athletes.
- The difficulties with the introduction of the new National data base, Revolutionise Sport.
- Communications.

Meeting Closed: 17:10 pm