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MEMORANDUM

To: All Clubs
From: Michael Carter
CC: Competition Staff
Date: 24/05/2018
Re: Abuse of Referees

Dear Club President and Delegate

One of the main challenges facing our game is the ongoing inappropriate behavior occurring towards Referees. Like players, Referees do not get every decision correct and make mistakes from time to time. Referees are an integral part of our game and they perform an important role and deserve to be treated with respect. Abusing a Referee is a form of bullying and this is not acceptable.

The 2018 season has seen 52 cases of abuse towards Referees reported to Football Federation SA. There have been several incidents reported where Referees have been physically assaulted. This is totally unacceptable and this behaviour needs to stop. As leaders of your club you have a role to play in supporting referees and leading from the front in managing your players, coaches and spectators.

Everyone involved in the game has a collective responsibility to provide a safe environment for all participants and to reinforce that inappropriate behavior of any kind towards a Referee is not to be tolerated. The increase in the abuse towards Referees is not only having a negative impact on our



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existing experienced referees, but it is also making it difficult to attract new referees. This is essential to accommodate future growth in participation numbers.

FFSA is issuing a directive to everyone involved in the game that abuse towards a Referee has NO place in football. Both the Competition Disciplinary Committee (CDC) and the Disciplinary and Appeal Committee (DAC) have been instructed to implement the strongest penalties in relation to any form of abuse towards a Referee. A zero-tolerance approach will be applied.

I seek your support in addressing this important matter for the benefit of Football in South Australia.

Kind Regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michael Carter', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Michael Carter
Chief Executive Officer
Football Federation SA