



St Ives Junior AFL Club



Dear Club Members

07-Jan-10: On the 24th December 2009, Phil Edwards, an ex-coach of the St Ives Club from the early 1970's to the mid 1980's, was charged with child sex offences. At the time of the arrest, Phil was a volunteer umpire's coach for the AFL NSW/ACT and his duties involved coaching umpires for the Greater Sydney Juniors including St Ives.

Whilst Phil's direct association with the St Ives Club was during his time as a coach which concluded over 20 years ago, the Club fully appreciates that his arrest and subsequent publicity has sent shock waves throughout the Club and the football community.

Over the last 2 weeks I have spoken to many people associated with the Club, both past and present, including our umpire families. I have also been working closely with the AFL and I will continue to do so. As you can appreciate, this matter is now before the courts and all enquiries regarding the case are to be directed to the AFL NSW/ACT. I have included a Media Statement from the AFL NSW/ACT below with the relevant contact details...

Over the next few months there is likely be reports concerning this matter in the media. This is all part of the legal process and it has all the potential to be painful. With that in mind, I would like to extend my sympathy to all those people impacted by this situation. If you have any questions, then please do not hesitate to contact me on 0415-677-624.

Regards

Terry Southwell
President
St Ives Junior AFL Club

Media Statements from the AFL NSW/ACT

24-Dec-09: Please find below a statement from the CEO of AFL NSW/ACT, Dale Holmes in relation to police charges laid following an investigation into alleged child sexual assault offences dating back to the late 1970s.

AFL NSW/ACT confirms that one of the men charged by NSW police is a volunteer football coach and umpire.

AFL NSW/ACT takes the matter very seriously and has taken immediate action to stand down the person in question from all football club involvement immediately.

We will continue to remain in contact with NSW Police. Given the matters are now before the courts, no further comment will be made on the matter at this stage.

For any member of the AFL community that receives contact from the media please direct the enquiry to Anna Wallin, (Media & Marketing Manager – Sydney), on 02 8333 8000 or anna.wallin@afl.com.au.