

Junior Division

PO Box 280 Tooradin 3980

President: Email:juniorpresident@tooradinfc.com Email: juniorsecretary@tooradinfc.com

Responding to Complaints

Complaints

Our club takes all complaints about on and off-field behaviour seriously. Our club will handle complaints based on the principles of procedural fairness (natural justice), that is:

- all complaints will be taken seriously;
- both the person making the complaint (complainant) and the person the complaint is against (respondent) will be given full details of what is being said against them and have the opportunity to respond (give their side of the story);
- irrelevant matters will not be taken into account;
- decisions will be unbiased and fair; and
- any penalties imposed will be fair and reasonable.

More serious complaints may be escalated to the South East Juniors.

If the complaint relates to suspected child abuse, sexual assault or other criminal activity, then our club will need to report the behaviour to the police and/or relevant government authority.

Complaint Handling Process

When a complaint is received by our club, the person receiving the complaint (e.g. President, Dispute Resolution Officer) will:

- listen carefully and ask questions to understand the nature and extent of the problem;
- ask what the complainant would like to happen;
- explain the different options available to help resolve the problem;
- take notes; and
- maintain confidentiality but not necessarily anonymity.

Once the complainant decides on their preferred option for resolution, the club will assist, where appropriate and necessary, with the resolution process. This may involve:

- supporting the person complaining to talk to the person being complained about
- bringing all the people involved in the complaint together to talk objectively through the problem (this could include external mediation);
- gathering more information (e.g. from other people that may have seen the behaviour);
- seeking advice from the SEJ or from an external agency (e.g. State Department of Sport or antidiscrimination agency);
- referring the complaint to the SEJ

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 referring the complainant to an external agency such as a community mediation centre, police or anti-discrimination agency.

In situations where a complaint is referred to the SEJ and an investigation is conducted, the club will:

- co-operate fully;
- ensure the complainant and respondent are not victimised;
- where applicable, ensure the complainant is not placed in an unsupervised situation with the respondent(s); and
- act on the SEJ's recommendations.

At any stage of the process, a person can seek advice from or lodge a complaint with an anti-discrimination commission or other external agency.

Disciplinary Measures

Our club will take disciplinary action against anyone found to have breached our policy or made false and malicious allegations. Any disciplinary measure imposed under our policy must:

- Be applied consistent with any contractual and employment rules and requirements;
- Be fair and reasonable;
- Be based on the evidence and information presented and the seriousness of the breach;
- Be determined by our Constitution, By Laws and the rules of the game.

Possible measures that may be taken include:

- verbal and/or written apology;
- counselling to address behaviour;
- withdrawal of any awards, placings, records, achievements bestowed in any tournaments, activities or events held or sanctioned by our club;
- suspension or termination of membership, participation or engagement in a role or activity;
- de-registration of accreditation for a period of time or permanently;
- a fine; or
- any other form of discipline that our club considers reasonable and appropriate.

Appeals

The complainant or respondent can lodge one appeal against decisions of or disciplinary measures imposed by our club to our [district, regional, state or national] association. Appeals must be based on either a denial of natural justice, because of unjust or unreasonable disciplinary measure(s) being imposed, or on the grounds that the decision was not supported by the information/evidence presented and available to the decision maker/club.

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Breaches of Code of Conduct

The following behaviours are considered breaches of the Code of Conduct:

- Violent or abusive behaviour towards another person.
- Vilification of any kind towards another person.
- Discrimination against another person based on their age, gender or sexual orientation.
- Discrimination against another person based on their race, culture, religion or any other irrelevant personal characteristic.
- Sexual harassment or intimidation of another person.
- Victimisation of another person for exercising their rights through the Code of Conduct.
- Failure to maintain a safe environment.

We will follow the Issue Resolution Policy and Guidelines as set out in the SEJ's Schedule 16.

Incidents and complaints will be dealt with on a case-by-case basis.

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REPORTING FORMS

RECORD OF COMPLAINT

Name of person receiving complaint			Date: / /	
Complainant's Name				
	□ Over 18	□ Under 18		
Complainant's contact details	Phone:			
	Email:			
Complainant's role/status	☐ Administrator (volunteer)	☐ Parent		
in Club	☐ Athlete/player	☐ Spectator		
	☐ Coach/Assistant Coach	☐ Support Personnel		
	☐ Employee (paid)	☐ Other		
	□ Official			
Name of person				
complained about	□ Over 18 □ Under 18			
Person complained about	☐ Administrator (volunteer)	☐ Parent		
role/status in Club	☐ Athlete/player	☐ Spectator		
	☐ Coach/Assistant Coach	☐ Support Personnel		
	☐ Employee (paid)	□ Other		
	□ Official			
Location/event of alleged				
issue				
Description of alleged issue				

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Nature of complaint (category/basis/grounds)	☐ Harassment or ☐ Discrimination			
	☐ Sexual/sexist	☐ Selection dispute	\square Coaching methods	
Can tick more than one box	☐ Sexuality	☐ Personality clash	☐ Verbal abuse	
	Race	☐ Bullying	☐ Physical abuse	
	Religion	☐ Disability	☐ Victimisation	
	☐ Pregnancy	☐ Child Abuse	☐ Unfair decision	
	Other			
What they want to happen				
to fix issue				
Information provided to				
them				
Resolution and/or action taken				
taken				
Fallerman				
Follow-up action				

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