



AFL Canada 2020 Annual General Meeting: Minutes.

Date: Sunday December 6th, 2020. 5:00pm PT/6:00pm MT/8:00pm ET/9:00pm AT.

Location: Teleconference via Google Meets

Invitees:

Executive: Lachlan Griffiths (President), Chris Bourque (Vice President), David Smith (Treasurer) Lara Hilmi (Stand in Women's Representative), James Duggan (Men's representative).

Staff: Jacob Haeusler, Development Manager

Member Clubs: All member clubs who are in good standing.

By Invitation Only: All players or non-member clubs.

In Attendance:

Lachlan Griffiths (President), Chris Bourque (Vice President), David Smith (Treasurer), Lara Hilmi (Interim Women's Rep), James Duggan (Men's Rep), Yaser Abou Elenin (Ottawa Swans*), Beu Kefford (Calgary Kangaroos*), Jim Oertel (Burnaby Eagles*), Lise Kiefer (Hamilton Wildcats*), Tony Purdie (AFL Quebec*), Bruce Parker (Central Blues*), Stephen Gordon (Toronto Dingoes*), Danielle Bartkiewicz (Calgary Kookaburras*), Jonah Scott (Halifax Dockers*), Kyle Mundell (Grand River Gargoyles*), Greg Everett (Etobicoke Kangaroos*), Chris Wood (Vancouver-Whistler Hawks*) Morgan Whyte (AFL Quebec), Oliver Drigo (Hamilton Wildcats), Richard McGuinness (Forrest City Crows), Trent Loosemore (AFLBC), Greg Bridges (Ottawa Swans), Jenn Minchin (Etobicoke Kangaroos), Steve Setka (Winnipeg Bears), Barry Rooke (AFL Ontario),

*** = 12 Voting Attendees/Delegates**

Meeting Minutes:

Agenda Item	Responsible	Minutes
1. Call to Order	Lachlan Griffiths	Lachlan called meeting to order at 8.04pm (EST)
2. Determination of Quorum	Jacob Haeusler	Quorum declared
3. Rules of Procedure	Lachlan Griffiths	Rules of procedure explained <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Robertson rules of Governance implemented - JH to record attendance, votes and act as registrar
4. Approval of agenda	Lachlan Griffiths	No changes to the agenda Motion to approve: Lachlan Griffiths Second: James Duggan <i>Approved</i>
5. Approval of 2018 AGM minutes	Lachlan Griffiths	Motion to approve: Lachlan Griffiths Second: David Smith <i>Approved</i>
6. President's Report	Lachlan Griffiths	See APPENDIX B (page 5).
7. Questions arising from President's Report	Discussion	No questions arising from the President's Report.
8. Treasurer's Report	David Smith	See APPENDIX C (page 7). No questions following the Financial report.
9. Appointment of Auditor	All	Nicole Henderson approved for 2017, 2018 & 2019 audit. Board recommends re-appointment of Nicole Henderson. Motion to Approve: Lachlan Griffiths Second: Bruce Parker
10. Election of Executive Board of Directors See APPENDIX A (Page 3) for roles of Directors a) President b) Vice President c) Treasurer d) Women's rep	All	All positions are vacated, as terms are for one year. a) One nomination: Lachlan Griffiths (Calgary Kangaroos) - no other nominations. i) None opposed - approved b) Three Nominations: Greg Bridges (Ottawa Swans), Kyle Mundell (Grand River Gargoyles) & Jim Oertel (Burnaby Eagles) i) Kyle Mundell Voted in as VP with 6 votes c) One Nomination, David Smith (Sydney Giants) - no other nominations. i) None opposed - approved

<p>e) Men's rep f) Director</p>		<p>d) No prior nominations i) Greg Everett nominates Lara Hilmi (accepts) ii) Non Opposed - Approved e) One Nomination, James Duggan (Toronto Dingoes) - no other nominations. i) None opposed - Approved f) One Nomination, Lara Hllimi (Etobicoke Kangaroos) - no other nominations - nomination withdrawn upon acceptance of Women's rep role i) Lara Hilmi Nominates Greg Bridges (accepts) ii) Bruce Parker nominates Jim Oertel (accepts) iii) None opposed - both nominations approved.</p>
<p>12. Other business, if any</p>	<p>Lachlan Griffiths</p>	<p>No other business added</p>
<p>13. Adjournment of meeting</p>	<p>Lachlan Griffiths</p>	<p>Lachlan calls meeting to adjournment at 8.47pm (EST)</p>

**APPENDIX A:
Director Roles/Nominations**

It is typical that at the time of electing directors, the officers are also put in place. Therefore, we have provided a summary of the roles to assist you in determining a suitable nominee for each role:

- A. The **President** will be responsible for the general supervision of the affairs and operations of the Corporation, will preside at the Annual and Special Meetings of the Corporation and at meetings of the Board, will be the official spokesman of the Corporation, and will perform such other duties as may from time to time be established by the Board;
- B. The **Vice President** will act as liaisons between the Board and all committees, will ensure that committees are working within their respective terms of reference, will alternately preside at meetings of the Board, will advise on matters connected to their regions, and will perform such other duties as may from time to time be established by the Board;
- C. The **Treasurer** will, subject to the powers and duties of the Board, keep proper accounting records as required by the Act, will cause to be deposited all monies received by the Corporation in the Corporation's bank account, will supervise the management and the disbursement of funds of the Corporation, when required will provide the Board with an account of financial transactions and the financial position of the Corporation, will prepare annual budgets, will oversee and supervise office staff, and will perform such other duties as may from time to time be established by the Board.
- D. The **Player's Representative (Women)** will have been selected to participate in the most recently held International Cup as a Northern Lights player (and will have attended the tournament, whether or not they actually played) and will act as the liaison between the Board and all female players, aspiring players, or former players within the national program. The incumbent's role will be to ensure these athletes have a voice, and that they have the opportunity to be informed and to provide input into matters affecting them, particularly in the area of national team programming. This input may be achieved through a variety of means, but the incumbent will ensure opportunities are be planned and announced, not determined on an ad hoc basis.
- E. The **Player's Representative (Men)** will have been selected to participate in the most recently held International Cup as a Northwind player (and will have attended the tournament, whether or not they actually played) and will act as the liaison between the Board and all male players, aspiring players, or former players within the national program. The incumbent's role will be to ensure these athletes have a voice, and that they have the opportunity to be informed and to provide input into matters affecting them, particularly in the area of national team programming. This input may be achieved through a variety of means, but the incumbent will ensure opportunities are be planned and announced, not determined on an ad hoc basis.
- F. The **Director** position is a general board appointee. The board is to be comprised of a minimum four, maximum nine appointees. The eligibility criteria for all directors is: any individual, who is eighteen (18) years of age or older, who has the power under law to contract, who has not been declared incapable by a court in Canada or in another country, and who does not have the status of bankrupt, may be nominated for election or appointment as a Director.

APPENDIX B: AFL Canada President's Report 2020

In one of the most unique years to date for not just AFL Canada but society in general, it was great to see that Footy was able to bring together people; be it online, socially distanced in person sessions or even through games in some of the provinces where restrictions allowed.

Even with the pandemic and ensuing restrictions laid upon us, the focus of AFL Canada in 2020, as it is in all years, is to further develop the game of Footy in Canada. While it may have looked different and ultimately some events were postponed, the growth and expansion of Footy was still front and centre in 2020.

While registration numbers were clearly affected by the Covid-19 pandemic, it was still promising to see that AFL Canada was able to retain over 4000 participants who took part in various versions of Footy such as In School Programs, Auskick, Footy training for fitness in BC and Ontario, full contact games within cohorts in Calgary and Edmonton, Flag Footy in Quebec and small sided games and practice in Nova Scotia.

2020 saw Australian Football returning to the Kin Games for the first time since 2018. This year the games took place in Niagara, Ontario. Footy was to be featured as the Marquee Sport on the final day of the games, ultimately deciding the Kin Games Champion. One of the most pleasing aspects of the Kin Games this year was the number of volunteers who were willing to give up their time to travel down to Niagara to assist with the facilitation of the competition as well as volunteers who ran Footy into sessions for their local University, allowing clubs from all over the country to be involved in the games. In total, around 35 volunteers from various clubs across Ontario had organised for volunteers to attend the Kin Games and six clubs across the country held into sessions for their local teams. We want to thank all of those volunteers and look forward to getting back into the Kin Games in 2021.

A priority in 2020 was to increase the availability of AFL Football matches to AFL Canada members, this was achieved through a couple of different avenues. Firstly, the number of Australian Football games shown live on TSN was increased from two per week, up to four, five and sometimes six games per weekend with additional replays and delayed games aired. The AFL Canada ad also saw increased recognition with more games providing more opportunity for the ad to be aired.

The second avenue for increasing AFL match availability was achieved through a partnership with the Geelong Football Club. In March of 2020 AFL Canada was pleased to announce a deal had been struck with Geelong, to provide the cheapest Watch AFL memberships available *worldwide* and also the cheapest ways to watch AFL Football outside of Australia. We look forward to continuing this partnership in 2021 and years to come.

As well as increasing availability of Australian Football matches in Canada, the Board of Directors sought to increase the availability of Australian Football equipment in Canada. After launching the Online Shop in 2019, it is now fully operational and stocked with Sherrins, Junior Burley Footballs, Whistles and a range of branded apparel with more to come. Sherrin footballs are now available on Amazon in Canada as well as the USA and lastly, AFL Canada was able to broker a deal with school wholesale supplier FlagHouse Inc. This means Flagouse will stock and distribute AFL Canada junior footys to further diversify the availability of equipment in Canada.

With the progression of the pandemic in 2020, games and competitions started to become postponed and further gathering restrictions came into place, AFL Canada took this as an opportunity to use the flexibility of our great game to continue to grow the sport. Through a partnership with the Calgary Kangaroos Junior AFC, the 'Learn Footy @ Home Series' was developed with the intention that while schools were closed, kids could still learn how to play footy at home, either individually or with parents/siblings/immediate family.

While on the topic of Junior Footy; school programs, Footy for intramurals and Auskick continued to be a major focus for AFL Canada this year. One of the major barriers that has always existed in terms of running these programs is know how.

Keeping this in mind AFL Canada sought to develop a resource to help member clubs, teachers and essentially any individual looking to implement junior programs in any capacity. The Youth Programming Resource after thorough research through many, many junior footy resources, is now available for free by navigating to the juniors section of the AFL Canada website.

Another opportunity for Footy to take centre stage even when not much Footy was actually being played, was exhibited through the AFL Canada Webinar Series. Unfortunately, the International Cup scheduled for July 2020 was forced to be postponed. However, both of AFL Canada's National Teams were lucky enough to have an extremely high calibre of guests run them through a series of topics such as nutrition, skill development and sports psychology, to ensure they have the upper hand for when they are able to take the field next..

On top of the webinars scheduled for the National Players professional development, AFL Canada, was fortunate enough to have guest hosts run a series of webinars focused on Club Development. Topics such as Good Governance, Social Media and Concussion Education were all discussed. AFL Canada would like to extend a huge thank you to all of those guests who gave up their time to assist in developing Footy in Canada.

From a National Team's perspective, it was disappointing to have the International Cup postponed, but also extremely positive to see the two teams attack the postponement as extra time to prepare for when the event is rescheduled. National Camps were able to run in both the East and West following the loosening of restrictions in some provinces and the teams are as hungry as ever!

Northwind Head Coach, Cody Royle was elevated to National Coaching Director throughout the year. He will be responsible for overseeing the Coaching program for both National Teams going forward, as well as the development of coaching in Canada.

AFL Canada would like to extend a thankyou to Candace Kwan for her services to the Northern Lights, both as a player and coach, after vacating the head coaching position in August of this year. We wish Candace the very best for her future in and out of Footy.

On the same note, we would like to welcome Tricia Rolfe as the new Head Coach of the Northern Lights. Tricia has hit the ground running in terms of communication with players, and moving her plan forward. We look forward to Tricia continuing the rich tradition of success the Northern Lights have seen in past years.


Lastly, one of the more positive achievements in the year and something that can certainly be replicated in years going forward is the utilization of the Canada Summer Jobs program. In past years, a small number of member clubs/leagues have utilized the funding available from the Government of Canada through the Canada Summer Jobs program.


This year AFL Canada members were able to gain around \$65k worth of funding for various projects through the Canada Summer Jobs program. The intended projects for this funding included school programs in Vancouver, Calgary, Winnipeg and Ottawa, Digital Marketing/Online administration interns for AFL Ontario & AFL BC and finally a program officer which allowed Calgary Kookaburras to offer free babysitting for Moms wanting to play and train. While some of these programs have been deferred to the winter or spring due to the current climate, it is impressive to see the fundraising capacity of clubs across the country. It's also encouraging to see that there is funding available for Australian Football clubs all over Canada to achieve their goals!

In closing, 2020 has certainly not been the year anticipated when forecasting goals and outcomes at this time last year, but given what the AFL Canada community has faced, it's impossible not to label the above achievements and many more from members as a success. With things returning to a state of normalcy over the winter break, we look forward to welcoming back returning members, new members and having Footy back in 2021.

**APPENDIX C:
AFL Canada Treasurer's Report- 2020**

Summary:

		<u>Oct. 31, 2020</u>	<u>Oct. 31, 2019</u>
Overall Cash Position			
			
Start Balance		\$ 98,024.67	\$ 66,089.45
Increase in Cash		<u>36,164.26</u>	<u>31,935.22</u>
Ending Balance		\$ 134,188.93	\$ 98,024.67

		<u>Oct. 31, 2020</u>	<u>Oct. 31, 2019</u>
Cash Inflows			
			
Dues and Insurance		27,947.00	32,675.20
Balls and Other Merchandise		9,462.18	14,156.20
Sponsorship		5,000.00	1,000.00
AFL Grant		88,300.00	93,900.00
Other Grants		-	10,044.00
Commissions		-	-
Other		<u>4,000.00</u>	<u>309.98</u>
Total Cash Inflows		134,709.18	152,085.38



Cash Outflows

	<u>Oct. 31, 2020</u>	<u>Oct. 31, 2019</u>
Bank Fees	44.00	102.50
Merchandise	1,017.00	-
IC - Men	252.64	7,391.29
IC - Women	1,978.60	7,356.99
Shipping	2,192.82	894.31
Interns	2,159.62	9,867.03
Promotion	3,477.14	3,324.59
Footballs	4,112.00	3,444.61
Grants	-	2,291.48
Training and Conferences	-	-
Insurance	20,013.48	21,200.40
Professional Fees	495.50	4,491.75
Nationals	-	-
Development Manager	59,204.55	55,511.25
Development Manager - Office	1,100.00	-
Office	324.52	3,516.94
Other	2,173.05	757.02
Total Cash Outflows	<u>98,544.92</u>	<u>120,150.16</u>

Membership Dues/ Insurance



- AFL Canada charged a much reduced membership rate for 2020 due to COVID-19 pandemic.
- Reason was to support having some 2020 footy presence and to allow for retention into 2021.

Membership Dues/ Insurance



- 2021 Membership/ Insurance Invoices will be based on 2021 participation numbers.
- Previous to 2020, Invoices would be based on numbers from the previous year (e.g. 2019 Invoice was based on 2018 participation numbers).
- Currently, our plan is to request final participation numbers in the first week of September. Invoices will be issued shortly after.