

**REFEREE COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
 Monday 31st July 2023 - 6.00pm (To be approved)

Agenda Item		Agenda Topic	Action Required
5:59pm	1.0 1.1 1.2	<p><b>OPENING AND PRELIMINARIES</b></p> <p><b>Present:</b> Dani Francis (DF), Mitchell Collins-Vera (MC), Jose Martinez (JM), Oliver Guazzelli (OG), Will Dundas (WD), and Sam Stewart (SS) – Online.</p> <p><b>Apologies:</b> Karen Wickham (KW), and Renae Harvey (RH).</p> <p>It was noted that Sam Shillington was considering attending the November meeting and it was encouraged for members to find additional members to join this committee.</p>	
6:00	2.0 2.1 2.2	<p><b>MEETING NOTES FOR APPROVAL</b></p> <p>Confirmation of Meeting Notes</p> <p>The Meeting notes from the 27th of February 2023 meeting were accepted by WD and seconded by DF as a true reflection of the meeting.</p> <p>Actions of the previous meeting</p> <p>There were no actions from previous meetings that required reviewing.</p>	
6:01	3.0 3.1	<p><b>VWA &amp; VA UPDATES</b></p> <p>MC noted that the Competition Coordinator role was vacant effective immediately the Financial Accountant role would be vacant in 2 weeks' time. The process to find replacements has been started, alongside with the Diversity and Inclusion role being advertised once again. Jess Grigio has also stepped up to be the permanent Regional Development Coordinator.</p> <p>MC shared that the board has decided to not meet during August, as they are aware it is a very busy time for the office.</p> <p>This Committee thanks Greg Hunt for his time in VWA and appreciates the commitment he had when being part of this committee.</p>	

6:07	3.2	<p>JM noted that VA Accreditations and renewal prices have increased from \$49.50 to \$55 effective July 1<sup>st</sup> 2023. This was done so that the State Associations receive 50% of the profit.</p> <p>It was noted by OG that some links for Referee Accreditations on RevSport show documents for Coaching, JM will look into it and amend it.</p> <p>DF shared that referees have to pay a fee to VA to cover traveling with a team for international competition. It was mentioned that this was odd, as it is understood that every team must provide a referee and the financial cost should not rely on the referees themselves. DF would talk to Sam Delany, now a member of VARC, to see if anything can be done.</p> <p>MC shared that with VA's new Participation Charter, the LMS will change. RevSport will remain as the hub for accreditations, but the online course will migrate from LearnDash to the AIS platform. This is meant to integrate usernames and have a single login.</p>	<p>JM</p> <p>DF</p>
6:14	<p>4.0</p> <p>4.1</p> <p>4.2</p>	<p><b>FOLLOW UP ACTIONS FROM LAST MEETING</b></p> <p>As discussed in 1.2, Sam Shillington is interested in attending the meeting in November and everyone will be in the lookout for new potential members.</p> <p>There is a need to be clear about measurements and colours of uniform details (such as numbers). Some uniforms are not compliant to the FIVB standard. The aim is to enforce the FIVB standard to the higher divisions, mainly SL and SLR. Potentially, teams that have non-compliant uniforms will be let known prior to WAVL 2024 that their uniforms need to be amended to fit the standard. OG offered to write a PDF with the uniform specifications for WAVL 2024</p> <p>As it was a similar topic, point 5.4 – Uniforms for Divisions was covered at this point:</p> <p>There was a consensus that the parameters for SL and SLR should be stricter than for divisions. SL and SLR are seen as 'elite' leagues and should be compliant to standard, while divisions can be laxer with the rulings as</p>	<p>All</p> <p>OG</p>

6:30	4.3	<p>to promote participation. This was mainly regarding the shorts/bottom part of the women's divisions' uniform.</p> <p>It was agreed that there needs to be some consistency across players on a team but that the league needs to be move ahead with the times and cater for diversity and personal preference. As an idea, division teams could wear team shorts on top of pants or skins for divisions without any prior notice to VWA or the league's officers. Shorts could be normal shorts or bike shorts. The changing uniform options for beach volleyball players was an example that proves that this is a successful tactic.</p> <p>For any player wanting to wear something different than their teammates in SL and SLR an exemption form would need to be filled up. If this does go ahead, there needs to be a mechanism to check for exemptions and establish which parameters would be considered and a guideline for people making an exemption request to have them submit the request with enough time before a match/the start of the season.</p>	
	4.3	<p>JM recalled that the online referee request form had been finished and shared with Pathways, but it did not get shared past that. It is potentially a good mechanism and should be included in next year's WAVL handbook. JM noted that he is really happy with Referee-Coach group, as they have been doing their roles correctly and have taken some responsibility from the higher-level referees. It was also noted that as per WD's request, a list of Referee-Coaches and Assessors is now provided in the participant pack at Level 2 Referee Courses.</p>	
	4.4	<p>There was a recap of the online Level 2 Referee Course that WD delivered. WD and JM had already spoken about the issues and potential solutions. The main issue was login into the VWA account for the teleconference.</p> <p>DF said that she is willing to travel around and deliver more workshops, as she noted that the one she delivered in Albany was well received.</p>	

		<p>MC shared an example of how Gymnastics WA plan and deliver club-run courses and proposed a shift on how it is done now and an online form where clubs can see the requirements and submit a course request.</p> <p>JM shared that there is a request from a club to deliver an online course early September in case anyone was keen to do it.</p>	<p>JM</p> <p>ALL</p>
6:38	5.0 5.1	<p><b>BUSINESS FOR DISCUSSION</b></p> <p>There was a consensus that there was no need for making videos or sessions for skills such as scoring. The referees said that as volunteers, they prefer using quality materials that already exist versus creating extra material of a topic or skill that has already been successfully covered by someone else. It was mentioned that refereeing is a national activity and VA's material, such as VA's Scoresheet Instructions (on our website) should be sufficient.</p> <p>NSW's Volleyball Referees Association was noted as being their own entity with their own resources. They have their own YouTube channel with a couple of useful videos that include a scoring workshop. Volleyball New Zealand's YouTube was another channel that they indicated contained useful resources already online.</p> <p>After having to cancel the Referee Seminar series, the plan is to not schedule sessions like this for next year, but the referees are happy to deliver any sort of sessions if there is enough demand or if a club asks for one (such as the Albany Workshop).</p>	
6:42	5.3	<p>There was a consensus that as established in the handbook's rules and regulations, teams, especially in the divisions, are aware of refereeing duty expectations from before the season starts. As of now, any qualified referee can officiate any game if so they wish. Some referees are already officiating games outside of their duty times to complete practice hours for their accreditation and as the means to get some extra income.</p> <p>There was a discussion on the idea to pay Associate Referees more than 5 dollars to incentivize top referees. JM shared the model used in WAVJL, where Associates are paid an honorarium after refereeing a certain number of games.</p>	

6:52	5.4	<p>Referees mentioned how the potential transition of State League from Sunday to Saturday would free neutral officials and they would be available to both officiate the higher leveled games and be around for division matches on Sunday. Saturday matches can also be used to develop serious potential referees through officiating higher-level games on a day when they are not playing games themselves. This would be a good mechanism to train and prepare officials that are aiming to attend national events.</p> <p>The aim is to eventually have a higher number of pre-assigned referees for matches, with priority given to the higher levels down.</p> <p>WD and DF also mentioned that clubs associating and communicating directly to qualified officials works. It was shared how Reds Volleyball Club contacts them directly to officiate home rounds and other various games. Clubs are also expected to have a certain number of Level 2 Referees, so there are already alternative refereeing options within their own structure.</p> <p>OG mentioned that most TDs in WAVL this year are the higher-level referees that could provide feedback and assistance to training referees and duty teams. He said that to be available to assist and guide duty teams, there needs to be a separation of the venue manager and the chief referee positions. The venue manager role is very time consuming with problems and situations happening unannounced, so engaging with the community is not possible if positions remain as is.</p> <p>OG also said that with an ever-growing number of teams and venues there is the problem of finding suitable and prepared TDs. There have been some situations this year that have not been addressed properly. With the current structure, he must remain in Loftus but being able to float around venues and make sure alternative venue TDs are doing they role correctly would be very beneficial. There should be an open call for TDs, especially from non-volleyballers.</p> <p>It was mentioned that checking, correcting, and inputting scoresheets was very time consuming when there are about 75 games per weekend. There was an idea shared to get one person to them all on Mondays and possibly get a 'WAVL Officer' as a 1 day per week role. DF said she would be interested in doing so.</p>	
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	<p>MC was going to see if the budget allowed for the WAVL officer and the separation of the Venue Coordinator and Tournament Director/Chief Referee positions.</p> <p>There was a long discussion covering many aspects of home rounds. The first issue was the integrity of scoresheets. One of the biggest issues is the integrity of the MVP points and the discussion progressed towards thinking of better ways for the voting to occur. Mainly, a lot of the SL issues would be resolved by having games on Saturdays and prioritizing neutral top referees. With more actual refs on stands, the bias would be expected to decrease. The priority would be to clean up the top divisions as it would be too hard to police the lower grades.</p> <p>Different iterations of coaches voting for the MVPs were discussed. It was noted that in some cases, home round duties were being covered by a different gender with a big age/division gap. This is a problem as volleyball knowledge, decision making, and integrity can be compromised when younger girls are put to referee a higher division men's team. Now that home games are being more and more prevalent, there needs to be a section in the handbook and the rules and regulations of what it is expected, who is allowed to duty who, and what protocols and regulations need to be followed and the establishment of penalties if these are not met.</p> <p>It was also questioned the integrity of club presidents being the TD on home rounds. There have been some cases where protocols and regulations have not been followed accordingly with no consequence or penalization. There needs to be a compliance document for TDs with things that need to be covered and an integrity statement that needs to be followed.</p> <p>Regarding referee sanctions during games, it was mentioned that sanctions are covered in the Level 2 Referee Course. Normal sanctions happen constantly, but MC pointed out that a serious incident had not happened since the mid-90s. The handbook needs to be amended to indicate the consequences and sanctions after the on-court incident.</p>	<p>MC</p> <p>MC</p>
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7:34	5.5	<p>It was once again mentioned that assessments will not occur when referees are not officiating under the correct circumstances. This is mainly when there is no referee stand or with no additional referees. OG said that there needs to be an official Referee Delegate apart from the venue TDs to be able to hover around the venues and assist with refereeing and provide feedback and guidance to officials needing some help. It was mentioned that the quality of TDs sometimes is subpar and there is no one checking around venues making sure that they are handling situations accordingly. It is not only making sure that they are doing their job correctly, but also holding accountability if any negligent act occurs.</p> <p>It was mentioned that WAVJL has become too big and there needs to be more mechanisms in place to ensure its integrity and its proper management. The Referee Committee believes that a Technical Committee is needed for WAVJL, alongside a chief referee separate to the TDs.</p> <p>WD noted that for the integrity of the competition, Schools Cup needs a chief referee. This competition has survived with duties and some school-aged referee volunteers from schools such as Rossmoyne but there is no real guidance from a higher leveled and experienced referee.</p>	
7:38	5.6	<p>Everything relating to WAVL was previously discussed and the focus was on AVSL, which was going to start in less than two weeks. As Chief Referee, DF said she would send the list of the referees for all three rounds. It was also noted that on VA was hosting an online meeting with the TDs from all over Australia to cover key things for game day. It was said to make sure that there are no WAVL home rounds during AVSL Saturdays, as all the senior referees will be at AVSL. MC said that no new home rounds were being accepted at this point, so it should not be a problem.</p> <p>MC ran through the AVSL run sheet and protocols with the members of the committee.</p> <p>DF asked if Jordan Fancote could contact the selected referees for AYVC asking If they were interested and available in joining the senior referees on AVSL days for mentoring and exposure to higher-level volleyball in preparation for the Championships.</p>	<p><b>DF</b></p> <p><b>JM</b></p>

8:11	5.7	<p>JM went through the proposed calendar dates for courses, workshops, and meetings for 2024. It was decided that the official VWA Level 2 Courses would be 4 down from 5 in 2023. This is less commitment to our presenters and because of the presenter feedback indicating that courses run better when more participants attend. This does not mean that we will not hold more courses, as Club-Run courses are still an option and we can add more courses on the go if the demand requires it.</p> <p>The three meeting dates were kept around the same time as this year. The referee workshop was decided to take place on the second WAVL Saturday for divisions. The reasoning was that games do not happen on a Saturday so players would be free to attend. Also, most teams would have done duty during the first week and realize that they need some extra help and guidance to do it correctly for the rest of the season.</p>	
	5.8	<p>Following all the discussions, OG pointed out that the Rules and Regulations for WAVL need to be thoroughly analyzed and updated for next year. He was going to read through them update the rest of the committee on what he deems like needing amendment.</p> <p>This includes analyzing what is said on hosting a home round to add that for next year. There needs to be some sort of penalization for not following compliance.</p> <p>There was also a comment that on having on-ground inspections of venues before approving are imperative. This is to ensure that they are suitable for the competition and division that will be playing there.</p> <p>There was a brief discussion on the role of the Development Player. It was agreed that there are too many at this stage and that not every team needs a DP. It was also agreed that most of the time the player assigned as DP is not really being developed but used to cover and fill in for missing players. Potentially DP allocations could decrease and players should be nominated with more information than just showing the fulfillment of the age and longevity on the league rules.</p>	OG



	6.0	<b>WA STRATEGIC PLAN AND PLANNING</b> There were no points discussed.	
	7.0	<b>MEETING EVALUATION</b> A fantastic meeting with many learnings from WAVL 2023 that will help the running of future competitions, referee development and the organization of WAVL 2024.	
8:11pm	8.0	<b>NEXT MEETING AND CLOSURE</b> The next meeting is scheduled for Monday the 6 <sup>th</sup> of November, 2023 at 6pm in the VWA offices.	