

UWRA Meeting

Sydney 30 October 2015

Attendees

Club Reps: Bobby Chen (Canberra), Briana Conrad (UNSW), Wayne Freeman (Unidive Gauls), Nathalie Hartman (Victoria Seadragons), Sebastien Robin (UWR Tasmania), Charlotte Jordans (Adelaide White Pointers).

Other Committee Members: Ricardo Pulido (Chief Referee), Celine Steinfeld (Media).

Apologies: Katelyn ten Bensel (Perth)

Agenda

- I. Roles and responsibilities of Chair & other committee positions (and selection process)
- II. AUF affiliation
- III. Selection process for a National Team
- IV. National Championships

I. Roles and Responsibilities

1. The role and responsibilities of the UWRA Committee, the Chair and other committee positions will be as detailed in Australian Sports Commission's *Committee Management* guide.
https://secure.ausport.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0004/184783/Club_CmteeMgt.pdf (ISBN 1 74013 030 8)
2. The committee voted in favour (5-1) of a committee structure that allows for committee positions to be open to persons other than Club Reps (referred to as 'Delegates' in the by-laws). Other issues agreed on without voting:
 - a. Clarified that only Delegates will get to vote (i.e. committee position holders are not entitled to a vote if they are not a Club Rep)
 - b. Preferred practice is for committee positions to be filled by Delegates
 - c. However if the committee decides to extend eligibility to non-Delegates, then nominations should be opened to everyone in the UWR community
 - d. The Chair is the only position that must be filled by a Delegate
 - e. Other standing positions are - Chief Referee, Treasurer, Secretary
3. Bobby will step down as Chair as soon as a process for selecting the new Chair is resolved

II. AUF Affiliation

A wide-ranging discussion took place about the opportunities and challenges of maintaining AUF affiliation. Some of the points acknowledged were:

1. Half the cost of AUF membership is refunded back to clubs and the UWRA (50:50 split between the two, i.e 25% of the membership cost to each)
2. AUF membership provides: Public liability insurance, personal injury insurance (up to \$1500 per claim), legitimacy for the sport, ability to compete in CMAS comps (World Championships and European Championships) advice and assistance on governance related issues
3. Many UWR clubs are affiliated with universities (already have insurance and existing uni sports club fees to pay)
4. What are the benefits of AUF Affiliation for social (non-competitive) players?
5. Communications with AUF so far has indicated that AUF Affiliation requires that all the players in an affiliated club become members (i.e. not just persons interested in playing at CMAS comps)

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It was resolved that further research and discussions with the AUF will need to take place before the committee can make a decision on continuing AUF affiliation.

Sebastien Robin volunteered to progress this with Graham Henderson (AUF) and report back to the committee.

Sebastien will also keep Wayne Freeman informed of discussions with Graham because of potential implications with the Queensland arm of the AUF (AUFQ).

III. National Team Selection

1. The Pan Pacific tournament in May will be the main opportunity in 2016 to compete as a national team, given Singapore and NZ attendance.
2. Committee resolved that a training camp in Adelaide in February would be a good opportunity to train/select for the national team. Charlotte to confirm date and venue.
3. Process for selection:
 - a. Selection panel will consist of the Head Coach for the NT, one male selector and one female selector.
 - b. The ultimate decision will be made by the Head Coach in consultation with the other two members of the selection committee.
 - c. Anyone in the UWR community will be able to apply to be on the selection panel. The criteria for expressions of interest to be on the selection panel will be announced by the committee. The appointment will be made by the committee upon receiving the EOIs.
 - d. A selector may also be a candidate for the NT, but all else being equal, selectors who are not trying out for the NT will be preferred.
 - e. The selection criteria to be a player on the NT will also be announced by the committee shortly.

IV. National Championships

1. A league structure for deciding the National Championships will be deferred until underwater rugby is further developed in Australia
2. Until then, the National Championships should be a single tournament, held every year in a different city.
3. Nationals must be organised to consistently a high standard in order to earn recognition of its status as the premier tournament in Australia, no matter where it is held
4. The committee should play an active role in managing the organisation of the Nationals in cooperation with the hosting city
5. Nationals should have its own branding, and be differentiated from other established tournaments (e.g. nODEX, Pan Pacific, Melbourne Cup)
6. A minimum of 6 months advance notice should be given for each Nationals being organised

Ricardo offered to draft some minimum standards for the National Championships to circulate to the committee.

Nationals for 2016 will be held in Melbourne circa August/September.

FOR ACTION

Bobby:

- Circulate copy of the UWRA By-Laws to the committee
- Confirm process for election of the new Chair and other positions with the committee
- Initiate election of a new Chair and other positions

Sebastien:

- Consult with AUF on benefits and challenges of affiliation and report back to the committee
- Keep Wayne closely informed so he can keep AUFQ in the loop

Wayne:

- Keep AUFQ in the loop regarding affiliation matters discussed between Seb and AUF

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Ricardo:

- Draft and circulate minimum standards for organising Nationals (completed)
- Draft and circulate National team selection criteria for 2016

Charlotte:

- Confirm venue and timing for February training camp in Adelaide

Nathalie:

- Confirm venue and timing for Nationals in August/September

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Unallocated:

- Draft and circulate (to the committee) selection criteria for NT Selection Panel