

Excerpts from the Ineson Report

(Executive Summary of the Report to New Zealand Soccer on the Review of the District Federation Structure, March 2003)

The Review found that of the seven Federations, two (federations 1 & 5) were carrying out members' mandate as stipulated in the Federation Rules. These two were performing at a level that enabled benchmark standards to be established for the other Federations to measure themselves against.

The other five federations (federations 2, 3, 4, 6 & 7), to one degree or another, were performing at levels well short of Federations 1 and 5. One (Federation 4) could be described as dysfunctional and was operating without a Chief Executive officer (CEO). Federation 7 had significant divisions between its two main centres. Federation 3's CEO had resigned and has not yet been replaced. Federations 2 and 6 are under performing.

3 Planning

Most of the Federations have developed strategic plans and annual business/financial plans. A small group have yet to do so. In these instances planning, which ought to be a fundamental requirement of every board and CEO, has been given lower priority because of the need (perceived or otherwise) to get their On Field programmes in place. The downside of this has created pressure on these boards which has resulted in reactive management rather than proactive/strategic management. Similarly NZS needs to ensure its plans affecting the Federations go through due process (consultation etc.) And are communicated well in advance of being actioned.

Recommendation 4: Achieve Financial Viability

4.4 Those Federations experiencing resistance to the direct club levy (by clubs and/or associations) to adopt a "package" approach. This will provide a practical way to manage the environment they operate in, to be implemented no later than the 2004 financial year.

The package approach is:

1. Federations *directly* invoice clubs and clubs remit levies directly back to the Federations.
2. Federations *contract out* the administration and running of local competition and delivery of coaching and related programmes and services.
3. Members funds held by the associations by way of surplus/reserves be remitted directly to the Federations.
4. Federations allocate these funds into the area from which they came as part of an integrated and co-ordinated strategy overseen by the Federation's board, CEO and

Director of Coaching (DOC).

4.5 Where Clubs do not pay their levies, federations to adopt a “no pay, no play” policy.

5 Communications:

The Federations have informal communications systems but, at this stage, a number do not have a formal communications strategy/plan. In many instances this has led to a situation where the associations have effectively taken the communications high ground and acted as a block between the Federations and the clubs. To address this it is important for the Federations to form partnerships with clubs and other stakeholders.

Comment

There is universal support for the Federation structure from Federation Chairs, CEOs and DOCs. The Federation structure has been a big step forward for the Game in terms of its On Field performance. This has given impetus to coaching, competitions and development of junior/youth and women's programmes.

The Off Field performance has not matched the On Field. This report provides the opportunity for the Federations to improve in every area of their performance. This report has focused on this aspect.

The future development of the Game will depend on the commitment by the Federations and NZS to implement **all** the recommendations in this Report.

Many of the recommendations relate to NZS. However it is unreasonable to expect NZS to implement all of them on its own. A number of them can be done by Action Groups drawn from the Federations based on guidelines from, and under the direction of, NZS.

Many thanks to readers/contacts/Federation people who forwarded Ineson Report data in the wake of our previous issue. More next issue.

Never ever miss a Sitter!

Nothing to do with New Zealand, but the following story was too funny to leave out... (Uk Non-League paper, July 14):

In a game at the Island Games in Guernsey between Greenland and Isle of Wight. IOW were 1-0 up when play was stopped for an injury to a Greenland player. The ref restarted the game with a drop ball, Greenland's Vitus Kofoed kicked the ball back to IOW, unfortunately his 40 yard punt sailed into the net and the ref had to give a goal.

Greenland were a bit embarrassed by this so from the kickoff they invited IOW to walk through for an unhindered goal. Phil McDonald dribbled unchallenged past statuesque defenders and around the keeper before lashing the ball wide from a couple of yards.

The miss proved crucial as Greenland went on to win 2-1. Phil McDonald said “OK, I am rubbish because I put it wide, but they didn't make it easy for me. A couple shaped as if they were going to tackle me and then I felt the keeper was trying to narrow the angle”.

His coach, John Carragher said “Phil was so upset he was crying at the end of the game. But he has a reputation for missing sitters so none of us were surprised! He'll never be able to live that one down”.

McDonald can take solice from the fact there was video footage of the game so he should make lots of money in royalties from the clip being shown the world over!

-- Forwarded by subscriber David Webster.