



ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIAN FOOTBALL CLUBS

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MEDIA RELEASE

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ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIAN FOOTBALL CLUBS ADOPTS CONSTITUTION & APPOINTS 8 NATIONAL DIRECTORS

The AAFC last night held its inaugural Annual General Meeting where members unanimously adopted their new constitution and appointed 8 national directors together with PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) as auditors.

The directors are drawn from National Premier League (NPL) clubs in each of the eight states or regional federations and will guide the organisation through its next phase.

“This is a key step for the Association in achieving the objectives we set for ourselves in our inaugural national meeting in March,” said Tom Kalas, Interim Chairman of the steering committee formed to manage the establishment of the Association.

“We now have a fit for purpose Constitution, along with directors from every federation.

“The AAFC represents the NPL which is a critical development and performance pathway for football in Australia, in which more than 30,000 players take part,” Kalas said.

Those elected to the four statutory board positions are:

- Chairman: Rabieh Krayem, Townsville
- Deputy Chairman: Victoria Morton, Hobart
- Secretary: Gino Marra, Sydney
- Treasurer: Christo Patsan, Newcastle

The four other directors will be responsible for specific activities, including former Socceroo and national soccer league coach, Gary Marocchi, as director of football.

Krayem said that the new Board now has a number of priorities to pursue as agreed at the national meeting in March and enshrined in its new Constitution.

Among these is pursuing the concept of a second-tier competition and linked to the A-League. This is of critical importance to the development of the game.

“We want to work with FFA, the state federations, the A-League, PFA and, importantly, our member clubs and players to get the best possible model within the resources available.



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“The experienced football people on our board, such as Gary Marocchi and Dean Hennessey, know that having more young men and women playing football more often is a vital factor in improving our football standards and quality.”

Collectively, the NPL clubs have more than 30,000 registered junior and senior players (men & woman) including the semi-professional sector of the game.

They are responsible for management of significant community assets through boutique football facilities and sporting infrastructure and crucially their collective members and supporters, which number in the hundreds of thousands, not only attend matches per week but provide thousands of knowledgeable football volunteers.

The Board members are:

ACT	:	John Thiele
NSW	:	Gino Marra
NNSW	:	Christo Patsan
QLD	:	Rabieh Krayem (Chairman)
SA	:	Amin Ayoubi
TAS	:	Victoria Morton (Deputy Chairman)
VIC	:	Dean Hennessey
WA	:	Gary Marocchi

Krayem thanked the founding directors who established the AAFC, the Steering Committee, National Delegates and the Interim Chairman who managed the transition from the inaugural meeting to this point.

“Many people and clubs assisted the AAFC in various critical areas but we would like to commend Tom Kalas and Nick Galatas in working so diligently to guide the AAFC in becoming one of the most significant football stakeholders in Australia.

“Their energy and dedication in getting this going in the first place is an important contribution to the growth of the game. It’s a fantastic shot-in-the-arm for football.

“The new board intends to continue in the same way, to ensure that we have a viable and sustainable second tier competition, which will grow to become a key plank in the Australian football landscape for years to come.”

ENDS

Further information: Rabieh Krayem, 0418 251 152

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ABOUT THE ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIAN FOOTBALL CLUBS

In 2017 the NPL clubs of Australia considered it necessary to form an organisation to represent their common interests as NPL clubs. This is particularly the case in light of discussions regarding changes to the FFA governance model. The AAFC is charged with representing NPL clubs in their dealings with the governing bodies.

The NPL clubs form the second tier of Australian football. They represent:

- the coverage of more than 30,000 registered players (male & female) of semi-professional and amateur status;
- a specific and discrete segment of the game as structured by FFA;
- management of Australia's significant football land and infrastructure holdings;
- a plethora of highly credentialed football administrators;
- a pivotal contributor to the fabric of the football community; and
- they include the clubs from which it is envisaged a new second division, fully integrated with the top tier, will be established.

AAFC are of the view that a second division is essential for the future, long-term development of the game, as well as for Australia to meet FIFA and AFC requirements.

OBJECTIVES:

1. Immediately pursue representation at the FFA Congress;
2. Develop a model for a Second Division to be implemented by the earliest in the 2018-2019 season, with a timeline and plan for its full integration with the A-League including eventual promotion and relegation;
3. Investigate opportunities for reductions to operating costs and increases to revenue and revenue streams to ensure financial viability while reducing the cost of junior participation at this level;
4. Review and propose changes to the finance model and competition structure to unlock revenue streams and ensure compensation for players it develops is fair and readily secured;
5. Build relationships at national, state and local levels in respect of facilities, sponsorship, grants and commercial opportunities; and
6. Facilitate knowledge-sharing among its members through networking and sharing of information