

MEMO : 47 – 18

TO : All Clubs
FROM: The Board of FGC and Damien Bresic
DATE: 21st June 2018
SUBJECT: Enough is Enough

On the back of the recent club executive meeting and as a result of the escalating poor behaviour of spectators at grounds, coupled with the continued abuse and lack of respect shown towards our match officials FGC has implemented the following initiatives and deterrents with the objective to eradicate this unwanted trend from our game

This initiative is **effective immediately** so I urge all clubs to please inform all their players ; coaches and supporters of these changes as we need to band together to ensure that bad behaviour is removed from our game and that people can enjoy the sport we love in a safe and friendly environment.

1. FGC referee's will be instructed to strictly adhere to the "sin bin" rule and any player showing dissent to the referee will be immediately given a 10 minutes break and if he/she continues will be sent from the field.
 - a. Any player sent from the field for an R6 or R7 offence for abusive actions/language directed towards the match officials will incur the following sanctions.
 - i. **First offence** – one additional match ban on top of the mandatory ban plus a \$50.00 fine
 - ii. **Second offence** – two additional match ban on top of the mandatory ban plus a \$150.00 fine
 - iii. **Third offence** – four additional match bans on top of the mandatory ban plus a \$300.00 fine and the team will be deducted 4 competition points.
2. Should any official (coach/manager/physio etc) from the bench/technical area subject the match officials or the opposition to abuse then they will be issued with a warning (yellow card) and if that continues they will be sent from the technical area and the field surrounds.
 - a. Any coach sent from the bench for abusive actions/language will incur the following sanctions.
 - i. **First offence** – one match ban and \$100.00 fine
 - ii. **Second offence** – three match ban and \$250.00 fine
 - iii. **Third offence** – six match ban, \$500 fine and the team will be deducted 4 competition points
3. Any person sent from the field **MUST** be removed from the field and it's surrounds **BEFORE** the game will restart and **MUST** be taken to the changeroom.
4. During recorded interviews, the coach and or player **MUST NOT** mention the referee's in any form or context of the game. If they do so then the interview will continue however it will not go to air and the offending coach/player will be fined a minimum of \$250.00 for the first offence which will double for every subsequent offence. This bring FGC in line with professional football competitions.
5. The requirement for a bench official has been abolished/removed.

6. Clubs are required to provide the following ground officials who must be visible and roam around the ground.
- a. Men and Women PL and CL – Home Club **TWO** Officials / Away Club **ONE** Official
 - b. All Metro games – Home& Away club to provide **ONE** ground official each.
 - c. Junior Competition Games - Home& Away club to provide **ONE** ground official each.
 - d. Mini Roo's Games - Home club to provide **ONE** ground official for every 2 (two) games being played.

7. GROUND OFFICIAL REQUIREMENTS – (GO)

a. SENIORS (Men and Women)

- i. Clubs will be required to provide the number of GO as outlined above.
- ii. The GO will wear a hi-vis vest and introduce themselves to the match day officials a minimum of 15 minutes prior to the scheduled start time
- iii. The GO will be required to “roam” around the venue and be ready to stamp out any unruly or abusive behaviour
- iv. The GO may also be called by the referee to deal with any incident that may require their attention.
- v. Should a club not provide 2 GO's in the designated time
 1. the referee will allow 15 minutes of grace to rectify the matter
 2. if after the grace period no GO have presented the referee will abandon the game and the non-offending team will be declared the winner and the offending team fined as per the CMC Rules

b. JUNIORS (Comp and MiniRoos)

- i. Clubs will be required to provide the number of GO as outlined above.
- ii. The GO will wear a hi-vis vest and where FGC Match officials are provided will introduce themselves to the officials a minimum of 5 minutes prior to the scheduled start time.
- iii. If the match officials are provided by the club then they shall ensure that they have a safe and pleasant environment to officiate the game in
- iv. In all instances the GO will be required to “roam” around the venue and be ready to stamp out any unruly or abusive behaviour
- v. The GO may also be called by the referee to deal with any incident that may require their attention.
- vi. Should a club not provide the appropriate number of GO's in the designated time, the referee will allow 10 minutes of grace to rectify the matter, if after the grace period no GO have presented the referee will abandon the game and the non-offending team will be declared the winner and the offending team fined as per the CMC Rules

c. SUPPORTERS/SPECTATORS

- i. If a supporter / group of supporters (spectators) are behaving in a manner unbecoming of our code then it will be the responsibility of the GO to speak to the offenders in a calm manner and ask them respectfully to “kerb” their behaviour/language – ***this could be directed by the match official or a member of the public.***
- ii. Should the requests of the GO be ignored and the poor behaviour continue then the referee will be notified who will stop the game until the offenders are removed
- iii. Should the offenders again ignore the requests and not be removed then the referee will be instructed to abandon the game and the non-offending team awarded the game as per CMC Rules 4.10.4 and the offending club fined

d. LISTED BELOW - EXTRACT FROM CMC RULES

4.1.5.11 Including but not limited to, Officials should: -

(a) Before the Match the Ground Official

- Check the Referee's room and make sure it is clean and comfortable.
- Upon arrival of the Referee's, make known to them that you are the Ground Official in case they need assistance.

- If an Official Referee is not present, ensure that a Referee is arranged either by the Club or by consent of the two teams playing.
 - Check with the equipment officer that an alternate strip is available if required.
 - Ensure payment of Referee fees in the Referee's room.
 - Ensure that three (3) appropriate match balls are available for the Referee.
 - Lock/Unlock the Referee's rooms as required or provide the Referee with keys.
 - Escort the Referee and Assistant Referee's to the field of play.
- (b) During the Match Ground Officials
- Ensure that the spectators behaviour is orderly and is not abusive to the Referee or his assistants, players or other spectators.
 - Remain in close proximity to the area agreed to with the match Referee.
 - Direct and assist any ambulance if called to attend a player or any other person.
 - The Ground Official must, at the half time break, meet the Referee and his/her assistants on the field at a designated area as agreed with the Referee prior to the game.
 - Escort the Referee and Assistant Referees from the field of play
 - Be of assistance wherever possible.
- (c) During the Match Bench Officials
- A Bench Official shall remain on the bench during the game and until such time as all players have left the field after the game.
 - Shall be responsible for the behaviour of the people on the bench during the game and until such time as all players have departed the field.
 - Shall ensure that only the people named on the team sheet are in the technical area.
 - Shall escort a player/team official that has received a red card/or evicted from technical area, to the dressing room and/or vicinity of the field.
 - Assist with substitutions and be of assistance to the Referee and Assistant Referee as required.
 - Be of assistance wherever possible.
- (d) After the Match the Ground Official and/or Bench Official
- The Ground Official must, at full time meet the Referee and his/her assistants on the field at a designated area as agreed with the Referee prior to the game.
 - Escort the Referee and Assistant Referees from the field of play
 - Remain present until team officials have signed off team sheets and if necessary request team officials to come and do so.
 - Ensure the Referee's safety at all times.
 - Ensure that both teams leave the grounds in a proper and orderly manner.

We totally accept and understand that some of the above measures might seem a little extreme, however we are struggling to provide a safe environment for our match day officials (be that FGC or club) to carry out their duties and are losing referee on a daily basis and this must stop. We implore our clubs to help us to weed out the unwanted element of our game so that we can all once again enjoy the game we all work so hard to promote and develop.