



## **Fencing Victoria Advisory Council Meeting**

**Date and time:** Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2019; 7:00pm, State Fencing Centre Nth Melbourne.

**Apologies:** Lili Pan (Uni Melb FC) Pieter Leeuwenburgh (VFA), Helen Smith (Dragons FC)

**Attending:** Cathi Walker (Pres., Whitehorse), Harry Huang (Tizona), David Hubbard (SFA), Matthew White (LaTrobe FC), Monika Simon (MFC) Michelle Bolwell, (MFC) Jenny Shaw (Whitehorse), Kayt Spano (Pres. FV), Graeme Orrman (Director compliance & club liaison FV) Julie Burbidge (Sec. FV)

**Conflicts of interest to note for this meeting:** none advised in advance.

### **AGENDA ITEMS:**

1. **coach accreditation processes (follow up from previous meeting)** . Kayt Spano gave an update on issues raised in September AC meeting regarding coach accreditation processes. Kayt advised the meeting that AFF would be making changes to the process; these to be announced by AFF soon. Essentially the main changes are that Level 1 coaches will not pay a fee to AFF (may still need to pay to State Association) and that the process for completing accreditation will be less onerous and evidence required for accreditation will not be focussed on high performance roles and activities. Some requirements will remain unchanged (mandatory actions required under child safety legislation). Accreditation activities for Level 1 coaches can now also include supervision by another coach (other than the coach's regular mentor).

Harry Huang sought clarification on how the changes to accreditation would integrate with the coaching offered at SFC: yes, but details yet to be determined; Kayt also noted opportunities in December with visiting overseas coaches; Monika queried which coaches; confirmed as Enrico Di Ciolo and assistants for UFC8.

Michelle Bolwell sought clarification on the Level '0' coach category. Graeme confirmed this category is same as 'old' community coaching' level; aimed at beginner introductory coaching. Level 0 session proposed for weekend of 14-15 Dec, open to over 13s; Club Liaison email (Graeme Orrman) is contact, held at the SFC. Kayt also noted a developing schools' fencing connection with the Level 0 coaching course offering as 2 schools (2E Schools & Gifted Education Vic) had fencing as a sport. Cathi Walker noted similar for Billanook.

*[Later in the meeting but tying in with coaching matters:]*

Matthew inquired about equivalence between Level 0 coach from interstate and Vic Level 0: Kayt advised Neil Hick as coaching contact to advise.

Matthew raised concern over potential loss of coach at LaTrobe – Seva Diachenko. Kayt and Graeme gave an update on FV's support to assist Seva D with visa arrangement enabling him to remain in Australia.

Kayt advised the meeting that those interested in first aid training can participate in training provided through North Melb Women's Football Club.

2. **Star Club arrangements (follow up from previous meeting):** updated overview and criteria documents now on FV website and forms have been sent out to clubs by Robyn Hunter



(Communications FV); some issues with establishing correct email contact to receive these and other FV communications. Kayt asked the meeting attendees to verify that Communication FV has the correct email addresses for correspondence. Kayt will also send out directly if needed (sent some by email during the meeting to Matthew, Monika, Cathi). Kayt reiterated the structure of the Star Club programs, esp. criteria for 1 Star club; also includes verification of club membership and 2020 new requirements aligned with Child Safety legislation (completion of the online training module), Kayt clarified that FV not compelled to comply but elects to comply with the legislative requirements.

Cathi queried whether FV would be releasing a child safety policy (relates to agenda item put forward by Whitehorse Chevalier). Kayt confirmed yes FV/AFF intends to develop own policy in future but at present the Play By The Rules (PBTR) information and model policies can provide clubs with sound guidance and resources. Kayt also advised Level 1 coach must have completed the Member Protection training (or have done equivalent already, external to fencing). **NOTE - the link to these is on the updated 2020 Star Club document!**

Kayt also clarified that linking to policies from a club website can equate to 'display' of policies.

Kayt also noted a few changes to the Star Club benefits; esp. 2- and 3-Star clubs – can apply for a subsidy or nominate to the FV Board an event or activity for which they seek a subsidy if the latter is focussed on fencing promotion, for example. Criteria basically just explain to the FV Board details of what the activity is, how it is to be conducted and who will benefit. Maximum of \$500.

Matthew sought clarification on *university* star clubs ; Kayt suggested Robyn Hunter FV Communication can best provide explanation of the differences between regular and university star clubs. Robyn as contact also for assistance completing the calculation spreadsheet for activity/criteria points.

3. **Club summary 'blurb' for FV website, feedback for FV website redevelopment /social media and confirmation of club email contacts for 2020** – as above, Kayt reminded all to please provide Robyn Hunter with confie3md email contacts and a suitable 'blurb' for the FV website about the club – Robyn can clarify what to cover in the text if guidance needed. Kayt asked for

Discussion in the meeting then turned to considering SportingPulse/SportsTG's poor performance managing the FV website /system. Kayt reiterated to the meeting that FV looking at alternatives but will keep pressure on SportsTG to remedy deficiencies and that any new contract for 2020 would be subject to successful remediation.

Monika sought clarification on Robyn Hunter's contract role and hours; Kayt explained role of operations manager as a paid role with a fluctuating workload throughout the year but roughly 15 hours /week. Kayt also advised that FV was seeking funding to support a paid role which would assist clubs to identify and make their own grant funding applications.

4. **requirements for maraging sabre blades** (Cathi Walker): Cathi queried whether FV will require maraging sabre blades be used in competitions Kayt indicated this yet to be confirmed; AFF only had draft policy on this matter at this stage. Matthew sought clarification on blades for State competitions: Kayt reiterated there is no weapons check for state comps; only clothing/mask requirements.
5. **Aged Based (ie 13+) sabre competitions** (Cathi Walker): Cathi asked whether FV would hold sabre competition for the 13+ aged group. Kayt suggested consult the FV calendar available now to check categories available already: may be possible to change certain sabre category 1 comps to category 2 and make those more accessible to younger fencers (less onerous clothing equipment requirements) . Might also nominate some as Novice or B grade instead. Kayt noted FV's intention to purchase 20-



30 new sets of FIE uniform equipment to assist those without to participate in competitions. David Hubbard raised problem of securing these against theft and this was acknowledged as an ongoing issue but one partially mitigated by the security camera installations at SFC. The uniforms will also be provided for a hire fee but the exact process is yet to be determined.

6. **Date for next FV Advisory Council meeting and frequency in the year:** potential dates for early 2020 were discussed: decided on February 17<sup>th</sup>, just following junior national. Frequency still set at 3-4 year year including the AGM (year being defined as May to May) . Discussion turned briefly to the Junior National event, Kayt and Graeme advising that FV will be undertaking the DT duties for the event. Michelle Bolwell queried when Melbourne would host another senior national event. Kayt explained FV will need to wait until 2021 or 2023 for the next senior AFC (following the swap with Brisbane for AFC 1 March 2019).
7. **Other business:** Kayt informed the meeting about project to secure a new venue for the Schools' league competitions and that FV were seeking govt funding for this. Potential for the venue to house national events as well (up to 20 pistes sought). David Hubbard queried whether FV had sufficient equipment and esp. referees for these events. Kayt Graeme confirmed FV has sufficient referees and equipment. Kayt also noted that the referees for schools' league events get paid at a higher rate. Referee courses are free for club participants if the club is part of the star club system. Dates for the referee training not yet finalised; check the calendar and advise Robyn (cc President) if changes to the FV calendar for 2020 required.

Harry asked what the minimum age for refereeing/referee training is and Graeme indicated 15 y/o or year 9-10 equivalence; requires some maturity and resilience; Kayt noted that senior referees roam throughout the competitions to support less experienced referees during events esp. Schools' League events. Matthew raised the issue of recent bad behaviour by parents and effect on less experienced referees; Kayt explained same card penalties can be issued to spectators; Graeme reiterated importance of referee training process and efforts and accepting also that referees will make mistakes but that FV takes a zero-tolerance approach to bad spectator behaviour, can investigate with security footage and other evidence and can impose consequences.

Meeting closed at approx. 8.40pm