

STATEMENT BY SEFNL CHAIRMAN – KAHL HEINZE

Last night the SEFNL Board met with both the Narre Warren FNC and the Cranbourne FNC to finalise the process that arose from their round 11 game on July 4th.

With the cases having been dealt with at the tribunal and no appeals lodged to the penalties applied, there was no opportunity for the Board to apply further penalties to the registered players and officials. The Board has found that both clubs have engaged in conduct prejudicial to the interests of the League under SEFNL Rules 8.1.3 and as such has imposed the following penalties:

- \$3,000 bond to be paid in full prior to the 2015 finals series, which will be held in trust until December 2017 and returned to the club should there be no repeated transgressions.
- If any team of either club behaves in a manner that is prejudicial to the interests of the League;
 - o They will incur a loss of 4 premiership points.
 - o Should a transgression occur during the finals series, the Board will disqualify the offending club and the match will be awarded to the opposing team.

The matter is now closed.

On behalf of the SEFNL Board I would like to clear up a few things:

1. No player or official was found guilty of striking. Each and every player and official was charged with "Conduct Unbecoming" as per the AFL Vic rules - and it was to this charge that guilty pleas were tendered.
2. The Investigation and subsequent tribunal process is completely independent and sits outside of the SEFNL jurisdiction. AFL South East is responsible for the appointment of the tribunal members.
3. The SEFNL Board was only able to become active in the process at the completion of the tribunal hearings and the receipt of the transcripts which was last Thursday - communications were then sent on Friday.

The SEFNL Board share the concerns raised by many of our member clubs regarding the investigation and tribunal process and as such will be voicing these concerns in writing to AFL South East.

We as the SEFNL Board acknowledge and agree that this process has gone on for too long. As with many unique occurrences during this our first season - we are discovering gaps and loopholes in the systems and procedures within which we are obliged to conduct ourselves and as such we and our member clubs are learning all the time. As a Board we take full responsibility and accountability for our actions, our mistakes, and our learnings. By adhering to our values and core behaviours, and working collaboratively with our member clubs, we as a Board and a League will continue to grow and improve.

Most promisingly, I have had discussions with each of our member clubs regarding this process and each and every club, including Narre Warren and Cranbourne, have agreed that the behaviour exhibited by those clubs during their round 11 clash was and is entirely unacceptable and won't be tolerated in the SEFNL.

As a League we learn and grow. We, as a Board, will be consistent, transparent and accountable, and we will continue to learn and improve.

We look forward to the exciting part of the season, our finals series, and wish all participating teams the best of luck.

Warm Regards

Kahl Heinze
SEFNL Chairman