

Board Position – Narre Warren v Cranbourne Investigation and Tribunal Outcome

Investigation Process

On Saturday 4th July, 2015, in the Narre Warren V Cranbourne Seniors game, a melee broke out which involved players, officials and spectators. At the request of both Clubs and the SEFNL Board an independent investigator was appointed to investigate two complaints made by Cranbourne FC and seven complaints made by Narre Warren FC.

In its letter on 9 July, the SEFNL Board advised its member clubs that it was outraged that people were put at risk and exposed to this incident. It also referenced the SEFNL Strategic Planning Day where the SEFNL Clubs identified the values of leadership, community engagement, respect, integrity, reputation and brand as what we want to live by. The Board told SEFNL Clubs that this type of behaviour is unacceptable and they will not let our Clubs down by allowing the behaviours shown on the weekend to go unnoticed, and that once the investigation and the tribunal hearings are complete, the Board will discuss the outcomes and ramifications for the two clubs involved.

Due to the number of witnesses that were required to be spoken with, the investigation took several weeks to complete. The investigator then presented his report to the SEFNL Board which contained recommendations for all complaints. Both Cranbourne FC complaints were deemed to show sufficient evidence to proceed with a charge of conduct unbecoming. Four of the Narre Warren FC complaints were deemed to show sufficient evidence to proceed with a charge of conduct unbecoming. Two charges from Narre Warren FC were deemed not to have sufficient evidence, and one charge was deemed to be dealt with by the SEFNL Board. The SEFNL Board agreed to send the six recommendations to be heard by tribunal.

Tribunal Process

The tribunal panel is appointed by AFL South East Region. The SEFNL Board is not privy to who is appointed as the tribunal members and has no control over the penalties applied. This is an independent process. The tribunal panel is charged with hearing the cases and calling for witnesses, if required, and determining the penalty.

All players and officials pleaded guilty to the charge of Conduct Unbecoming at their tribunal hearings, with the following penalties applied by the Tribunal:

Charged Person	Found	Penalty
Michael Theodoridis	Guilty	Reprimand
Hayden Stagg	Guilty	Reprimand
Matthew Lee	Guilty	Reprimand
Shane Baker	Guilty	\$500 fine
Troy Tharle	Guilty	\$500 fine
Jordyn Flannery	Guilty	\$500 fine
Mark Holt	Guilty	\$500 fine
Kain Baskaya	Guilty	Severe reprimand \$750 fine
Chris Toner	Guilty	\$2,000 fine

In addition to the above, Chris Toner has received an AFL Coaches Code of Conduct - Citation 2 for breaching four items of the AFL Coaches Code of Conduct. He has received counselling with the AFL South East Regional Development Manager, and has been advised that a further citation within a 12 month period will result in his de-registration as a coach.

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Board Actions

Both clubs have received written advice that they are to appear together before the SEFNL Board on Wednesday night. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss with both clubs what actions have and/or will be taken to:

- Educate their members, registered players and officials about the type of behaviours that should be demonstrated to reflect the values and behaviours that were determined by the SEFNL Clubs.
- Change the culture that seems to have developed in off-field rivalry between their clubs.

Both clubs are required to present a case as to why the Board should not proceed with the actions available to them under rule 8 in the SEFNL Statement of Rules.

No further comment will be made until after this meeting.