



## MINUTES OF THE BOARD MEETING

**Date:** Monday 8th September 2025

**Time:** 7:00 PM

**Location:** Sandringham Basketball Stadium

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### 1. Attendees

**Board Members & CEO:** Phil McFarlane (President/Chair), Gerrik Gratz, Jason Shugg, Michelle Scalzi, Caroline Tuohey, Paul Jasniach, Rachel Dolan, Craig Weir (CEO).

**Apologies:** None noted.

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### 2. Meeting Commencement

The meeting was declared open by the Chair, Phil McFarlane.

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### 3. Agenda Items

#### 1.0 Welcome – President / Chair

- **1.1 Declarations of Conflict of Interest:** The Chair called for any declarations of conflict of interest. None were declared by the board members present.
- **1.2 Minutes of Previous Meeting:** The draft minutes from the previous meeting were reviewed.

**Decision:** The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted as a true and accurate record with the noted amendments.

- **Moved by:** Caroline Tuohey
- **Seconded by:** Jason Shugg
- **Motion Carried.**

- **1.3 Action Register:** The Chair reviewed the action items from the previous meeting.
  - **Banking Process :** Confirmed as completed and closed.
  - **Strategy Session :** Confirmed as completed during the last meeting.
  - **Draft Annual Report :** The draft is in the shared directory. Craig Weir and Paul Jasniach are to add their commentary.

## **2.0 Decisions (Offline)**

The Chair noted two key decisions were made and approved by the board offline since the last meeting:

- The 2025/26 Budget was formally approved.
- The CEO Performance Review was completed and approved. The Chair congratulated the CEO.

## **3.0 Decisions**

*This item was covered under the Operations Report.*

## **4.0 Operations Report (Presented by Craig Weir, CEO)**

- **Domestic Competition Growth:**
  - The competition has grown by 41 teams, reaching a total of 976 teams.
  - This growth, particularly from larger clubs, is causing significant capacity and fixturing challenges, including a shortage of training court space and an increase in game-day byes.
- **Club Size & Equity:**
  - A detailed discussion was held regarding the challenges posed by the dominance of larger clubs. Issues identified include competitive imbalance in A-Grade, difficulty for smaller clubs to find fill-in players, and fixture congestion.
  - Potential solutions were debated, including the idea of capping team numbers per club (e.g., at 100 teams), reviewing by-laws to assist smaller

clubs, and addressing the issue of players participating in multiple age groups.

- **Action:** The Board will facilitate a broader strategic discussion with all club presidents in the new year to address competitive balance and sustainable growth.
- **NBL1 Program:**
  - **Men's Team:** Finished a successful season, placing 4th at the Nationals.
  - **Women's Team:** A productive meeting was held between management and players to discuss the program's direction. The recruitment for a new head coach is progressing well, with a strong internal candidate emerging as the frontrunner.
- **VJBL Program:**
  - SBA has 13 teams in Grand Finals and 4 teams in Preliminary Finals, representing a 33% success rate for the program.
- **Development Programs:**
  - The "Sabre Cubs" program has seen significant growth, from 160 participants in 2023 to 221 in 2025.
  - The "Rep Ready" program continues to be a successful pathway for junior players transitioning to representative basketball.
- **Staffing:**
  - Rachel is confirmed to be returning from maternity leave on the 3rd of the month.
  - Adam, the Referee Administrator, has resigned to take up another opportunity. The process to recruit a replacement is underway.

## 5.0 Finance & Audit Report (Presented by Paul Jasniach, Treasurer)

- **Financial Performance:**
  - Domestic income was lower in August, but this was a timing difference, with year-to-date income remaining on budget.
  - Year-to-date expenses are currently tracking below budget, resulting in a favourable variance of approximately \$77,000.

- **Cash Position:** The current cash balance is \$1.26 million, with \$1 million held in a term deposit. A significant cash injection of approximately \$500,000 is expected from junior fee collections.

#### **6.0 Strategy Progress & Policy Review (Presented by Gerrik Gratz)**

- The strategy document has been updated following the workshop at the last meeting, with progress ratings adjusted to "Maintain," "Stretch," or "Review." The board was asked to review the updated document.

#### **7.0 Other Business**

- **Anonymous Content:** The Chair advised there was no further update. The mediation process has stalled with no response from the other party. The current position remains in place and will remain unchanged.
- **Unsigned Council Lease:** A discussion was held regarding the outstanding lease agreement with the local council, which has been pending since March. SBA has signed it by the Council is yet to complete the sign off process. The delay is reportedly due to minor issues.
  - **Action:** The CEO will follow up with the council. If a resolution is not imminent, the matter will be escalated to the local councillor.
- **New Grandstand:** It was noted that an informal decision had been made to proceed with the installation of an additional grandstand on court 1.

#### **8.0 Close**

There being no further business, the meeting was declared closed at 9:00 PM.

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**Next Meeting:** AGM – 6<sup>th</sup> October 2025.