



14 May 2019

Our Ref:

OPEN LETTER TO CLUBS

I am writing to you on behalf of the Board to bring to your attention a number of matters that are of concern to the Board.

The Association has had reported to it in the first five rounds of the competition a number of incidents that involve comments by participants towards other participants on the basis of gender, culture, race and religion.

Perhaps of greatest concern to the Board is the fact that some of these incidents are occurring in the Senior competitive junior groups, both male and female.

The various incidents that have been reported will be heard by the Disciplinary Tribunal of the Association. The fate of the accused persons will be determined after full and fair hearings.

The Canterbury District Soccer Football Association is the most culturally diverse Association in New South Wales. Our motto has long been **"One game, many cultures"**.

As a Board it is our role to ensure that the playing experience for all players is optimum.

The Board requests that you communicate the message to your players, administrators and spectators. Derogatory conduct attacking participants and spectators upon the basis of their gender, race, culture or religion will not be tolerated.

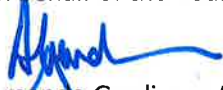
The second issue that we wish to bring to your concern involves the significant transgression of the rules by Clubs fielding ineligible teams. The Rules make it clear who is able to participate in the various competitions and when players are able to play up. After five rounds ten eligible teams have fielded an ineligible player/players in the 2019 season.

Finally, we must draw to your attention the current position in relation to red cards. After five competition rounds there have been 100 red cards issued by officials to players as at the time of writing. It may be that more will surface at the office today. If this trend were to continue the final number of send offs will exceed last year's record number. We again implore you to speak with your competitive teams about their conduct.

You will all appreciate the administrative burden on the office to deal with these issues involving misconduct.

Beyond that we pride ourselves on setting and achieving goals of excellence in the playing and administration of football within our Association. The events of the last five weeks are seriously challenging our reputation. We ask for your support in reversing the current trend and restoring our previous exemplary reputation.

On behalf of the Board,


Armando Gardiman AM
Chairman