



Dear Member Clubs,

It has come to our attention that there have been some public statements made about a matter that is currently in progress with the NSW Civil and Administrative Tribunal (NCAT).

Football South Coast (FSC) always tries to ensure confidentiality in relation to these matters to protect the interests of those involved, however we feel it is important to clarify some of the facts surrounding this case.

In December 2020, FSC received a claim lodged with NCAT by an amateur registered player within the FSC Men's Premiership Competition in the amount of \$9,722 and \$99 representing half of the players registration fee. The player aged in his 30s was sent off in a game for two yellow cards and for allegedly abusing a 16 year old Assistant Referee. FSC does not stand for this type of behaviour from any of its registered players. The FSC Disciplinary and Dispute Regulations (DDRs) were followed, and the Match Review Committee determined a 7-game suspension. The player chose not to appeal this decision despite having an opportunity to do so under the DDRs.

The player alleges that he was not granted procedural fairness in the disciplinary process, which FSC strongly denies. It was also around this time that the personal representative of the player commenced a social media campaign targeting individuals in FSC and the organisation itself.

In addition, FSC would also like to clarify some information in relation to an extremely challenging COVID impacted season, as public statements have inaccurately stated registered players were charged full fees for half a season:

- Junior and Women's Competitions completed 14 rounds (normally 18 rounds per season) and their Final Series. In addition, the Women's Competition completed their 2-week round Bonnie Lassie Cup. It should also be noted that a large number of junior players access the NSW Government \$100 Active Kids Voucher to cover player registration costs.
- Community League Competitions completed 16 rounds for Masters and 19 rounds (i.e. a full season) for All Age in addition to their Final Series.
- Men's Premiership Competitions included (a) a full Preseason Tournament, (b) Bert Bampton Cup games and included 4 weeks of organised trial games for those not involved in these Cup Games, (c) an 11 round competition series as agreed to by all clubs and (d) a complete Final Series.
- There are a number of fixed costs that exist regardless of the length of the season. These include many FSC costs such as wages and salaries, workers compensation, balls (which are purchased for every team), trophies, insurance, utilities, leave provisions, etc.
- All players were provided with the opportunity to deregister prior to the 1 July 2020 with full refunds offered.

Financial assistance provided to clubs during this time included:

- Approximately \$120,000 of refunds passed onto clubs as a result of reduced FNSW capitation and insurance fees across all players.
- The Men's Premiership (a) Nomination fee and (b) Coaches and Managers fee were waived which totalled approximately \$85,000. FSC Player Registration Fees for this competition totalled approximately \$90,000. Also, all senior referees' payments were reduced by 20%. Therefore, cost savings provided to clubs by FSC exceeded the value of FSC player registration fees collected.

It is also important to note that during the pandemic, there was much uncertainty around the financial impact of sponsorship and our non-winter programs which contribute 40% to our net revenue and subsidise winter player registration costs. **This is the reason why FSC is able to have one of the lowest registration fees across NSW.**

At a time when we are busy preparing for the 2021 season, it is unfortunate that we also continue to be distracted with other inappropriate social media content that lacks appropriate context or background.

We will continue to keep our members clubs informed as the NCAT proceedings continue.

Yours in Football
The FSC Board

15 March 2021