

A MESSAGE TO ALL PARTICIPANTS AND SUPPORTERS OF THE SOUTH SYDNEY DISTRICT JUNIOR RUGBY FOOTBALL LEAGUE COMPETITION

The conduct of a minority of people in recent weeks at junior league venues leaves a lot to be desired and is having a significant impact on our ability to run our competition.

Constant abuse of ground staff and match officials, including referees as young as 13 years of age, by coaches, trainers, managers and other officials and players as well, is destabilising the foundation of our competition.

As of this week, due to referees resigning because of the abuse and hence losing the support of other district associations, there will more than likely not be enough referees to cover our fixtures.

If the trend continues who knows where we will end up by season's end.

The South Sydney District Junior Rugby Football League will not tolerate this behaviour.

Please note that penalties for teams and individuals attending conduct panel will be severe.

A coach has recently been banned from the game for 5 years.

A trainer has recently been banned for 2 years.

Clubs fined four figure sums for misbehaviour.

The conduct panel has the right to impose these penalties on anyone breaking the code of conduct, including deregistering children of the offenders and removing teams from the competition.

Learn the code of conduct and know your role.

It saddens me to have to send such a message to all when it is the actions of only a few that can cause such effects to our junior league.

I implore each player, parent, coach, spectator, official, team and club to not put up with it anymore. Report bad behaviour in writing.

Rather than question the validity of certain competitions due to a win at all cost attitude, question the parent in your team who constantly criticises the young referee who is out there providing a game of football for your son or daughter.

The trend can't be reversed without the help of the majority who are involved in our game for the right reasons.

Let's do it together and get our game back to what it is supposed to be - **The Greatest Game of All.**

Luke Curry

Chief Executive Officer

South Sydney District JRFL