



Meeting minutes from Wednesday 16/09/2026 - 6.00pm

Attendees

Fan Representative Group (FRG)

Christie Skillington (CS), Connor Ross (CR), Dan Smareglia (DS - **Secretary**), Jeremy Scott (JS)
Majella Card (MC), Simon Boegheim (SB), Stuart Warren (SW – **Chair**)

Brisbane Roar

Kaz Patafta (KP - **Chairman and CEO**), Zac Anderson (ZA – **Chief Operations Officer**) James
Gow (JG - **Sporting Director**)

Apologies

Chris Kelly (CK), John Murray (JM), Joseph Esposito (JE), Neil Ballment (NB)

1.0 New season welcome

SW opened the meeting by welcoming back existing staff and players and extending a warm welcome to all new players and staff for the upcoming season. The FRG is keen to learn more about how the new recruits will improve our opportunities for success in the both the ALM and ALW teams.

2.0 Football Department update – James Gow

JG outlined his role as the new Sporting Director overseeing a unified football strategy across the A-League Men, A-League Women and Academy/B Team to act as a guardian for the club strategy with a clear vision for the future.

The objective is to build a strategy on how we want to play, how we want to coach, how we want to support our players through athletic, tactical and mental development. These principles guide us on the types of players we want to bring into the club.

The style of play should extend across the club but will take time. The objective is to move Brisbane Roar towards a club-driven model rather than a coach-driven model, ensuring continuity regardless of future coaching changes.

If things aren't going well we don't panic – if things are going really well we don't get too excited. The important thing is to make sure the overall strategy continues.

Analysis of where we need to improve from last year has focussed on how we are going to score more goals. To do this we have recruited certain types of players to be more competitive in certain areas of the pitch. Determine how many goals we need to score from set pieces, in transition and goals from open play. Players need to be fit, robust and available, and this must again be consistent across all teams.

FRG – Are you aware of how dynamic the club playing identity was under Ang and what is the contingency plan if things are not working?

JG – The club wants a clear identity similar in principle to the attacking style historically associated with Brisbane Roar's most successful era.

Parameters are in place and checkpoints along the way will determine if we are working towards our goals, so we don't get to the end of the season without results. There will be analysis every week and a clear set of data to tell us if we are building towards what we want and if not then we can address it quickly.

The overarching strategy must be trusted and protected. It should anticipate every eventuality and ensure staff collaborate effectively.

2.1 Strategic summary

- Leadership – to knit everything together.
- Football Identity – how do we train, play, compete, principles across all three teams.
- Squad Building and Recruitment – build a team that is simultaneously competitive.
- Transfer revenue continues to be important.
- People and Operations – the types of people we want at the football club.
- Performance and Medical – want our players to be fit and robust to make sure that are always available to play. Focus on each player from a medical, physical, football perspective.
- Infrastructure and Sustainability – where we work and the way we work. Need a club driven model and not a coach driven model and be accountable for the strategy.

2.2 Playing Philosophy summary

Key elements of the desired playing style include:

- Greater possession and game control.
- Players positioned closer together.
- Faster ball movement.
- Aggressive pressing without possession.
- Increased use of half-spaces and overloads.
- Strong emphasis on set-piece effectiveness.
- More structured in possession to allow rapid ball recovery when possession is lost.

2.3 Men's Squad Restructure

The transfer window provided an opportunity for a major reset to rebuild the squad.

- Significant squad overhaul completed.
- Approximately 15 departures and 12 arrivals.
- Recruitment aligned to the new football identity.
- Increased emphasis on developing local Queensland talent.
- Stronger blend of experienced leaders and younger players.

The current transfer window activity is considered complete, with no immediate plans for further additions.

2.4 Women's Football

- Appointment of Johnathan Clemente as Women's Head Coach.
- Continuation of the club's commitment to progressive football.
- Strong focus on pathways from Queensland women's football into the professional environment.
- Confidence that the women's program can replicate last season's performance.
- Becoming significantly more competitive.
- Improving goal-scoring output.
- Increasing player availability and fitness.

2.5 Youth Pathway and B Team

Key priorities:

- Promote more Queensland players into the senior squad.
- Measure B Team success by progression into A-League football rather than solely league results.
- Appointment of Nick Hegarty as B Team coach to drive player development and seek promotion back to the NPL.

3.0 Infrastructure update - Brendale

The first infrastructure priority was to have an all of club training ground so there is cross collaboration among all three teams. The Brendale facility is a huge progression in this area, providing a high-performance facility with a gym and improved playing surface. It's the first step in moving Brisbane Roar towards a club-driven model.

4.0 Rescheduling of ALM opening round fixture v Adelaide to December 15.

The news that the club's Round 1 ALM away fixture against Adelaide United, originally scheduled Sunday October 18, has been moved to Tuesday December 15 leaves our team with an unnecessary and unwanted bye for the opening round of the new season.

The FRG wish to protest to the APL in the strongest possible terms because the team has been significantly disadvantaged by now having to play a mid-week game in between two existing Weekend fixtures.

The FRG believes that the offer made by Brisbane Roar club management to move the game to Monday October 19 was fair and reasonable and should have been adopted by the APL to preserve our opening round fixture.

5.0. Supporter Survey Feedback

The Roar Supporters Federation presented findings from a supporter survey.

Key findings included:

- Approximately 90 responses were received.
- Women's match experience rated significantly higher than men's.
- Kayo Stadium experiences rated notably better than Suncorp Stadium experiences.
- Longer-term supporters generally exhibited lower satisfaction levels.
- Strong support for infrastructure investment and long-term stability.
- Matchday experience improvements remain important.

Club representatives acknowledged the feedback and encouraged ongoing engagement. The full report will be published on the RSF website.

6.0. Pre-Season Programme

Discussion centred on the lower number of public pre-season fixtures.

Management advised:

- Australia Cup scheduling affected planning.
- Several proposed matches were cancelled.
- Additional men's and women's pre-season fixtures are expected to be announced.

Brisbane Roar remains committed to public-facing community-based pre-season games where possible.

Meeting closed at 7.40pm.