

FERNTREE GULLY FOOTBALL CLUB

WELFARE & WELLBEING: SPORTS CHAPLAIN ROLE

(FINAL: Last updated 20 May 2014)

PURPOSE:

To develop a Club **Welfare and Wellbeing: Sports Chaplain** role description to complement the specific needs of all associated with the Ferntree Gully Football Club . namely our player list, our members, our supporters, and families.

BACKGROUND:

The Ferntree Gully Football Club exists to deliver football programs . to operate at our optimum requires individual and collective discipline, a healthy lifestyle, an ability to problem solve, and a commitment to support each other.

The type of player we are looking for at our club must have a commitment to achieving the desired attributes that we are wanting to instill in our players including:

- Good team mates
- Wise decision makers
- Personal drive and initiative
- Respect of self, for each other, and in all relationships
- Accountability for our actions and behaviours
- Pride in our Club's history and in the game
- Professional in their approach and preparation to play
- Inclusive of all people regardless of ability, race, culture or creed
- United in our direction and vision

Similarly, the Club has been developed (as per our Strategic Plan) to provide a safe social sporting environment for the local community.+

To this end, the Ferntree Gully Football Club makes a commitment to each and every player that it will care for and develop our players to help them become better men for having played the game and for belonging to the Ferntree Gully Football Club community. We will participate in all educational programs initiated by the Eastern Football League (eg: Roadsafe and Violence against women Programs), AFL Victoria (eg: Quality Club Program including Good Sports), and those initiated and generated from within the Club (eg: Drug and Alcohol presentations). We will participate and assist in other non-football related activities and programs that add value to the local community (eg: Knox Festival) and raising funds for a charity of our choice (eg: Chicks for Charity amongst others).

Having said this, our players are also young adults, some with partners and families . there are many life challenges and at times they may also need assistance to push through some of these challenges.

As such, the Ferntree Gully Football Club believes it has an important role to provide another option to all of our players who may need to talk through issues such as:

- Problems at work and/or at home
- Changed circumstances such as issues associated with injury management
- Communication breakdown
- Any other assistance

A new role has been established to provide players with a contact point to discuss any issue that they feel the need to raise . to be a conduit; to be available; to be a mentor . someone who will listen, care and provide wisdom and guidance; to be safe.

This role is also extended to Club members, supporters and families.

Pastoral Care through the Ferntree Gully Football Club Chaplain

The primary concern of our club Chaplain is the immediate and long term wellbeing of players, coaches, admin and support staff and their families.

Our Chaplain can assist with:

- Providing a confidential, listening ear to those who wish to share pressures and concerns faced from footy, family and other life circumstances.
- Critical Incident and Stress Management
- Values Based Leadership and Lifestyle Training
- Family Care and Support
- Home and Hospital Visitation
- Grief and loss, bereavement
- Marriage and Relationship Development
- De-briefing, Selective Counseling and Referrals

Please Note:

1. Our Chaplain is not a professional counselor. He is trained to respond to the needs of people and to ensuring that people at risk are linked in with other recognised care providers. His primary focus is pastoral care.
2. Our Chaplain is accredited and must adhere to a Professional Code of Conduct.
3. He is available to people from all religious or non-religious, nationality and lifestyle backgrounds.
4. He will not seek to evangelise (spread the Gospel) but can discuss spiritual matters if people wish to discuss these with him.
5. His services are offered in a purely voluntary capacity.
6. He is happy for his personal contact details to be given to the club community so that people can contact him if they wish to.
7. He is committed to attending a minimum of one training night a week and home games.

DECISION:

The **Welfare and Wellbeing: Sports Chaplain** position description was accepted with ~~ALL~~ objections at the General Committee Meeting held on 14 April 2014. This position description will be reviewed periodically and as required.

In season 2014, the Ferntree Gully Football Club **Welfare and Wellbeing: Sports Chaplain** is Bob Hobson who can be contacted on (Mobile): 0418 357 964.

**Ferntree Gully Football Club
Executive and General Committee
14 April 2014**