

What can we do?

Playing the governance game



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

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

But, before the big match, the team also needs to practise hard, develop its skills and fitness, know the rules of the game, and learn to 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 playing well and 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 to 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 footy 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.

Our team

Governance talk	Our mob	Footy talk	What it means
Objectives and vision		Goal posts or premiership	Having a clear goal.
Staff		Players	Working together as a team. Training and learning. Knowing the rules. Playing the game and doing the daily work.
Governing body and directors		Coach	Setting the strategy for the game. Making sure the captain performs well. Letting the team and captain play the game.
Management (CEO and general manager)		Captain	Leading the team. Explaining the rules. Making sure the team follows the agreed strategy. Looking after the needs of the team. Motivating the team.
Chair, governing body and directors		Directors of the club	Steering the direction of the whole club. Making sure the club's money is properly spent.
Organisation, corporation or group		Club	Everyone in the club. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Footy talk: players, captain, coach and directors. • Governance talk: staff, managers, directors and members.

Members of the organisation or community	Club members and fans	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	Making sure the club is properly managing its business and its money and assets. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Footy talk: the sporting association monitoring the club's business activities. • Governance talk: the funding bodies (for example, governments) monitoring the organisation's activities.

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 their team, community or organisation to do well and be the best it can possibly be.

Everyone makes mistakes sometimes, including the players or managers of footy teams, and the staff members, management or directors of organisations. But this gives you the opportunity to experience the consequences of those mistakes and learn how to rectify them.