

CLUB CIRCULAR – 2021_06

Subject: Junior Football & Social Media Behaviour

Date: 18th June 2021

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Audience: Community Club Committees

<p>Summary:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adults play a critical role in setting standards of acceptable behaviour on game day. • The use of social media to bully, harass, abuse or intimidate opposition players or umpires will not be tolerated. 	<p>Club Action:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clubs should circulate and reiterate importance of the WAFC Codes of Conduct. • Discuss de-escalating behaviour with members & parents. • All players should be made aware of Social Media Policy and understand that significant penalties may apply.
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Match Day Behaviour – The role of adults at Junior Community Football.

Clubs are asked to please circulate Codes of Conduct, available for download at [KIA Club Hub](#) to all parents and volunteers.

An alarming number of reports are coming through to the Competition Team each week that are regarding adults behaving poorly on the football field or sidelines. Match Day Volunteers must understand that it is critical that their behaviour de-escalates any on-field misdemeanours.

The Community Football Tribunal has seen a significant drop in players attending tribunal but unfortunately that has been offset by an upward spike in adults being reported.

The Competition Team has applied penalties in 2021 to Coaches, Runners, 1st Aid Officers and Goal Umpires for abusing players and umpires. The most common penalty has been 3 matches and under no circumstances should an adult be abusing an opposition player, regardless of any incident preceding it. It is these types of actions that can escalate both on and off-field behaviours and increase hostility.

We understand that our great game is a passionate sport, but it does not excuse setting a bad example to children. We must collectively work together to call out bad behaviour from our own parent groups first and hold each other accountable to improve the game day environment of our children's sport.

On-field incidents will continue to be managed by umpires.
Crowd behavioural issues should be managed by the 2 Team Managers, working together.
All unresolved or other incidents should be reported to your Club President.

Social Media - Communications Policy (WAFC Pol.02)

In the past 2 seasons, the WAFC Competition Team has been required to investigate instances of online harassment via various social media platforms.

The WAFC takes this type of behaviour very seriously and penalties ranging up to 5 matches have been applied to offending players so far in 2020 and 2021.

The effects of cyber-bullying can have devastating consequences for children who experience it. It can cause fear, embarrassment, poor performance at sport or school, loss of confidence, revenge cyber-bullying, self-harm, and even suicide.

Clubs are encouraged to discuss the policy with players and inform them of the penalties that may be applied.

For some helpful resources, go to esafety.gov.au
