

Candidate Statements

Listed in the order received

Zone Representative - Central - Tom Mullumby

I am submitting an application due to my desire to be involved in the betterment of football in this state. The game continues to grow and there is important work to be done in supporting FV's long term strategy development and to incorporate what I believe to be important tactical and considered approaches. I am a believer in how we ensure participants becomes advocates for the game, and how the sport can ensure the future state leaders, and important media and government decision makers have this tangible connection to the game prior to entering their positions as to how we can remove this uphill battle. As much as we wish translating the passion for the game for people who have had limited interaction with the sport is arduous work, and the solution is around supporting our current participants into future positions where they can positively shape our future for everyone benefit.

Referee's Standing Committee - Con Frescos

My name is Con Frescos – I am a referee for the Western Branch and I am re nominating for a position on the Referees' Standing Committee as a technicality has made my original nomination.

In the first few months of sitting on the Standing Committee I have worked hard to implement six major improvements that will positively affect referees in Victoria. The recommendations will support all referees from junior first year referees to very experienced referees. My aim is for the Victorian referees to be the best in Australia with resources and support.

My role in the referee standing committee is to influence change in the handling of referees who have been abused performing the duties and invent innovative ways to change culture in the community on their perceptions of referees.

I have been a Football Victoria referee for over 16 years.

I am currently the Welfare Officer for the Western Region Referees and have been working with a number of referees and the FV to resolve the issue of post traumatic mental health for those referees who have been abused or threaten during their games over the years.

I am very aware with the culture of players in clubs, with their issues and perceptions of authority as I was a senior player playing under two sporting codes in the past. I have seen the ugly parts of both codes as well as the positives of playing sport for the community.

I have had personal experience with my son, a talented referee, who was abused and threaten in his first year of refereeing. I have seen the effect it has made to what was a vibrant out going kid to now a reserved, confused and anxious child who finds it hard to interact with people.

Importantly, my aim has been to make the committee produce results and be inclusive and represent all members including our country referees who are overlooked.

I would like your support again in being elected on the Referees' Standing Committee.

Women's Standing Committee - South East - Susan Collins

I am putting myself forward to be considered for the Women's Standing Committee because I am passionate about the growth and development of Female Football. I believe we are all custodians of the game for future generations and as such need to be seen to contribute to it in order to provide equal opportunities for female players to develop, excel and most importantly, grow their love of the game.

I have been involved in Football in the UK, NZ and Australia for 4 decades. I am a key member of Brighton Soccer Club, supporting and developing player pathways to suit their needs and delivering quality options to suit all player abilities. Through this I am developing coach and referee growth opportunities to broaden knowledge, provide support and extend the lifetime of our female players connections to the game.

I have a daughter who embarked on the grassroots pathway 6 years ago, this has afforded me with firsthand experience and empathy with the challenges facing young female players, referees and coaches today.

I am a member of our Women's Masters team, therefore a player and teammate who experiences the issues and understands the needs facing women in the game. Having actively pursued options to upskill myself, I participated in the 2018 Football Victoria Women's Leadership Programme and used the skills gained from this to network and support other members of the Football Community to grow the game.

I believe we must strive to ensure the game is accessible for all ages, genders, abilities and skill levels and we need to do this by offering value, providing appropriate facilities, participation pathways and sound governance. This encompasses the management of our resources, developing our people in whatever drives them to be a part of the game and most importantly, inspire future generations to take an active role in the future of the Women's game

I believe my football experience enables me to become a valuable contributor as a member of the Women's Standing Committee.

Thank you for consideration of my nomination.

Zone Representative - Central - Julie Ryan

I put myself forward for consideration as a candidate for the Central Zone Rep position. Below is a statement supporting my nomination for the role.

I believe we are all custodians of the game for future generations, and that we need to focus on the following areas for the game to continue to develop and prosper;

Governance - A effective board should be accessible, transparent, inclusive. The board should be able to report, explain and be answerable for decisions made on behalf of the football community. I would like to part expected constitutional reforms that are likely to start during the next term.

Accessibility – we must ensure the game includes all ages, genders, abilities and skill levels. We must monitor costs, offer value, provide facilities, and increase our reach by developing the various game modes and participation pathways.

Management – of our resources; coaches, clubs, and referees for maximum effectiveness. As well as developing our assets; our volunteers, administrators, state and local government relationships for greatest efficiency.

Engagement – we need to inspire and inform our customers through quality communication, develop collaboration and consultation with all our stakeholders.

We all love football. I do too. I have been fortunate enough to be involved in the game for over 35 years in NSW and Victoria in various capacities; I have coached at community and elite level, I represented at Senior State Level and I continue to play. I've been a spectator at both the 2006 World Cup in Germany and more recently the 2015 and 2019 Women's World Cups in Canada and France. I've been a certified referee; sat on boards /committees at multiple clubs. I have experienced the life as parent of a junior player. I have led team tours domestically and internationally.

I have studied in the field and worked formally within the industry, completing a Bachelor of Applied Science in Coaching and Sports Administration, as an employee of the FFV for 5 years. I am also currently a FFV community coach educator and a Coaching Mentor within the FFV CCC programme and a member of the Coaches Standing Committee. I have also completed 12 months' worth of study in a Diploma of Governance in 2019.

I believe my broad football experience combined enables me to become a valuable contributor as an FFV Zone representative.

The changes in the game over the last few years have been many and exciting to watch. I am motivated by the tremendous opportunities the future presents for the game. If elected I am keen to utilise my tenure to ensure the game continues to provide the large variety of experiences and opportunities I have been lucky enough to participate in.

If you would like to discuss this statement further, please feel free to contact me.

Thank you for consideration of my nomination.

Zone Representative - Western - Phil Dyer

To Whom it may concern,

I am nominated by my club, Point Cook Soccer club, for one of the vacant positions as Zone representative for the western zone.

I have been involved in football all my life as a player, supporter and administrator. I worked for Football Victoria from 2011 – 2019 so am acutely aware of the challenges and opportunities the sport faces over the next few years. I'm particularly interested in how the recently announced 'interim facilities levy' imposed on each player in the state will benefit clubs in the medium to long term and how that extra revenue will be utilised.

I believe transparent and open communication to clubs around this topic and others is key to get 'buy in' from all participants of the sport and think it's something that should be improved.

I have been a board member of Point Cook since 2019 and will endeavour to work with all clubs in the west to make sure their voices are heard in what is geographically one of Melbourne's key growth corridors. Support for clubs is paramount as the sport grows and the willingness of volunteers to commit more of their time to ever changing procedures imposed upon them.

If successful I will be committed to acting as a conduit between the clubs in the west and the organisation.

Women's Standing Committee - South East - Georgia Denisenko

Thank you for considering my application for a position on Football Victoria Women's Standing Committee – South-East zone, which would be a natural extension of my current learning, education, and volunteer work in women's football. My professional background as a lawyer of 27 years', and previous board experience, would allow me to contribute significantly to the Committee on a range of levels.

Football Background

My football experience began as a Mum to my 4 children, two boys and two girls (aged 16, 14, 12 and 9), all of whom play for Glen Eira FC. Over the past 10+ years, I have observed the lack of equality and parity in every aspect of my girls' football experience, from toilets and changerooms, to the pitches they play on, to their pathways and opportunities. This is the case for female footballers at the grassroots, State, national, and international level. I decided I wanted to be part of the movement for change.

I became the (volunteer) Girls' Program Manager at Glen Eira FC ('the Club') in October 2018. The position was borne from my observation that the Club was not offering its girls/women parity in their football experience, compared with the Club's boys, who have had access to the Club's elite academy (Football Technique School/FTS) for many years (and from 2020, a JBNPL pathway). In particular, our higher-level female players were leaving the Club because we could not offer them an advanced junior or senior pathway.

I was convinced that our Club could, and must do better. I introduced John Sugunananthan to General Manager Stewart Howell and President Michael Westaway, and the Club quickly determined to appoint him as its first (Girls') Technical Director. The appointment was announced on 8 October 2018, and our revitalised Glen Eira FC Girls' Program was underway.

Working with our TD, Girls' Operations Manager, General Manager and Committee, I am striving to establish our Girls' Program as the leading provider of grassroots, community football – "for all":

- to engage girls at all levels of football – from social teams, to our high-level development squads. In 2019, we had a 60% increase in girls' participation;
- to recruit women and girls to leadership roles within the Club, especially as coaches. In 2018, the Club had 2 female coaches, in 2019 we had 4, two of whom I have secured funding for, to complete a C-Licence qualification in 2020. We also had a number of girls coaching the Kick-Off program. We aim to increase these numbers annually;
- to bring attention to the poor state of our girls' facilities in the Lord Reserve Clubhouse, with Council, FV, and Federal and State Governments, and continue the push for funding and redevelopment. This has been successful, and Lord Reserve is scheduled for Council redevelopment in 2021;
- to secure grants and sponsorships to fund female programs. In early 2018, I secured the Club's first female sponsorship for the inaugural U12 Girls' Development Squad. In September 2018, I secured a \$10K Vic Active Grant for the Club focussed on increasing female participation.
- to develop knowledge and expertise at all levels of the beautiful game. Grassroots, governance, and administration. (See below for my work in this area.)

Professional and Educational Background

In my professional career, I am a lawyer of more than 25 years' experience, and work in the area of indigenous native title and cultural heritage. I have deep experience and knowledge working in a diverse and issues-rich field (indigenous affairs) and bring a calm and pragmatic approach when working in a team.

In 2018 I was awarded a State Government Women's Board Leadership Program scholarship, and completed the AICD's Company Director's Course, which has significantly strengthened my knowledge in Board governance and practice. Good governance is a critical aspect in a well-functioning football (or any sporting) community. In my view, most well-meaning and hard-working grassroots Football Committees within Clubs are lacking in governance knowledge and practice, and are not supported by strong governance foundations. I believe that one of the keys to advancing women in football, is not only to redress inequity on the pitch, in coaching, in refereeing and administration, but also to provide governance training and support to Club Committees, so they can understand how to address these structural and strategic issues within their Clubs.

In mid-2018 I completed the FV Female Administrator Leadership Program with other Victorian female administrators, led by Karen Pearce and Andrea Swain. This informative course has provided me with a detailed overview of all administrative aspects of 'Clubland', and given me valuable networks both within Football Victoria, and other Clubs.

In December 2019, I was honoured to be awarded a \$10,000 Change Our Game Scholarship from the Victorian Government, after being nominated by Football Victoria. With the scholarship, I plan to complete a graduate certificate in Community Sport Management at Victoria University in 2021.

I also have significant NFP Board experience, having previously been a Director of the Melbourne Montessori School Board, and the Melbourne Montessori School Foundation Ltd, for more than 10 years.

Conclusion

I am a team player, and work well in a group environment where my peers share a common (ambitious) goal, and are willing to work hard, in a collegiate manner to achieve it. It would be great to join the Women's Standing Committee to continue the contribution I am currently making at Glen Eira FC, and to bring it to a broader stakeholder group. I want to be part of the solution and hard work required to bring parity to girls and women in football at all levels of the game. There is much work to do, but important advances are being made rapidly (eg the Matilda's equal pay agreement), and it's a formative time to be involved in women's football at a strategic and policy level.

Women's Standing Committee - Western - Diane Zhang

As the President of the Maribyrnong Swifts Football Club, the sole women's only club in Melbourne's west, I see first hand the challenges and obstacles facing grass roots women's soccer in Victoria. Whether it is facilities, availability of quality coaching, or retaining players, the club has experienced these challenges and we want to be part of the solution. That's why I would relish the opportunity to be part of Football Victoria's Women's Standing Committee.

With the success of the Matildas at the World Cup, interest in women's soccer is bigger than ever. In the wake of this success, many clubs are seeking to establish a women's soccer program for the first time. My experience at the Swifts means I have the breadth of experience to help clubs develop and grow their women's football programs.

A decade ago, the Swifts started with one senior team. Ten years later, we have a booming juniors and teams across most divisions and age groups. We have experience (and still are) many of the challenges that comes with this growth – maintaining an inclusive club with providing elite pathways, establishing and maintaining an appropriate connection between seniors and juniors, advocating for facilities to support our growth. I believe our experience can help inform Football Victoria and community clubs on the challenges of building a women's soccer program and help to develop solutions.

In the last six months, I have been leading the Maribyrnong Swifts' advocacy for better female football facilities in Melbourne's west. We fought strongly for Melbourne Victory's football academy at Footscray Park. Although, we were bitterly disappointed when Maribyrnong Council rejected the Academy, it deepened my understanding of the absence of facilities for women's football, and the opportunities clubs and the football community has in seeking to close this gap.

Professionally, I feel that I have a lot of skills and experience that I can contribute to the Committee. I have worked as an advisor for a federal MP, I have long experience working in policy developing in government, and I have worked as a consultant in the private sector.

Zone Representative - Northern - Maggie Koumi

I would very much like to once again represent all clubs in the Northern Zone, primarily community clubs however I would also be more than happy to work with NPL and WNPL too with the many issues that need addressing. It is important that we all work together for the good of the game.

I have been involved in football for many years now. I was a VSF Commissioner for 6 years and have since been a standing committee representative on and off for the last 12 years. I was also a Zone Rep. for the Northern zone some years ago.

I have been a player, club team coach, club manager and state team manager spanning a number of years and have a high level of experience and knowledge of all levels of football in Victoria and Australia.

I believe our current constitution is out dated and in great need of reform in order for grass roots football clubs to have a better opportunity to have a say in how our sport is run in Victoria. I would very much like to see a new FV Constitution with a new voting structure that would involve ALL clubs having a direct say in the governance of football. I believe the current Zone structure is not working and does not properly represent the community. Should I be successful in this election I will do my best as your member to help bring this about.

My contribution has always been in a voluntary capacity and is consistent with my passion and love of the game coupled with the desire to assist in bringing football to as many people as possible.

I am totally dedicated to all clubs and not just affiliated with any one club or association.

Junior's Standing Committee - Southern - Dawn Stone

I am submitting my nomination to the Junior Standing Committee.

I am currently President of Casey Comets Football Club and have been for the last 3 years. I have been a member of the Casey Comets Committee for the last 8 years. During that time, there have been many changes in the junior structure and delivery of football.

I have 5 children, 4 of which have played football. Through my children's involvement with the sport, I have had some experience of Community football, NPL football and All Abilities football.

I believe that every Junior player should be represented on the Junior Standing committee, whether they play competitively (at any level) or whether they are just wanting to play socially. It is essential that all junior football, for both boys and girls is continually meeting the changing demands of what our junior players need and to ensure that football delivers the best experience to every junior player and participant.

I believe strongly in advocating for the rights of a child and the implementation of universal child safe environments and clubs. I believe that as a sports organisation we have huge responsibilities for a child's welfare including mental health and wellbeing. I have attended several workshops relating to creating child safe organisations. Clubs need to be universally supported in ensuring that football can deliver to its junior participants a child safe environment.