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COMPETITION STARTS ON APRIL 6

The draw has finally been set with an April 6 start. The holdup was due to the non decision on the fate of the Woy Woy Club. Now confirmed, the season will be 18 rounds with the grand final due on

The first round matches include:

Xxxxxxxxx v xxxxxxxx
Xxxxxxxxx v xxxxxxxx
Xxxxxxxxx v xxxxxxxx
Xxxxxxxxx v xxxxxxxx
Xxxxxxxxx v xxxxxxxx (first grade only)

DIFFICULTIES WITH FIRST GRADE TEAMS

Because now both Wyong and Woy will be fielding reserve grade teams only, it means that in our 10 team draw, two first grade teams will have a bye each week. The Board has decided to overcome this by fixturing those two respective bye teams to play each other each week. The result is that one of those sides will be playing away from their reserve and first grades.

WOY WOY IN RESERVE GRADE

Woy Woy have been accepted to play Reserve Grade and Under 18s only this season following the club's rethink on their application regarding the fielding of a first grade team.

Because of the club's failure in reserves last year, they will have to post a \$2,000 bond by the end of this month as part of their application process.

ALL TEAMS TO BE BONDED

Clubs which fail to field teams they indicated on their application will face a hefty bond next year for those teams. This new rule will be added to the league's by-laws.

PRE-SEASON TO START ON MARCH 9

A pre-season competition, similar to last year's will start on March 9 and go over a period of 3 weeks with the finals this year at Adelaide Street Oval, Tumbi Umbi on the Central Coast.

There will be some unusual rules again this year but the confusing scoring system has been scrapped.

CHANGES

The results of the survey regarding some of the league by-laws and procedures have produced a few changes, including: All grades will now play 16/4 with the finals to run U18, reserves then firsts. Support was shown for: the pre-season competition in its current format, all clubs to field under 18s, bonus points for fielding under 18s, finals over 4 weekends and continuation of night games.

Sunday games have to be played because of shortages with our umpires, but the Board recognizes that we are predominantly a Saturday competition. One issue the Board did take a stance on was the playing of 25 minutes quarters plus time on in first grade games. Our General Manager has found that this is standard practice right round Australia in leagues like our own. The Board feels that club timekeepers should take more care in how time is kept.

THE BOARD SEES THEMSELVES AS **KEEPERS OF THE CODE**

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NO SUPPORT FOR HUNTER UNDER 18s

*One thing the clubs did not give unanimous support to was the participation of a regional under 18 team into the Sydney Competition **this year**. A letter outlining the league's feelings has been sent to Sydney.*

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CLUB TIMEKEEPERS COURSE

The General Manager intends to conduct a course for club timekeepers to instruct them in the proper methods of time keeping so that problems with extended quarters etc. should be kept to a minimum.

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The course will be league accredited with certificates issued to those who successfully complete it.

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NEW ADDITION TO THE BOARD

Long Jetty Solicitor, Trevor Drake has been appointed to the Board to give it more balance and wider scope in the administration of the league and our game.

Trevor, originally from Victoria, was previously a member of the Central Coast AFL and last year Chairman of the BDAFL Tribunal.

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DINNER FOR SEASON LAUNCH

The league is holding a dinner for the season's launch and also using it as a pre-cursor to the Barassi Club, an innovation which the league desperately wants to proceed with and something that can be put to good use for the game here. In fact it could well be the league's salvation, so be sure u support it.

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The Season's Launch will be held at Club Nova in Newcastle on FRIDAY 22 March commencing at xxxxx. The cost is \$68 per head which includes xxx, with entertainment from xxxx and with speaker, Paul Roos.

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The Board is really urging the clubs to support the league in this endeavour and will give away one ticket with every table of 10 sold for this function.

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BOARD SUPPORTS ENTRY OF TEAM INTO THE SFL

Following a meeting between league president, Chris Arnold and CEO of the AFL(NSW/ACT) John Livy, the Board has given tentative support to the proposal of a Black Diamond Power club entering the SFL in 2005. Prior to any firm commitment, the Board has asked Mr Livy to confirm, in writing: funding for a fulltime general manager for the club from June 2002, appointment and funding of a high profile coach for the club, upgrading of facilities at the proposed home ground, funding of the clubs participation for the first year of entry and funding of our own general managers position for a period of a further six months.

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BOARD LOOKS AT TULKABAR GROUND

The Board, together with a representative from the Lake Macquarie Council has inspected the ground at xxxxxxx, as a future venue for the relocation of the Cardiff Club. The General Manager is expected to make his report on the proposition shortly.

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