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CHILD PROTECTION CASE UPDATE

Thursday, 6 February 2003

- STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL -

CASE 1

Association: REDACTED

Offender: Mr REDACTED

Position: Coach U9's

Mr REDACTED was alleged to have verbally abused his team players and physically assaulted another person in front of his team.

A thorough investigation was carried out by the CPO of REDACTED and myself which included a game visit by myself to witness Mr REDACTED in action.

In relation to the first allegation of verbal abuse

It was found that Mr REDACTED used coarse language and became frustrated with himself and the players during the game (a semi final).

In relation to the second allegation of physical assault at a previous game

It was concluded that Mr REDACTED was involved in an altercation with a bystander, however it was determined that the bystander approached Mr REDACTED in an aggressive manner and Mr REDACTED defended himself by pushing the bystander away in self defence. This took place off the ground and away from the players. Bankstown have already dealt with the bystander and had already spoken with Mr REDACTED following this incident.

I received letters in support of Mr REDACTED from the parents of all players in his team and from the REDACTED Committee.

During my vits to the Grand Final to observe Mr REDACTED in his capacity as coach I determined that Mr REDACTED is a very passionate and excitable coach who does get 'carried away' somewhat with the excitement of the game, however I did not view him as a risk to the children in his care or any other person in the vicinity.

Result

A letter will be forwarded to REDACTED Association next week to confirm that Mr REDACTED can continue to coach. I will also make recommendation that Mr REDACTED complete the Junior Licencing course during season 2003 which I believe will assist him in understanding the required codes of conduct.

CASE 2

Association: [REDACTED]
 Offender: Mr [REDACTED]
 Position: Coach U16 Women

This is a relatively new case which was brought to my attention by the President of [REDACTED] Association following receipt of a letter by the parent of a 16 year old girl who was in the U16 team in 2002.

It is alleged that Mr [REDACTED] (23 years old) became 'involved' with the girl while in his capacity as coach.

It is proven that Mr [REDACTED] has commenced a sexual relationship with the girl as she is pregnant with his child, has left home and is living with the coach.

It appears that the father knew that his daughter had feelings for her coach and that it was possible that the feelings were mutual. The father did not contact the club. The father approached the coach and warned him to stay away from his daughter.

The coach alleges that the relationship did not start until after the season and until after the girl was 16 years of age.

Soccer NSW can only take action if we can prove that Mr [REDACTED]:

1. Discussed matters of a sexual nature with the girl while he was her coach
2. Had sexual relations with the girl while he was her coach
3. Sexually assaulted the girl while he was her coach

I am in the process of discussing this matter with [REDACTED] in the hope that they may seek information from the club or other players in the team.

CASE 3

Association: [REDACTED]
 Offender: Mr [BXK]
 Position: Coach U10 boys team & Referee

This is the matter which I discussed with Tom on the phone.

[REDACTED] District Court granted 8 children AVO's against Mr [BXK] last week. He is to stay 500m away for a period of 2 years.

There is a current investigation being conducted by the State Child Protection Crime Squad and Police Joint Investigation Team where charges are expected to be laid in relation to 10 counts of sexual assault/intercourse with children under 10 years.

The victims who are all boys include [REDACTED] of Mr [BXK] and their friends. The police confirmed that there were two boys in the team which he coached last year. 1 was a [REDACTED] and 1 was a friend of the [REDACTED].

A letter has been forwarded to [REDACTED] Association and [REDACTED] Referees recommending that they reject Mr [BXX] 's application to coach and referee. Both Associations have accepted this recommendation and have forwarded letters to Mr [BXX] advising him that his services are not required.

Mr [BXX] has since phone Mr Ron Beaumont, Secretary NSW Soccer Referees (Monday 3 February) to query the letters. Mr Beaumont advised Mr [BXX] that he could not discuss the matter and to speak with the Child Protection Officer (myself). I have not heard from Mr [BXX] and expect he is aware of the reason for the letters.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

I am receiving a number of enquiries each week from parents, clubs and Associations in relation to Child Protection and the legislative requirements. There is nothing outstanding in this area.

As a member of the Department of Sport & Recreation Child Protection Advisory Group, I am currently viewing the draft versions of two new Child Protection booklets and the proposed Child Protection Website to be released during Season 2003.

The group is made up of representatives from major sports in NSW and acts as consultants in relation to improving the implementation of Child Protection laws.

Soccer has been recognised as being at the forefront of Child Protection in this state and the NSWASF guidelines which were distributed last year were the basis used for the new booklet titled "Guidelines for Achieving Child Protection for Sport and Recreation Clubs".

The Group is due to meet again when the Booklets and the Website are completed.

Please contact me should you require any further information.

Regards,

Michelle Haigh
State Child Protection Officer