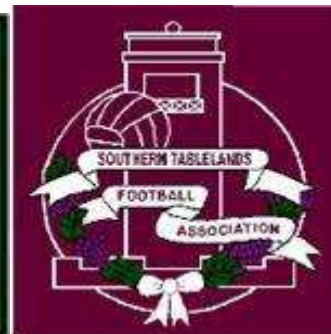


Highlands Soccer Association

Annual Report



2021





Highlands Soccer Association – Board of Directors 2020/21

Chairman – Danny Josipovic

Executive Director & Director of Records, Competition Integrity and Governance – Liz Norrie

Director of Competitions – Cathie Campbell

Director of Infrastructure – Ian Campbell

Highlands Soccer Association – Staff 2020/21

Manager – Michael Hamilton

Technical Director – Nick D’Amore

Highlands Soccer Association – Board of Directors 2021/22

Chairman – Danny Josipovic

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Director of Infrastructure – Ian Campbell

Director of Finance – Thomas Goodman

Director of Strategic Planning – Craig Patterson

Director of Sponsor Relations – David Wright

Highlands Soccer Association – Staff 2021/22

Manager – Michael Hamilton

Technical Director – Nick D’Amore

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

COVID-19 PANDEMIC

As hope for a COVID-19 vaccine grew, 2021 ushered in a new term; COVID Normal and COVID Safe Plans and QR Readers were prepared for every Club to curb and trace the spread of the pandemic. The football season began normally enough however the rising cases of Alpha and then Delta variants of COVID-19 together with insufficient vaccines available and not enough jabs in arms meant that Public Health lockdowns were enforced in the greater Sydney area in June. These lockdowns impacted HSA Clubs within the lockdown area while other Clubs were allowed to continue playing football in as COVID Safe a manner as possible. The Yerrinbool-Bargo Club and Highlands FC teams were most impacted as they either lived, or played, in areas that were now locked down. COVID-19 eventually halted all football activities which did not recommence until November 2021.

Highlands FC teams had also registered for the Kanga Cup in Canberra of July 2021. After deferral to the September school holidays, the tournament was eventually cancelled.

JOBKEEPER

Employees of the Association were successful in obtaining JobKeeper, the Federal government's payment assistance plan to help businesses, including football, keep afloat during the pandemic. The plan was retired at the end of March 2021.

DISSAFILIATION FROM SOUTHERN NSW FOOTBALL INC. (SOUTHERN BRANCH)

Highlands Soccer Association (HSA) took the decision to disaffiliate from Southern Branch as it considered membership was no longer beneficial. Of all the Branches affiliated with Football NSW, Southern Branch was the only one still charging capitation fees for which there was little or no benefit to HSA players. Capitation fees amounting to \$3.30 per HSA registered player were no longer levied. The Association believes its future lies in collaboration with Southern Tablelands Football Association (STFA) and Football South Coast. The HSA believes Southern Branch Inc. should be disbanded as its only purpose seems to be adding another layer of administration which needs to be paid for.

Another consequence of disassociation from Southern Branch will be a revision of the HSA Constitution.

WALKING FOOTBALL

In collaboration with the Bradman Centre, Walking Football was introduced on the hallowed Bradman Oval encouraging mature residents of the Southern Highlands and surrounds to get involved in community sport while keeping active. Matches were held outside of the normal winter football competition season. Intended not to be strenuous, it was still funny to see senior players requiring ice packs for strained body parts.

HILL TOP SENIORS PLAYING IN FOOTBALL SOUTH COAST COMMUNITY LEAGUE

The Board of the Association was approached by the Hill Top club seeking wider playing opportunities in the Football South Coast Community League competition. Hill Top was required to enter First and Second Grade teams which impacted on the Club's participation in the local competition. The First-Grade team finished 5th and the Second-Grade team finished 8th after 10 rounds before COVID-19 Public Health Orders covering the greater Illawarra region ceased all competition.

USE OF CONTACTLESS PAYMENT METHODS AND ZOOM VIDEO CONFERENCING

As the COVID-19 pandemic impacted football the Association looked at new ways to function financially yet still limit human contact. Square Readers were introduced at the canteen for David Wood Field and other Clubs started finding similar contactless ways.

Zoom video conferencing was introduced to enable the HSA Board and Clubs to meet remotely. This meeting structure has been widely, although not unanimously, well received.

NEW WEB SITE

The free GameDay website which has been in use since 2010 is being retired. The HSA Board agreed, that in line with internal review and renewal, a new more functional website would be put in place before the start of the 2022 playing season.

ASSOCIATION YOUTH LEAGUE (AYL)

In the middle of October 2021 Football NSW published their 2022 Declaration of Leagues for Men's and Youth football. HSA noticed that there were only 9 licences awarded for AYL and contacted Football NSW about their intentions regarding the now vacant AYL licence. Football NSW subsequently issued an EOI and, after submissions from the HSA and Southern Tablelands Football Association (STFA), HSA was awarded a licence for 2022. This was exciting news for the Association as it offered an opportunity to restructure Highlands FC as the Association's development club. The downside was the lateness of being awarded the licence which was in late November 2021.

The opportunities to trial U13 – U16 players in readiness for 2022 was very tight and the HSA extended an opportunity to the STFA to participate in a joint capacity. Unfortunately, STFA, constricted by their Southern Branch affiliation, was not able to participate.

Given the tight timeframes to promote AYL success for the HSA, and trial and prepare players for the 2022 season, the HSA Board, reluctantly, resolved to withdraw from the Football NSW AYL competition in 2022.

DIRECTOR OF COMPETITIONS REPORT

Team Nominations

HSA received the nominations below from our member clubs and schools for the 2021 season.

	Bowral	Bundanoon	Crookwell	Exeter	Gib Gate	Hill Top	Marulan	MBK United	Mittagong	Moss Vale	Oxley	Robertson	Stags	Tudor House	Yerrinbool	TOTAL
U6	4			1	2	2			3	3		3		1	2	21
U7	5	2		1	2	1			2	3		2			1	19
U8	4				1	1			3	2	1	1		2	1	16
U9	4	2		1	1	1			2	2	2	1				16
U10	3					1			2	1	1	1			1	10
U11	4	1			1	2			1	2	2	1			1	15
U12	2								1	1	1	2				7
U13	1	1				1				1					1	5
U14									1							1
U15										2		1			1	4
AAM Youth				1		1			1	1					1	5
AAM PL1	1						1		1	1					1	5
AAM PL2	1			1					1	1		1			1	6
AAM HL	1	1		1		1						2			1	7
AAW PL1						1		1				1	1			4
AAW PL2	1		1	1		1	1		1	1		1				8
	31	7	1	7	7	13	2	1	19	21	7	17	1	3	12	149

Competitions

From the above nominations the HSA Competition Committee determined that the following competition would be conducted:

- MiniRoos – Under 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11
- Juniors – Under 13, Under 15
- Youth grade - Combined competition with STFA with 10 teams
- All Age Men – Division 1, Division 2 with the following finals format
 - AAM PL1 - Teams finishing 1-4 in the Division 1 competition.
 - AAM PL2 - Teams finishing 5 and 6 in the Division 1 competition and teams finishing 1 and 2 in the Division 2 competition.
 - Highlands League - Teams finishing 3-6 in the Division 2 competition.
- All Age Women

The following rounds were scheduled for each competition:

- MiniRoos – 17 rounds

- Under 13 – 15 rounds
- Under 15 – 14 rounds
- Youth grade – 15 rounds
- All Age Men – Division 1 – 14 rounds
- All Age Men – Division 2 – 17 rounds
- All Age Women – 17 rounds

For Under 13 through to the All Age competitions a 3 week finals series was planned from August 28 to September 11.

Rounds Played

The season got off to a fine start, however it was not very long before all competitions were impacted by the Public Health Orders implemented due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Initially Yerrinbool was the most severely affected club as most of their players lived within the boundaries of the area affected when the initial Sydney lockdown was implemented. We continued with all competitions hoping that restrictions would ease, however on August 14 a state wide lockdown was implemented which ended the 2021 season.

TECHNICAL DIRECTOR REPORT

The HSA Coach Development program has continued to strive forwards in 2021 by supporting over 200 new and existing HSA grassroots coaches through formal and informal support and learning opportunities. Due to the continued challenges faced with the pandemic, the HSA Coach Development team showed adaptability and flexibility in the approach educating others through a mixture of on-ground club mentoring, face-to-face workshops, individual meetings, and online workshop delivery across HSA.



Coaching Courses, Workshops and Expos

HSA's coach education has continued to adapt by providing formal and informal learning initiatives throughout the year. HSA offered MiniRoos, Skill and Game Training certificates to coaches as part of Football Australia's National coaching pathway, with the additional focus of a game-based approach being implemented within these courses for coaches initiating their coaching journey.

Likewise, HSA Coach department had a strategic focus on developing young coaches by introducing them into our Youth Coach Development Mentorship Program.

An online coaching series was offered during the lockdown 'the Monday Night Coaches Club' which was well-received by budding coaches who had a willingness to learn, debate and delve deeper into different topics.



HFC ACADEMY & PHOENIX ACADEMY

The HFC Academy is in its 16th year of operation, played a key role in both player and coach development. The Academy is a training program (including Goalkeeper specific training) aligning with the Football Australia National Curriculum for community players aged U8 to U12 of all levels. This year we also introduced the new All Girls Phoenix Academy linking in with NPL club Southeast

Phoenix. The aim of these programs is to provide an opportunity for all community players to receive professional coaching in addition to their club training. We have seen success in these programs with 3 players progressing to a higher level of play for the 2022 season. Thank you to all the HFC Academy coaches for running a professional program.

HSA SCHOOL PROGRAMS AND HOLIDAY CLINICS

School Programs and Holiday Clinics once again proved a key opportunity to engage players from within and around the Highlands community through the delivery of enjoyable, social, skill and game-based clinics to encourage new and existing players to experience the game in a positive environment. We would like to like to thank Football NSW, Western Sydney Wanderers, and Football Australia for their support with the delivery of these programs.



REPRESENTATIVE FOOTBALL

The Girls and Womens programs had a restructure in 2021 with the new partnerships with NPL clubs Illawarra Stingrays and South East Phoenix. Three more Highlands players moved into these NPL clubs for the 2021 season and all players were retained for the 2022 season.



Highlands FC FSC Youth League

2021 was shaping up as another impressive year in the history of Highlands FC, with the introduction of two new squads, the U10s and U12s and the return of players in the U15 group

While the abrupt end to the season was disappointing, the way our players, coaches and managers adapted to this challenge was cause for great pride, with everyone committing to the various lockdown initiatives conducted to continue our development and club spirit.

U10's became one of the strongest teams within their competition and displayed the highest-level technical ability seen within this age group for a long time.

U12's was introduced to 11v11 for the first time and the coaches guided the players to some entertaining performances.

U15's coaches supporting the players in develop their tactical knowledge and delivered many strong performances throughout the season.

Thank you to everyone who got down to HFC games over the course of the season and we look forward to seeing you next season.

DIRECTOR OF RECORDS AND COMPETITION INTEGRITY REPORT

It was again a very disrupted season due to Covid-19 and the season ended abruptly on 14th August with a state-wide lockdown. There were no Grand Finals held. The Club Championship, as well as all other special or individual awards, was not conferred.

Due to the early cessation of the season which meant that the finals series could not be played, and the resultant uneven number of games that each team had played throughout the season, the HSA Competition Committee determined to calculate the Minor Premiers of each competition on an average points per game basis.

Honour Roll

Senior Competition

All Age Men PL1:

Minor Premiers - Marulan

Darryl Kill Memorial Trophy - Marulan

All Age Women PL:

Minor Premiers – Robertson-Burrawang M

Noelene Munro Cup - Robertson-Burrawang M

Chris Jacobs Cup – Moss Vale

All Age Men PL2:

Minor Premiers - Mittagong

Liberale Trophy – Robertson-Burrawang

George Auld Cup – Hill Top

All Age Men Youth Grade:

Minor Premiers – Crookwell

HSA Cup – Moss Vale

Junior Competition

Under 15s:

Minor Premiers – Yerrinbool-Bargo

Jan Plain Cup – Yerrinbool-Bargo

Under 13s:

Minor Premiers – Bowral Legends

Antony Liberale Memorial Trophy – Bowral Legends

Under 11s:

Michael Sant Cup - Bowral Rangers

Under 10s:

Beryl Fitzgerald Memorial Cup – Oxley

Other Cups

FA Cup:

Marulan played Rouse Hill Rams in the 2nd round and were defeated.

Pre-Season Cup:

Not played due to rain.

Champion of Champions:

Not played due to Covid-19 lockdown.

Atkinson-Price (Joadja) Challenge Cup:

Not played due to Covid-19 lockdown.

AAM STFA/HSA Joint Cups:

The inaugural AAM STFA/HSA Joint Cups were played over three rounds and a Semi-final.

The Finals were unable to be played due to the lockdown. The finalists were -

Champions League – Marulan v Bowral

Champions Shield – Moss Vale v Wollondilly Soldiers Gold

Other STFA/HSA joint matches for the winners of the U13/U15/Youth Grade/AAW Cups were also unable to be played due to the lockdown.

Red and Yellow Cards

There were 14 red cards and 112 yellow cards given during the season.

The types of red cards given were:

R1 - 1

R4 - 1

R6 – 4 (one for abuse against a match official)

R7 - 8

Forfeits

There were 19 forfeits: -

Distribution of forfeits by Club: -

Bowral – 0

Moss Vale – 4

Gib Gate – 3

Mittagong – 1

Yerrinbool – 0

Bundanoon – 0

Hill Top – 5

Exeter – 3

Oxley College – 2

Robertson – 0

Wollondilly Soldiers Green - 1

Distribution of forfeits by age group/grade (including Cups): -

U6s – 1

U7s – 3

U8s – 2

U9s – 2

U10s – 0

U11s – 1

U13s – 4

U15s – 0

AAM Youth League – 0

AAM PL2 – 1

AAW PL – 3

AAM PL1 – 1

AAM PL1 Champions League – 1

Highland Football Referee Association

Total Registered Referees - 19

Referee Courses Conducted - 1

New Referees - 2

REFEREE COVERAGE FOR 2021

	Total Matches	Referee Coverage
	469	275
	Total Matches	Referee Coverage
Under 12/13	89	51
Under 15	46	28
Youth League	47	27
AAM	174	95
AAW	94	57
FSC AAM	12	10
FSC AAW	4	4
Schools	3	3

