

LEAGUES PLEASE FORWARD TO CLUBS

Breach Detected

The Player Payments Investigation Committee can confirm that a breach of regulation 31 has been detected.

A full and thorough investigation has now been initiated into the club in question in order to gain a greater understanding of the extent of the breach.

Once the investigation is completed, a full report including a recommendation will be presented to the Salary Cap Commissioner to determine a penalty which may include one or all of the following:

- Fine
- Loss of premiership points
- Loss APPS points
- Player suspension

This should serve as a warning to all clubs and players that Community Football is taking Regulation 31 seriously and, should a club choose to cheat the system, the consequences could be damaging. There are currently seven other club investigations currently underway.

Further Update

As we near the end of 2016 and football clubs across SA work towards finalising their senior playing lists for 2017, it's appropriate to reflect on the player payments salary cap introduced for the 2016 season.

The first year of the salary cap has been a learning curve for us all. Overall, most have embraced it and see the benefit not only to their club but also to the entire football community.

The Investigation Committee has been very active this season with a number of deterrent and investigative strategies being implemented:

- Almost 30 clubs have been subjected to a face to face review of their practices and reporting methods, along with discussions surrounding player payments. They were mostly random in nature; however, some were targeted and intended to place some clubs on notice that some issues had been raised.
- All grand finalists were required to complete a questionnaire regarding a number of issues.
- On occasions, and only in the most serious of allegations, participants will be required to complete and swear Statutory Declarations attesting to the participant's PERSONAL compliance with their obligations under Regulation 31. No participants have thus far been required to do so in 2016.
- Some players and officials have been spoken to over the telephone seeking details surrounding Regulation 31 matters.
- The use of face to face interviews or requests to attend Adelaide Oval to participate in discussions has also been implemented as an investigational tool.

The allegation of players being paid over contract monies is common, but other issues being investigated include:

- Players being paid a sign-on fee;
- Players' partners playing netball being paid to bolster the footballer's payments;
- Other people being paid on behalf of the player;
- Players or their friends or relatives bragging regarding payments; and
- Players being paid as coaches but not having a significant coaching role.

Additionally, there has been a significant increase in reports to the Investigation Committee regarding players 'shopping' themselves around and telling prospective club managements that they are seeking sign-on fees and payments well over the allowed levels.