

**MINUTES | Water Polo ACT Board Meeting**

<b>Date</b>	Thursday, 6th April 2023
<b>Time</b>	6:30pm-8:00pm
<b>Venue</b>	Bronze Room, Building 14, AIS & Online
<b>Attendees</b>	Matt Turnbull, President (MT) Tim Bennett, Vice President (TB) (online) Alexandra Spark, Secretary (AS) Liam Shepherd, Treasurer (LS) Billy Chambers, Canberra Grammar School (BC) Greg Ward, Dragons Water Polo Club (GW) Sam Elliot, Nordek Water Polo Club (SE) (online) Larissa Hutchens, Vikings Water Polo Club (LH) (online; 7.07pm) Scott Wilson, Woden Waves Water Polo Club (SW) (online) Ryan McDermott, Executive Officer (RM) Sophie Rasmussen (ANU Owls VP) attending as proxy for Alex Kuzis
<b>Apologies</b>	Alex Kuzis, ANU (AK) Lawson Waser, Canberra Grammar School (LW)
<b>Absent</b>	N/A

<b>Agenda Item</b>	<b>Minutes</b>
<p><b>1</b> Welcome and Acknowledgement of Country</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Thanks to Lawson Waser (CGS)</li> <li>• Welcome to Billy Chambers (CGS)</li> </ul>	<p>Meeting commenced at 6.35pm</p> <p>Welcome provided to all. In particular to Billy Chambers, the new Board Member for Canberra Grammar School, and Sophie Rasmussen, attending as proxy for Alex Kuzis.</p> <p>An acknowledgement of country was given.</p> <p>The Board <b>supported</b> a vote of thanks to Lawson Waser for his long standing and outstanding contribution to our sport. He was acknowledged as always being strong and fair in the board room, around and in the pool and being a fabulous advocate for waterpolo in the ACT. The growth of waterpolo at Canberra Grammar School and as an active Club in the ACT under his leadership was noted. The Board wishes him all the best for the future.</p>

2	Apologies	The Board received apologies from Alex Kuzis who is unable to attend the meeting. Sophie Rasmussen is attending as proxy.
3	Approval of previous board minutes	Minutes of the 9 <sup>th</sup> March 2023 were <b>approved</b> .
4	Presidents update	<p>The President acknowledged the fantastic end to the 2022-23 Summer season with a great finals day. The work of the EO and all those who contributed was acknowledged.</p> <p>An update was provided on the Pool Operation(s) tender process being run by ACT Government. 4 of these pools are currently used by WPACT as well as Dickson Pool (not used by WPACT). The President has been attending as part of the Aquatic Alliance (4 main program users SwimmingACT, Water Polo ACT, Diving, Triathlon). The Aquatic Alliance will provide its “wish list” to ACT government to assist tenderers with their responses. Tender responses are due <b>Friday 14<sup>th</sup> April</b></p> <p>The Aquatic Alliance is also involved in the work relating to the feasibility study for the new pool at the Mt Stromlo facility (to address the current pool’s shortcomings/ inability to be used for Olympic level events, waterpolo, diving and other aquatic sports). Thanks was extended to Alex for his assistance to AA.</p>
5	Executive Officers Update	<p>The EO provided an update on operations including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• thanks to all for their contribution throughout the 2022-23 Summer Competition</li> <li>• noted less incidents than in the previous season, attributed this to the significant work done at a Junior level re: culture in our sport and the support of the Clubs.</li> <li>• noted WPA doing rebrand of think.play.act for 2023-24</li> <li>• &gt;25 responses to competition survey. Responses assist with planning for future seasons, please provide responses if you haven’t already</li> <li>• Save the Date for the Competition planning day has been sent to Clubs</li> </ul> <p>State Championships</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• commence 11 April</li> <li>• Club competition</li> <li>• Very pleasing to see so many teams from the ACT attending. There are 6 teams in U14s (3women/ 3 men) which is particularly pleasing and reflects our successful growth strategy. ~70 players from the ACT are “testing themselves” against interstate teams/ competition</li> </ul> <p>Representative Program launch</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Representative coaches have been selected</li> <li>• <b>Coach</b> onboarding on 17 April</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Coach/ Manager/ Player/ Parent</b> whole of season briefing 23 April</li> <li>• We believe that we will be able to send U15s 2 teams (boys and girls) to interstate/ representative competitions; U17s 1 team (boys and girls)</li> <li>• AS to attend the <b>Coach/ Manager/ Player/ Parent</b> briefing (in Board capacity) with the EO, in line with feedback received from this co-hort in 2022 and ensuring clear communication between the Board and this co-hort.</li> <li>• Thanks to Scott on the progress in performance health for our athletes</li> </ul> <p>National Sanctioning Policy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• final draft of revised policy from WPA has been received. The concerns/ matters that we'd raised and experienced have been addressed.</li> <li>• The new Policy will be launched on 1 May (to apply for the Winter season)</li> </ul> <p>Professional development for EO</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2023 – WPA is covering the cost of all state EO's to attend the National Sports and Recreation convention in July, in Melbourne.</li> <li>• EO will focus on attending those streams that align to our strategic and operational plans</li> </ul> <p>2023-24 Operational Plan will come to the next Board meeting (May 2023)</p> <p>Sponsorship prospectus</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• WPACT intern, James has been working on a Sponsorship prospectus with the aim of growing WPACT partnerships with businesses, and thus develop longer term, sustainable, revenue streams</li> <li>• <b>Action:</b> Prospectus will be circulated out of session. Please review and provide any feedback.</li> </ul> <p>Ryan on leave next week. Attending State Championships. Returning 17 April.</p>
5	Social Media Policy Update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Amended Social Media Policy has been circulated to board members. Feedback has been received and incorporated from NIPO (Rachel Newman) and compared with other jurisdictions (in particular re: length of ban and review periods as requested at the last board meeting)</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The <b>Board approved</b> new policy</li> <li>• The <b>Board supported</b> the inclusion of the new Policy at the beginning of any new WPACT social media channels (such as Whatsapp) to serve as an appropriate reminder of our expectations.</li> <li>• A briefing of the policy will be included in the Coach and Manager briefings/ training.</li> </ul>
6	Community Water Polo Committee Terms of Reference	<p>LH joined the meeting at 7.07pm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An amended draft Community Waterpolo Committee Charter/ Terms of Reference has been circulated to all board members.</li> <li>• The <b>Board agreed</b> the draft could be shared with Clubs for consultation</li> <li>• The Board noted that members on the CWC will be expected to contribute a comparable load in the future as has been contributed in the past (to the Board), noting that there are peaks in contribution prior to the commencement of each season (reviewing exemptions etc), but there are “down times” at other times during the year. Timing of meetings will be determined by the CWC</li> <li>• <b>Action:</b> Clubs to provide feedback on the Charter/ Terms of Reference at the May Board meeting.</li> </ul>
7	Representative Coach Appointments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ryan has circulated proposed coach appointments</li> <li>• Some gaps were noted with U15 and U19 boys being a particular concern. It was noted that NSC clashes with UniSport event which prevents a number of potential coaches (who are at university) from taking up a coaching position/ role</li> <li>• <b>Action:</b> please identify and recommend any suitable coaches to the EO. If no coach can be found by week 2 of Term 2 we may be unable to send teams to NSC.</li> </ul>
8	Other Business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• National Camp started at AIS on 5/4/2023 (girls) &amp; 7/4/2023 (boys). ACT has a number of attendees, which is very pleasing.</li> <li>• Mattia B has been selected to attend the U20 Mens World Championships. This is also very exciting for WPACT, it has been some time since we have had an ACT player attend World Championships.</li> <li>• The <b>Board noted</b> that the Representative Coaches were responsible for/ advocating for athletes and their selection to participate in the WPA national camp(s) and events at the recent (2022) NSC. WPACT did not participate, via the</li> </ul>

		<p>EO or Board in these discussions, at the request of the 2022 representative coaches.</p> <p>Performance Health Update (SW)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• partnership with UC School of Physiotherapy is underway with students tasked with specific WP activities/ learning/ reading.</li><li>• Musculo skeletal screening protocol has been developed to be used as a for basis of screenings for all junior rep boys and girls over a 2 week period</li><li>• A briefing on the performance health program/ offering will be provided to parents and athletes at the end of April meetings, with further information sessions if/ as required.</li></ul> <p><b><i>Congratulations</i></b> to Ryan (EO), who has been shortlisted for Coach of the Year – WPA 2023 28 April in Sydney</p> <p>Meeting close – 7.35pm</p>
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