

Resource 7.1 What can we do? – Footy – Playing the governance game



Thinking about how footy is played is a way to think about governance.

For every footy team, there are a lot of different things that need to be pulled together on the day if the team wants to play its best and win the match.

The team needs to practise hard, develop its skills and fitness, know the rules of the game, and work together on the field. It also needs a strategic coach, and a skilled captain who knows how to put the coach's game plan into operation. If all of these things come together then the team has a good chance of winning the game.

The team also needs to maintain its performance over the whole year, **not just for one game**. The players have to keep working on their skills, and if something goes wrong during a match, the coach, captain and team have to work together to fix the problem so they can get back into their best form for the next match.

The same is true for the governance of your community or organisation.

There are a lot of parallels between the way a football team works and the way governance works in your organisation.

The following table shows how governance talk can translate into footy talk. You can insert the names of your people in their correct roles.

What can we do?

Our team

Governance talk	Our mob	Footy talk	What it means
objectives and vision		goal posts premiership	Having a clear goal
staff		players	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • working together as a team • training and learning • knowing the rules
governing body, directors		coach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • setting the strategy for the game • making sure the captain performs well • letting the team and captain play the game
management—CEO, general manager		captain	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • leading the team • explaining the rules • making sure the team follows the strategy • looking after the needs of the players
chair and governing body, directors		directors of the club	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • steering the direction of the whole club • making sure the club's money is properly spent
organisation, corporation, group		club	Everyone in the club— <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • footy talk: players, captain, coach, directors • governance talk: staff, managers, directors, members

members—of the organisation, or of the community		club members and fans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • supporting and encouraging the club • taking part in team events • staying informed about club issues and events
stakeholders and funding bodies		sponsors and corporate funders	Providing money to support the club
corporate management and governance		corporate management and governance	<p>The club properly managing its business and its money and assets—</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • footy talk: the Sport Association monitoring the club's business activities • governance talk: the funding bodies (e.g. government) monitoring the organisation's activities

And like with footy teams, if players or managers do the wrong thing, they are punished. So, if staff or coaches or directors do the wrong thing, they too will be punished.

But remember: everyone involved in a footy team is on the same side, and it's the same with a community or a corporation. Everyone involved wants it to do really well and be the best possible team or community or corporation it can possibly be.