



Santos
NATIONAL FOOTBALL
STADIUM

JOINT MEDIA STATEMENT

PNGNRLC • SANTOS NATIONAL FOOTBALL STADIUM

ZERO TOLERANCE FOR VIOLENCE – LET’S ENJOY OUR RUGBY LEAGUE

Following incidents involving a small number of individuals at the weekend’s Digicel ExxonMobil Cup Finals during the Hagen Eagles v Rabaul Gurias match. The PNGNRLC, and Santos National Football Stadium have met and reaffirmed our united commitment to providing a safe, respectful and enjoyable environment for everyone attending rugby league matches.

We regret that these incidents occurred and strongly condemn the behaviour of the individuals involved. Such behaviour does not represent the overwhelming majority of rugby league supporters in Papua New Guinea.

Importantly, Boroko Police and other units acted swiftly, identified the suspect and apprehended him on-site, the person was then arrested, charged and bailed refused. Additionally, CCTV footage has been provided to Police to assist in formally identifying others that may be responsible and police are continuing their investigations. We will continue to work closely with the police.

We are united in our approach: **there is zero tolerance for violence, intimidation, abuse or other inappropriate behaviour at the stadium.**

For this weekend’s Finals and the Grand Final the following week, spectators will see an increased Police and Security presence, both at entry points and throughout the venue.

Anyone whose behaviour does not meet the standards expected at the stadium will be immediately removed from the venue and, where appropriate, referred to Police for further action.

While we were disappointed by the incidents last weekend, it is equally important to recognise that thousands of supporters behaved responsibly and respectfully. Many spectators, including mothers, children and families, remained at the stadium following the incidents, enjoyed the entertainment and subsequent matches, and departed peacefully.

This weekend is about great rugby league. Supporters are encouraged to come along, bring their families, wear their team colours, cheer loudly, passionately and respectfully and enjoy what promises to be another entertaining weekend of Digicel ExxonMobil Cup Finals football.

RESPECT THE GAME. RESPECT EACH OTHER.

Rugby league has an incredibly exciting future in Papua New Guinea. As our national game continues to grow, we all have a responsibility to ensure the behaviour surrounding it grows with it.

Support your team. Cheer passionately. Enjoy the rivalry and always be respectful.

But as a rugby league community and as a country, we must stand together against violence and behaviour that is unacceptable.

Santos National Football Stadium also operates its “See Something, Say Something” campaign, providing spectators with a safe and confidential way to report inappropriate, threatening or unacceptable behaviour they witness at the venue.

If you see something that isn’t right, say something.

Together, PNGNRLC and Santos National Football Stadium are committed to making our Finals and Grand Final safe, welcoming and enjoyable occasions for players, officials, supporters and, importantly, families.

Let’s fill the stadium, support our teams and celebrate the best of Papua New Guinea rugby league.