UNITED STATES AUSTRALIAN FOOTBALL LEAGUE EXECUTIVE BOARD ANNUAL REPORT 2008



2008 National Championships Results

Division I Vancouver Baltimore/Washington	4.4.(28) 2.0.(12)
Division II Seattle Calgary	3.4.(22) 0.3.(33)
Division III Kansas City St. Louis/Austin	3.8.(26) 1.2.(8)
Division IV Ohio Valley Seattle	6.3.(39) 2.5.(17)
Women Calgary Atlanta	4.3.(27) 3.4.(22)



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Executive Summary –

At their Board Retreat in February of 2008 the Executive Board of the United States Australian Football League made an ongoing commitment to the League's goals:

- That the USAFL will be recognized as the best run amateur Australian Football league in the world, including Australia.
- To have 10,000 US participants in 10 years.
- To work towards having 3 million people in America aware of the game.
- That the game remains community based.

These aspirations will present exciting challenges for the League. We believe that with the dedication, skills and enthusiasm of the Executive and Portfolio Board and with the assistance of our US Advisory Committee and the Australian Advisory Board that we will be able to meet these objectives.

President's Address –

A year of Change...

2008 will forever be known as a year of change for the USA, and USFooty definitely lived up to this theme.

Our long time office manager, Julie Upton, stepped down and was replaced by Meaghan Harrison in Denver. Our heartfelt thanks go out to Julie for her three years of tireless work and she left the administrative side of the USAFL in the best shape it's ever been in, we all wish her the best for her future endeavors. In addition, the Executive Board welcomed a new treasurer toward the end of the year in Adam Coleman, who was serving as head of our American Advisory Council. His predecessor, Andrew Bednall, must also be thanked for all his work in returning our financial status to its healthiest state in our history.

The USFooty nationals continues to grow and I'll never get tired of saying this years' nationals was the biggest ever. 2008 saw 30 men's teams across 4 divisions and a record of 6 women's teams playing over 50 games over two days. This year's nationals were played at the superb US Airforce Academy Athletic fields in Colorado Springs. This tournament is officially the biggest Aussie Rules tournament in the world and continues to get bigger. The biggest change for 2008 was the new national champions. The Calgary women wrestled the title off the Atlanta team, who had won three in a row. In addition, the Vancouver men

took home the Division One title, causing the biggest upset by beating perennial favorites Denver Bulldogs in their first match on Saturday and then going undefeated, winning the final against Baltimore-Washington, in their first nationals final. Seattle continues to improve on the field and took home the Division Two title, with Kansas City winning the Division Three title. The 2009 Nationals will return to their birthplace in the Midwest in Mason, Ohio. Mason is just north of Cincinnati who were the hosts of the first three nationals from 1997-1999.

One area of USFooty that didn't change was our returning board members, who continue to put in countless hours of volunteer work and I feel I must make special mention of them: Rob Beyersdorf (East VP), Jim Martin (Central VP), Leigh Barnes (West VP), Matt Jagger (Secretary) and James Waddell (Memberat-large).

Another area of change continues to be the addition and growth of our newer clubs. Ft. Lauderdale took huge strides in 2008, as did the Portland Power. We also welcomed the Columbus Jackaroos club from Ohio, who sent players to the Nationals to team with Louisville and Cincinnati and took home the Division Four title.

The USAFL Nationals men's team, the American Revolution, once again traveled to Australia for the third International Cup and also experienced a change in fortunes. Unfortunately, this change was from third in 2005 to a disappointing 7th. With that said, the entire team and staff must be commended for their tireless effort and the way they conducted themselves and positively represented USFooty. The Revolution team is already planning for a stronger performance in 2011.

Lastly, but by no means least, I'd like to thank every volunteer, coach, umpire and most importantly, players (men, women and juniors), who continue to grow our great game in the USA.

2009 will see our largest contingent of players traveling to play in Australia and this avenue, made largely possible by Tony Fairhead of our Australian Advisory Committee and Dale Ballantyne of the WACFL, will become one of our most critical areas of player development. In addition, our women's national team, the Freedom, will also travel to Australia for a series of exhibition matches and we wish them all the best.

For the good of the game...

Richard Mann President

Organization –

The United States Australian Football League Executive Board consists of seven elected positions with one year terms; President, Secretary, Treasurer, Eastern Region Vice President, Central Region Vice President, Western Region Vice President and Member-at-Large. These positions are elected by the USAFL affiliate clubs at the Annual General Meeting of the affiliate clubs during the USAFL National Championship Tournament. The incumbents are responsible for the administration of the league and the development of strategic policies and programs. Additionally, there are numerous appointed portfolio positions reporting to the Executive Board. These positions include International Liaison, Webmaster, USFootyKids National Coordinator, Women's Portfolio, and Sponsorship Director. These portfolio positions are responsible for the implementation of those policies and programs as directed by the Executive Board. The membership of the United States Australian Football League is currently comprised of over 40 affiliate clubs in either active or inactive/transitional status. The member clubs operate in relative autonomy with regard to the day-to-day club business. The USAFL has one paid employee who works in an Office Manager capacity.

Clubs are classified as level A, B, C or Developmental based upon organizational and participatory criteria as defined by the Executive Board with level A being the highest category from an organizational and participatory perspective. The USAFL provides club support in the form of administrative policy application, new club start-up assistance, financial guidance, coaching and umpire training, youth programs, a web-based password protected administration console and a defined objective for the development of Australian Football in the United States. The USAFL is also responsible for the organization and operation of the National Championships held each October.

The affiliate clubs are separated by geographic regions for USAFL administrative purposes. There are no restrictions imposed upon the clubs by the USAFL in terms of cross-regional competition. Some affiliate clubs have subsequently organized regional leagues and competitions apart from the overall organization of the USAFL. These leagues and competitive endeavors are self-governing, typically only involving the assistance of the USAFL for tournament support, umpiring and coaching training resources and tribunal dispute resolution. The results of these regional and cross-regional competitions are utilized for the seeding of clubs at the annual USAFL National Championship tournament.

Many clubs have developed alternative styles of competition. Local Metro League competitions (9 a-side) have arisen to accommodate the increasing number of players who enjoy participation in the sport on a recreational basis. This metro league concept allows players to enjoy the sport without the rigors and financial burden of regional travel of senior club competitions. These metro leagues typically consist of several teams of 10-15 players each competing at a

recreational to highly skilled level. The standard laws of football are observed, though minor modification of the rules may be implemented in order to accommodate the desired style and skill level of play. Women's clubs have also become an increasing presence in the United States with 6 women's teams participating at the 2008 USAFL National Championship tournament. An exciting new development has been that of 'Aus Ball', a co-ed, modified game which was adopted by several teams in 2008. The response to Aus Ball has been terrific, with players enthusiastic about continuing to participate in that league and move on to playing regular Australian Football games.

State of the League

USAFL Capability Model





Service Promise -

Regional Development

The USAFL is broken into three divisions, East, West and Central, for both administrative and playing purposes. Each region is represented on the USAFL Executive Board by a Regional Vice President. Each region also has a league in

which the majority of clubs in that region participate. The winners of each regional league gain entry into Division 1 of the National Championships.

A strong regional competition is critical to the development of the game in the US. It allows for quality competition and more games. The development of rivalries (e.g. New York/Boston, Milwaukee/Chicago, San Diego/Orange County) is also an important part of the game.

Australian Advisory Board –

The United States Australian Football League (USAFL) is pleased to announce the creation of the Australian Advisory Board. The Board's mission is "to promote the interests of the USAFL in Australia". During it's formative years the USAFL was able to grow through organic growth from the recruitment of American players. As the game's growth has stabilized, the next wave of growth will come though creative and meaningful relationships with Australian individuals and businesses that have a tie to both the sport and America. The vision of the Advisory Board is:

Friends of the USAFL, in Australia, who have a stature in both business and football, who are willing to advise the USAFL on business in Australia, the inner workings of the game in Australia and their general understanding of everything football.

The Australian Advisory Board has an Australian wide membership of seven individuals who advise the USAFL on how to become a better partner of the AFL, access broader support of the USAFL in Australia, and publicize the existence of the USAFL to people moving to the USA. Terry O'Connor is the inaugural Chairman and Tony Fairhead the Director of the Australian Advisory Board.

American Advisory Committee -

As part of the USAFL's growth process, the League has reached out to seek business and community experts in the USA who have an understanding of the issues facing the game locally, and can contribute background support to the USAFL Executive Board. Our Advisory Committee members who work as part of a team, in assisting and guiding projects and supporting major strategic issues on an as-needed basis as requested by the USAFL Executive Board. The intention of the Committee is to grow to a minimum number of eight specialists – all of whom can make a professional contribution. The initial membership was set up late in 2006, with two founding members – Adam Coleman and Rob Parry and has grown to its current membership of six professionals who cover a wide range of professional knowledge including finance, contracts, business, sponsorship in the non-profit world. Adam Coleman, the initial Chairman, has changed his role and become the USAFL Treasurer. In his place steps Laurence Gration. Laurence has been a member of USAFL projects.

Club Service –

Game Development -

At the end of 2008 the USAFL boasts fully 36 affiliate clubs actively participating in the United States. Additionally, the majority of clubs also run a Metro Footy competition to augment their senior club endeavors. There are also six clubs with a women's team actively training and participating in organized matches both on a local and national scale. In 2008 we saw a number of clubs add co-ed competitions in conjunction with their Metro competitions in order to further create participation opportunities.

These clubs participated in 289 sanctioned USAFL matches over the course of the past year. USAFL affiliates have played more than 2,500 matches since the league began in 1997.

Player Service

USFooty.com –

The official web site for the USAFL is one of the most active and interactive Australian Football web site outside of Australia. Well over 1 million page views were received in 2008 alone. The unique format of the USFooty.com appeals to the whole spectrum of Australian Football supporters. From die-hard fans to footy neophytes, USFooty.com has numerous and varied areas of interest. The site is uniquely designed to provide information, results, training, products and news on all aspects of Australian Football in the US and abroad. The Club Web feature is a valuable resource for affiliate clubs to announce events, post results, share valuable game and club developmental information. Most visits occur leading up to the National Championships.



USFooty.com Statistics for 2008:

- 570,590 Page Views
- 40, 529 Unique Visitors
- 108,188 Visits
- 5.47 minutes average time per visitor
- 289 Results entered into the system
- 10 Monthly Newsletters sent
- 1,809 Newsletter subscribers

While the majority of page-views originate from the United States, USFooty.com has clearly established an extensive worldwide audience with people for 134 countries visiting the site. Top Countries include:

- United States 84,444 Visits
- Australia 16, 436 Visits
- Canada 2,993 Visits
- Great Britain 1,026 Visits

USFootyStore –

The USFootyStore is an important component of the offices of the USAFL with around \$7,500 on-line sales in 2008. Our best sellers continue to be Burley footballs – club, premier, women's, attack, and kid footballs. The FootyStore also allows us the mechanism to collect player dues, club dues, donations, and the like through our online credit card facilities.

Player Lifecycle

USFootyKids -

We continue to run a junior footy program through the USAFL. At the club level this is an opt-in model. The local clubs must prioritize their volunteer efforts and their precious resources are generally focused on senior recruiting.

During 2009 we ran usfootykids clinics, based on AusKick, in schools throughout the country. Denis Ryan is building a network of schools that are slowly adding Australian Football into the curriculum.

Baltimore-Washington is running a juniors league which is proving very successful and will become the model for other clubs who have volunteers who are passionate about having their kids experience Aussie Rules.

American Revolution –

The American Revolution participated in the 2008 edition on the International Cup. The overall results were disappointing for the American outfit that left home with greater expectations than their final results told. The US finished the Cup with a 3 and 2 record and a seventh place ranking.

The Revolution is a good team, but needs to continue to improve to keep pace with the improvements shown by the other countries. The greatest takeaway was that the international game is getting stronger and we need to work hard to be back into the top four in 2011.

Women's Footy and the Freedom –

During the National Championships the US Freedom Womens National team was selected. US National Team Head Coach Wayne Kraska and assistant coach Dan Sarbacker were proud to announce that 24 women and 5 alternates

were selected from a pool of 47 players who nominated themselves and went through tryouts in Phoenix, Milwaukee, Atlanta, and Colorado Springs.

Player	Club
Judith Stein	Atlanta
Jenny Sarbacker - Captain	Atlanta
Dewi Mitchell	Atlanta
Nikki Peoples	Atlanta
Katie Grist	Atlanta
Tina Arend - Vice Captain	Arizona
Karla Mascarena-Pack	Arizona
Courtney Church	Arizona
Danica Weston	Arizona
Anna Thexton	Denver
Kelli Modica	Denver
Denielle Beilfuss	Milwaukee
Suzy Thomas	Milwaukee
Helen Spink - Vice Captain	Milwaukee
Heather O'Keefe	Milwaukee
Kathryn Hogg	Minnesota
Sheree Stiles	Minnesota
Andrea Casillas	New York
Christina Licata	New York
Siobhan McHale	New York
Rebecca McHale	New York
Corynne Periera	New York
Monica Robins	New York
Beth Cartier	New York
Alternates	
Carly Harrington	Atlanta
Jesse Salvato	Arizona
Marie LaVictoire	Minnesota
Carrie Kovalick	North Carolina
Christina Murdock	Atlanta

The team will visit Sydney, Cairns and Melbourne in Australia during August 2009 in the first ever tour by an US women's team to Australia.

Congratulations to all the players selected to represent the USAFL in the 2009 tour to Australia.

Officials

Umpiring -

With a record number of games at Nationals the need for umpires and quality umpiring is paramount. This area will become a focus area over the next three years and we need to grow umpiring numbers at the club level and we can longer rely on the Aussie expat. We will work with the AFL in 2009 to create a pathway for prospective umpires to learn about the game.

Administration Excellence Awards –

Congratulations to Matt Jagger and B.J. Gambaro, Revolution Team Managers, who were awarded the Paul "Plugger" O'Keeffe Administrator's Excellence Award at the 2008 Nationals. They lead the organization of the Revolution trip to Australia for the International Cup.

To organize a tour of 40+ people is a huge undertaking. This was one of the smoothest run Revolution trips and they represented the league with great professionalism. The USAFL would like to thank them both for the countless hours that they invested during the last three years that culminated in the International Cup. We are fortunate to have them continue in 2009.

Coaching

Similar to umpiring, we need to get more coaches at the local level to support the growing number of Metro and Co-ed forming. Quality coaches lead to a better crop of players at both the Club and National level.

We have may interested parties but we need to clearly establish the pathway to becoming a coach and ensure the prospective American coach is not daunted by not being Australian and "having the accent". We anticipate getting this started in 2009.

Financial Management

The USAFL is a not-for-profit organization that maintains its books on a cash basis. The League has various costs of operation which are funded by a grant from the AFL, dues from member clubs, and several sponsorships in relation to the National Championships. The organization is also the financial record keeper of all of the events associated with the League including such events as the National Championships, and the US Freedom Women's team. Consequently, all revenues and expenses of these events are run through the books of the League. The philosophy of the League is that these events are to be self-funding.

In 2008, the League continued to benefit from the measures it introduced in 2007 to improve its accounting and financial functions. Such measures included the continued employment of a part-time accountant and the ongoing implementation of internal controls to optimize the capability of our Accounting software for the

overall benefit of the League. We are confident that the numbers, as presented, reflect that the League is in solid financial shape, subject to the continuation of funding by the AFL. Each year to comply with US tax requirements, the League submits audited financials to the US Internal Revenue Service.

Statements are attached that show the Balance Sheet as of 12/31/08 and the Revenues and Expenses of 2008 that were run through the League's books.

	Total	
ISSETS		
Current Assets		
Bank Accounts		
Australian		.00
BofA, California	0.	.00
BofA, Missouri	34,719.	.32
Petty Cash	0.	.00
USAFL - 2005 National Championships	0.	.00
USBank - 1813	14,353.	.25
Total Bank Accounts	\$ 49,072.	.57
Accounts Receivable		
Accounts Receivable	0.	.00
Total Accounts Receivable	\$	-
Other Current Assets		
Other Receivables	0.	.00
Prepaid Insurance	0.	.00
Store Merchandise	0.	.00
Undeposited Funds	0.	.00
Total Other Current Assets	\$ -	-
Total Current Assets	\$ 49,072.	.57
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 49,072.	.57
LIABILITIES AND EQUITY		_
Liabilities		
Current Liabilities		
Accounts Payable		
Accounts Payable	0.	.00
Total Accounts Payable	\$ -	-
Other Current Liabilities		
Other Accruals	0.	.00
Total Other Current Liabilities	\$ -	
Total Current Liabilities	\$ -	-
Total Liabilities	\$ -	-
Equity		
Opening Balance Equity	13,166.	.47
Retained Earnings	17,104.	
Net Income	18,801.	
Total Equity	\$ 49,072.	
	\$ 49,072.	

USAFL Balance Sheet -

	Total
Income	
1050 Capital Donations	72,664.00
1250 Donations	140.00
1300 Footy Packs	0.00
1375 Membership Dues	44,565.00
1400 Merchandise	90.00
1450 Player Income	0.00
1480 Royalties & Commissions	267.65
1550 Sales of Equipment	1,109.86
1600 Sales of Merchandise	0.00
1650 Sales of Merchandise - Clothing	647.00
1700 Sales of Merchandise - Footballs	5,230.00
1750 Sales of Merchandise - Guernseys, Shorts, Socks	120.00
1800 Sponsorships Non Profit Income	24,130.00
USA Freedom Income	0.00 5,750.00
USFootyStore	0.00
Fotal Income	\$ 154,713.51
Cost of Goods Sold	\$ 154,715.51
3600 Costs of Equipment	854.76
3800 Costs of Merchandise - Footballs	4,607.11
3850 Costs of Merchandise - Guernseys, Shorts, Socks	607.75
4850 Shipping, Packaging & Handling	371.58
Total Cost of Goods Sold	\$ 6,441.20
Gross Profit	\$ 148,272.31
Expenses	¢ 140,212.01
3050 Airfare	2,127.00
3150 Bank Charges	412.06
3200 Banguet - Food	891.86
3250 Board Retreat	4,351.07
3450 Computer Services	921.18
3500 Concession Costs	4,107.50
4000 E-Commerce (USFooty.com)	1,761.80
4050 E-Commerce (USFootyStore.com)	370.00
4150 Equipment Purchase and Rental	17,645.99
4250 Field Rental & Maintenance	7,045.02
4300 Grant Expense	4,750.00
4350 Hotel / Meals	7,756.69
4400 Insurance	5,350.00
4450 Legal & Professional Fees	1,510.00
4550 Merchandise Costs	8,755.19
4650 Office Supplies	556.32
4700 Postage	1,089.62
4750 Promotion & Advertising	8,142.85
4790 Non-Wage Commissions	0.00
4875 Rent or Lease	2,700.04
4900 Sponsorship Development Costs	1,000.00
5050 Telephone / Fax	2,506.47
5100 Trophies	1,475.29
5200 Umpires & Officials	7,575.00
5250 Visa Transaction Costs	3,771.50
5300 Wages & Commissions	38,013.61
UNKNOWN	800.00
USA Freedom Expense	3,171.86
Fotal Expenses	\$ 138,557.92
Net Operating Income	\$ 9,714.39
Other Income	
5500 Interest Earned	31.88
Miscellaneous Income	14,797.00
Fotal Other Income	\$ 14,828.88
Other Expenses	
4600 Miscellaneous	741.64
6000 Prior Year Expenses	5,000.00
Fotal Other Expenses	\$ 5,741.64
Net Other Income	\$ 9,087.24

USAFL Profit and Loss Statement -

CONTACT DETAILS –

Office Manager officemanager@usfooty.com

Executive Board

Richard Mann – President <u>president@usfooty.com</u> Adam Coleman – Treasurer <u>treasurer@usfooty.com</u> Matt Jagger – Secretary <u>secretary@usfooty.com</u> Rob Beyersdorf – Vice President – East <u>vpeast@usfooty.com</u> Jim Martin – Vice President – Central <u>vpcentral@usfooty.com</u> Leigh Barnes – Vice President – West <u>vpwest@usfooty.com</u> James Waddell – Member at Large <u>memberatlarge@usfooty.com</u>

Portfolio Members

Seth McIlvaney - National Umpire Director <u>umpiresdirector@usfooty.com</u> Kathryn Hogg – Women's Portfolio <u>womens@usfooty.com</u>; <u>womensdevelopment@usfooty.com</u> Denis Ryan – USFooty Kids coordinator <u>usfootykids@usfooty.com</u> Matt Muller – Webmaster <u>webmaster@usfooty.com</u> Paul O'Keeffe – International Liaison <u>paul@usfooty.com</u> Shane Frearson – Sponsorship Director <u>sponsorshipdirector@usfooty.com</u> Matt Dainauski – Coaching Director <u>coachingdirector@usfooty.com</u> Kevin Smith – Media Relations <u>mediarelations@usfooty.com</u> David Payne – Armed Forces Development <u>armedforcesportfolio@usfooty.com</u>

National Coaches/Staff

Matt Bishop – Men's National Coach <u>RevoCoach@usfooty.com</u> Matt Jagger – Team Manager <u>secretary@usfooty.com</u> BJ Gambaro – Revolution Manager <u>RevoManager@usfooty.com</u> Wayne Kraska – Women's National Coach <u>WomensRevoCoach@usfooty.com</u>

Advisory Boards

Tony Fairhead – Australian Advisory Board <u>AustralianAdvisory@usfooty.com</u> Laurence Gration – US Advisory Committee <u>USAdvisory@usfooty.com</u>

