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Sports World

With **LAKIS KONISTIS**

FOOTBALL NSW GETS TOUGH WITH CLUBS

Football NSW (FNSW) has officially announced that the 2010 NSW Premier League will consist of twelve (12) teams, inclusive of the Rockdale City Suns which has gained promotion after winning the tightly contested NSW Super League Competition this season- and at the expense of Penrith Nepean United who have been excluded.

Wollongong Community Football Club has retained its position in the NSW Premier League competition despite finishing bottom of the NSW Premier League Club Championship. The Board of Football NSW in making the decision not to relegate Wollongong Community Football Club did so, on the basis that the position of the club is but one consideration in determining the criteria for inclusion in the NSW Premier League.

The 2010 NSW Premier League will consist of the following teams:

- APIA Leichhardt Tigers
- Bankstown City FC
- Blacktown City Demons
- Bonnyrigg White Eagles
- Manly United
- Marconi Stallions
- Rockdale City Suns
- Sutherland Sharks
- Sydney United
- Sydney Olympic
- West Sydney Berries
- Wollongong CFC

But that is not the BIGGEST news to come out of FNSW headquarters.

It appears as though FNSW has had enough of certain clubs' nonsense and has put them on notice that 'enough is enough!' Many of the clubs were granted conditional entry only into the league in 2010, and are on notice that their performance against the criteria for participation in the NSW Premier League will be under review during the 2010 season.

I wonder which clubs they could be???

Each problem club has been individually written to by FNSW and notified in writing that its inclusion into the NSW Premier League competition obligates them to be a committed partner to the implementation of the business plan upon which the current competition was established.

The criteria for the NSW Premier League competition was established by the Football Committee Report of July 2005.

The Chief Executive Officer of Football NSW, Mr. Michael Quarmby, commented as follows: "Management had provided

to me five possible scenarios for the make-up of the NSW Premier League. Those scenarios

included a competition which could comprise of eight (8), ten (10), or twelve (12) teams. It would not be unfair to say that a number of clubs have significant challenges when weighed against the criteria established for the NSW Premier League Competition. Those Clubs have been advised of what is required of them to maintain their presence in the NSW Premier

League beyond the 2010 season. While Football NSW will work to assist those Clubs, the fundamental responsibility does rest with those individual entities." The clubs in question, (and you know who is a part of this investigation) better heed FNSW's warning- they have 2010 to make up their glaring deficiencies or they WILL be booted out in 2011!

"Clearly, the focus of our NSW Premier League Standing Committee will need to be on measuring the overall performance of the Clubs as a collective in meeting the identified criteria established for the NSW Premier League. To assist in this process, it has been a condition of participation that each club be a committed partner to the implementation of the structure and business plan developed for the NSW Premier League. In this regard, we have issued each Club with the report and recommendations upon which the current competition was based", explained Mike Quarmby.

"Ultimately, the NSW Premier League is about quality and not quantity. This needs to be the approach if the NSW Premier League is to maintain its pre-eminent position as the key competition which underpins the development of players for the A-League. The Board is committed to the implementation of the report and recommendations which had been prepared to ensure Football NSW could meet the Mission Statement for its flagship competition- 'To create an exciting, vibrant football competition with commercial appeal, comprised of viable, professionally administered clubs working closely with their district communities, the football family and Football NSW to build the image of the competition". Look out fellas, the heat will well and truly be on in 2010!

BERRIES BANNED FROM LIDCOMBE OVAL?

Well well well...

It appears as though we were very very wrong!

Last week we announced that the West Sydney Berries looked set to play at Lidcombe Oval once again in 2010.

But how wrong we were.

It appears as tough not even the club's long-term saviour Jim Ronis, could convince FNSW- and as such the Berries have been told officially that they WILL NOT be allowed to play at Lidcombe Oval next year- as the ground does not meet criteria.

The Berries have only themselves to blame for this because they had all of this year to get the ground up to standard- including completing the corporate box area which they knew they had to complete- leaving Football NSW no option but to declare the ground unsuitable for Premier League football in 2010. So where to from here?

It appears as though the Berries will be forced back to the ground they secured to get back into the NSW Premier League in 2008- the Sydney Athletic Centre.

AGL GONE?

A more serious issue for the Berries is that their long term tenant AGL has apparently confirmed the club that they WILL NOT be renewing their lease- thus putting enormous pressure on the club to find another tenant- and fast- otherwise an unleased property equals financial stress on the club.

Yet again, I cannot believe why such a serious matter was left unresolved for so long. This matter should have been dealt with at least 6 months ago.

Let's hope the Berries resolve this serious issue quickly- and hopefully before the new season begins! Could this also be the reason why Sydney Olympic was approached by someone with a view to merging the two clubs?

Sydney Olympic gave them the appropriate response!

GREEK CLUBS SPECTATORS ONLY AT 2009 GOLD MEDAL DINNER

The West Sydney Berries and Sydney Olympic were predominantly "spectators only" at the 2009 Gold Medal Dinner held at the luxurious Curzon Hall last week. Sydney Olympic did at least provide the "Top Goalscorer" in Matthew Mayora (15 goals) in an otherwise quiet evening for the club.

The Sutherland Sharks and Sydney United dominated the night as our two Greek clubs merely watched on, enjoying a great night's entertainment from their respective tables. Sutherland's gun striker Bradley Boardman, who rumour has it MAY be headed to Bonnyrigg in 2010, scooped the major award for his efforts in this year's Telechoice Premier League competition.

His club Sutherland started the night off in grand style winning the "Fair Play" award, and then collecting more silverware including the 1st Grade Championship and of course the Tiger turf Cup.

Not to be outdone, Sydney United picked up the following awards:

- Under 20's Golden Boot award: Steven Veleski
- U/20's Grand Final Championship
- 1st Grade Premiership
- Overall Club Championship Award
- Errea Goalkeeper of the Year Award: Vedran Janjetovic

-Coach Of The Year: Ante Milicic
This year's "Referee Of The Year" was Peter Vrtkovski.

"O KOSMOS" SHARES 2009 MEDIA AWARD

In a tremendous acknowledgement for its contribution all year to the Telechoice Premier League, "O Kosmos" became the FIRST & ONLY Greek newspaper ever to be awarded the Media Award by Football NSW- an award that was co-won with the Manly Daily. Manly Daily's Andrew Prentice accepted the award with "O Kosmos" Sports Editor Panos Nikolaou. Fellow colleague George Stavroulakis was also present to enjoy this award for his outstanding work in 2009 as well. According to the Football NSW website: "Ethnic Greek Newspaper 'O Kosmos' gave out a detailed 16-page spread on the league promoting each and every club for the entire duration of competition". A fantastic reward and acknowledgement for "O Kosmos" newspaper.

"ALLSTARS TEAM" 2009

Not one Sydney Olympic or Berries player in the allstar team for 2009 I'm afraid. The team does at least include Panny Nikas from Sutherland. Each player and coach was awarded a special jersey with their name and number thanks to Errea.

1. Vedran Janjetovic (Sydney United)
 2. Michael Robinson (Sutherland Sharks)
 3. Shane Webb (Bankstown City Lions)
 4. Joe Vrkić (Sydney United)
 5. Richard Luksic (Bankstown City Lions)
 6. Scott Thomas (Manly United)
 7. Ali-Abbas (Marconi Stallions)
 8. Panny Nikas (Sutherland Sharks)
 9. Alexander Canak (Marconi Stallions)
 10. Bradley Boardman (Sutherland Sharks)
 11. Luka Glavas (Sydney United)
- Coach: Ante Milicic (Sydney United)**

PREVIOUS GOLD MEDAL WINNERS

- 2001 - Steve Lazzari (Belconnen Blue Devils)
- 2002 - Daniel Macor (Belconnen Blue Devils)
- 2003 - James Monic (Central Coast Coasties)
- 2004 - Ilija Prenzoski (Belconnen Blue Devils)
- 2005 - Robbie Cattanaich (Belconnen Blue Devils)
- 2006 - Tolgay Ozbey (Blacktown City Demons)
- 2007 - Robbie Cattanaich (Manly United)
- 2008 - Brendan Gan (Sutherland Sharks)
- 2009 - Bradley Boardman (Sutherland Sharks)