

# BOARD MEETING SUMMARY

## SEPTEMBER 2019

### INTRODUCTION

This summary provides information relating to the Capital Football Board meeting held on 25 September 2019, and contains resolutions made by the Directors.

The summary excludes information that is commercial in confidence, is sensitive in nature or is restricted due to privacy. Standing agenda items including the finance report, Chair's report and CEO's report may contain such information. Where information discussed under those agenda items can be shared, it will appear under the sub headings, aligned to the strategic pillar to which it is most relevant.

### Attendees

Fran Sankey (Chair), Angelo Konstantinou (Deputy Chair), Richard Naumovski, Grace Gill, Gary Vandeburgt, Jodie Newall, Phil Brown, Megan Salic (*for the media update and finance report only*), Glenn Armstrong (*for the competitions update only*), Scott O'Donnell (*for the performance programs update, NPL U23 proposal and NPLW Working Group report only*). Garth Morrison was an apology for the meeting.

### GOVERNANCE – “LEADING FOR UNITY OF PURPOSE”

#### Capital Football Logo

The Board discussed a proposal to align the Capital Football logo with the overarching design adopted by FFA and other Member Federations.

The Board considered a number of concept designs, including feedback on those designs gathered during the strategic planning workshops with the Standing Advisory Committees and Zone Council.

The Board agreed on a preferred design that will be launched in conjunction with the new strategic plan.

#### Home of Football Update

Following the first Project Control Group meeting on 9 September, the ACT Government provided Capital Football with draft annexures to the Estate Development Plan tender for review.

Capital Football provided feedback to the draft annexures, with the tender for the Estate Development Plan to be released by the ACT government in the coming week.



### **Member Federation President and CEOs Meeting**

The Chair provided a report on the Member Federation President and CEOs meeting that was held on 11 and 12 September. The meeting was very productive, with discussion on strategic priorities shared across the Member Federations including; strengthening government relations, digital services and collective buying power. Project teams were established to collaborate on outcomes for each of the identified areas.

### **Hall of Fame Nominations**

The Board considered nominations to the Capital Football Hall of Fame, agreeing unanimously to induct Ben Williams to the Hall of Fame.

Among Ben's many achievements; he was a FIFA Referee for 12 years, he refereed the AFC Champions League final in 2012, he was named the AFC Referee of the Year in 2013, and in 2014 he became the first Australian to officiate a knock out match at a Men's FIFA World Cup.

#### **Resolution:**

**The Board resolved to endorse the nomination for Ben Williams to be inducted into the Capital Football Hall of Fame**

### **Zone Council and Standing Advisory Committee Casual Vacancies**

The Board considered nominations to fill casual vacancies on the South Region Council, Referees Standing Advisory Committee, Community Leagues Standing Advisory Committee and Juniors Standing Advisory Committee.

#### **South Region Council**

There was one casual vacancy on the South Region Council, with a nomination received for Tina McLeary.

#### **Resolution:**

**The Board resolved to invite Tina McLeary to accept a position on the South Region Council, with a term ending on 31 October 2020**

#### **Juniors Standing Advisory Committee**

There were two casual vacancies on the JSAC, with nominations received for Dean Ashton and Bob Parkin.

#### **Resolution:**

**The Board resolved to invite Dean Ashton and Bob Parkin to accept positions on the Juniors Standing Advisory Committee, with terms ending on 31 October 2020**

#### **Community Leagues Standing Advisory Committee**

There were two casual vacancies on the CLSAC, with a nomination received for Kayannie Denigan.



**Resolution:**

The Board resolved to invite Kayannie Denigan to accept a position on the Community Leagues Standing Advisory Committee, with a term ending on 31 October 2020

**Referees Standing Advisory Committee**

There were five casual vacancies on the RSAC, with nominations received for Chris Conti and Nunzio Rinaudo.

**Resolution:**

The Board resolved to invite Nunzio Rinaudo and Chris Conti to accept positions on the Referees Standing Advisory Committee, with terms ending on 31 October 2020

There was another nomination received for the RSAC that the Board deferred consideration on, pending more information.

**Meeting Minutes**

The Board noted the minutes of the Premier Leagues Standing Advisory Committee meeting held on 26 August 2019.

**Community Engagement**

The Board and CEO noted the following engagement with the football community since the last meeting;

- Chair Fran Sankey and Director Gary Vandeburgt attended the MSL finals on 7 September at Kambah District Playing Fields
- Chair Fran Sankey and CEO Phil Brown attended the WSL / MSL Finals on 8 September at Kambah District Playing Fields
- Director Jodie Newall attended the Diplomatic Corps Cup final on 11 September at Hawker Football Centre
- Chair Fran Sankey, Deputy Chair Angelo Konstantinou, Directors Jodie Newall, Grace Gill and Gary Vandeburgt and CEO Phil Brown attended the NPL and NPLW finals on 14 September at Deakin Stadium
- Directors Grace Gill and Jodie Newall and CEO Phil Brown attended the NPLW Youth finals on 15 September at McKellar Park
- Chair Fran Sankey and CEO Phil Brown attended the Junior League Finals on 21 September at the University of Canberra
- Chair Fran Sankey, Director Gary Vandeburgt and CEO Phil Brown attended the NPLY Finals on 22 September at Deakin Stadium
- Chair Fran Sankey attended the NPL2 finals on 15 September at Deakin Stadium NPL2



## COMMERCIAL – “CONNECTING AND THRIVING”

### Media and Communications Update

The Head of Commercial provided an update on media and communications to the Board, including;

- Across “local” print and digital media there have been 192 stories year to date
- Unique website visitation is up 10% on 2018
- 1.57M minutes of streamed matches have been watched year to date

The Head of Commercial also provided an overview of scheduled media activities for the next three months, across all programs and competitions.

## PARTICIPATION – “PARTICIPATION AND EXPERIENCE”

### Competitions Update

The Head of Participation provided a competition update to the Board.

The update included an overview per league and an analysis of referee coverage across all divisions.

The Head of Participation also addressed;

- An overview of the NPLW, NPL1, NPL2, NPLY, Community League and Junior League finals
- That a season review with clubs across all divisions is scheduled for Saturday 26 October 2019
- The summer football and futsal seasons starts on 14 October. Information on team entry has been posted to the website and sent out to all registered email addresses as an eDM
- We have received nominations from 7 teams in each of the Women’s and Men’s Futsal Premier League competitions, with the leagues starting on September 25 for men and 27 for women
- Belconnen United FC traveled to NSW for the Capital Football / Football NSW Challenge Cup v Sydney University, narrowly losing 3-2

### NPL U20 Age Grade Proposal

The Capital Football Board considered a proposal from the Premier Leagues Standing Advisory Committee (PLSAC) to;

- lift the age group from U20 to U23 in the NPL1 and NPL2 from the 2020 season
- lift the number of eligible overage players from 4 to 5 in the NPL1
- reduce the number of overage players from 6 to 5 in the NPL2



In developing this proposal, the PLSAC engaged with 8 of the 9 NPL1 clubs and 5 of the 9 NPL2 clubs. The proposal was also supported by the Coaches Technical Committee.

The Board discussed the proposal at length, including an analysis of player registrations in NPL1 and NPL2, focussed primarily on the age of players to see if lifting the age grade might have a detrimental effect on the pathway for players in the U18 age grade.

Considering 14% of players in 1st grade were 18 years or younger (demonstrating a valid pathway exists for the best young players), and the number of players leaving the NPL competitions once they turned 21 as they had not yet been able to secure 1st grade positions and were no longer age eligible for U20, the Board agreed to lift the age grade from U20 to U23.

The Board deferred the decision on the number of permitted over age players to Capital Football management per the Competitions Decision Policy. The permitted number of overage players in the U23 competitions in 2020 will be determined as part of the annual competition regulations review.

**Resolution:**

**The Board resolved;**

- a) To lift the U20 age grade to U23 in both the NPL1 and NPL2 competitions from the 2020 season
- b) To refer the decision on the number of over age players in the U23 competitions to management, per the Competition Decisions Policy, to be considered as part of the annual review of the competition regulations with clubs

**PERFORMANCE – “PERFORMING FOR SUCCESS”**

**Performance Programs Update**

The Technical Director provided an update on the performance programs to the Board, including;

- An overview of the Skill Acquisition Program, Canberra United Academy and Talent Support Program
- An overview of coach education courses delivered over the last month
- The U13 and U14 boys ACT teams have been preparing well for the upcoming NYC, to be held at Coffs Harbour from 30th September – 4th October, 2019. Both teams have been playing friendly games as part of their preparation
- Following training finishing on 10 September CUW program exit interviews were conducted by Scott and Heather on Tuesday 17 September. The overwhelming views were that CUW has been a positive experience for the girls involved





- Emma Ilijoski and Mia McGovern were selected for the Junior Matildas for the AFC U16 Championships, being held in Thailand. Josie Dubbert was selected as a shadow player. All three were part of the CUW program. Laura Hughes was selected for the Young Matildas Camp but had to withdraw due to injury
- EOI's have been sent out for coaches for the Futsal nationals. We intend to announce the coaches by the end of September. Trials are likely to be 13th, 20th and 27th of October. Once the trials are completed, the individual coaches will work out with their respective squads appropriate training days leading up to the Futsal Nationals

### **NPLW Working Group**

The Capital Football Board considered a report on the progress of the NPLW Working Group, which included;

- The Board expressed their thanks to the Working Group members for the efforts, in particular Grace Gill for chairing the Working Group
- The Board agreed that, while it would be good to have an agreed structure in place for 2020, the timing does not support this occurring
- The Board agreed to continue the consultation regarding the NPLW structure, using the Working Group progress as a starting point
- It is not proposed to reconvene the Working Group for this purpose

As such, the Board resolved to invite the Clubs from the 2019 NPLW to confirm their commitment to participate in the 2020 NPLW, under the same competition format as 2019.

Capital Football will re-engage with the NPLW clubs to continue the consultation regarding the NPLW competition structure, with an intention that any amendments are announced before the end of the 2020 season for implementation in 2021.

#### **Resolution:**

#### **The Board resolved;**

- a) That the clubs that competed in the 2019 NPLW would be invited to express their intention to compete in the 2020 NPLW
- b) That clubs are reminded of the requirement to field teams in all age grades
- c) That Capital Football will continue the consultation regarding the NPLW competition structure, with an intention that any amendments are announced before the end of the 2020 season for implementation in 2021



### **Canberra United Academy**

The Capital Football Board considered a recommendation from management for two amendments to the Canberra United Academy (CUA) program in 2020. One of the proposed amendments was raised briefly during the NPLW Working group discussion (introduction of the U12 CUA team) but no decision made by the working group. The other recommendation arose from communication from FFA after the working group meetings had concluded. The recommendations included;

- The CUA fielding a U12 team in the U13 division. The CUA had not previously fielded a team in the youngest age grade, which created an additional bye round (being an 8-team competition in a 9 team + 1 bye league format, meaning each of the 8 teams had 4 byes per season). This was recommended to improve participant experience by removing the extra bye, and providing development opportunities for individual players
- Lifting the age grade of the CUA U17 team that plays in the NPLW first grade competition to U18. This was proposed to align with the lifting of the FFA National Training Centre Challenge (NTC) from U17 to U18 in 2020

The Board discussed the proposal, including;

- That including a U12 team in the CUA was advantageous as it provided more matches for teams in the U13 division and engaged a younger group of players that otherwise may not be involved in the NPLW
- That lifting the CUA U17 age grade to U18 is advantageous as it should not impact the U17 age group at other clubs, which has historically been a difficult age grade to recruit players in (i.e. players leaving the CUA team in 1<sup>st</sup> grade would be going to club 1st grade teams once leaving the CUA, not their U17 teams)
- That lifting the CUA U17 age grade to U18 is advantageous as it aligns with changes to the NTC and national player pathway, and supports ACT players with the best available opportunity to be identified at the national level

The Board resolved that from the 2020 season the CUA will field a U12 team in the U13 age grade to remove the additional bye in the division and provide the players across all clubs with more matches, and the age grade for the CUA team that plays in the NPLW 1st grade competition will be lifted from U17 to U18 to align with the change to the FFA NTC age eligibility.

The concept of scheduling NPLW matches exclusively on Sundays, to support ACT players competing against NSW and Newcastle Jets female programs in regular friendly matches as part of their development was also discussed.

The Board resolved that Capital Football will investigate the scheduling of NPLW matches with reference to the schedule of interstate elite matches, and in consultation with clubs in the competition, as part of the annual match schedule development.



**Resolution:**

**The Board resolved;**

- a) That CUA will field a U12 team in the U13 division to remove the additional bye in the division and provide the players across all clubs with more matches
- b) The age grade for the CUA team that plays in the NPLW 1st grade competition will be lifted from U17 to U18 to align with the change to the FFA NTC age eligibility
- c) That Capital Football will investigate the scheduling of NPLW matches with reference to the schedule of interstate elite matches, and in consultation with clubs in the competition as part of the annual match schedule development



**Fran Sankey**

Chair

