



## MEMO 35-2025

**DATE:** Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> July  
**TO:** Premier Clubs  
**FROM:** GM Football Operations & GM Referee Growth & Development  
**SUBJECT:** Unacceptable Behaviour in PYL Matches

For Information or Action	Action required	When	NNSWF Contact	Total Pages
Information	N/A	N/A	<a href="#">Liam Bentley</a>	2

Dear All,

Northern NSW Football (NNSWF) wishes to reiterate the importance of appropriate behaviour by all club representatives, particularly adult coaches and staff, during matches across all competitions.

In recent weeks, we have received reports of abuse and intimidation directed toward match officials. Such incidents are a matter of serious concern, especially considering the large proportion of referees officiating in youth football are themselves children and young people. These issues are being dealt with appropriately. All youth referees deserve an environment that is respectful, supportive, and conducive to their development – the same as players.

**To be clear – adults shouting abuse at children is never, and will never be, acceptable in our competitions.**

All clubs are reminded that the **NNSWF Zero Tolerance Policy** applies at all times. Abuse, intimidation, or disrespectful behaviour toward referees — or any match official — will not be tolerated under any circumstance. Clubs are responsible for ensuring their staff, players, and supporters uphold these standards.

We ask each club to take proactive steps in reinforcing this message internally, particularly with coaching staff. As role models, coaches set the tone for sideline behaviour and must lead by example in demonstrating respect and sportsmanship. Questioning referees in any type of aggressive or intimidatory manner during or directly after the game is not acceptable, and club committee, technical directors and duty officers should attempt to prevent this behaviour immediately.

NNSWF remains committed to fostering a safe and respectful environment for all participants. We thank you for your cooperation and ongoing efforts to uphold the values of our game.



# NORTHERN NSW FOOTBALL

If your club or coaches would like to submit feedback for the referees and their coaches, please do so through the appropriate channels including the [Referee Feedback Form](#).

Regards,

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Northern NSW Football

Brad Carlin  
General Manager Referee Growth & Development  
Northern NSW Football

MEMORANDUM