



President's Report 2020-21

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This report is for the 2020-21 financial year; the Floorball ACT financial year starts on 1 May each year. However, this report covers all events up to and including June 2021. The financial data presented will be strictly for the 2020-21 financial year.

Executive summary

It is my pleasure to present the President's Report for Floorball ACT for FY2020-21. This report outlines the major events from October 2020 to June 2021 inclusive, although financial data is only presented for the formal Floorball ACT financial year 2020-21 (1 May 2020 – 30 Apr 2021).

Floorball ACT has had an excellent year in terms of competition participation, and relatively smooth administrative & financial functioning. However, concerns are starting to appear about the number of volunteers and helpers available to help run the Association, as well as the commitment to non-competition activities (e.g., training). I hope reading this report will help members identify where they might be able to make a contribution to the continued growth of floorball in Canberra.

Activities

Training sessions

Training sessions have been suffering from low attendance consistently since October 2020, with several sessions cancelled pre-emptively due to low expected turnout. Since the loss of Hawker College as a venue in May (see Venues below), regular training sessions have not been held.

There is no one obvious reason we are aware of for the poor attendance at training. We understand the following reasons may be playing a role:

- Pre-existing commitments on training days/dates;
- Lack of larger/national competitions to work towards;
- Perceived level of training session (i.e., too high a level for some players, too low a level for others).

Further work needs to be done to better identify the reasons for low training attendance before sessions are restarted.

Juniors program

Floorball ACT's Juniors Program continues on a term-by-term basis. The only session currently run is on Friday evenings at Tuggeranong Archery Club.

The main impediment to growing our Junior participation is the lack of a Juniors competition to maintain player interest and enthusiasm. This would require a large volunteer effort from Juniors' parents (or another set of volunteers or a sub-committee); the current Committee is at full capacity organizing our seniors events.

It is also deeply concerning that there is only one female player among the active Juniors cohort. Urgent work is being done by our Juniors Delegate to find ways to address this situation.

Local competitions

Winter Series 2020 was held during the reporting period, but was covered in the 2019-20 President's Report. Please refer to that report for details.

Summer Series 2020-21 was held at Tuggeranong Archery Club, Greenway from Saturday 31 October 2020 to Saturday 27 February 2021. Six teams competed in Division 1 and six in Division 2; two teams in Division 1 and four teams in Division 2 were registered by players, while the remainder were formed by Floorball ACT. There were 65 players registered for Division 1, and 67 players registered for Division 2 (with a small number of players participating in both Divisions).

The champion teams were Test Eagles (Division 1) and Schooney Tunes (Division 2). Full competition results are available at: <https://floorballact.leaguerepublic.com>

The large number of teams this season required us to:

- Put two teams on bye each week;
- Extend our venue booking to 4.5 hours each morning; and,
- Reduce game length to 55 minutes (from 60 minutes) to allow five games to be played each morning.

It would appear that 12 teams are the maximum that we can accommodate in a 'single venue' tournament. Any further expansion will likely require our competition to be split across two venues.

This season included a 'Christmas Clash' match for each division at the halfway point of the season, with all willing players combined into two jumbled teams. Similar games were held on the finals day for players whose teams did not make the Grand Final for their division. These games continue to be well-received, and will likely form a part of our local competitions going forward.

Corporate Challenge Day 2021 was held at National Hockey Centre, Lyneham on Saturday 5 June. 45 players competed across 10 teams in short-format 3v3 games over two small courts, including approximately 25 brand-new players. The Challenge Day champions were NHMRC+; for full results, see <https://www.revolutionise.com.au/floorballact/tournament/9245/&date=2021-06-05&d=18666>.

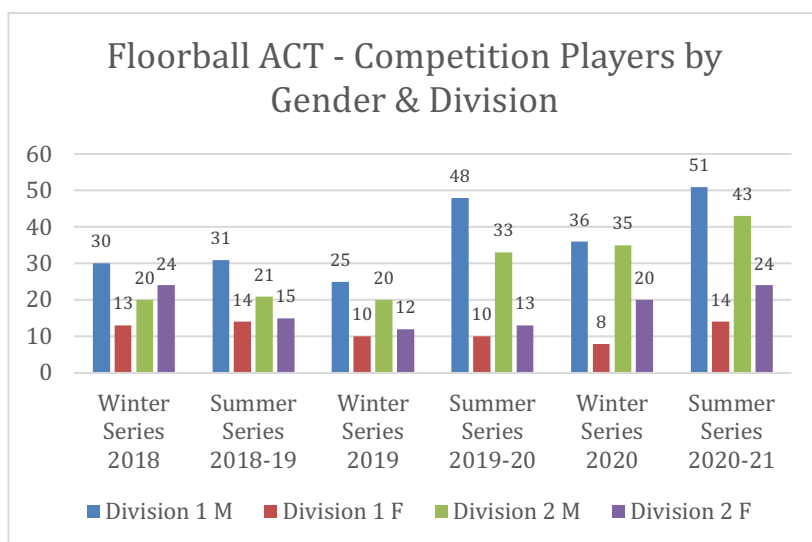
Competition participation

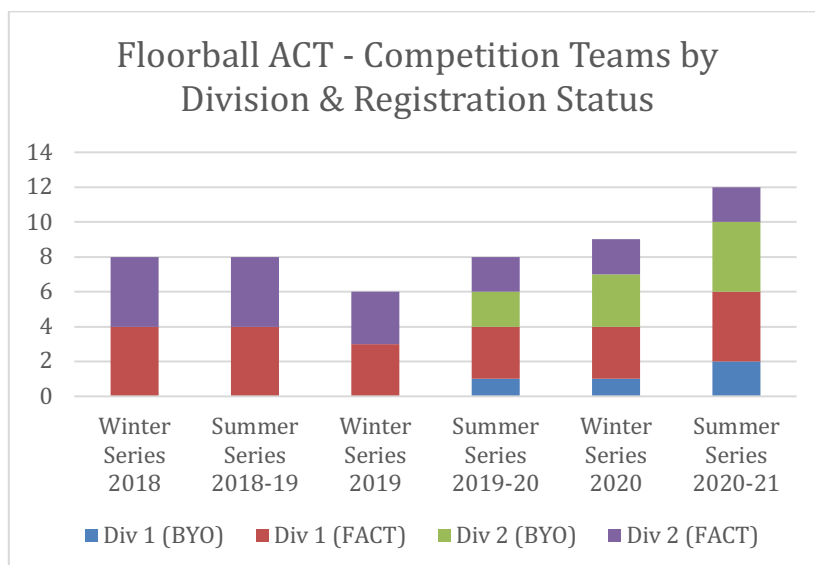
The graphs in this section count individual player registrations for a particular competition. Players who play in both divisions will be counted twice, so these figures should not be used to calculate an overall number of individual players. Teams/players from 'special' games, e.g., Christmas Clash, are not counted.

The continued growth of the size of local competitions, shown in the graphs below, is pleasing to see. In particular:

- Both the number of players and number of teams are steadily increasing;
- The number of player-formed (i.e., 'BYO') teams is also steadily increasing, both in real terms, and as a proportion of total teams within the competition. This means existing players are making the effort to recruit additional players to the sport.

It should be noted that winter competitions are always smaller than summer competitions; this is due to our player base, and/or their children, taking part in hockey, ice hockey, or other winter sports during that period.





National tournaments

National tournaments have not been held during the reporting period due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Some external clubs (e.g., Peninsula, Pakenham) have attempted to hold small tournaments using a 'drafted teams' model, but unfortunate COVID-19 outbreaks have seen the cancellation of these events.

The Committee's current position is that the ongoing COVID-19 situation makes attempting to organize or attend national tournaments moot. We are hopeful that national tournaments will be able to resume in 2022.

Overseas tournaments

Overseas tournaments have not been attended during the reporting period due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The current uncertainty around vaccinations and travel restrictions makes planning to attend overseas tournaments effectively impossible at this point.

International representation

Most recent international competitions have been cancelled due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

Nominations have recently opened for the Australian teams to attend both a men's and women's World Floorball Championship at the end of 2021. However, it is currently highly uncertain that Australian teams will be able to attend these events.

Social events

Floorball ACT Christmas Party 2020 was held at Weston Park on 12 December 2020. Approximately 30 people braved an unseasonably cold and blustery afternoon to enjoy an early dinner BBQ.

Venues

Our local competitions continue to be played exclusively at Tuggeranong Archery Centre (TAC), except on days where TAC is unavailable and we cannot reschedule the round to a later date. In such situations, we have been using QPRC Indoor Sports in Queanbeyan as our back-up venue.

We have been informed that QPRC Indoor Sports is to be taken over by the PCYC. This will require us to form a relationship with the new operators of the centre, and may mean a reduction in availability of the venue if PCYC begins to run their own programs/sports on a Saturday morning.

Hawker College, our most recent Tuesday-night training venue, is no longer available to Floorball ACT; there is no longer storage space available, which means no equipment (rink or goals) would be available at that location. This makes it impossible to run sessions there without expending unacceptable effort in moving equipment in and out of the venue every session.

We are continuing to look for additional venues, but have yet to identify any. Further, we have heard anecdotal reports from other indoor sports that indoor venues across Canberra are at full capacity. For example, we enquired about using the large gymnasium at the new Molonglo Valley school (Evelyn Scott School), but were told that it is already booked at all possible times, despite the venue still being under construction at the time.

Equipment

During the reporting period, the Committee has invested in the following new equipment:

- A set of four referee headsets. These improve referee communication, as well as enabling better referee training;
- Two new televisions, wall mounts, and HDMI-Ethernet repeater equipment for TAC. This allows us to display scoreboards on both sides of the court simultaneously;
- Storage shelving, cabinets & tubs for use at TAC. This has significantly tidied up our equipment storage space, and makes finding pieces of our equipment much easier. A big thanks must be given to Merrin Bradford for organizing these upgrades.

All equipment is currently stored at TAC, which is creating overcrowding issues in the storage space there, despite the new storage solutions. We are currently looking at options

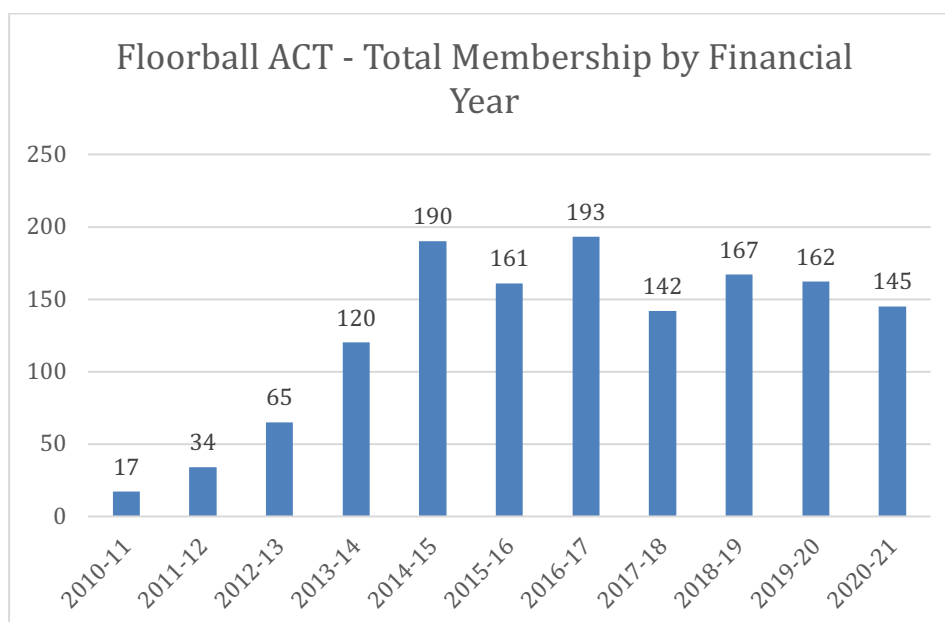
for the disposal of some of our older bulky equipment (e.g., old, incomplete rinks) to free up some space. It is also planned to move a rink, goals and some other ancillary equipment to a new venue, if one were identified. A replacement rink(s) is a high priority for the Committee, but is on hold until we identify a venue where it could be used and stored.

Membership

As at 4 July 2021, Floorball ACT's membership stands at **145 current members**, made up of:

- **118** Senior members;
- **23** Junior members;
- **1** Associate member;
- **3** One-Month members.

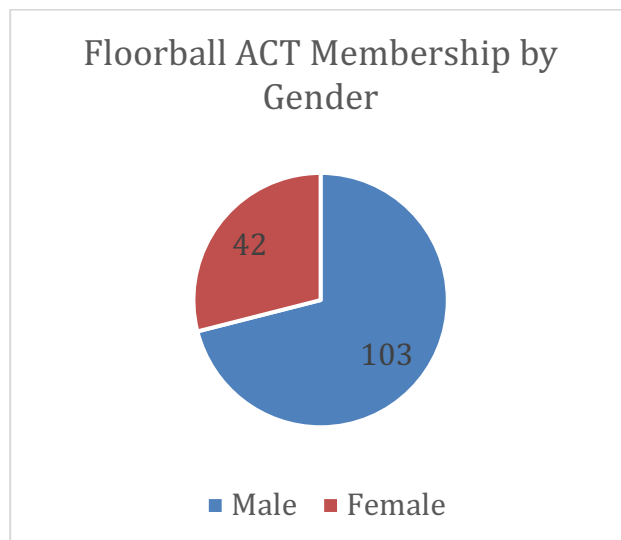
The reduction in membership numbers from 2019-20 is entirely due to the membership of no-longer-active Junior players expiring; the number of active Senior members is identical to that presented in the 2019-20 President's Report.



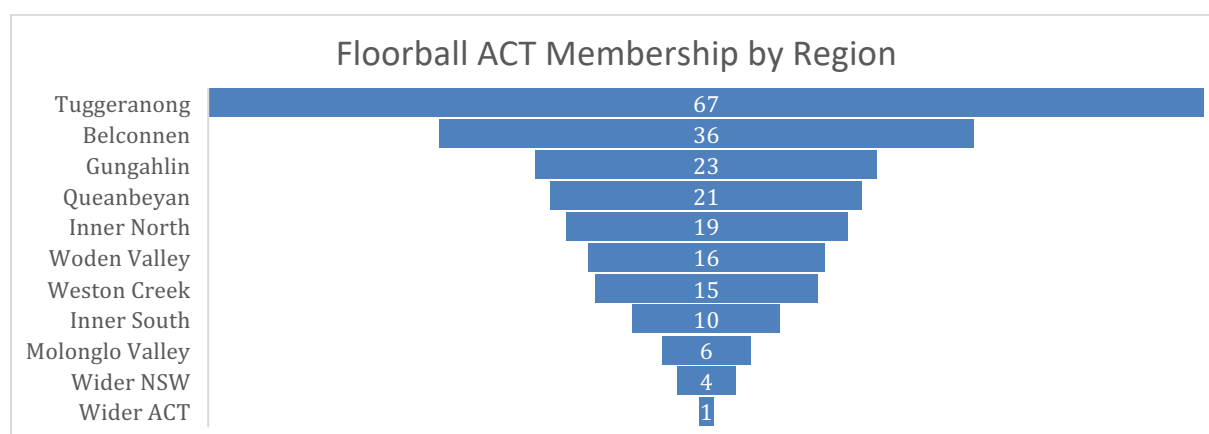
Come-and-Try Memberships have been renamed as One-Month Memberships. This better represents their purpose in providing registration and insurance coverage for non-regular players taking part in one-off events. For example, approximately 25 players took out a One-Month Membership to participate in Corporate Challenge Day 2021; by 4 July 2021, all but three of those memberships have expired, or have been converted into full memberships.

The ratio of male to female members has held approximately steady since the last financial year, with just over two male members for every female member. However, the situation is worse if Juniors are considered alone; at present, there is only one female player attending

our Juniors Program. Our Juniors coordinators are currently working on plans to drastically improve female participation at that level.



A breakdown of Floorball ACT memberships by region shows that just under half of all members are from the Tuggeranong region (although this number may be slightly skewed by the only Juniors session being in Tuggeranong). However, nearly the same number of members live in the two northern-most areas of Canberra combined, i.e., Belconnen and Gungahlin. This highlights the importance of identifying a consistently-available north Canberra venue to continue the growth of floorball in the ACT.



Governance and management

The management and financial systems that were put in place during the 2019-20 financial year (see President's Report 2019-20) have continued to pay dividends during the current financial year. In particular, the new systems have:

- Allowed us to accurately find & recoup missing or unpaid fees;

- Simplify purchasing reconciliation and tracking.

Website

Under the new Floorball Australia membership structure, we are provided with access to our own Revolutionise membership console. This console has the ability to run other aspects of our operations as a public website as well, including:

- Competitions;
- Events;
- Training sessions;
- Referee assignments & payments;
- Incident & injury reporting; and,
- Proper invoicing for competition & event fees.

Over Q3 of 2021 (i.e., approximately Q2 of the Floorball ACT financial year), we will be moving all of our website operations over to Revolutionise, and will close down our existing TopScore site. This will result in a more streamlined online experience for Floorball ACT members, as well as lower payment & website fees for the association.

Committee

The Committee elected at the 2020 AGM was:

- Marc White (President)
- Mary-Clare Walker (Vice-President)
- Helen Cook (Secretary)
- Shane Turner (Treasurer)
- Phil Rohan (Seniors Delegate, Player Development Officer)
- Roger Vodicka (Juniors Delegate)
- David Speldewinde (Player Development Officer)
- Merrin Bradford (Equipment Officer)
- Rob Whelan (Sponsorship Officer)
- Alexandra Staib (Coaching Coordinator)

Mark Craswell remains the Member Protection Information Officer.

No changes were made to the Committee during the reporting period.

Refereeing

Floorball ACT continues to field a relatively steady number of referees. However, towards the end of Summer Series 2020-21, we began to experience a referee shortage due to several unrelated injuries, availability issues, etc. Without any new referees coming through, the Committee has implemented a new policy requiring all teams in Floorball ACT competitions to provide at least one referee. This will forcibly increase the number of

referees available for assignment to games. Referee training will be made available for those requiring it.

Furthermore, whilst player behaviour remains generally good, there have been some concerning incidents during the last competition. Therefore, the Committee now requires two players from each team to attend a rules training course every competition. This is to improve the general level of rules knowledge throughout the ACT floorball community, which will hopefully reduce tensions during games where players do not understand the rules that are being enforced.

Floorball Australia is continuing to develop a nationally-consistent referee development pathway; to date, this has only been completed to Level 1 (i.e., new and local-level referees).

Player discipline & complaints

During the last competition, we had the need to activate our Disciplinary Procedures for the first time in at least two years. We found that the Procedure is overly burdensome for comparatively minor offences, as well as creating a large volume of stressful, unpleasant, and probably unnecessary work for the Committee members involved.

We are currently working on an updated Disciplinary Procedure, the core of which will be put to Floorball ACT members at the 2021 AGM, as it requires a Constitution update. This procedure will be based on current best-practice, including the Sports Integrity Australia-based policies and procedures currently being refined by Floorball Australia.

During the period covered by this report:

- **Two (2) complaints were received.**
 - One (1) complaint was unable to be substantiated.
 - One (1) complaint was found to be substantiated.
- **Two (2) players were subject to disciplinary action.**
 - Two (2) players had retrospective penalties applied to the matches in question, and were required to make a written apology for their actions before being permitted to resume playing.

Financial

Overall position

Floorball ACT has ended the financial year in an excellent financial position. The Association recorded net earnings of \$17,483 for the year. This large surplus is driven by two main factors:

1. Membership revenue now comes directly to Floorball ACT, rather than via Floorball Australia, and turns out to be significantly more than the affiliation cost to Floorball Australia;
2. Our local competitions are costed assuming we use TAC half of the time, and another venue (e.g., Lyneham, Queanbeyan) the other half of the time. These other venues are significantly more expensive to hire than TAC. We have managed to hold almost all of our competition games at TAC during this reporting period, which means both Winter Series 2020 and Summer Series 2020-21 made a healthy profit.

We should also note that ACT Government grants for calendar year 2022 were bought forward to this year as a COVID-19 support measure, generating an additional \$2,500 of income.

This large earnings figure has easily erased the unexpected \$8,300 loss event from last financial year. Therefore, it is best to consider the Association to be approximately \$9,000 “in profit” for FY2020-21.

The current Committee’s position with regard to point 2 above is that it is better to maintain a consistent cost for local competitions, rather than manipulate the cost for each season to create a consistent ‘break-even’ scenario. This prevents any given competition running at a loss to the Association, and any surplus funds raised can then be applied to further the Association’s goals (e.g., running participation programs, purchasing major equipment such as rinks, etc.)

Please see the Accounts for FY2020-21 for further details.

Sponsorship

Our sponsorship arrangements with both Powerhouse Physiotherapy and efloorball are continuing. We have gathered no further sponsors during the reporting period.

We are experiencing some COVID-19 pandemic-related shipping issues with recent orders from efloorball. We are working through these issues at the moment.

Final word

Floorball in the Australian Capital Territory continues to gather pace, although the rate of growth has slowed significantly during the current reporting period. The lack of pathways to national, and potentially international, events, appears to be stunting interest at some level. We are also restricted in our ability to grow much further due to a lack of additional venues.

I would like to thank all the current Committee members for their monumental-as-always efforts during the year. However, it is very disappointing that calls for further volunteers

have been met with silence. Floorball is an entirely community-run sport, which requires a level of input from all participants to succeed. I would again strongly encourage all members to consider providing support, however small, to the running of the association. Failure to acquire more volunteers may impair the growth, and even the existing operations, of Floorball ACT in the not-too-distant future.

Marc White
President, Floorball ACT
August 2021