

Oakleigh Cannons - Club Fines

The club does not fine a member of the club; we get "no pleasure" letting a person know about a fine that's just been received via email to us; and above all we are not that person's enemy;

I am finding resistance from players & parents who have been charged due to an incident by the FFV tribunal or and later charged by the FFV court hearing as guilty of the charge that refuse to pay their fine; and later these people ask me why the club is not paying for it.

Fines may range from \$500 to \$14,000 depending on the severity. If you are found guilty; our OCJFC club policy clearly states:-

- The FFV has a strict "0" tolerance policy implemented. Abusive language and bad behaviour will not be tolerated at Oakleigh Cannons Juniors FC. People who breach this policy and are fined will have to pay this fine personally. The club will not be responsible for this fine. This also applies to red card fines.

If the person responsible refuses to pay the fine; then the club has no option but to suspend the person in question until they do pay the fine from our club; in turn we must then ask the team the person belongs to help pay the fine; This process cycles and escalates until someone or group of people pay the fine.

I know this is not fair; but the FFV fines the club not the person in question; so the person has the right to leave the club without paying the fine leaving us in the lurch. The FFV says "Well... if you want to keep abusive or bad behaviour people at your club then it becomes your problem" We cannot expect our club to pay the fine; we have 31 teams that play competition on a given Sunday; could you image if 3 or 4 teams were fined a week? The impact it will have on our club is enormous; remember we also play 18 rounds a year! Fines can cripple our club;

If the FFV believe that the charge in question is severe and it merits a court hearing; then, a court date will be scheduled to hear "both" sides of the story; this is normally done on a Wednesday night; and people can present their evidence and support media/documents; Soon after the hearing on the same night; a decision is announced.

If you are found guilty and depending on the severity; a fine is issued; it could range from min \$500 to \$14,000. If the fine is unacceptable; then, the club can appeal against the charge; this costs another \$1500; if you lose the appeal then you lose \$1500 + you have to pay the initial fine.

Further issues:

Just as an example; let's say we were charged for a fine of \$1,000:- After the dust has settled and everyone has finally understood and have accepted the charge;

- If we do not pay the fine within the time frame the FFV have set; a further \$250 is charged on top for late fees;
- If the fine is not payed by the next date set; further additional costs are incurred and the Senior Team and all the junior teams will be deducted 3 championship points from their next competition game.

This now impacts the whole club not just the person or the team involved. Let's hope we never see this day.