



HILLS DISTRICT NETBALL ASSOCIATION

PRESIDENTS MEETING

25TH May 2023

Attendance: - as per Attendance Sheet.

Rep Rule Review

Report from meeting was distributed prior to this meeting and is copied below. The current proposal would mean no benefit to our club teams. We are happy to review future proposals.

Rep Rule Review Meeting – 22 April 2023

Present: Margaret Coe (HDNA Junior Rep Convenor), Trish Crews (Manager HDNA 13 year Title Team), Kate Roberts (Assistant HDNA Junior Rep Convenor), Lisette Smith (HDNA Secretary), Andrew Jefferies (President Carlingford Netball Club).

Purpose: This meeting was held following the HDNA Presidents meeting in 2022 and the proposed changes to the HDNA by-laws regarding the number of rep players allowed per team as submitted by Carlingford Netball at the HDNA 2022 AGM.

Carlingford initially submitted a change to the 4 rep/development team players per club team with a point system or a change to the number of rep/development team players per club team. Both of these options have variations to allow for "home grown" players. An analysis of the 2023 club teams with rep/development squad players revealed that all players would still be allowed to play in their current teams with either of the options suggested by Carlingford.

After discussion it was felt that there was no perfect way around rep players in club teams. The present system of 4 players seems to be the best option given the size of some of our clubs and the association.

Further discussion was held regarding the possibility of a change to junior grading allowing new divisions which were 12/13 and 14/15 which would include all teams that had rep players in them. This would of course impact the other divisions in those age groups but might eliminate teams being placed in division 1 because of the number of teams registering in any particular age group.

It was felt that HDNA (either coaching convenor or rep coaches) could support the club coaches of teams where they were clearly not the same standard as the other teams by helping them set goals for each week.

Constitution Review Committee

Report from meeting was distributed prior to this meeting and is copied below.

Constitutional Review Committee Report

As advised at the Council Meeting, the Committee consist of Lyn Burgess (LM), Jennie Thompson (LM), Lisa Robertson (VP), Cate Newman (Treasurer) and Justin Tamsett (Member).

The Committee has met three times and reviewed the current Constitution against other associations' constitution, feedback provided by Lucy Sayers NNSW Policy & Member Protection Manager and the Australian Sports Commission Governance Framework.

The document has been re-drafted and will be provided to Presidents prior to the next meeting for final feedback, prior to including in the NOMs for the AGM. Overall, there has been no substantive changes, rather we have made updates to reflect current practise, for example:

- Updated membership types
- Clarified our objectives in relation to the breadth of competition types that we now offer
- Updated to ensure that we can hold virtual meetings etc

There are three areas that we would seek feedback on:

- (a) The Presidents view on Council Membership and voting rights. Currently each club has two votes, regardless of whether the Club has one team or 40. Is there a view that this should remain or change?*
- (b) Currently, not more than 2 members from one club (or three, with clubs of 13 or more teams) can be on Executive. Achieving compliance with this can now be tricky as members can now be registered with more than one club within the registration system (e.g. umpire for one club and play with another) and non-players often register directly with HDNA etc. We also have a large part of our competition no longer club based (i.e. night competition). We understand the rationale for the rule but would like feedback on the best approach going forward.*
- (c) The Constitution is currently silent on Executive tenure but should be included as per NSW Fair Trading and the Associations Incorporation Act (2009). The ASC Governance frameworks suggests 10 years maximum tenure with a lapse of three years before standing again. We seek feedback on the ASC framework: "The maximum tenure of an Executive is 10 years, with a three year cooling-off before being eligible to stand for Executive Committee in the same role, again."*

As flagged at the Council Meeting, we also propose to begin to move from the current by-laws to a policy-based approach e.g. representative policy, competition policy, night competition policy, umpire policy etc. This should make reading and comprehending policies much easier for all. We propose that certain policies could be amended by Executive e.g. wet weather policy, but other policies would only be amended by Council e.g. representative policy, competition policy. We will move to placing all the by-laws in stand-alone policies, once we have finalised the Constitution. We will continue to use the Presidents & Council meeting as the forum to obtain feedback, prior to any change being proposed at the AGM.

- There were three points which the Committed sought feedback from Presidents :
 - a) Agreed – all clubs to have two votes on Council.
 - b) There was discussion on this point, one suggestion would be to have a maximum % representation on Executive.
 - c) Agreed.
- The Presidents also supported the idea to move to a policy-based approach from the current by-law format.
- Cate will present a draft copy of the Constitution at the next Council meeting in August.

Workforce Planning

Umpires

- There is general concern regarding the retention and burnout of umpires. A number of umpires are doing multiple games/mentoring/playing each Saturday. This is not sustainable.
- There was discussion surrounding umpire retention including the impact of payment and player / spectator behaviour.
- Clubs are looking a growing their team numbers, but they also need to be able to supply enough umpires to cover those teams.
- It was suggested that Clubs put out an EOI at the end of the season for umpires. Hills to do a 'come try day' for umpires at the end of the season. It was felt at registration time, members are focused on forming teams rather than umpiring.

Coaches

- There was discussion around the retention of coaches as well.
- As clubs grow, they also need coaches.
- Lisette has approached Chris Cigana, Coaching Convenor, in how we can support clubs with regards to coaching. We will look at 'train the trainer' type sessions.

Growing the Senior Competition

- NSG and Junior Competitions have grown this year, whilst Seniors remained in line with last year.
- How can we grow Seniors?
 - Look at discount on fees for those junior players who also want to play seniors. Some clubs only charged players one lot of club fees.
 - Look at entity teams in the Winter Competition. Although it was noted that the strength of the Winter Competition is the club structure.
 - Mixed competition
 - Social competition
- It was suggested that Clubs ask senior players what they want in a competition.

Junior Grading

- Nicci reminded clubs of the process of the association and club grading process and make-up of the Junior Grading Committee.
- Nicci asked the clubs to email her via their club secretary with suggestions for process improvements for 2024 and beyond.
- Grading committee will meet to review NSG and U10s and will also review the above feedback.

General Business

- Court upgrade – plans remain unchanged. We will confirm with HSC to commence with Stage 1.
- The Presidents would still like to have three meetings this year.
- Next meeting will be Thursday 20th July at 6.30pm.