



NJFC MATCH DAY INCIDENT REPORTING PROTOCOL

This Protocol provides guidance to the Coach and Team Manager Groups for the times when there are Match Day incidents that may require the attention of the NJFC Committee (whether resolved or not) and where Match Day reporting to the Club's Executive will be required to manage contact between the involved clubs and the League (if necessary).

All members of the Northcote Junior Football Club, along with all other clubs as members of the Yarra Junior Football League (YJFL), are required to abide by the rules of the AFL and the YJFL By- Laws on Match Day, in addition to acting in accordance with the Club's core values.

The YJFL Match Day Guide provide all clubs with the resources they need for team conduct, from the Coach down (<https://www.yarrajfl.org.au/rules-by-laws>).

The child safety by -laws must be strictly followed by all adults – they are not permitted to touch a child or to speak to players from other teams. Complaints of this nature that escalate to the YJFL review will see the adult receive a suspension which may be determined, by the League, to be a Season-long ban from Match Day duties.

On Match Day, issues may arise from individuals' behaviour, an altercation between players, an interaction between players and adults (from the Umpires down) or an altercation between adults, on or off the field.

In spite of best efforts on the day to resolve them, these interactions may escalate through the complaints channels, between the Presidents in the days after the event, or to the YJFL where the actions of anyone involved will be reviewed and where suspensions from games or Match Day duties will be delivered.

While the club's Match Day officials proactively work to avoid these situations, incidents do occur. It is critically important that the NJFC Executive (President, Vice President and Secretary) and the Coaching Co-ordinator are notified on the Sunday that the event has occurred.

This document has been prepared to guide Coaches' and Team Managers' understanding of when a report to the Club executive needs to be made. The Committee appreciates that common sense and good judgement typically prevail but notes that being fully briefed can help complaints from escalating and that a conservative approach (ie let the Committee know) should be exercised.

Reference documents:

- AFL Coach Code of Conduct (<https://resources.afl.com.au/afl/document/2021/07/19/25f6f375-a41c-487f-857e-5d98535275b0/COC-booklet.pdf>)
- NJFC Parent and Spectator Code of Conduct 2024 (link here to be provided 05/24)



- NJFC Child Safety Policy 2024 (link here to be provided 05/24)
- NJFC Child Safety Code of Conduct (here link here to be provided 05/24)

Team Manager to Team Manager Incident

Where there are disputes about players' on-field behaviour or concerns regarding match-day officials' behaviour raised between the Team Managers of the opposing teams (who are the only officials permitted to speak to one another), which are resolved during the game, it is less likely that there needs to be any reporting of the incident.

If the issue is resolved but relates to a serious issue, such as racial vilification or trans/homophobia, Team Managers are welcome to share it with the Committee Executive. It is likely that a 'For your information' email, which can be sent to the President of the opposing club, is warranted, to provide the President with visibility of the issue and to enable a proactive response.

Where such a dispute may not or cannot be satisfactorily resolved during or after the game, the Committee Executive should be notified by the Team Manager at the completion of the game via SMS. A telephone conversation can then be held with the President or Secretary.

President – Kellie Burns – 0413 597 087
Vice President – Pete Simm – 0407 965 560
Club Secretary – Matt Chandler – 0410 483 451
Coaching Co-ordinator – Sam Pietsch – 0450 928 064

The committee representatives need to be aware of the facts to guide a proactive discussion with the opposing club's President or to confirm if a formal complaint needs to be lodged with the YJFL (or in case one is lodged by the opposing club to the YJFL).

Adult to Adult Incident

Where an incident occurs on or off the field, involving any adults, a report should be made. Please see details above. This includes with umpires, coaches, other volunteers etc.

The committee representatives need to be aware of the facts to guide a proactive discussion with the opposing club's President or to confirm if a formal complaint needs to be lodged with the League (or in case one is lodged by the opposing club to the YJFL).



Player to Player – no card or report Incident

Where a non-football incident (striking, charging, vilification etc) occurs on the field, whether seen and adjudicated by the umpire or not, a report should be made. Please see details above.

The committee representatives need the facts for any proactive discussions to be had with the opposing club's President or to confirm if a formal complaint needs to be lodged with the League (or in case one is lodged by the opposing club).

Yellow Card / Red Card / Player Report

Where a player or coach from NJFC receives a card (red, yellow or white refer to YJFL for Match Day Guide S.9.3 – 9.72 for detailed description) the Committee Executive must be notified via phone and SMS by the Team Manager at the completion of the game. Coaches must be available by telephone to discuss with the Coaching Co-ordinator and committee representatives, as necessary.

Team Managers must provide information of the report in Match Day paperwork and the incident report to the club as soon as practicable on the day and **no later than 7.00pm on Match Day.**