

## Essendon District Football League

ABN 95 664 608562

14 Marshall Road, Airport West, Victoria 3042

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# MEMORANDUM

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|-----------------|-----------------------|
| <b>TO:</b>      | All Clubs             |
| <b>CC:</b>      |                       |
| <b>FROM:</b>    | Marc Turri            |
| <b>DATE:</b>    | 4 April 2016          |
| <b>SUBJECT:</b> | Season 2016 Reminders |

I would like to take the opportunity to remind clubs on a number of matters as we head into the new football season.

### **FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS**

As per previous years the following financial obligations of clubs are in place:

- Any club who has in excess of \$500 due to the EDFL for 30 days or more shall not be eligible for premiership points until such time as the outstanding amount is reduced to \$500 or less, without the permission of the EDFL Board of Management.
- The financial position of clubs will be considered when confirming the teams competing in the Strathmore Community Bank Premier Division, the Essendon Ford Division 1 and the Strathmore Community Bank Division 2 competitions. Any Club not financial by 31 October could be relegated for the following season on the basis of their financial position with the EDFL.
- **ALL** club accounts are required to be settled by **October 31<sup>st</sup>** in that year. Failure to meet this requirement may result in the removal of premiership points for **ALL** teams which the defaulting club fields at the beginning of the following season. Clubs will have 4 points docked for each month club accounts remain outstanding. The EDFL Board shall retain discretion when implementing this penalty.

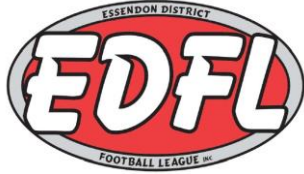
### **ALCOHOL ON THE GROUND**

It is important for clubs to monitor and take steps to prohibit alcohol being taken on the ground during breaks in play.

It was observed in one match in season 2015 that an Umpires Escort was drinking alcohol both off the field whilst watching the game and also during the breaks whilst actively undertaking the role of Umpires Escort.

Clubs are asked to remind their supporters and officials of this policy and in doing so, at alcohol outlets put signs/notices in place so that supporters can be educated on this rule.

The EDFL Board retains discretion to fine clubs who do not adhere to this policy.



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### **CENTRE SQUARE DURING QUARTER TIME AND THREE QUARTER TIME BREAKS**

In 2015 the EDFL Board decreed that during the quarter time and three-quarter time breaks in all games the centre square shall be restricted to officiating umpires, umpire coaches, umpire escorts and the team captain (only if that captain desires to speak to the umpires regarding an on-field matter).

Umpire Escorts are asked to ensure that spectators do not enter the area. If these spectators want to go to the players huddle, they must walk around the outside of the square. Any club official and/or spectator in the square at quarter time and three quarter time is to be immediately asked to vacate the square.

### **SPECTATOR BEHAVIOUR AT JUNIOR MATCHES**

During season 2015 the EDFL experienced a number of incidents at junior football matches involving poor behaviour of officials and/or spectators. In the past the EDFL's way of dealing with such matters is to issue a fine against the club to whom the offending individual is associated. However it appears that this stance is not having the desired impact on those responsible for the poor behaviour.

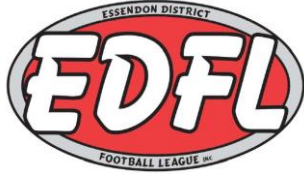
As previously advised, from the commencement of the 2016 season the EDFL Board of Management reserves the right to suspend any team where the behaviour of individuals associated with that team (including officials, parents and spectators) is deemed as being of an unacceptable nature.

This will be applicable for junior age groups from and including Under 16s and below.

Clubs are asked to address their parents prior to the each season to ensure that participants, officials and parents are aware of the relevant codes of conduct and understand the possibility of a team being stood down as a result of poor behaviour associated with that team.

### **MATCH DAY MATTERS**

- **IPads** – With Live Scoring to commence this weekend in all senior games, and match day paperwork to be done electronically at all grounds, clubs are asked to ensure the IPads that they were provided are fully charged prior to being used for the first time.
- **Abusive Language** – Any player using abusive language can be penalised with a free kick and/or reported, regardless of whether that abusive language is directed towards the umpire or an opposition player. Clubs are asked to remind their players and coaches/officials of the expected levels of behaviour. Umpires will be reminded of the need to control abusive language amongst players, particularly at junior level.
- **Fair Play Policy** – A Fair Play Policy is in place in the U10 to U16 junior competitions where if a team cannot field 18 players on the team sheet, the opposition team



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cannot play with any more than one additional player on the field than the opposition team with less than 18 players. A copy of the policy is available upon request, but has previously been distributed to all clubs. Please note that this policy is not applicable at Under 18.5 level but can be exercised upon agreement between the two competing teams.

- **Runners** – Runners are to deliver messages to their players and then retreat to the coaching bench. They are not to loiter on the ground. They are to be dressed in the appropriate Runners Vest. Every year there are issues with Runners in particular loitering on the ground to the point where they are coaching, interfering with play and generally being a pest.
- **Water Carriers** – Water carriers are to deliver water and then retreat to the 50m arc. They are not to deliver messages to players or loiter on the ground. They are to be dressed in the appropriate Water Carrier Vest. They must not loiter on the ground.

U8, U10 & U12 – No water carriers

U14, U16, U18.5, Reserves & Seniors – Maximum of two (2) Water Carriers

- **Match Day Manager (Juniors)** – The Match Day Manager from each club should meet at the start of the game and be approachable throughout the match. It is not the role of the Match Day Manager to sit in the coaches box. The role of the Match Day Manager is:
  - *Encouragement* – at all times encourage parents and spectators to observe the Code of Conduct and display positive behaviour
  - *Public Relations* – assume a public relations role with parents and supporters and reinforce the philosophy of AFL Kids First Code of Conduct
  - *Observance and Presence* – maintain a clear but calm presence at all times. Monitor and communicate with appropriate club personnel and parents as required.
  - *Report* – where necessary, report serious and/or continued breaches of the Code of Conduct to club officials.
- **Correct Attire**
  - Coach - Red vest (Juniors only)
  - Trainer – Black vest, white pants
  - Match Day Manager – Yellow vest (Juniors only)
  - Assistant Coach – Red vest (Juniors only)
  - Team Manager – Red vest (Juniors only)
  - Runner – Yellow vest
  - Official – Red vest (Juniors only)
  - Club Boundary/Goal Umpire – White vest
  - Water Carrier – Green vest
- **Coaches Box Exclusion Zone** - The coaches box exclusion zone must be in place for all football in the U10s to U16s for both the home team and opposition team. Only those wearing the official attire are allowed on the bench or in the exclusion zone.



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- Coaches are not to stand on the boundary line as boundary umpires and players need this space. Coaches need to stand at least 1 metre from the boundary line
- When making an **interchange**, players need to wait until their teammate is off the ground before making their way onto the field of play. Should a head count be called and a team found to have too many players on the field they can be stripped of their points scored to that stage of the match.
- **Players playing under alternate names.**
  - Any club found guilty of playing an ineligible player will lose premiership points for that match, the club will be fined and the Board of Management also has the power to suspend the player.
  - It is important to realise that if the player plays under an alternate name and is injured during the course of the match, that player is not covered by insurance as records will indicate that the individual never participated in the match.
- **Jewellery** – Rule 9.2 of the Laws of the Game states: *A Player shall not wear during a Match: (a) any form of jewellery.* This is a reportable offence, and placing tape over jewellery is not acceptable. Any jewellery must be removed before the player takes the field. Regularly players are reported for wearing jewellery onto the ground or for simply putting tape over the jewellery rather than removing the jewellery.
- **Club Supplied Boundary and Goal Umpires** – The names of the club officials filling the roles of boundary umpire and goal umpire must be included in the team sheet handed to both the umpires and the opposition.
- **Umpire Rooms** – It was noted during preseason matches at a number of venues that umpire rooms had not been cleaned for some time. Please ensure umpire rooms are clean at the start of the day and the expectations of the umpires are that they will keep the rooms clean during the course of the day.
- **Teamsheets** – Any alteration to teamsheets must also be made to the sportingpulse system so that the two mirror one-another.