



PRIDE OF THE LEAGUE



30th October 2003

Mr David Gallop
Chief Executive Officer
National Rugby League
GPO Box 3498
Sydney, NSW, 2001

RE: Rugby League Websites

Dear David,

I'm deeply concerned about the various "unofficial" websites now dedicated to our game that are becoming increasingly defamatory.

I'm aware that several other club CEO's share the same concerns and I am seeking the NRL's position in terms of the extent of its powers as far as monitoring the "rebel" websites is concerned.

Our club has major concerns over an unofficial website that is operating under the www.rabbitohs.com banner that is constantly publishing highly defamatory and slanderous information on its forum/chat room about the club's board members, senior management, players and coaching staff.

The reality is all clubs competing in the Telstra Premiership relinquish overall control of their logo to the NRL, therefore I assume the game's governing body may be in a position to stop the various rebel websites from using NRL/Club logos without permission.

The above website (www.rabbitohs.com) which causes such concern for our club not only reproduces our logo without permission, it also uses our major sponsor logos and breaches various copyright laws by broadcasting audio and publishing editorial material from various media outlets without permission.

Please note that our club closed down its official website forum/chat room on September 5 this year following legal advice due to the highly defamatory postings by some users. I'm aware that several other NRL clubs have done the same.

What power does the NRL have in being able to assist the clubs in solving the game of this growing problem?

Yours sincerely

David Tapp
Chief Executive Officer
South Sydney DRLFC Ltd

Cc: Board of Directors

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