

Grounds and Fixtures AGM Report 2017-18

11th June 2018

The start of the season saw 50 teams playing across 6 divisions in the women's league, which is the highest number of teams to date and three more than the previous season. Unfortunately, one team had to withdraw from division five after Christmas but we hope this unfortunate event was exceptional. We continued with our objectives from previous seasons to gradually increase the number of players competing in the highest division by looking to promote the winner and runner up of division one (subject to customary caveats) after completing one round to compete in one round of an 8-team premier division.

At the start of the season there were 6 teams in the premier division, 10 teams in division one, 8 teams in division two, 9 teams in division three, 8 teams in division four and 9 teams in division five. The premier division played two rounds before being joined by the first and third placed teams of the first division (after applying the promotion guidelines circulated to clubs before the start of the season) and playing one round as discussed above. All 6 divisions then played one more round after Christmas.

We tried to make the season more compact completing the league for all divisions (except premier) by 10 March 2018 and all knock-out tournaments (except the Holland Cup) by the end of April 2018. It is noted that the long break agreed by the committee for the premier division was overall not popular after discussions with each premier team. We will take this on board. More matches are being played on Saturdays by, again, having matches completed within a tight schedule of 90 minutes. Unfortunately, last season teams seemed more diligent finishing games on time. However this season it seems teams and umpires were less strict resulting in games starting late and/or game time being cut short which is not ideal, particularly for our premier division and will be revisited by the committee.

The only one day tournament this season was the 5-a-side tournament at Happy Valley. The feedback has been positive. The committee would like to thank everyone who was involved in the planning, organization and set up of these tournaments. We'd also like to thank the Hong Kong Football Club for allowing us to use their equipment and for their ongoing support allowing us to use their pitch.

My recommendations to the incoming committee are as follows:

- Circulate fixtures for all league games and pitches slots for knock-out tournament matches and one day tournaments at the start of the season thus reducing the risk of clubs making late requests to change fixtures or conceding walkovers.
- Ensure divisions are of similar sizes and number of rounds consistent and parity of games amongst all divisions.
- Maximise pitch usage by putting in a place structure to enable teams to play more matches.

Prepared by Leela Patel, Grounds & Fixtures Secretary