



14 January 2010

Club Secretaries and Presidents

Dear People,

Firstly I wish a very happy and safe 2010 to all of you and your families. I hope you all find some time to relax and follow your dreams during the year and that you enjoy good health. We at the SBA are committed to working with your clubs to increase participation rates across all of our competitions. As we seek to address the challenges of 2010, we have a few issues we feel we need to share with you. We address these issues below:

1. Presidents/Secretaries Meeting

It is intended to meet with Club Presidents and Secretaries on February 2010 to help us set our 2010 priorities, strategies and agendas. We feel it is time to seek assistance from members to make sure that our goals are compatible with those of our members, and to receive feedback about areas of improvement for the Board and Association. It is planned that this will be a Sunday session and advise that all club secretaries and presidents will be invited along with our life members. Should you consider anyone at your club could offer value to this meeting please do not hesitate in inviting that person. We ask that you contact Nadia Stevens at Boardman Stadium to provide contact details for any club members invited to the P&S Meeting. You will receive advice in the next few days of the date and agenda of the meeting.

2. Player/team behaviour in the senior competition

It is both disappointing and frustrating to raise this issue; however the Board feels strongly that action is required to preserve the quality of our domestic competitions and attract new domestic players. However we are most concerned about the increase in the number of incidents and reports that were happening in the last few weeks in the senior competitions. To this end, you are asked to remind all your senior players of their responsibilities should they wish to continue to participate in our competitions.

Because of the spate of incidents that have recently happened the Board had decided on the following action:

- 1.1. Board members will attend games at all stadiums and approach individual players and teams should they feel that their actions are unsportsmanlike or dangerous. The player/team will be warned that continued poor behaviour may result in their registration being terminated or not accepted the following season.
- 1.2. Should those players/teams who have received warnings continue to behave inappropriately, their registration will be cancelled with immediate effect. Finals representation will have no effect on any decision the Board makes in this regard.



3. Crowd behaviour/participation in junior competition

A further concern to the Board is the aggressive nature of some spectators at junior domestic games on Saturdays. There has been a significant increase in the amount of offensive language directed at referees, particularly the protected "green-shirt" referees. As you are no doubt aware, it is the clubs' responsibility to control the behaviour of their crowd. You are asked to ensure all spectators supporting your club to be aware of, and understand, the spectator code of conduct.

Furthermore, Board members will again be attending games upon resumption of the season to ensure spectators are supporting their teams in the right spirit and not questioning game officials. Should any spectator be found to be in breach of the Code of Conduct they will be asked to leave the stadium. Regular breaches could result in a spectator receiving a ban from attending games.

4. By-laws

The By-laws sub-committee will be convening again near the end of February so if your club has any changes to suggest can you please let Rick or Nadia know at the office. They will pass your comments onto the relevant members of the sub-committee. Please do not mention the clearance by-law as we have sufficient anecdotal evidence to suggest that it may need reviewing.

5. Incorrect Undergarments

There has been an increase in the number of players who are wearing undergarments that are clearly in contravention of By-law 5.4. This clearly states:

"T-shirts, 'Skins', tights and the like will not be permitted to be worn under singlets or shorts without prior written consent of the SBA Committee. If worn they must be the same basic colour as the uniform."

There are players in all competitions who do not comply with this by-law. As Board members will be at stadiums during games they will be instructing referees to remove players, who are wearing incorrect undergarments, from the court. No person has currently got permission to wear undergarments during games and the increased use of this apparel without any approval is again disappointing.

6. Changing of Uniforms

Again there have been some instances where teams have participated in the domestic competition and have not worn the approved club uniform. The by-laws are quite explicit in regard to the changing of club colours and/or design. Both by-law 5.1 and 5.11 address this issue but it seems that these are being ignored by clubs. This is disappointing as we cannot expect players to support the rules when our members do not.



It is requested that clubs which have teams playing in incorrect uniforms correctly attire these teams or the Board will be forced to take its own corrective action.

The Board does believe that it should not have to take the steps outlined in dot points 2 and 3. Lack of any viable alternatives has resulted in the Board deciding to move in the direction advised above. Should any of you have any advice or support please do not hesitate in contacting me at scoughlan@stmichaels.vic.edu.au or 0409 487 507 to arrange a discussion.

Yours Sincerely

Shane Coughlan
Secretary