

MINUTES

Latrobe Valley Dodgeball League

Date: Sun 7/11/2021 | Time: 12.30pm | Meeting called to order by Mitch Howell

Minutes taken and prepared by Scott McAlpine

In Attendance

Current Committee members: President: Mitch Howell, Vice President: Nekeisha Dillon, Secretary: Scott McAlpine, Treasurer: Adam Kemna, General Committee Member: Damian Anderson

Returning Officer: Jo Laukens

League Members Present: Ash Brown, Rachael Howell, Susie Wangman, Ricky Kemp, Alex Ashman, Wyatt Dare, Shannon Nikodemski, Ruby Callaghan, Jakey Sting Rae, Terry Campbell.

Apologies: Jo Maxwell, Brett Sebire, Brian Dillon, Ash Linahan, Jade Linahan

Agenda items discussed

Introduction - Welcome to all members from the President to the AGM. Agenda for meeting outlined and housekeeping rules for our Covid19 Safe AGM meeting via Google Meetings advised by President. No objections to Jo Laukens as Returning Officer.

EOFY report – Budget is sitting at \$17,212 as of 30/6/20. This report is available for anyone who requests a copy. Points of interest - LVDL also received 2 Victorian State Government grants totalling \$2500 to support us during Covid19.

Plans for the league moving forwards – To continue to maintain steady growth and to meet the needs of the majority of the league and introduce new events. Organising and planning has been difficult due to the challenges presented by changes to operations procedures due to lockdowns and the ongoing pandemic. Since the last AGM, the Sub-Committee has been further established and has been a success so far in helping to manage the leagues operations. Pandemic changes and restrictions have prevented the President from completely stepping back from assisting to manage the leagues week to week operations and duties. The plan was to pass this responsibility more fully to the Sub-Committee. In due course this will still occur as possible. This was to free up the President's (and the Executive Committees) time to undertake other types of work to improve and develop LVDL. Some plans moving forward is to explore running more casual tournament based events/training when pandemic circumstances permit. This includes trialling an under 14 kid's based event/clinics and running more woman's only nights.

Community hub concept/bid – In conjunction with Gippsland Roller Derby and spearheaded by Bodye Darvill, the Executive Committee has been involved in communications with Latrobe City to lodge a bid to get a dedicated shared sporting space. This proposed facility would have dedicated kitchens, kid's areas, spectators seating and full amenities. Currently provisional estimates for netting at the proposed venue have been priced at \$12,000. LVDL Executive Committee will monitor this bid as events progress. It is recognised that limited court access within current Latrobe Leisure venues in competition with other sports has been a key issue prohibiting growth.

Covid19 & its challenges – Regular competition and game play has been restricted and interrupted frequently due to Covid19 and corresponding lockdowns. The ever changing conditions have prevented effective execution of the growth of dodgeball and LVDL being an indoor sport. These ongoing situations have resulted in a season that ended suddenly in a way that no one wanted without regular finals for the second season running. This was not the outcome that anyone wanted and it is recognised that we all lost out because of this. The ongoing pandemic and its associated problems and evolving convoluted workloads due to managing these changes has had a big cost on the Executives Committees overall resilience resulting in recognised higher levels of burn-out from the associated stress.

Female Safety Volunteers – This is a program that now exists to give people the option to approach someone more informally for advice if they feel intimidated to approach the Executive Committee which is predominantly made up of male members. This program is now active and includes Nekeisha Dillon, Rachael Howell, Jo Maxwell and Tegan Svetina. This is in addition to the Executive Committee and is designed to further support the LVDL community. Volunteers don't have the ability to make executive decisions for LVDL, but are designed to act as an intermediary, offering support or a friendly ear for all members. This has been updated to the website. Note – LVDL has to report some things by law if it becomes aware of them (i.e. abuse of a minor).

Proposed adjustment to Best & Fairest, SKILL, Integrity awards – The proposal being presented to members is to change the rules of how these award are assigned. It is proposed that the persons who won the award last season cannot win it again in the next consecutive following season. The votes are still assigned and tallied as per normal each round by Referees and Game Officials (this is important to keep people in the running for the all-star award: which is awarded should a member have the most overall votes across B&F/Integrity or SKILL/Integrity but not be awarded either of the individual awards). If the same person who wins the previous season gets the most votes in the next consecutive season, the award goes to the second next person in line (the ineligible person's votes would not be announced or publicised). They can only win the award again after one full season of ineligibility. The idea is that as a social league, it makes it more conducive to building each other up. The previous winner (if able) will present it to the next winner on a hand over at presentations as a way of having them involved and "passing the torch".

Vote cast – Unanimous by all members. Motion passed.

Referee participation request – LVDL recognises that we need more Referees and Senior Referees. If you are interested or have thought about it, please let us know and we will support you to develop as needed. LVDL needs help to operate, now is a good time to upskill as gameplay resumes to help your community and peers.

Thanks and Acknowledgements – A big thank you to the current Executive Committee and Sub Committee for all their hard work since the last AGM given the challenging operating conditions. There has been lots of challenges and sudden changes keeping us busier than ever.

Open questions & suggestions –

Question from Alex – “Would LVDL consider providing more support for LGBTQI persons? I am aware of persons who would consider playing but have displayed fear and reluctance to engage.”

Response – Yes. The coming season is the first season where there has been an openly entered team that fits this description/representation. This is a good idea. LVDL is open to working with you and your team to develop and help to work out how to best meet these needs in a fair and respectful manner. LVDL would like to reach out to you after the AGM to discuss this further. Alex responded that he would welcome this. Other thoughts proposed was that we could look into events like a pride cup or to run a charity event with a related cause to promote inclusion. We could also simply display a pride flag on the website to display that we are a safe space for the LGBTQI community.

Question from Ricky – “What about awards for LGBTQI persons?”

Response – The LVDL Executive Committee has been discussing and is looking to bring in variations to the MVP medals for finals to incorporate this inclusivity as well as pointing out that the SKILL award is the only major gendered award, all other awards are non-specific.

The focus needs to make sure that the medals are inclusive, but at the same time not hollow or unearned like a participation medal as this would undermine the sense of achievement. This is something to watch moving forwards and ties into the question from Alex.

Trophy presentation video via Facebook upload – Due to technical issues with Google Meets, meeting discussion was paused to allow participants to watch the video presentations for trophies.

Voting and Nominations –

No requests were received for clarification of any executive committee roles and duties before voting.

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

Vice President- Nekeisha Dillon was nominated by Damian Anderson and seconded by Ash Brown with no contest and accepted this position.

Secretary – Scott McAlpine was nominated by Nekeisha Dillon and seconded by Mitch Howell with no contest and accepted this position.

Treasurer – Adam Kemna was nominated by Shannon Nicodemi and seconded by Ruby Callaghan. He declined, relinquishing this position.

Damian Anderson was nominated by Mitch Howell and seconded by Nekeisha Dillon. He accepted this position with no contest.

General Committee Member – Wyatt Dare was nominated by Nekeisha Dillon and seconded by Mitch Howell 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. Thank you to all new position holders for their interest. Thank you to departing treasurer Adam Kemna for all his work and support. Thank you to returning officer Jo Laukens

Meeting Closed