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MEMORANDUM

TO: Robert Waddell
 FROM: Michelle Haigh
 DATE: 21 January 2004
 SUBJECT: CHILD PROTECTION INVESTIGATION & RECOMMENDATION

This is to confirm a meeting held today with two detectives from the State Crime Command Child Protection & Sex Crime Squad regarding an ongoing investigation into child related offences involving a Soccer NSW coach and referee.

I first became aware of this case on 31/1/03 following a call from the Crime squad and immediately notified yourself and Tom A. Doumanis and sought permission to stand the person down. With the support of Southern Districts Association and NSW Soccer Referees the person's applications to referee and coach in season 2003 were rejected.

Soccer NSW has continued to assist and liaise with the Police regarding this case and today we provided a list of the names and addresses of the children coached by this person during his 2-year term as coach of the Under 6's and Under 7's.

At the meeting today the head of the investigation, Detective Senior Constable [REDACTED] advised that the offender had now been formally charged with sexual offences against children under the age of 10 years. The children involved are members of [REDACTED]. I queried the possibility of offences also being committed against the soccer team members and was informed that further offences may have been committed against the children in the soccer teams coached by this person and that this was the area now being considered for thorough investigation.

I advised the Detectives that the person had been stood down for season 2003 and 2004 and I was advised that this person should be stood down indefinitely and should never be permitted to work with children again.

It was suggested by the detectives that this persons name should be included on our database of unsuitable persons / suspended persons to ensure that he is not able to infiltrate our organisation by joining another soccer club.

The detectives requested permission to contact Larry Grant directly regarding the team sheets and I advised the Police that Soccer NSW would be pleased to assist them wherever possible and I provided them with Larry Grants home phone number.

Larry Grant had already said that he would provide any assistance we needed in regards to this investigation, however as a courtesy I contacted him and told him that the police would most likely be calling him in the next few days.

RECOMMENDATION

In consideration that Soccer NSW currently has two (2) separate suspended players lists on two separate databases (Council of Clubs and Council of Associations) I recommend the following be considered by the Board of Soccer NSW:

1. That the two (2) suspended player databases be combined as soon as possible.
2. That the combined database be renamed "Suspended Players, Officials and Persons" or "Suspended Players and Officials".
3. That the names of all suspended officials be included on this list should they be suspended for reasons relative to soccer and/or child protection.
4. The reason for an official's suspension would not be recorded on the list distributed to members or disclosed to any other person outside Soccer NSW other than the Police or other relative Government Departments.

I would not recommend two separate databases "Players" and "Officials" as this may draw unnecessary attention to officials who had been suspended and I believe that having one (1) list would be easier for the clubs to use.

I thank you for your consideration of this recommendation to the Board of Soccer NSW.

Regards,

Michelle Haigh
Child Protection Officer

27.2.04

- Board to advise CEO.
- New suspended list OK
- Matter now in hands of Police. No further action but notify CEO if further contacted.