



MEMO 27-2023

DATE: Friday 28th April
TO: NNSWF Premier Clubs
FROM: General Manager Football Operations
SUBJECT: Behaviour at Football Matches

For Information or Action	Action required	Action completed by	NNSWF Contact	Total Pages
Information	Remind Duty Officers of responsibilities	N/A	Liam Bentley	2

Dear All,

I am writing to all clubs today, unfortunately, due to a rise in the number of incidents of unacceptable behaviour at our matches.

We have had an increase in the number of incidents reported to Northern NSW Football of abuse from the sidelines, and disappointingly this seems to be increasing more at youth level. We are currently in the process of investigating 5 different matters which have occurred over the last 3 weeks which all involve spectators using foul or abusive language directed at participants in the match including referees and players.

Clubs are reminded that their MINIMUM requirement is to provide at least 2 duty officers if you are the home team, and at least one duty officer as the away team.

Duty Officers:

- Must be clearly identifiable.
- Must actively patrol the playing arena.
- Must escort the referees to and from the playing field.
- Must not consume alcohol, or be intoxicated, when engaged as a duty officer.
- Should be the first point of contact for spectators of your own club.
- Should engage early with any of your own club's supporters who show signs of potential misbehaviour or abuse to help avoid it before it happens.

We understand that getting volunteers on match day can be difficult, however, as a football community we must ensure that young boys and girls, referees, senior players and coaches and other spectators come to a safe and welcoming environment free from abuse.

Abuse is not acceptable in football, and all have our part to play in creating that safe environment. We ask that as well as actively trying to prevent it using the measures above, that you also work with Northern NSW Football to help identify those persons at your club taking part in this behaviour to help us take the appropriate action.



Thank you in advance.

Kind regards,

Liam Bentley
General Manager Football Operations
Northern NSW Football

MEMORANDUM