



WorkSafe Victorian Country Football League

LEXTON PLAINS FNL REVIEW – FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS REPORT

DATE: 18th August 2010

The WorkSafe VCFL Review Panel advises that it has concluded its process of review into football within the Greater Ballarat Area and presents the following final report.

All key stakeholders have been consulted with and responses have been received from clubs and leagues in relation to the preliminary recommendations released on the 2nd July.

As previously stated, the proposed changes have taken into consideration the following factors:

- Need for a long term solution to provide stability for all Clubs in the area
- Need for clubs to play within local geographical boundaries to a fair and reasonable extent
- Need for competitive balance to a fair and reasonable extent
- Need for teams to play within a more equitable fixture structure
- Club viability
- Current and future facilities and ground standards
- Consideration of existing junior football and netball structures and future junior structures

FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS

The following Final Recommendations imply that the Senior Football, Netball and Junior Football are one and the same with respect to each affiliate involved in the Review.

All of the recommendations can only be implemented when clubs apply as per the recommendations in this document.

Following the Worksafe VCFL Review Panels Recommendations being presented to the Worksafe VCFL Board and with due consideration to the information supplied by all clubs and leagues within the Greater Ballarat Area, the WorkSafe VCFL Panel have established that the Lexton Plains Football Netball League is untenable after the 2010 season and that it be disbanded as per its constitution.

In all situations, WorkSafe VCFL Rules, Regulations and Procedures are to be strictly adhered to for any club transfer applications resulting from the recommendations contained within this report. Changes accepted by clubs and leagues must also be ratified by the WorkSafe VCFL Board.

In accordance with the WorkSafe VCFL Constitution and Rules, clubs refused a transfer by the league they are seeking affiliation with will have the option of Appeal to the WorkSafe VCFL Board.

CENTRAL HIGHLANDS FOOTBALL LEAGUE

1. The WorkSafe VCFL Review Panel recommends that the Carngham Linton FNC, the Illabarook FNC, the Lexton FNC, the Rokewood Corindhap FNC and the Skipton FNC **seek a transfer to the Central Highlands FNL for the 2011 season.**

On the weight of the feedback provided by the CHFL clubs and the CHFL the preference was to play one expanded competition rather than a two division competition based on either competitive or geographic grounds. Should the CHFL vote in favour of one expanded competition the Panel believes the league ought to move to a final eight structure. Again this is a matter for the League.

The WorkSafe VCFL Review Panel does see merit in the expanded 19 club competition particularly if it were for a two year minimum and then moving to a divisional based model. Should the decision of the league and its affiliated clubs show a leaning towards either a geographical or competitive balanced structure after two years, then this would be a matter for the league.

2011 CENTRAL HIGHLANDS FOOTBALL LEAGUE

- Ballan FNC
 - Beaufort FNC
 - Bungaree FNC
 - Buninyong FNC
 - Carngham Linton FNC
 - Clunes FNC
 - Creswick FNC
 - Daylesford FNC
 - Dunnstown FNC
 - Gordon FNC
 - Hepburn FNC
 - Illabarook FNC
 - Learmonth FNC
 - Lexton FNC
 - Newlyn FNC
 - Rokewood Corindhap FNC
 - Skipton FNC
 - Springbank FNC
 - Waubra FNC
2. All clubs would be expected to field teams within the current Central Highlands Football League and Central Highlands Netball League structure.
 3. The grades of football and netball would continue in line with the current Central Highlands FL and Central Highlands NL grades.
 - i) Football: Seniors, Reserves, U.18, U.15, (U. 12 if numbers permit)
 - ii) Netball: A, B, C, U.17, U.15, U.13A, (U.13B if numbers permit)
 4. That the current administration of the Central Highlands Football League and the Central Highlands Netball League continues to manage the League for the foreseeable future. The WorkSafe VCFL Review Panel believes that full time administration would be a viable option due to the expanded competition and the extra income which could be generated to support such a role.

As stated within the Preliminary Recommendations, should there be any change in the current administration arrangement other than the full time role above

the WorkSafe VCFL believes that the Ballarat Central Administration Hub should be considered as an alternative.

Although the WorkSafe VCFL is keen to promote strategically positioned Central Administration Hubs across the VCFL they do not force individual leagues into Central Administration Hubs.

5. Clubs applying to transfer from the Lexton Plains FNL to the Central Highlands FL and causing a clash of uniforms with existing clubs will be required to either adopt a clash strip or adopt a new uniform acceptable to the new league. Subsidies would be available from the VCFL for the clubs concerned to assist with this cost.

MARYBOROUGH CASTLEMAINE DISTRICT FOOTBALL NETBALL LEAGUE

1. The Worksafe VCFL Review Panel recommends that the Natte Bealiba FNC **seek a transfer to the Maryborough Castlemaine DFNL for 2011.**
2. The Worksafe VCFL Review Panel recommends that the Navarre FNC **seek a transfer to the Maryborough Castlemaine DFNL for 2011.**

The Panel has noted the Navarre FNC's preference that it would be better suited to a geographical based Western Division of the Central Highlands FNL, however the feedback received from other CHFL clubs and the CHFL suggests there are no guarantees that such a structure will be formed. The Panel therefore believes that the Navarre FNC should seek a transfer to the Maryborough Castlemaine DFNL for the 2011 season given it is highly unlikely that a CHFL western division will be available.

3. The WorkSafe VCFL Review Panel recommends that the Trentham FNC **should remain within the Maryborough Castlemaine DFNL for the immediate future** as there can be no guarantee that the Central Highlands FNL will move to a two tiered structure in 2011.

Should the Central Highlands FNL move to a two tiered structure based on competitive grounds at some point in the future the Panel would then see this as a possible option for the Trentham FNC.

4. The WorkSafe VCFL Review Panel acknowledges the junior difficulties being experienced by some of the western based clubs within the Maryborough Castlemaine DFNL as a result of the league having no formal U.14 grade of football. The VCFL is well aware of the problem which exists due to the fact that the eastern based clubs have juniors affiliated with the Castlemaine DJFL. This works well for the eastern based clubs and the three Castlemaine non aligned junior clubs.

Until the senior club movements take place as a result of this Review there is no easy solution to this problem able to be recommended. However the WorkSafe VCFL is keen to discuss the matter further with the stakeholders concerned.

In the meantime, the Panel would encourage the continuation of the Maryborough based Junior Sunday competition and U.14 matches within the

Maryborough Castlemaine DFNL where possible within the league during the 2011 season for the western based clubs.

2011 MARYBOROUGH CASTLEMAINE DISTRICT FOOTBALL NETBALL LEAGUE

- Avoca FNC
- Campbell's Creek FNC
- Carisbrook FNC
- Dunolly FNC
- Harcourt FNC
- Maldon FNC
- Maryborough Rovers FNC
- Natte Bealiba FNC
- Navarre FNC
- Newstead FNC
- Royal Park FNC
- Talbot FNC
- Trentham FNC

6. The grades of football and netball would continue in line with the current Maryborough Castlemaine DFNL grades.

- iii) Football: Seniors, Reserves, U.17, (U.14 where possible)
- iv) Netball: Seniors, Reserves, C Grade, U. 17, U.15

The Navarre and Natte Bealiba clubs previously had an Under 12 grade of netball within the Lexton Plains FNL. Although this is an issue that is the responsibility of the Netball component of the Maryborough Castlemaine DFNL the Panel believes this is something that could be explored by the Maryborough Castlemaine DFNL for 2011.

MININERA DISTRICT FOOTBALLLEAGUE

1. The WorkSafe VCFL Review Panel recommends that the Ararat Eagles FNC **seek a transfer to the Mininera DFL for 2011.**

It was acknowledged in the feedback from the Mininera DFL that there was significant reluctance from a number of clubs within the Mininera DFL to admit the Ararat Eagles FNC into the league. Whilst the WorkSafe VCFL Review Panel acknowledges this point it is incumbent upon the Panel to find this club a suitable home. The Panel is of the belief that the Mininera DFL is the best fit for this club who have expressed a strong desire to transfer to the Mininera DFL through a unanimous club member vote by the Ararat Eagles FNC.

2. Any outstanding debts the club has with the former Lexton Plains FNL would need to be cleared prior to the WorkSafe VCFL Board ratifying any transfer for the 2011 season.
3. The Ararat Eagles FNC would be required to adopt a clash strip or a new uniform acceptable to the new league. Subsidies would be available from the VCFL to assist the club with this cost.
4. The Ararat Eagles FNC would be required to field teams in line with the current Mininera District Football League and Netball League grades.
 - a. Football: Seniors, Reserves, U.16, U.12
 - b. Netball: A Grade, B Grade, C Grade, 17 & Under, 14 & Under, 12 & Under

2011 MININERA DISTRICT FOOTBALL LEAGUE (Alphabetical Order)

- Ararat Eagles FNC
- Caramut FNC
- Glenthompson Dunkeld FNC
- Hawkesdale Macarthur FNC
- Lismore Derrinallum FNC
- Moyston Willaura FNC
- Penshurst FNC
- SMW Rovers FNC
- Tatyoon FNC
- Wickcliffe Lake Bolac FNC
- Woorndoo Mortlake FNC

Footnote:

In all situations, WorkSafe VCFL Rules, Regulations and Procedures are to be strictly adhered to for any club transfer applications. Changes by clubs and leagues must also be ratified by the Worksafe VCFL Board.

In accordance with the VCFL Constitution and Rules, clubs refused a transfer by the League they wish to affiliate with will have the option of an Appeal to the WorkSafe VCFL Board.