



An open letter from the committee of the Eltham Lacrosse Club

Dear Members,

On Monday April 12th the committee met to hear a formal dispute relating to a ***decision to disallow senior women from participating in training on Thursday nights during the home and away season*** raised under Rules 25 and 26 of the Eltham Lacrosse Club constitution.

Though principally focussed on ground use for training purposes this meeting highlighted the significant implications facing our women's division, which once proudly sported two teams in all junior divisions and two senior teams. Currently ELC Women's sports one full (U13) and one half (U17) junior teams and a single senior team. But for a full complement of U13 girls, the future is grim.

While the committee's previous deliberations on this topic had focussed on the logistical challenges in sharing ground space, the meeting brought to the fore that a core component of ensuring continued participation of women in sport was inclusivity. Indeed, recent grant funding to improve club facilities for all club members have largely been driven through community and government grants to improve girl's and women's participation.

To jointly address the dispute and to seek to begin to make systemic improvements to the women's division, the committee has sought to resolve the dispute by endorsing the following;

- U13 girls will train Thursday evenings through season 2021
- U17 and senior women will train Thursday evenings for an initial 4 week period (commencing April 15th); after which feedback will be sought re: co-sharing facilities on a Thursday evening and a further determination made.

The committee is acutely aware that this change has a logistical impact for ground use and asks all impacted parties to work together to accommodate this decision.

For the avoidance of doubt space allocation is to be prioritised based on team seniority.

Teams playing in higher divisions shall make first determination on the space they wish to use. In other words, State League teams have first preference, Division 1 second choice, Division 2/B grade third choice etc.

Thank you

Luke Kendall
ELC President on behalf of ELC Committee 2021