



Monday 8th December 2025

STATEMENT ADDRESSING QUESTIONS RECEIVED ABOUT JDL-3 PROGRAM

Dear Members

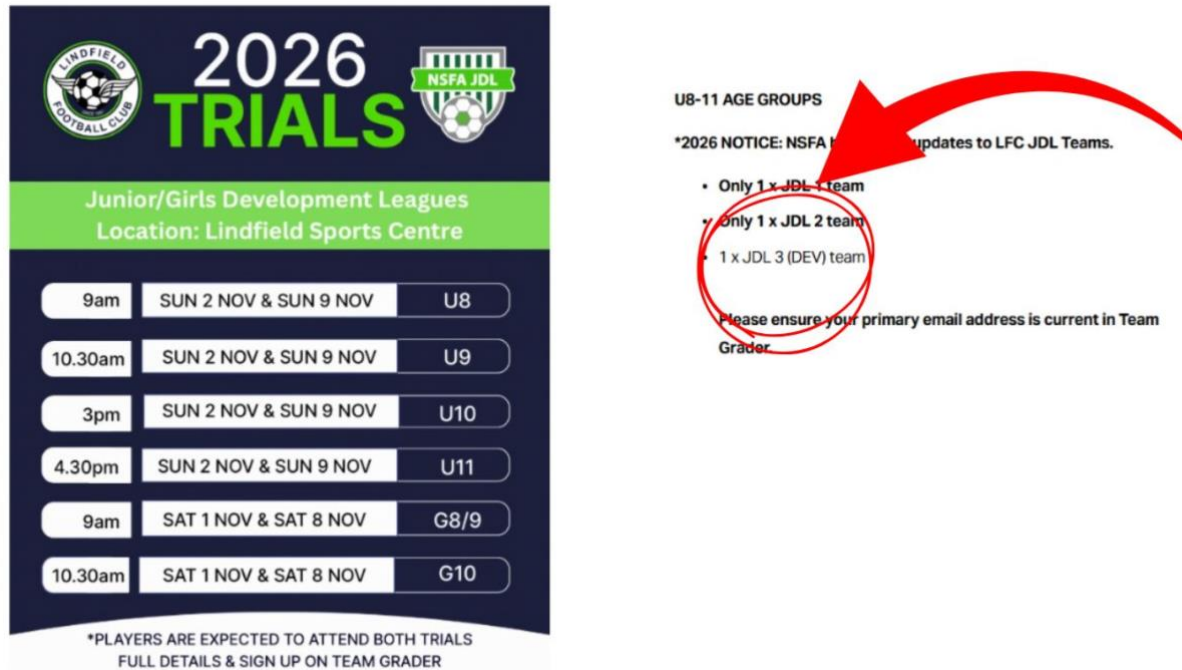
I write this letter in response to numerous questions Chatswood Rangers Sports Club (CRSC) members have sent via email or asked in face-to-face conversations following the recently held Development League Trials at our Club and across the NSFA. The purpose of this letter is to provide an open and honest account of this matter and to provide an ongoing source for any further questions we receive, as the time our volunteer Committee is spending on this matter is detracting from other pressing matters that need our attention.

Although the questions received vary in context and how they relate to and affect the players and parents involved, all questions can be summarised as, "**What is JDL-3?**"

When we were first asked this question, our response was, "**There is no such thing as JDL-3**" and we directed all inquiries to the Junior Football sections on the CRSC website <https://chatswoodrangers.com.au/junior-football-development-program/> and NSFA website <https://nsfa.asn.au/player/development-leagues/>, both of which clearly do not include any reference to JDL-3.

However, a number of parents, players and even coaches, followed up by stating that Lindfield Football Club (LFC) had been advertising for JDL-3 trials and subsequently made offers to their JDL-3 teams. We again responded that "**There is no such thing as JDL-3**" but were then shown screenshots of the LFC

website (see below) and email communication with players/parents offering JDL-3 places (we have chosen not to share these communications at this time to protect the privacy of the players and parents involved, and to limit any distress that may result if they are identified).



Figure#1 : Screenshot from LFC Website taken on 18/11/2025

Following this, we contacted the NSFA to check if CRSC had missed any communication about a new JDL program and whether the LFC JDL-3 Program was sanctioned by the NSFA. The answer from NSFA was what we expected, **“There is no NSFA JDL-3 program.”**

Confused by this, we asked NSFA to follow up with LFC, while we also asked a few other Clubs if they were offering JDL-3 Programs. Again, the answer from everyone we asked was, **“There is no such thing as JDL-3 in the NSFA”.**

Even more confused, we asked NSFA to clarify the situation with LFC and requested a public statement from both to ‘clear the air’. But, as we are yet to see any response from NSFA or LFC, we have decided to ‘clear the air’ ourselves. We also have been told by players and parents, that they have accepted JDL-3 offers from LFC and paid the non-refundable deposits, under the impression that the JDL-3 offer was a ‘better’ or ‘higher level’ offer than ‘Development Team’ (or similar program titles that are common

and 'accepted' across NSFA Clubs) offers from CRSC or other NSFA Clubs – which in many cases, is just not true.

While we do not know why LFC has decided to run a JDL-3 Program, and we are unsure whether they intentionally misled the local football community, the impact of their decision to be the only NSFA Club to run a JDL-3 Program, has been hard to handle. For CRSC, it has created hours more 'work' for our volunteer coordinators and Committee members. It has also resulted in CRSC having to run more trials than originally planned in order to fill the gaps created by players not accepting our offers (because we don't have a real or fictitious JDL-3 Program) and subsequently, have incurred significant costs that we had not budgeted for. The impact on numerous players and parents is also obvious. While we are unsure of the impact on other Clubs, and will leave it to them to issue similar statements should they feel the need to, we can only assume they will be in a similar situation to CRSC.

This week, I will lodge a formal Grievance/Complaint Procedure with the NSFA Board, requesting a formal inquiry into this matter, and suggest possible recourse as:

- 1. NSFA & LFC issue public statements to 'clear the air' on this matter.**
- 2. NSFA & LFC state that any player who has accepted a JDL-3 offer, may change their mind if they would prefer to accept another offer that was made at the same time as the JDL-3 offer, without any financial penalty, and are safeguarded from any other real or perceived 'negative outcomes'.**

CRSC will commit to honouring any previous offers we have made, so long as there are still vacant places in those teams. If LFC continue to offer their own JDL-3 Program, while we think it would be a 'bad idea' and not be very 'sporting', we will consider offering our own JDL-3 Program, possibly a JDL-4 Program, and look into Super League 2 and Diamond League 2 Programs to ensure our members, and all players trialling at CRSC, are at the very least, given similar opportunities to those offered by LFC.

CRSC is also committed to playing an active role in the review and 'overhaul' of the entire NSFA Development League Program, which was tabled and passed as a motion at the recent NSFA AGM and is expected to form part of NSFA's new strategy, which should be released by the end of 2026.

CRSC requests that all further inquiries about the LFC JDL-3 Program be directed to LFC (contact details should be on their website <https://lindfieldfc.com.au/> , perhaps search for “JDL-3 Coordinator”) or to NSFA via the contact details on their website (<https://nsfa.asn.au/the-association/contact-us/> , don’t search for JDL-3 as we already did that and nothing was found).

Should we receive any updates on this matter from NSFA or LFC, we will share with our members as we always strive to be ‘transparent’ (sometimes I actually wish I could disappear 😊).

Finally, I would like to say how proud I am personally, and on behalf of all our Committee members, the numerous volunteers across the Club, our wonderful members, life members, supporters and community partners, that CRSC continues to genuinely strive to offer community, volunteer led, grassroots sporting opportunities, based on the values of **sportsmanship**, **respect**, **kindness** and **community spirit**.

Chatswood Rangers is a **TRUE-BLUE FAMILY** ❤️ and has a **TRUE-BLUE HEART** ❤️

Phew...I definitely need a rest now, thank goodness the CRSC Ai Assistant (**BlueBot**) was there to help me with this very long letter (if you know me well it’s actually not that long).

Yours in Sport & Community Spirit

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