



Friday, 16 May 2008

08/01

RESPONSIBILITY OF CLUBS TO PROPERLY TRAIN, TASK AND INSTRUCT MATCH DAY OFFICIALS

All members clubs are responsible for ensuring that their Match Day Officials comply in full with Football NSW By-Laws, and the Football NSW Regulations in order to properly and safely manage match-day activities.

You are to take immediate steps to ensure that there are always NOT LESS THAN three (3) match day officials, readily identifiable by wearing the approved Football NSW numbered jackets with the word "OFFICIAL" on the back.

These people must be instructed to take up strategic positions near the entrance to the field, or near the player benches, or near spectator areas. This may ensure compliance with the Football NSW Regulations (reproduced in part below).

Regulation 5.21

RESPONSIBILITY OF CLUBS FOR BEHAVIOUR OF SPECTATORS

*Each Club shall take **all such steps as are reasonably practicable** to ensure the **good conduct and behaviour of its supporters on any ground**. A Club playing at its own ground or allowing its ground to be used for a match in which it is not participating shall also take all such steps as are reasonably practicable to ensure the good conduct and behaviour of all spectators at that ground.*

Regulation 10.7

CLUB OFFICIALS AT FIXTURES

- (a) *At any fixture both clubs must have **Club Officials**, who are readily identifiable by wearing Football NSW designated Jackets, and these Club Officials must report to the Match Officials fifteen (15) minutes prior to the kick off time of the Matches.*

The Home Club must have a minimum of at least three (3) Officials and the Visiting Club at least three (3) Officials.

All Club Officials must have their name correctly entered on the back of the Team Sheet.

All Officials must wear the numbered jacket allocated to them and this number must also correspond with the number on the rear of the Team Sheet.

- (b) *Home Club Officials shall be solely responsible for:*

- (i) *Welfare of the officiating Referees and Assistant Referees from the time they arrive at the Ground until the time they depart from the ground. Failure to carry out this requirement shall render the Home Club liable to a penalty as decided by the Board.*
- (ii) *Provision of adequate security for the protection of Players and the public.*

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Over the past three seasons, the Football NSW General Purposes Tribunal (GPT), with the support of the Football NSW Appeal Tribunal, has conducted a range of Inquiries under Football NSW By-Laws.

The GPT has imposed some significant sanctions against individuals and clubs proven to have failed to substantially comply with Regulations 5.21 and 10.7. In summary:

- 2006 - Club found guilty of misconduct for breaching Regulations 5.21 and 10.7 for failing to protect the Referee and Assistant Referees from spectators and the club's own match day officials for their abusive, threatening and intimidating words and conduct towards the referees. **Club fined \$1000**. No appeal.
- 2006 – Three separate incidents of fireworks being set off by supporters; foul and abusive language used towards opponent club's officials and/or spectators. Breach of Regulation 5.21 - the club's match day officials failed to take all reasonable steps to ensure the good conduct and behaviour of its supporters. **Club fined \$1000**, and placed on good behaviour bond of \$2000 for the entire following season. No appeal.
- 2006 - Foul and abusive language directed towards the match referee by a spectator sitting alone on the team bench; Foul and abusive language directed towards the match referee by the same spectator who had left the technical area and the enclosed field, leaning over the fence while standing next to a club match day official wearing a reflective "official" jacket; Intimidation towards the match referee after the conclusion of the game by the same spectator. Breach of Regulation 5.21 - **Club fined \$2000**, and placed on good behaviour bond of \$2000 for the entire following season. No appeal.
- 2007 – breach of Regulation 5.21 failure to control spectators and Regulation 10.7 home club failing to protect match officials and ensure player security. Fight broke out in players' race and spilled into spectator area. Assistant Referee spat upon by spectator and otherwise assaulted, threatened. **Club fined \$5000** and placed on good behaviour bond of **\$10,000** to 31 December 2008. Appeal dismissed. GPT decision upheld.
- 2007 – breach of Regulation 5.21 failing to ensure the good conduct and behaviour of club's spectators; breach of Regulation 10.7 (a) by failing to have Club Officials readily identifiable by wearing FNSW designated jackets; and 10.7 (b) (ii) by failing to provide adequate security for the protection of players and the public. Club ordered to immediately forfeit an existing good behaviour bond of **\$1000** bond previously imposed by the GPT; fined **\$1500**; placed on a new good behaviour bond" of **\$5000** up to and including **31 December 2008**. No appeal.
- 2007 – breach of Regulation 10.7 for match day officials failing to wear "official" jackets and properly perform their functions (among a body of other serious misconduct). Club **fined \$2500** and placed on a good behaviour bond of **\$2500** to **31 December 2008**. No appeal.

Clubs are reminded that the GPT has the power to impose a range of sanctions, including (but not limited to) fines (up to \$25,000), bonds (requiring lodgement of funds for the period of the bond) and loss of competition/club championship points.

This Circular is a reminder that your Club's match day officials have a primary responsibility to ensure the safety of referees and players, and maintaining the good order and discipline of the supporters for both clubs. Attached for your information is the Football Federation of Australia's *Spectator Code of Conduct*.



Ian Holmes
General Manager