

## **PMTA SWEARING POLICY - ZERO TOLERANCE**

Port Macquarie Touch Association has a zero tolerance policy towards foul language and sledging by players, coaches and officials. Referees are required to address such unacceptable action immediately if it occurs before, during or after a game.

If audible swearing occurs (which is sufficient to be heard or has the potential to cause offence to any player, official or spectator) the referee will immediately award a penalty to the non-offending team and remove the offending player from the field (forced substitution).

If a second offence occurs in the same game by the same player, that player must be sent from the field for a Period of Time (Sin Bin).

If a third offence occurs in the same game by the same player, that player must be sent from the field and will incur an automatic two(2) game suspension under the rules of Touch.

All players that swear, sledge or use audible foul language must be reported by the referee following the game. Similarly any abuse or back-chatting of referees or officials before, during and after the game must be reported.

Following any player being reported, a formal caution will be issued to the player. If there are any subsequent reports a player will receive a one game suspension. This suspension will be in addition to any other penalty. It will apply to the competition that the player is participating in.

Referees are obliged to act on and penalise players for continual breaches of the rules, bad sporting behaviour or any other action which is not in the spirit of the game.