

MINUTES

Latrobe Valley Dodgeball League

Date: Sun 6/10/24 | Time: 4pm | Meeting called to order by Damian Anderson

Minutes taken and prepared by Scott McAlpine

In Attendance

Current Committee members: President: Damian Anderson, Vice President: Shannon Nikodemski, Secretary: Scott McAlpine, Treasurer: Bryce Dye, General Committee Member: Jacob Hunt

Returning Officer: Ben Conway

League Members Present: Ruby Callaghan, Sarina Molinari, Andrew Williams, Terry Campbell, Ricky Kemp, Nathan Nikodemski, Nikita Nicola, Jade Linahan, Ash Brown, Mitch Howell, Tarni Robertson, Jakey Sting Rae, Brianna Callaghan, Nekeisha Dillon, Emily Renwick, Corey Simmons, Ash Linahan, Brendan Greaves, Susie Wangman, Britney Dubber,

Guests: Tegan Svetina, Adam Kemna, Jason Walker, Wyatt Dare

Apologies: Jade Shepley, Vanessa Fairburn, Kayla McKendry, Michelle Campbell

Agenda items discussed

Introduction - Welcome to all members from the President to the AGM for 2024. The agenda for the meeting was provided and housekeeping rules advised. No objections raised to Ben Conway acting as Returning Officer.

EOFY report & Operating Budget – The Budget is sitting at \$17819 as of 30/6/23. This report is available for anyone who requests a copy.

Game Fee Increases – The general consensus was that the game and registrations fee increases were reasonable and were acceptable. The idea was raised for consideration that in the future this could be raised incrementally over the coming years and seasons. This is something that the Executive Committee will need to monitor over the coming 12 months in real time with budgeting.

Social Photo's – The Executive Committee is seeking confirmation that the league was happy for us to keep purchasing professional photography of some games on their behalf from Rachael Howell. This was confirmed by general consensus to be continued if Rachael is willing.

Referee Payments - An idea was proposed to increase the payments for the First Referee to \$15 per game as this position typically carries more responsibility. 2nd Ref and Game Official would remain at \$10. The proposed idea was raised was that this could be attempted as a trial over the coming year to see how this affects ongoing operating budgets with the recent game fee and registration fee changes. This item is to be reviewed next AGM in 2025. The incoming Executive Committee will implement this as a trial.

Head Shots Clarifications – Head shots are part of the game, but should not be used as a way to bully, harass or cause intentional harm to others. Excerpt from the AGM minutes from 2019 has been re-included to clarify.

“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.”

Guidelines Around Feedback - Advice for members – Please be aware that any anonymous feedback being submitted makes it very hard for the Executive Committee to address any real issues. If players have concerns raising items with the Executive Committee, (referred to the Inclusion & Diversity team point) or if this regards serious matters, consider raising the issue with the ADF. The ADF has an incident report form on their website www.dodgeballaustralia.org.au. This should be used for serious issues, not general complaints around gameplay or generalised drama that exists within sporting communities.

A motion was put forward to alter the LVDL website with guidelines around who and how feedback can be put in. Currently the Executive Committee filters out feedback that is not lodged in the spirit of improving the league. The idea was that if there are complaints post game around the gameplay aspects itself, this feedback should only be lodged by the Captain or the person participating as the “acting” captain (if the Captain happens to be absent). This is to stop feedback being repeated, weaponised or to prevent excessive or superfluous material for consideration.

Motion cast – “The Feedback form on the LVDL website to state that any gameplay related feedback (which is issues with the other team or referee's) is to go through and be lodged by the Captain (or acting Captain) only for the game in question”

The motion was passed unanimously. This is to be implemented by the incoming Executive Committee.

Inclusion & Diversity Team (Non Committee Support Persons) – The idea in development is to have a small collective of diverse persons who can act as a representatives or assistants to act as a go between within the league and Executive Committee. It is recognised that the league is made up of many persons with different backgrounds, genders, sexual orientations, neurodivergencies and ethnical diversities, where their needs or challenges may not be well represented or understood by any existing Executive Committee. This is something the Executive Committee has been exploring. We need further assistance from the league’s members as a whole to implement.

If you have any interest in a position like this or have ideas about its implementation, please reach out to the incoming Executive Committee to discuss. The general consensus was that this was a good idea and it should be pursued. This would also need to be more visible (eg - website) and apparent and would need to have clearly defined roles and limitations. This would be expected to be a group of 5 members, depending on interest.

Community Hub Project Updates – Mitch Howell has confirmed the following since the prior AGM.

Plans went out to tender early in the year. It was advised that the proposed building is above budget. This resulted in working with the council to identify potential cost saving options that include:-

- Reduction on cladding and design elements such as curved windows & fancy aesthetics. This will be a balance as the local council will not be inclined to build a “shed” and call it a sporting hub.
- Potential reduction or merger of meeting & kids rooms.
- Roof height is unlikely to be reduced from 5.5 metres at roof peak.
- Council as seeking to secure additional funding. They are aware of areas for compromise vs essential requirements for function.
- Due to this, it is likely that LVDL will have to self-fund a netting system. LVDL could apply and seek assistance financially for a Council Capitol work grants & potentially Vic sports grants. The estimated cost of a sliding net system is \$60-\$70K. Other interim options could be used like shaggers to isolate each court from the other and different coloured balls to differentiate different games.

These options have been sent back to the architect and we are currently awaiting revised plans to then go back to tender. The project is expected to be delayed. If the project cannot be brought under budget, it is possible that the original state funding could expire. This is not something local council wants to see happen. Further updates are not likely until later this year.

ADF updates – Mitch Howell has advised of the following.

The ADF AGM was last weekend. Incoming directors are:-

- Reece Strong as President
- Mat Reinhardt as Vice President
- Mitch Howell as Secretary
- Chris Leung Chee Hang as Treasurer
- Monique Sutton as Broad Member

The ADF board has been working on splitting directors off from operational roles and is creating a new organisational structure that includes a range of operational managers to manage workloads. Recruitment has been completed and announcements will occur over the coming weeks in regards to this. This is relevant to LVDL as some of the roles would allow for better focus with supporting affiliates. This also frees up board members to focus on the bigger strategic direction for Dodgeball in Australia.

The ADF is also working with current affiliates on updating the structure for membership fees. Future plans are to expand how the ADF supports affiliates and grows dodgeball, as well as improving operating budgets. This is a work in progress, but may potentially result in an increase in membership fees for LVDL in the future. The benefits of this may/will include

- National Insurance
- Increased Social Media & advertising support to drive localised memberships.
- Access to ADF discounts on ball purchases
- Discounts with AKU & Kadapult
- Localised national team training sessions

Outcomes over the last 12 months (summary) –

- Teachers Games were held locally for the second time. People who attended in the right spirit of the sport had a lot more fun this year due to better management with dual referees. Thanks to Ash Linahan with this suggestion from the prior year's event to allow better delivery.
- We have made changes to the minimum age of play parental consent form document that allows for young people to more easily transition based upon age.
- Privacy Statement – This is a document for the Executive Committee, Sub Committee or anyone who has or needs access to sensitive information to sign to acknowledge the importance of confidentiality, and of limits to information disclosure with basic guidelines.
- Rules updates – This includes introducing sudden death at half time, trialling G.O's to be able to call hits, and of some more general rule clarifications. Please see the rule book for full details.
- League Expansion – We have 11 teams this season. Limiting factors to further growth is space and referees. This coming season will break into two divisions at the midway point into a weighted draw due to the level of interest.

Open Questions & Suggestions – No extra items raised.

Thanks and Acknowledgements –

A big thank you to the current Executive Committee and Sub Committee for all their hard work since the last AGM. Your hard work has been appreciated. Also to referee's and league assistants who assist.

Voting and Nominations –

No requests were received for clarification of any Executive Committee roles and duties before voting. The current Executive Committee is now dissolved and Returning Officer Ben Conway commenced the nomination process.

President - Damian Anderson was nominated by Ash Brown and seconded by Tarni Robertson with no contest and accepted the position.

Vice President - Shannon Nikodemski was nominated by Andrew Williams and seconded by Mitch Howell with no contest and accepted this position.

Secretary - Scott McAlpine was nominated by Andrew Williams and seconded by Ash Brown with no contest and accepted this position.

Treasurer – Bryce Dye was nominated by Damian Anderson. Bryce Dye has declined the position. Jacob Hunt was nominated by Scott McAlpine and seconded by Andrew Williams with and accepted this position.

General Committee Member – Andrew Williams was nominated by Scott McAlpine and seconded by Jacob Hunt with no contest and accepted this position.

The New Committee would like to thank everyone for attending and offering their support and participation in the 2024 AGM proceedings. Thank you to all new position holders for their interest and engagement. Thank you to Returning Officer Ben Conway for your assistance.

Meeting Closed.