



FOOTBALL OPERATIONS MEMO

TO: NFNL Junior Club, Parents & spectators

CC: NFNL Football Operations Staff, NFNL CEO

FROM: Ashley White – Junior Football Manager

SUBJECT: Junior parents & spectator behavior

DATE: June 26, 2025

Dear Junior Clubs, parents and spectators,

We have made our way through eight rounds of the NFNL junior competition for 2025. Sadly, across those eight rounds there has been an alarming number of incidents of poor and unacceptable behaviour displayed by parents and spectators.

As I have personally played all of my junior football in the NFNL and been involved in all levels of football (Talent league, VFL/VFLW & AFL/AFLW) it is really disappointing to see umpires, match officials and other spectators being treated with such disrespect.

The league would like to reiterate its zero-tolerance stance on abuse as well as individuals approaching umpires, which is being completely disregarded. Such behaviour and individuals that display this behaviour are not welcome at NFNL matches.

I would like to remind everyone of the leagues by-laws regarding the expected behaviour.

11.16 Conduct of Behaviour at Matches

11.16.1 Affiliated Clubs are held responsible for the conduct of acceptable social behaviour prior to, during and after the matches of any team officials and spectators/parents connected with their team (includes intervals in the match). For any reports received of unacceptable social behaviour, club persons shall be: issued a penalty as determined by the GM Football Operations or referred by the CEO to the Board for consideration and determination. Alternatively, a formal report may be lodged so that the matter is sent direct to the Tribunal.

Fine for breach: In accordance with Schedule 20.

11.16.2 A team official or person connected (i.e Parent/spectator) with an Affiliated Club disputing a decision of an umpire or using abusive language or threatening or insulting language before, during or after a match shall be issued a penalty as determined by the GM



Football Operations which can include banning, reported and sent direct to the Tribunal or the matter may be directed to the CEO and NFNL Board

We would also like to remind everyone should you wish to submit issues or incidents from matches, please submit via your club representatives & not directly to the league.

If you have any questions or concerns don't hesitate to reach out.

All the best for the weekend.

Regards

Ashley White

Junior Football Manager

Northern Football Netball League

