

MEETING OF NEW ZEALAND FOOTBALL REFEREES' COMMITTEE (NZFRC)

Sunday 16th March 2008
Hotel Grand Chancellor, Mangere, Auckland

Present: NZFRC
Paul Smith, Stephen Budai, Trevor McCracken, Rod Pelosi, (Chairman), Chris Harrison, Wayne Stapley, Linda Ritchie & Ken Wallace (NZF). Stephen Fletcher was present as an observer as he will be the new delegate from US1.

The Chairman opened the meeting at 9:05 and welcomed everyone, especially Chris Harrison who was attending his first meeting and Stephen Fletcher.

The NZFRC stood in memory of Alexandria MacLennan (RDO Auckland), David Vince (Timaru) and Ian Walker (Wellington).

1.0 APOLOGIES

Nil.

2.0 CONFIRMATION OF COMMITTEE MINUTES OF 17TH NOVEMBER 2007

The minutes of 17th November 2007 were confirmed.

Moved: Stapley

Second: Ritchie

Carried

3.0 MATTERS ARISING FROM COMMITTEE MINUTES

The generic registration form developed by WS I being used by Feds 1, 4, 5, 6, 7.

There has been interest in Unit Standard 20674 but, according to Neil Haines, no confirmed sales as yet.

4.0 FEDERATION REPORTS

Written reports on activity in all Federations had been distributed prior to the meeting. Representatives added brief comments.

Paul Smith gave an update on the new United Soccer 1 Federation-only men's competition and answered questions on the NZCT.

Stephen Budai answered questions and advised that 70% of 2007 referees had registered for 2008 in Auckland. Those who had not done so were being contacted to ascertain their plans. The NZCT strategy would be finalised once the new RDO had begun work.

Trevor McCracken informed the meeting that Trevor Willson, the new RDO, was targeting schools for recruitment initially in the Waikato.

Chris Harrison thanked Dave Branton for the work he had carried out on behalf of Capital while serving as their delegate and added to his report.

Wayne Stapley noted that the first coaching session for Christchurch referees used a pre-season game. Mainland is developing a competency booklet for new referees.

Linda Ritchie advised that 90% of 2007 referees had registered for 2008 in SoccerSouth. The new version of the Referees Committee will be meeting shortly. There had been a substantial increase in the match expenses.

Rod Pelosi noted an increase in the number of referees in Central.

ACTION

- 1. WS to send the competency booklet to the NZFRC**

5.0 STRATEGIC PLANNING

A SWOT Analysis was undertaken. This is to be reviewed annually at the November meeting (see attachment).

6.0 ASSESSMENT OF PERFORMANCE

- (i) Assessing Assessors

Rod Pelosi noted that this was a concern and asked how this could be done.

A copy of reports should go to a person or group (e.g. L. 2 Inspectors, AP, RDO) for review.

Moved: Pelosi

Second: McCracken

Carried

- (ii) Accredited Inspectors

Refereeing is a life-long development and learning process. The NZFRC noted that some inspectors did not attend coaching sessions and had declined to attend seminars and courses.

Only those Inspectors who are registered and who have been re-accredited shall be appointed to games.

Moved: Smith

Second: Budai

Carried

- (iii) Inspectors are not to assess and rate referees who are at the same level.

- (iv) Paul Smith asked where a Level 2 Inspector fits with the Chairperson of Examiners.

Level 2 Inspectors shall be automatically accredited as Chairperson of Examiners.

Moved: Smith

Second: Harrison

Carried

- (v) Trevor McCracken led a discussion on the pre-requisites for the L. 2 Inspectors Course.

Candidates for the Level 2 Inspectors Course shall have inspected a minimum of 10 games on at least Federation Division 1 level for 1 season.

Moved: Budai

Second: Ritchie

Carried

- (vi) Trevor McCracken withdrew the nomination of Grant Webber for Chairperson of Examiners.

Campbell Howlett be accredited as Chairperson of Examiners

Moved: McCracken
Second: Smith

Carried

ACTION

1. **CH to send a copy of the Capital Referee Committee rules to LR**

7.0 NZF FINANCES & REFEREE DEVELOPMENT

Ken Wallace advised that NZF was proposing to spend nil on referee development in 2008; a drop of \$160K from 2007 according to the website. The NZFRC considered the paper previously distributed on NZF administration costs.

For 2008 the NZF administration fee for Introductory and Level 1 Courses will be \$10.00, Level 2 Referees \$15.00.

Moved: Smith
Second: Ritchie

Carried

Stapley asked for his vote to be recorded against the motion

ACTION

A letter is to be sent to the NZF Board registering the considerable and grave concern of the NZFRC at the funding situation and its implications for 2008 and beyond.

Moved: Ritchie
Second: Harrison

Carried

8.0 REFEREE DEVELOPMENT OFFICERS

Most RDOs have KPIs relevant to the NZCT funding but there has been little communication with Federation Referees Committees, given that RDOs are an employee of the Federation and report to the CEO. It was noted that there has been some difficulty finding persons who have the necessary presentation skills, knowledge of refereeing and the time and ability to go into schools to follow up the NZCT funding.

9.0 RECRUITMENT

- (i) Ken Wallace distributed the Referee Course results to date.
- (ii) The NZF 2008 Recruitment & Retention document was discussed and amendments made.

Referees be required to attend a coaching seminar every 2 years to sit a test on the Laws of the Game

Moved: McCracken
Second: Harrison

Carried

ACTION

1. **Federations to advise targets for Level 1 Assistant Referee Course by Easter.**
2. **KW to develop a referee accreditation test**

10.0 RETENTION

- (i) Mentors & Mentees programmes were discussed.
- (ii) Ken Wallace distributed the targets and performance to date of Inspector Accreditation Courses.
- (iii) Level 1 Course for Assistant Referees

Paul Smith evaluated the first Level 1 Course for Assistant Referees. This is a basic course so Federations need to consider participants carefully.

ACTION

1. ***Federations to supply number of mentors and mentees for 2008 by the end of May***

11.0 ELITE & EMERGING REFEREES COURSE

A letter had been received from the Minister for Sport congratulating the NZFRC on the awarding of a Prime Minister's Officials Scholarship.

The proposed visit of an overseas instructor was discussed. Wayne Stapley distributed the draft budget for Mainland. All Federations expressed an interest in hosting. The costs of the Elite Course (weekend) and domestic travel will be equalised. The visit will be instructional and beneficial for referee development.

ACTION

1. ***AP to select participants***
2. ***KW to develop budget***
3. ***Letter of invitation to be sent***

12.0 COACHING RESOURCES

Rod Pelosi demonstrated the Pro Zone Referee Academy.
The following orders were made at \$100.00.

Fed 1	1
Fed 2	3
Fed 3	1
Fed 5	2
Fed 6	2
Fed 7	1

13.0 NATIONAL COMPETITIONS

- (i) RDA 2.
Ken Wallace expressed concern at the quality of some of the nominations.
- (ii) National Youth League (NYL)
The NZFRC was concerned at the situation regarding referee travel for the NYL and considered the late notification regarding the cancellation was completely unacceptable.

Referee travel should be budgeted as part of the cost of the competition. If this is unable to be done then the competition is unaffordable and should not proceed.

Moved: Ritchie
Second: Stapley

Carried

- (iii) There were a number of complaints from NYL referees regarding the late changes to appointments, venues, kick off times (e.g. 4:15 advice for a change from 6:30 to 6:00 kick off) and facilities (changing in public toilets).
- (iv) RDA 3
Ken Wallace communicated the current situation. The tournament has expanded to 32 teams creating many opportunities for referee development. The NZFRC congratulated Mike Kernaghan for his negotiation with the Secondary Schools Association.

Participants shall be charged \$500.00

Moved: Smith
Second: Stapley

Carried

ACTION

1. ***Nominations to the AP by April 4***
2. ***Invitations to be sent to participants May 1 following confirmation of costs***

S. Fletcher excused himself from the meeting.

14.0 U17 WOMEN'S WORLD CUP

Ken Wallace distributed the job descriptions for the volunteer positions of Referee Manager and Referee Co-ordinators for the U17 Women's World Cup.

15.0 GENERAL BUSINESS

- (i) FA International Course for Instructors
All applicants must be advised to NZF who have to apply to the FA by 31 May 2008.
- (ii) Referee transfers
Paul Smith raised the issue of referee transfers.
Requests are to be actioned within 14 days.
Ken Wallace distributed a draft referee transfer form for consideration. The form was approved with amendments

ACTION

KW to place the revised form on the website.

- (iii) Level 2 Inspectors Course
Ken Wallace gave feedback on the L.2 Course held recently in Auckland.
- (iv) 2008 RDP
Ken Wallace distributed the 2008 RDP with covering documentation.

ACTION

3. ***NZF to invoice Federations for the material***
4. ***NZF to send the Federation master copy***

- (v) FIFA Roadshow
The NZFRC feedback on the FIFA Roadshow was mixed. The work on the pitch was of good quality. The presentations were well received by football coaches but were of very little value for referees.
- (vi) 2008 September 1 Survey
No feedback was received on the survey form.
- (vii) Ken Wallace handed the 2008 FIFA Badge to the representatives of Feds 3 & 7
- (viii) The role and function of Federation Boards was discussed. A Board member has disclosed confidential information which has adversely affected the employment of a RDO. The process was advised and objective D of NZF Regulation 14 was noted.
- (ix) Ken Wallace distributed the 2008 Contacts for the NZFRC.

- (x) Linda Ritchie asked about the congratulatory letter received by those who have passed the Level 2 Course. The next step is to pass the fitness test then the field test. The next level of accreditation is the Level 3 Referees Course.

ACTION

1. KW to amend the letter

- (xi) Paul Smith asked when the Level 3 Course will be offered. Ken Wallace replied that it is subject to finance but could possibly be offered as part of the NZFC pre-season seminar.

ACTION

1. KW to prepare a budget for 20 persons.

- (xii) The NZFC was concerned at comments that questioned the integrity of referees on the NZF website. This website is controlled by NZF and is seen as official. Comments that have breached the Code of Conduct have resulted in action.
- (xiii) Wayne Stapley asked what happens if the RDO is absent when decisions need to be made. NZF needs to co-ordinate activity and ensure that planned activity continues.
- (xiv) Chris Harrison asked if Federation Referee Coaching Convenors are appointed by the Federation. Fed. 3 does but in US1 the RDO sets the programme in conjunction with the Referee Action Group. In Fed. 7 the Work Group will put the programme together for the following year. In Fed. 6 the RDO is the Referee Coach.
- (xv) Chris Harrison enquired who is authorised to take fitness tests. This is a decision for each referee centre but usually responsible, non-active referees take this activity.
- (xvi) Rod Pelosi informed the meeting of a potential exchange with Brisbane referees. Contact RP for further information. Participants will need to seek NZF permission to travel.
- (xvii) Paul Smith thanked the NZFRC for their efforts and energy. He enjoyed being involved in the development of policy and wished them well in their future deliberations.
- (xviii) The next scheduled meeting is Sunday June 1.
- (xix) The AP representative for Federations 1, 2 & 3 is due for replacement this year.
- (xx) Rod Pelosi handed out material on the following:
- Warming Up
 - Assessor accountability
 - Fitness Test Preparation
 - The International FA Board Agenda

16.0 The Chairman thanked Paul Smith for his valued contributions. He expressed his appreciation to those present for their work and closed the meeting at 4:10.