



Friday 26 June 2020

Dear Northern Region Football (NRF) members,

We hope you enjoyed the first weekend of organised play for the 2020 football and futsal season and it certainly was great to see our code back in action after the hard work of the network of volunteers who underpin the delivery of our sport.

Despite the large majority of our approximately 35,000 members making a happy and positive return centred around what is good in our game, there remains an element of our membership willing to engage in acts of anti-social verbal or physical abuse against players, referees, coaches or spectators.

In the first weekend of competition we had **seven such incidents** on our fields and courts of play across a range of playing ages and stages.

The staff and board of NRF again strongly remind those in our community that conduct of this nature will not be tolerated.

The FIFA and NZF Disciplinary Codes released prior to the start of the season have substantially increased sanctions for serious misconduct and give Competitions Managers increased ability to sanction where needed.

On top of this, a revamped NRF Disciplinary process and a region-wide Serious Incident system involving the boards of both AFF and NFF; we have more than enough capability to ensure any individual, team or club refusing to uphold the values supporting our delivery will be excluded from our sport – permanently if warranted.

As such, it is important clubs set their members clear expectations regarding respect for match officials and their opponents, as well as standards of behaviour on and off the field.

Every successful football and futsal team has goals. Our goal as a collective team must be to reduce the number above from seven to zero, immediately.

If we can deliver on that goal together, everybody in our community wins.

All the best for the weekend and season ahead.

Yours in football and futsal,  
The staff and board of Northern Region Football

*Purpose: Enhancing communities through positive experiences & opportunities*

*Values: Quality, Unity, Inclusive, Respect, Enjoyment*