

Qld Softball – North Coast Regional Softball Academy Committee Meeting Minutes

**Meeting at Caboolture Softball Association Grounds –
Wednesday the 9th of April 2008.**

1. Time Commenced: 7.50pm

2. Present: Bruce Challenor, , Judy Losberg, Brooke Wilkins, Steve Wagner, Mark Mawn

3. Apologies: Ron Flint, Stephen Shorten, L.J. Bampton, Terry Rubesaame.

4. Adoption of Previous Minutes.

Motion: That the minutes of the meeting held on the 12th of March 2008 be received and confirmed.

Moved: Bruce Challenor **Seconded:** Steve Wagner Carried.

5. Business Arising from Previous Minutes

(a) Selection Trials - Progress

Redcliffe to proceed next Saturday. A number of coaches have been invited to assist with the process. 32 participants invited to attend. Stephen Shorten appears pretty organised about this and hopefully everything will go off well.

Caboolture organised for the 26th of April. Because season not yet commenced exact numbers not known. Once season commences will have a better idea.

(b) Manual Copies

The issue of copying parts of the manual discussed. Brooke (Qld) advised that because a number of Associations want access to the document we need to be very vigilant about copying document. It was indicated that if individual associations have access to the document then they could pull the information they want from the program and run something themselves that would not necessarily meet the standards and benchmarks that are being developed for the academy. Committee members felt that where areas of coaching need to link with the Academy to ensure we are all coaching to the same specifications then some provisions should be considered for this. Some security protocols may need to be put in place to support copy right. Brooke to check on this with Qld committee.

(c) Handbook

This matter discussed and it was generally felt that altering the contents of the handbook to form a diary based document to monitor and record player profiles, training and general development would not be a problem. Once this is done it would be requested that we forward a copy of Qld and could be adopted for future programs.

(d) Recruitment of Coaches

Need to be vigilant about approaching date of camp and the need to provide a head coach and assistants from each association (based on 1-5 ratios) for the operation of the camp and academy program.

(e) Shirts

Design of shirts needs to still be checked with kids. Bruce indicated he would ask Chris if she could follow up.

6. Correspondence inwards/outwards

Copies of emails and correspondence presented.

7. Financial Report

Nil to report.

8. Administrators Report

(a) Documents Circulated.

During U14 girls championships both Stephen Shorten and administrator were able to talk to a number of people from Noosa re the academy program. A number of potential players were also viewed during games. Generally everyone spoken to was very supportive of the opportunity being presented and indicated a desire to be involved. Copies of the Academy pamphlet (20) was also supplied to Noosa president who indicated that she would circulate to players. A number of players also viewed from Sunshine Coast who played for Noosa under permit

(b) Camp organisation

Andrea Flint has agreed to take on the role as Female Camp coordinator for the academy. Andrea is very qualified in terms of medical first aid requirements. An extra room at camp will be organised to assist with the operation of the camp. Not sure of plan from Stephen but may also need to invite Qld representatives to assist with some aspects of the camp. Administrator will undertake a risk assessment of the camp prior to commencement date. Some paperwork has also been prepared to assist.

(c) Procedures

It was suggested that we may not have to recreate a range of documents if we can access Qld Softball forms documents that have been used previously. Administrator has done samples of some forms including complaint/problem form what to bring camp form and information etc. Many of the forms developed will be based on knowledge and experience with PCYC's and adoption/modification of some forms and documents.

9. Head Coach Report

(a) Trials have been confirmed with:

- Redcliffe – 12/04/08 (9am-12pm).
- Caboolture – 26/04/08 (10.30am-12.30pm)
- Sunshine Coast – 10/05/08 (9am-12pm)
- Noosa – yet to be confirmed.

(b) Rep Team Stats

Could Redcliffe and Noosa supply a complete set of their stats for the boys and girls teams following the State Championships, as this information will prove to be very helpful with the selection process? Redcliffe have already been advised of this and Bruce indicated that if he could obtain score book from Noosa he would be prepared to do on their behalf if they do not have person able to do so.

(c) Outline of selection process.

Firstly we have no benchmark in order to determine who is definitively “in” or “out” of the selection process. Most of the opinion will be based on observation and objective opinion based on my experience with U14 and U16 athletes over the past 30 years.

At our first athlete meeting, I want to conduct some general testing of athletes and conduct a general training session in order to judge the attending athlete potential. I’ll then complete a report on each athlete as I have observed with a general recommendation as to whether the athlete is suitable for inclusion to the Academy.

At each trial, I’ll need the assistance of at least one coach per 5 athletes. In this regard I can have groups working under instruction whilst other groups are involved in testing.

A draft copy of the initial assessment sheet is attached for the meeting to consider.

I am hoping that by the middle of May, we can start discussing the final selection of athletes for the Academy. This will then give me an opportunity to revisit each Association before the Camp in order to finalise out-standing selection issues and conduct further skills sessions with the athletes.

This matter was discussed by the committee with input from Brooke Wilkins from Qld. Bench marks MUST contain bench marks developed by Qld. We can add other tests to the program but the ones identified by Qld are used for existing assessment and for this reason data obtained through academy process would filter through to Qld as player’s progress.

(d) Draft player assessment

I have attached a copy of the draft player assessment form that I propose we complete at the Academy camp. This form is still in draft format but gives some idea of the detail I want to document at the camp.

Once again during discussion it was reiterated that forms must comply with basic prerequisite bench marks identified by Qld.

(e) Camp details

The June camp details will come together slowly. I've commenced preparing the camp content but will want to discuss this with the coaching staff before formalising the final draft.

For the camp I will need to access to the following resources;

- Softball diamond with two complete sets of bases.
- One softball per athlete (suggest that all academy gear is marked and numbered so that it is returned after each session).
- Two batting machines (preferably double wheeled machines)
- Access to power/generator.
- *Committee also felt that access to A.I.S. Speed gun (contact Bob Crudgington to organise) may assist with testing. May need to liaise further with Qld on this.*

(f) Assistant Coaches

We need to consider the appointment of Assistant and other coaches to the Academy. I am mindful that the coaching process should not be deemed dictatorial. The appointment of additional coaching personnel will assist in ensuring that allegations of favoritism and bias are kept to an absolute minimum.

(g) Academy Motto

We have considered and adopted the attached as our Academy Logo. I'd like the committee to now consider an Academy motto or brief mission statement. I offer the following suggestion:

“Fitter-Faster-Stronger-Smarter”

This is simple, easy to remember and captures the intent of all that we will be trying to do for our young athletes.

We don't need to decide on this immediately, but in order for the Academy to succeed, we must have an identity. When we have our first set of athletes, they will be our identity. Until then, our uniform, our logo and our motto will be who we are and what we stand for. Ideally each will ultimately compliment the other.

This matter was discussed by committee. As the academy was a state wide program it was asked identified that the branding of academies under a common logo may fall within the back yard of Qld Softball. Brooke to check with Sherri and Qld committee concerning this item.

(h) After the camp

I'd like the committee to start considering what will come after the camp. I believe that we should follow up our athletes within one month after the Camp, and monthly thereafter with weekend clinics.

I'd like to propose that we could hold a one day clinic for Redcliffe/Caboolture at a combined Redcliffe/Caboolture venue and then two weeks later, for the Sunshine Coast and Noosa at a combined Sunshine Coast/Noosa venue.

Two weeks later we could hold an Academy training for all athletes at the same venue. This process can then be repeated for a further 6 weeks.

If we do proceed with the Australia Day – Sunshine Cup Tournament for U16 and U14 teams, then we need to obtain QSA approval for the tournament and decide upon a venue. Committee agreed to adopt in principle.

We'll need to issue invitations to Clubs and Associations. We'll also need to call for nominations from our Academy Associations for Coaches, Managers and Statisticians for our Boy's and girl's academy team to compete in the U16 divisions of our tournament. We need to give this some thought now as the year is going to go very quickly.

(i) Uniforms

At the last meeting most of the ideas concerning the shirt was directed to me. I want this to be an Academy shirt that has been accepted by all Associations and in this regard am very happy to go with the consensus opinion concerning same. My only comments are:

- The shirt must have a Sun Smart collar.
- The shirt must look smart, both on and off the diamond. It will be used as a walk out shirt, a training shirt and a uniform for our Sunshine Cup tournament.

To assist this process Bruce will ask Chris if she could make necessary negotiations with the supplier, based on the need for the shirt to have a sun smart collar. This is also a requirement of Qld.

10. General Business

(a) **Progress outline** from each Association- Around the table.

Caboolture

Association only have had limited number of junior teams nominated this year. It does have a large number of T-Ballers. Season about to start this weekend.

Redcliffe

Development Squad program for pitching and catching commencing on the 19th of April at a cost of \$65, 45 Participants have signed up so far. Boys and girls did well at state titles with teams finishing in presidents cup playoffs.

(b) **Carnival Plan**

This matter needs to be considered by the Associations but Redcliffe may be the best option for running the tournament as they are centrally located and will be in season at the time of the carnival and easily accessible by Brisbane teams.

(c) End of year event

As part of the planning of timetable of academy events it may be worth considering having an event at the end of the year to celebrate the success of the Academy. This could form a social event awards night with a bit of entertainment and fun, probably a sit down meal with a DJ etc some speeches and awards. Requirement in Manual for athletes to carry handbook with them to each training session. It was felt that if the handbook could be produced in a diary format it would be more useful as training and review tool. Administrator to follow up.

(d) QSA - Brooke Wilkins

Brooke spoke during the course of meeting on a range of issues including processes that have evolved and influenced the creation of the Academy program. Brooke was thanked for attending and for her participation during the course of the meeting.

11. Next meeting

Next meeting to be held at Caboolture Softball Clubhouse on Wednesday the 14th of May 2008 commencing at 7.30pm.

12. Closure of Meeting at 9.18 pm.