



COMPLAINTS AND COMPLIMENTS POLICY

CROYDON RANGES FOOTBALL CLUB (CRFC)

Policy Rationale and Purpose

This policy assists to ensure that complaints and compliments are managed and investigated within a consistent, fair and transparent process and that the most appropriate person is involved at the time of formal lodgement of the complaint.

Compliments provide positive feedback to CRFC Club and individual staff members about the quality of our services and operations. Complaints provide a valuable opportunity to continually review and improve our services and operations. In relation to complaints CRFC is committed to efficient and fair resolution of a complaint by club members and/or the general public in accordance with the principles of open disclosure.

Common complaint examples

- Fees/ Payments Complaints relating to the payment of CRFC Membership or term fees
- Coaching Practices - Complaints relating to specific Coaches, programs or coaching practices at CRFC. This includes complaints relating to Coaches at matches held outside of CRFC facilities
- Venue/ Facilities Complaints relating to CRFC facilities including field of play and common areas at the facility

Policy Definitions

Allegation - an assertion made by a party in a complaint proceeding, which the party then undertakes to prove.

Complainant – a person who makes a complaint.

Complaint – Means an expression of concern or dissatisfaction with any aspect of CRFC operations or services provided and may be formal or informal in nature. An informal complaint may include minor issues or concerns. Informal complaints do not require reporting under this policy. A formal complaint (or grievance) is a complaint not resolved on the spot by the staff member involved and fall under the guidance of this Policy.

Disputes –Often result from a complaint which has progressed beyond a minor concern or dissatisfaction and has not been able to be resolved through effective primary communication or process. Disputes require careful and prompt attention so they do not become damaging to relationships, counter-productive and costly to the organisation.

Compliment – a positive expression or affirmation of a positive action observed or experienced and expressed in regard to any aspect of CRFC operations or services and may be formal or informal in nature.

Defamation- is the communication of a statement that makes a claim, expressly stated or implied to be factual, that may give an individual, business, product or group a negative image.

Finding/Outcome - A conclusion reached after review, or investigation.

Grievance – A complaint that has been formally registered with a manager and once made must be recognised and dealt with immediately.

Respondent – The defendant in a proceeding commenced as a result of a formal complaint or grievance.

Response - A communication provided after examination or investigation

Support Person – a person who supports the person who is implicated in the complaint. The support person's role is to assist before and during the meeting and witness the happenings of the meeting.

Victimisation - refers to situations when a person subjects or threatens to subject another person to a detriment because that other person has or is believed to have raised an issue or made a report under the policy or equal opportunity legislation or assist another person to do so.

Witness - A witness is someone who has firsthand knowledge about an incident or significant event through his or her senses (e.g. seeing, hearing, smelling, touching) and can help certify important considerations about such an event.

Policy Description

Compliments- Compliments to CRFC are recorded and any staff or persons mentioned are advised. In some instances, these are placed in staff working files for future reference.

Complaints (Club Members and/or General Public) - Only formal complaints require reporting under this procedure. Complaints can be lodged to any CRFC Coach, Office Staff, Program Manager, General Manager or to the CRFC Committee of Management.

General complaint guidelines

Encouraged Escalation Complaint pathway:

Complaint Pathway <i>If not resolved, move to the next level</i>	Member Responsible for Investigation and Resolution
Level 1	Coach
Level 2	Head Coach
Level 3	President/Club Committee

Informal Complaints:

CRFC Coaches and Committee Members are advised to listen to minor or informal complaints and to provide information to assist to resolve the issue with the Club member/s/member of public.

Formal Complaints:

- In this instance complainants are required to submit a formal complaint in writing to CRFC
- Within 3 business days the CRFC Committee is to be notified of any formal complaint and will facilitate a written acknowledgement of receipt of the complaint
- Within 10 business days from the receipt of a formal complaint, CRFC aims to resolve the complaint
- Should the complaint warrant investigation this may increase the time frame for resolution
- Disciplinary action may be taken against any person who makes a complaint under this policy, dishonestly or maliciously
- Investigations can be conducted by the Head Coach or Committee Members, as deemed appropriate based on the nature or persons involved in the complaint.

Resolution:

- Details of the final settlement of the complaint or dispute will be recorded in writing and a copy provided to each party involved.
- Any subsequent action will be kept on record by CRFC

Appeal:

- Should any party be unsatisfied with the disciplinary process and/or outcome, they have a period of 7 working days from the date of the resolution, to appeal.
- Appeals must be in writing

- All appeals will be conducted by a member of the CRFC committee

Special Circumstances:

In some instances, given the nature or persons involved, an outsourced third party may be used to conduct the disciplinary investigation, resolution or appeals process

Policy Review

This policy will be reviewed annually to ensure it remains relevant to club operations and reflects both community expectations and legal requirements. If no changes are needed, this version will remain.