

## **SECTION 4 – ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION STATEMENT**

The NTJFA recognises the growing reliance on information technology and the internet for communication within the Australian football community.

Electronic communication such as email, instant messaging, text message, phone messages, digital images, social media (including Facebook, Flickr, YouTube, MySpace and blogs) are now all vital parts of the communications mix for community football leagues clubs and their constituents.

When used appropriately, these modes of communication offer effective and efficient ways to share information easily, often in fun and novel ways, which helps save time and effort for volunteers and administrators.

The NTJFA encourages it's football community to optimise technology and use electronic forms of communication.

### **Inappropriate Use of Electronic Communication**

Due to a number of factors, electronic communication can sometimes lead to anti-social, inappropriate, and illegal behaviour and activity. When such negative behaviour or activity occurs within the context of a football community, the outcome can be devastating to a football league, club or individuals.

Inappropriate use of electronic communication within the football environment includes, but is not limited to, making or posting inappropriate comments against players, clubs, club officials, match officials or the NTJFA which is hurtful, discriminatory or offensive in nature.

The NTJFA is concerned about the increasing number of incidents relating to the inappropriate use of electronic communication.

The NTJFA By-Laws and Codes of Conduct (for Players, Coaches, Administrators, Officials and Parents & Supporters) stipulate or infer that inappropriate use of electronic communication will not be tolerated and can be subject to disciplinary action by the NTJFA or Independent Tribunal.

### **Guidelines**

Clubs or individuals who feel that they have been the victims of inappropriate electronic communication may report the matter in writing to the NTJFA Competition Manager, along with any evidence (such as printouts) of the offending material.

The NTJFA shall then investigate the matter and, upon investigation, has the power to either deal with the matter itself or refer the matter to the Independent Tribunal.