

MINUTES

Latrobe Valley Dodgeball League

Date: Sun 8/12/19 | Time: 2pm | Meeting called to order by Mitch Howell

Minutes taken and prepared by Scott McAlpine

In Attendance

Current Committee members: President: Mitch Howell, Vice President: Adam Kemna, Secretary: Scott McAlpine, Treasurer: Joeline Laukens, Social & Fundraising Coordinator: Nekeisha Dillon

Absence: Referee Coordinator: Tegan Svetina

Returning Officer : Bodye Darvill

League Members Present : Benika Scott, Shannon Nikodemski, Ash Brown, Josh Young, Nicholas Abbott, Justin Lay, Bryce Dye, Tarni Robertson, Amber Van Bruegel, Wyatt Dare, Josh Svoboda, Jo Maxwell, Jarred Keddie, Rachael Howell, Cassandra Louise

Agenda items discussed

Welcome to all members from the President to the AGM. Agenda for meeting outlined by Secretary.

EOFY report – Budget is sitting at \$10,015 as of 30/6/19.

Plans for the league moving forwards – To continue to maintain strong and steady growth and promote dodgeball in all its forms, with focus being on LVDL. This is our vision and brand.

Ongoing Stadium Works and its impact (and potential) – There is potential for more growth once we have more playing space available when current building work is finished. Ideas are for an A & B grade of dodgeball (minimum of 7, possibly 8, teams per league to be sustainable) and of a Women's only league. The league is also looking towards purchases of other game equipment and ultimately its own venue.

Opportunity for development into different roles – Concept - The league is seeking an expression of interest from community volunteers to help contribute in any way they feel they can. This might be as a league assistant, referee or general purpose. We are looking for support with various roles and adhoc support positions to assist the dodgeball community at large and the committee. All people have different skills to offer, and the committee is wanting to interact with the dodgeball community to engage with its members to help us grow and sustain the sport and community long term. We aim to help further build and develop member's skills and knowledge for future committee roles or other positions as the league expands in the future. More info to come about this after the Xmas break.

Fundraisers – We are seeking ideas and feedback for any local charities we could support/partner with under the guidance of the Social & Fundraiser committee position.

End of Season Function - The goal is to have 1 per season. The next one is planned be a family friendly daytime event at about Easter time. Likely a BBQ and scavenger hunt for big and small. We welcome ideas and offers of support for preparing for this event.

Committee Benefits – Proposed Idea. That the Committee members (current and once off for past members) can have a dinner function once per season to a cap of max \$50 per head (no alcohol) from the league budget. The purpose behind this is to prevent degradation of mental health/burn out as it is recognized that without a healthy and functioning committee, the league would suffer as whole. It was also proposed that committee members can have free access to end of season functions (historically we have been paying for tickets as well). For context committee members put in an average or around 8-10 hours per week (and even more at certain times of year based upon the different roles and meetings). FYI - This is also why the league is wanting to ask for volunteer league assistants moving forwards to help spread the workload and develop people for future committee roles.

Vote Cast – Vote Affirmed Unanimously by all members present. Committee will receive above benefits (but must keep & present receipts. No Alcohol allowed as part of this benefit.

Removal of Referee Coordinator Position – It is proposed to remove the referee coordinator position now that the league is established and to reallocate the work to capable members of the community to help develop skills, check for propensity and to share the work load.

Vote Cast – Vote Affirmed Unanimously. Position has been dissolved. (Abstained – Adam Kemna due to perceived conflict of interest vote).

The league would like to acknowledge all the hard work performed by Tegan in getting the role of Referee to where it is today. Well done! The League would also like to thank past Secretary Rachael Howell for all her hard work in helping build and establish the league! Hurrah!

GENERAL QUESTIONS AND FEEDBACK

How is a feedback or Complaint item handled? This falls into the domain of the President, Vice President and Secretary to address. Records are kept privately and confidentially. Depending on severity of the issue, this is discussed and action can be taken either as a formal letter or an informal discussion. Only the above 3 committee members have access to the website and feedback. Feedback can be anonymous. It can also be compliments and suggestions for the league, the committee or ideas that you think of that could help support the LVDL vision and brand.

If a complaint is about one of the above three committee members, it is suggested to go to another member to discuss. There is a formal Grievance policy that addressed these roles and processes. Please see a Committee Member or Team Captain for more info if required.

New Player Arrivals –

All that team captains are sent a welcome email with season information & a rule book each season. Captains also have access to all the relevant policies via the captain's group page. It is expected that all captains ensure that their new players are aware of and enforce the rule of expected standards of behavior.

If we get spilt division one day, how would the A and B grade be determined?

This has yet to be fully decided, but early discussions have indicated that this would be decided by a teams perceived strengths, previous location of placement on the ladder, and team request. This would ultimately come down to the committee's decision to prevent top heavy strong teams playing in B grade with the intent to dominate.

Clarification on Head Shots and the Committees Position - Head shots are a recognized part of the game and as such are not against the formal rules of play. The rule book states that "deliberately causing harm (i.e. throwing hard close range at someone's face)" is not allowed. It is expected that if a head shot occurs that the thrower would apologise to the recipient who receives the throw. Throws can go off target, people can duck into a throw or move into it. However, on the other side of this, if the Referee or Game Official believes that a player is deliberately throwing head shots (or any shots that are displaying non sportsmanlike behaviours) with the goal to intimidate, bully or harass other players, this would come under our Harassment Policy and disciplinary measures would be taken, from a warning to a formal disciplinary. This all comes down to the perceived Intent behind the offending player on the day as per the observations of the Referee's and Game Officials. It is their decision, not the players! Abuse of Referees or Game Officials would also be treated as a form of Harassment with disciplinary actions to be taken as needed. Past offenses, patterns and historical behaviours would form part of this discussion and consequences.

Do teams have to "take it easy" on new players and what constitutes a new player?

When a referee asks this of a team, it is a request only, not a directive. However it is very appreciated by the committee to assist in maintaining interest from newer players in our league. If we mercilessly destroy our new players, they will become disillusioned and leave before they get a chance to improve and build an interest in the game. Our aspired growth to a split division would greatly relieve this issue in time.

Rumours or league gossip and harassment –

Players should be aware that the Harassment Policy applies to them at all times, inside and outside of league events in terms of potentials consequences around being able to play and to be a part of the dodgeball community. This is a privilege, not a right. If anyone has any issues with this or any antisocial behaviours we would ask them to talk to a committee member for advice. It is the position of the committee that we want the league to be a fun, friendly and inclusive place. Unsportsmanlike behaviours, harassment or bullying will not be tolerated and can result in eviction/suspension from the league. The league wants to encourage "Above the Line" behaviours. (Go ahead, YouTube it, seriously, it is very informative).

Voting and Nominations –

President- Mitch Howell was nominated by Adam Kemna and seconded by Nekeisha Dillon with no contest and accepted the position.

Vice President- Adam Kemna nominated by Mitch Howell and seconded by Shannon Nikodemski with no contest and accepted this position.

Secretary – Scott McAlpine was nominated by Nekesiha Dillon and seconded by Tarni Robertson with no contest and accepted this position.

Treasurer – Joelene Laukens nominated by Shannon Nikodemski and seconded by Rachel Howell with no contest and accepted this position.

Social & Fundraising Coordinator – Nekeisha Dillon nominated by Tahni Robertson and seconded by Jo Laukens with no contest and accepted this position.

The Newly Voted Committee would like to thank everyone who was able to attend for their support and participation in proceedings. See you all next year!

Budget

Account currently sitting at \$10,015 as of 30/6/19.