

New rules enough to make an old punter curse

BARELY a week after flagging in this very column how a new Football NSW zero tolerance blanket ruling on foul language had been imposed in the NSW Premier League and was likely to cause havoc - it has.

Sunday's under-20 fixture between Manly United and Sydney United at Cromer Park was reduced to a 9 v 10 debacle because a young referee was following "strict orders to send off any player who swore".

A Sydney United youngster let slip with an expletive in the first half after he misguided a pass and then two Manly United lads - Jared West and Jamie Garside - followed in the second half. Having seen all three players red carded while watching from either the grandstand or the sideline, I can honestly say I didn't hear what came out of one of their mouths - but because the referee did they were sent off.

I did then hear one Sydney United player swear at the top of his lungs and the referee told him to "be careful" - probably realising he had already sent off three players and four would cause a riot.

We then had a visit before kick-off in the first grade game from experienced referee Srebre Delovski who told the players the key phrase in this debacle is "audible to the crowd".

If it's audible to the crowd, referees have no choice but to send players off. Having spoken with the young referee of the 20s game after the curtain-raiser, he told me if it was audible "to me" he had no choice.

Can you see a major inconsistency here?

The three players sent off now miss at least one game, maybe more. There was even an instance in the first grade game when Sydney United players insisted to the referee a Manly United player be sent off for swearing to try and gain an advantage for their side.

Sorry, but this new Football NSW directive is unrealistic and will do more harm than good to the game. Fair game, if a player or coach swears violently directly in front of the crowd or to the referee or assistant referees, a red card should be brandished. But what happened on Sunday was a complete and utter joke.

What would happen if six players all swore at once?

West and Garside barely say "boo" out on the field and even team mates within 20m of them said they didn't hear the offending word - and it was just one word. The same thing happened four or five years ago - the rule was enforced, a glut of players were sent off and it was all forgotten within about a month. Did it stop players swearing completely - not a chance.

Have the rule by all means, attempt to curb the amount of foul language used on the field but make it clear that it has to be clearly audible and in the near vicinity of the crowd. Let's hope and pray that commonsense prevails sooner rather than later because quite obviously this directive has come from an official or officials who have never - or have forgotten what it's like - to be in the heat-of-battle on a football field.

IT wasn't much fun being on the wrong end of the ledger in Sunday's 2-1 NSW Premier League loss to Sydney United at Cromer Park but I can honestly say the standard of the league has risen to new heights. It was a fantastic game of football with two sides full of quality players who have either played in the old National League or are good enough to make the step up to the new A-League (or both).

The game was televised for the Football Stars of Tomorrow program which is screened on Fox Sports. But, despite television exposure, I still don't think the NSW Premier League is given the credit or attention it deserves. Every youngster playing the game in Manly Warringah should be getting down to at least every home game at Cromer Park to either support their local team or dream one day of playing for them.

It is the second highest league in Australia behind the A-League and it is where our stars of the future are groomed for bigger and better things.

Top gun Berti is right on the ball

PLAYING for Real Madrid is a lofty ambition many junior footballers work towards and Dee Why's Sipan Berti echoes that trend.

The difference is he could actually realise his dream. The St Luke's Grammar student was the recent winner of Football NSW's Top Gun award, which was judged on his technical ability and mental approach to the game at a recent invitation-only soccer camp at Narrabeen's Sydney Academy of Sport.

"I want to play at the highest level possible when I am older, soccer means everything to me and to run out with Real Madrid would be awesome," the 11-year-old said.

"It was great to win that (Football NSW) award, players from clubs all across Sydney as well as from Perth competed against me in my age group."

"The standard was very high so winning it made me confident that I can have an impact at the highest level."

Berti is a member of Manly United's under-12 squad with head Youth coach Richie Williams a big fan of his technical ability.

"Sipan is very gifted on the ball and you can see he goes away and works on things to better his game that he picks up at training which is exactly what he should be doing at his age," he said.

"His attitude is outstanding, he always wants to learn and if he keeps developing he has a big future as a footballer."

Berti hones his ball skills by playing representative indoor soccer with the Northern Beaches Breakers.

"All good players have great touch and playing indoor allows me to work on my close control and dribbling," he said.

"It is different to normal soccer, it is faster but I prefer playing on grass."

Apart from his training commitments with Manly United, Berti engages in seven additional weekly sessions with skills coach Oscar Gonzalez and believes his tuition has improved his game significantly.

"Oscar helps me with the aspects of my game that players often overlook but I won't do that," he said. "My family is very supportive and they all know I want to be a professional footballer so hopefully I can keep improving and when the time is right I will try my luck overseas."

Can you help

At approximately 11.30am at David Thomas reserve on Saturday 12 April 2008 we were watching the U7 Manly Allambie Rats (our son Ben Macpherson), playing the Manly Vale Dolphins.

Our blue soccer bag was stolen. It is a bright, royal blue colour with white DOLPHINS writing on it. It is

an oblong shaped bag with a shoulder strap, it has huge sentimental value to us as our oldest son was a representative Dolphins player about 8 years ago and we have taken great care of it all these years.

We are very saddened it has been taken, either in error or on purpose, and would hope to appeal to whoever has it to please return it.

We put notes up at the clubhouse (Millers) but no results so far.

If you saw anything or can help please contact us anytime.

Brett Macpherson on 9977 4331 or 0413 050030.

Ignore at your own risk !!

The following "Player / Referees" monitoring and penalty program has been supplied to all clubs. The MWFA strongly recommends that all clubs and players make themselves fully aware of their responsibilities.

PLAYER/REFEREES

Monitoring and penalty program

It is an obligation of all teams in nominated competitions within the Manly Warringah Football Association (MWFA) that they provide a minimum of two qualified referees, registered with the Manly Warringah Football Referees association (MWFRA).

Each round the home team is to have one of their official registered referees, officiate the game before, if playing at 3pm or the game after, if playing at 1pm.

Any written reports received by the MWFA or incomplete or incorrect referee cards will be handled in the following manner:

- Where a written report is received by the MWFA that a team or teams did not have an official referee, (this would include referees not in correct or incomplete uniform)
- A written report is received from any member of the MWFA executive or management committee.
- Where the name on the referees card is not an official referee registered with the MWFRA.
- Where a team has substituted someone else in for their official referee.

1st instance

- An official request will be sent to the offending club to "please explain" from the MWFA together with a first and only warning that the offending team MUST fulfil their obligations. Where the MWFA receives an explanation that is accepted by the Executive committee the first warning can be retracted.

2nd instance

- On receipt of a written report that a team has not supplied an official referee where required, the MWFA will inform the offending club that the team will be deducted TWO competition points and fined \$50.00

3rd instance

- On receipt of a written report that a team has not supplied an official referee where required, the MWFA will inform the offending club that the team will be deducted THREE competition points and fined a further \$50.00

4th instance

- On receipt of a written report that a team has not supplied an official referee where required, the MWFA will inform the offending club that the team will be removed from the competition effective immediately.

Small sided games for 2009

In 2008, Football NSW in conjunction with FFA will be rolling out Small-Sided Games (SSG) in 16 Associations in both metropolitan and country regions of NSW.

All 16 associations will be commencing Small Sided Games in the Under 6 age group with some associations also conducting SSG for selected age groups up to U10's.

The main Associations not trying SSG in 2008 are Central Coast, MacArthur, Southern Districts and the [Manly Warringah Football Association](#).

In 2009 in MWFA are proposing a move to the FFA SSG format for U6. This is combined with two proposals:

1. Move U6 games to Sunday morning.
2. Operate the draw in a set of zones where the games move to a different main field every week. (eg Avalon, Narrabeen and Pittwater with all games at Careel Bay, Boondah and Kitchener on a three week rotating basis).

For your information, following is a link to the SSG flyer for parents from Football NSW.

[Parents Information Sheet SSG](#)



MOSSY'S MUMBLINGS

MUMBLINGS is a column based on true events and real people. While we have eyes and ears everywhere please feel free to email your short story – funny, quirky, sad, stupid, hilarious, down right ridiculous or otherwise – to mossy@mwfa.com.au While we try to get every story to print the final decision rests with the editor.

RED CARD: THE new Football NSW foul language directive to referees – which prevents any expletives on the field of play no matter how quietly they are voiced – is completely unrealistic and far too subjective. There are aspects, such as bad language, that are not ideal and we can all improve in that regard, but you must keep things real.

Wake up and smell the coffee FNSW!



GOOAAAL: ALL you football mums out there – have a fantastic day on Sunday! Happy Mother's Day.

What better way to spend your special day than taking in another game of the greatest code on earth..



FORMER Avalon and Manly United starlet Mia Waters tragically lost her brave fight against cancer last Friday.

The 16-year-old's passing has devastated her family and the many friends she had at both clubs. There was a minute's silence held in Mia's honour at Cromer Park before last Sunday's NSW Premier League clash with Sydney United.

Our thoughts and condolences go out to the Waters family. Manly United donated all gate takings from the game to HYPERLINK.

www.cureforkids.com.au

Please feel free to follow suit.



FOREST-Killarney marked their first win of the MWFA premier league season with a 5-0 thumping of 2006 league runners-up Narrabeen at the Academy of Sport last weekend.

And there were no excuses from the Beanies camp with coach Dean Harding honest enough to admit they were simply outplayed by the better team on the day.

With long-serving coach Glenn Wood (now Pittwater) and several players departing at the end of last season, the boys from Melwood had some rebuilding to do under new boss Ian Bernard and if last weekend is anything to go by, they are certainly on the right track.

Be warned!



REFEREE'S Corner was a popular addition to Mumblings last week and we had several emails listing answers to the first couple of questions. Here are last week's questions accompanied by the correct answers:

1. If a player scores an own goal from a direct free kick how do you re-start the game?

Answer: A corner. The laws of the game state you cannot score an own goal from a direct free kick.

2. A defender (standing under the bar between the posts) punches the ball over the crossbar from an indirect free-kick, how do you re-start the game and what punishment (if any) do you give.

Answer: Penalty, yellow card. He did not stop a goal because the free kick was indirect.

Now for this week's brain-teasers:

1. A player in his own penalty area spits at the referee - how do you restart the game?

2. A player is not in an offside position if he:
A. Steps off the field of play
B. Puts his hands up to indicate he is not involved with play.
C. Is level with the last two opponents.

3. During a goal kick, the kicker kicks the ball straight into their own goal. How do you re-start the game?



HAT'S off to Brian Dunphy!

Not only is he driving the Vanuatu Boot Collection but he has also answered the call from the mighty Curl Curl Ladies over-35 side for a referee to officiate their games.

Brian, a self-confessed middle-aged single, is a died-in-the-wool Curl Curl stalwart having served over many years as club president, vice-president, secretary and groundsman! He has his referee's badge and now wants to put it to good use.

"I heard there was a free beer in it after the game but you better warn the ladies that flattery on the field will get them nowhere," he quipped to Mumblings.

Incidentally, the boot collection is still on and due to the poor response so far has been extended until May 18. People should deliver their boots, shin pads, shirts, goalie gloves and socks to their club canteen or to Global Self Storage at 8 Clearview Pl, Brookvale.

With more than 17,000 registered players in the MWFA we should be able to collect at least a few thousand boots. Cisco Computers Systems are paying to freight them to Vanuatu and Global are providing free storage until they get despatched.



YOUNG Brookvale starlet Brittany Lumsden – the youngest player in the Ladies PL squad – suffered a badly broken leg in a recent game against HSU. Brittany, who soon turns 17, is still eligible for the under-18s but wanted to better herself as a player by playing up in the seniors.

She scored the only goal in last season's Champion of Champions final and started on the same note in 2008, notching the winner against Wakehurst in round one before also scoring against HSU in that ill-fated game.

Everyone at Brooky and Mumblings wish her a speedy recovery!

THE popularity of our great game never ceases to amaze.

Term 2 of the MWFA/MUFC Elite Training Program at Cromer Park on Monday afternoon's is a sell-out.

The eight week program is split into two four-week blocks and may have some spots available in the second month but for now it has reached its absolute limit.



TELECHOICE and Football NSW will throw their considerable weight behind Breast Cancer Awareness Day on Sunday – which doubles as Mother's Day.

Every female that walks through the gates at a NSW Premier League match this weekend will help raise funds for the cause with Telechoice making a generous donation.



MANLY United's 4-0 Tiger Turf Cup victory over West Sydney Berries at Cromer Park on Wednesday night took striker Robbie Cattanach's season tally to 13 goals in all competitions after grabbing a brace during the game.

The one-time Sydney FC striker has scored two goals in the pre-season Johnny Warren Cup, nine in the NSW Premier League and two so far in the Tiger Turf Cup.

Fellow strikers Craig Midgley and 17-year-old Chris Payne also found the back of the net on Wednesday night's emphatic victory.



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Want to become a "Field Sign Sponsor" please ring or email Sean Westwood at 0413 618 444 or at marketing@manlyunitedfc.com.au – all support is appreciated.



MWFA / MUFC ELITE TRAINING PROGRAM **TERM 2 – 2008**

INCLUDES GOALKEEPER TRAINING (see below)

REPRESENTATIVE YOUTH LEAGUE PLAYERS
Boys and girls - aged 10-15yrs

******NEW DAY NEW DAY NEW DAY NEW DAY******

Dates: THURSDAY May 8 – THURSDAY June 26
Times: 4.30pm – 5.45pm
Venue: Cromer Park – 101 South Creek Rd, Dee Why
Cost: \$20/player per session

Coaches: Phil Moss (MUFC Head Coach)
Sharon Egger (MUFC Girls Youth League Head Coach)

Program: Technique and specific game-related positional play

Bookings: Essential email mossy@mwfa.com.au or
call MWFA office on (02) 9982-6228

Wet Weather: Call 9982-6228 after Noon on day of program

SPECIALIST GOALKEEPER TRAINING With Bruno Jasiczek (MUFC)

Every **WEDNESDAY** night (6pm–7.30pm) from **May 7 – June 25** in the
synthetic-grassed cage at Cromer Park.

Cost \$35/session. Bookings call BRUNO on **0421 131 051** or email
bjgeronimo@gmail.com

Open to all goalkeepers aged 10-18yrs playing representative youth league or
MWFA club 1st division (or the highest division in their age group at their club)