

**SUNSHINE COAST FOOTBALL COMPETITION RULES**  
**APPENDIX F**

**SUNSHINE COAST FOOTBALL - DISCIPLINARY REGULATIONS**

**1. COMPETITION**

- 1.1** The Competition is the Sunshine Coast Football league and includes all matches organised and sanctioned by Sunshine Coast Football.
- 1.2** These Disciplinary Rules are set by Sunshine Coast Football as the competition administrator and supplement the National Disciplinary Regulations in accordance with clause 1.2 of those Regulations.

**2. DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE**

- 2.1** The Board of Directors shall appoint each year suitably qualified persons to the Disciplinary Committee to deal with:
- (i) Disciplinary matters in any Sunshine Coast Football competition
  - (ii) appeals against additional disciplinary sanctions
  - (iii) misconduct and other incidents
  - (iv) appeals against penalties applied by clubs on their club members

The Disciplinary Committee is independent of the Board of Directors.

- 2.2** The Disciplinary Committee is the arbitrator on breaches of the Code of Conduct for players, coaches, club officials and referees.

A Disciplinary Committee Hearing panel shall consist of three (3) members. However if a third member is not available, it may convene with two (2) members with the Chair having the deciding vote if necessary.

- 2.3** It should be noted that:

- (i) Permission must be sought from the Board of Directors for the attendance of legal representation at any Disciplinary Committee hearing and the Board of Directors may determine the conditions for such an attendance.
- (ii) A Club representative shall be required to attend a Disciplinary Committee Hearing into the actions of individuals connected to such club.

- 2.4** Any party summoned to appear before the Disciplinary Committee shall receive at least three (3) working days notification prior to the Hearing. If the party does not attend they may be sanctioned until they appear. However if there is a valid reason for not attending, a party can write to SCF and request a postponement of a maximum of one (1) week.

- 2.5 Any party can also request to have the charges determined by the Disciplinary Committee in their absence. In this situation, the party must present their plea (guilty or not guilty) and detail their defence to the charge if pleading not guilty.
- 2.6 The Disciplinary Committee reserves the right to sanction any party that is summoned to a Hearing and fails to appear and has not advised their non-attendance.
- 2.7 Persons entitled to appear before a Disciplinary Committee shall be:
- (i) Summoned party accompanied by a Club Representative
  - (ii) Player's Parent or Guardian (junior players)
  - (iii) Summoned party's witness as outlined prior to the hearing date
  - (iv) Any other party requested by the Disciplinary Committee

### 3. SANCTIONS - PLAYERS

- 3.1 The application of sanctions to be issued to players for direct red cards will be in accordance with the range of sanctions outlined in the National Disciplinary Regulations and SCF Disciplinary regulations.
- 3.2 Where a player receives an **indirect** red card (2 yellow cards in the one match), they will automatically serve a Mandatory Match Suspension of one (1) match and any further penalty so determined in accordance with the NDR and SCF Disciplinary regulations.
- 3.3 A player who accumulates the following number of yellow cards during the course of the Competition must serve the following Mandatory Match Suspension:
- (a) Four (4) yellow cards, equates to a one match suspension
  - (b) A further three (3) yellow cards during a season (7 in total), a two match suspension will apply
  - (c) A further two (2) yellow cards during a season (9 in total), a three match suspension will apply
  - (d) A further one (1) yellow card during a season (10 in total), a four match suspension will apply

Sanction will be applied to the team / division of the last match the card was accumulated in by the player. Accumulation of yellow cards will be confirmed by the SCF Office.

- 3.4 Finals Series – to include all games played in the final series
- (a) Two cautions incurred automatically means that the player will be suspended for one (1) match. This suspension will take place in the next authorised match in which this player is involved in the finals or carry over to the next authorised competition match.

- 3.5** A player who accumulates the following number of **direct** red cards during the course of the Competition or the Final Series must serve the following Mandatory Match Suspensions, in addition to the sanction for the offence:
- (a) 1<sup>st</sup> occasion, equates to a one (1) match suspension
  - (b) Any subsequent occasion, equates to a two (2) match suspension
- 3.6** Any player who uses offensive, insulting or abusive language and / or gesture towards any match official(s) after being sent off will incur **at least an additional one (1) match suspension.**
- 3.7** Any player who fails to leave the field of play and the technical area and immediately return to the dressing room after being sent off will incur **at least an additional one (1) match suspension.**
- 3.8** If a suspension is to be served in terms of matches, only those matches actually played count towards the execution of the suspension. If a Match is abandoned, cancelled or forfeited, a suspension is only considered to be served if the team to which the suspended Player belongs is not responsible for the facts that led to the abandonment, cancellation or forfeiture.

#### **4. SANCTIONS - TEAM OFFICIALS**

- 4.1** The application of sanctions to be issued to team officials who are expelled from the field of play / technical area will be in accordance with the range of sanctions outlined in the National Disciplinary Regulations including the implementation of IFAB's yellow card and red card system for use in technical areas and SCF Disciplinary regulations.
- 4.2** Match Referees will use their judgement when deciding whether behaviour by a team official requires a warning (*Ask*), a caution (*Tell*) or a dismissal (*Remove*).

**Warning Offences (*Ask*)** – unacceptable behaviour may include, but is not limited to:

- i. Minor/low level disagreement (by word or by action) with a decision;
- ii. Failing to co-operate with a Match Official eg. Ignoring a 4th Official's instruction/request;
- iii. Persistent questioning of refereeing decisions;
- iv. Entering the field of play in a respectful and non-confrontational manner (including attempting to assist in a non-confrontational situation); or
- v. Leaving the Technical Area in a non-confrontational manner (e.g. Running down the touchline in excessive goal celebrations).

a) **Caution (YC) Offences (*Tell*)** – irresponsible behaviour may include, but is not limited to:

- i. Persistent/repeated unacceptable behaviour (included repeated warning offences);

- ii. Dissent by word or by action including:
  - i. Throwing/kicking drink bottles or other objects to show dissent (i.e. non-aggressive manner, not on the field, not at another person).
  - ii. Gestures which show a clear lack of respect for the Match Official/s (e.g. sarcastic clapping)
- iii. Gesturing or acting in a provocative, derisory or inflammatory way, including gesturing for a RC or YC to be shown;
- iv. Clearly/persistently not respecting the confines of the team's Technical Area;
- v. Deliberately entering the technical area of the opposing team (non-confrontational);
- vi. Delaying the restart of play by the team; or
- vii. Showing a lack of respect for the game.

b) **Dismissal (RC) Offences (Remove)** - serious irresponsible behaviour may include, but is not limited to:

- i. Violent Conduct (including kicking or throwing a water bottle or other object in a dangerous or aggressive manner);
- ii. Deliberately throwing/kicking an object on to the field of play;
- iii. Physical or aggressive behaviour;
- iv. Using offensive, insulting or abusive language and/or gestures;
- v. Spitting at any person;
- vi. Entering the field of play to interfere with play or an opposing player;
- vii. Deliberately leaving the Technical Area to:
  - i. Act in a provocative or inflammatory manner;
  - ii. Enter the opposing Technical Area in an aggressive or confrontational manner
- viii. Delaying the restart of play by the opposing team e.g. holding on to the ball, kicking the ball away, or obstructing the movement of another player.
- ix. Receiving a second YC in the same match.

4.3 Once expelled the team official may not enter the field of play, the surrounds of the field of play, the Technical Area, the player's race, or any other place within the venue where Participants will assemble. They may collect belongings from the dressing room immediately upon expulsion only and remain within a general seating area reserved for spectators. For completeness the expelled Team Official must have no further involvement in the match.

4.4 Team officials will automatically serve a Mandatory Match Suspension of one (1) match and any further penalty so determined in accordance with the NDR and SCF Disciplinary regulations.

4.5 Failure to adhere to 4.3 will result in additional match suspensions, to the mandatory match suspension, being applied.

## 5. INCIDENT REPORTS

A referee or assistant referee shall submit an incident report in the following cases:

- (i) Dismissal of a Team Official from the Technical Area
- (ii) Assault or harassment experienced during and / or after a match
- (iii) Any other matter not covered above

## 6. MISCONDUCT

**6.1** Each Club must ensure that its Participants do not engage in Team Misconduct. Sunshine Coast Football may, consistent with the FFA Statutes, sanction a Club whose Participants engage in Team Misconduct.

**6.2** Team Misconduct in relation to a Club is where:

- (a) Five (5) of its Players are cautioned (receive a yellow card) or are sent off during a Competition match;
- (b) Three of its Participants are sent off (player) or expelled (team official) during a Competition match;
- (c) Its Participants collectively show dissent towards a match official or collectively seek to intimidate, threaten or exert pressure on a match official to make or alter a decision; or
- (d) Its Participants engage in a melee or brawl.

## 7.0 NOTIFICATION AND TIMEFRAMES

**7.1 Red Cards:** The imposition of a mandatory match suspension is immediate. For completeness Sunshine Coast Football will send a Disciplinary Infringement Notice notifying the Player or Team Official (through the Club) of the mandatory match suspension within three (3) days of the completion of the weekend. For re-scheduled mid-week matches notification will be within two (2) days of completion of the match. For the avoidance of doubt, the mandatory match suspension is effective regardless of whether or not notice was received.

**7.2** If Sunshine Coast Football has determined that an Offence by a Player or a Team Official was such as to warrant a sanction in addition to the mandatory match suspension, a Disciplinary Infringement Notice notifying the Player or Team Official (through the Club) of the details of the offence and of the disciplinary sanction imposed will be forwarded within three (3) days of the completion of the weekend. For the avoidance of doubt the suspension is effective regardless of whether or not notice was received and the communication of the sanction advised to the player by the Club.

## 8.0 TERMS OF SUSPENSION

8.1 While serving a suspension, a Participant (player or team official) **may not**:

- (a) On the day of a match, enter the field of play, the surrounds of the field of play, the Technical Area, the player's race, the dressing rooms or any other place within a venue where Participants are likely to assemble to prepare for the match; or
- (b) If attending a Match be seated in an area normally reserved for Participants.
- (c) **Participate in any matches as a player or team official until 24 hours after the conclusion of the match to which the suspension relates except for Junior Players taking part in Sunday re-schedule matches.**

Junior players who have served their suspension and are playing a catch up fixture or extra round of fixtures on the Sunday, after having served their suspension on the Saturday for their junior team, are excluded from the 24 hour terms of suspension rule in that they may take the field in a Sunday fixture.

However, the player may **not** take the field for any other team on the Saturday of the sanction and the player may only take the field on the Sunday for a team where they are recognised as a regular player in that team.

## 9.0 PLAYER OF THE YEAR AWARDS

A suspension incurred by a player through the accumulation of yellow cards will not render that player ineligible for any such award. However a suspension incurred by a player as a result of red card send off in a fixture match will render that player ineligible for any such award.

## 10.0 DISCIPLINARY FINES

10.1 **Senior Competitions (Male and Female)** disciplinary fines shall be imposed against clubs on the following basis:

(i) **Accumulated Yellow Cards (in the same season)**

Four yellow cards accumulated by the same player	\$40.00
Next Three yellow cards (Seven (7) in total) accumulated by the same player	\$30.00
Next Two yellow cards (Nine (9) in total) accumulated by the same player	\$20.00
Next One yellow card (Ten (10) in total) accumulated by the same player	\$10.00

(ii) **Indirect Red Cards**

Indirect red card (2 yellows in the same game) incurred by a player	\$25.00
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**(iii) Accumulated Red Cards (in the same season)**

First direct red card incurred by a player	\$50.00
Second direct red card incurred by the same player	\$75.00
Third or subsequent direct red card incurred by the same player	\$100.00

**10.2 Senior and Junior Competitions (Male and Female) disciplinary fines shall be imposed against clubs on the following basis:**

Five (5) or more players from one team are cautioned or sent off during a match or Three (3) or more players from one team are sent off during a match

First offence by a team	warning
Second offence by the same team	\$250.00
Third offence by the same team	\$500.00

**10.3 Senior and Junior Competitions (Male and Female) disciplinary fines shall be imposed against clubs on the following basis:**

**(i) Accumulated Dismissals from the Technical Area (in the same season)**

First offence by a team official	\$250.00
Second offence by the same team official	\$500.00
Third offence by the same team official	\$1000.00

**11.0 DISCIPLINARY HEARING PROCEDURES**

**11.1** Except in the case of alleged mistaken identity (clause 4.3b of the NDR), there is no appeal from a mandatory match suspension.

In the case of mistaken identity the alleged actual offender must be named and a statement from the offender be submitted admitting the offence. (This does NOT include a player being sent off for a second cautionable offence in the same match).

**11.2** A player cannot appeal against a yellow card (caution). This also includes being sent off for a second cautionable offence in the same match.

**11.3** Under Clause 11.2 of the National Disciplinary Regulations, a player or team official may appeal the Additional Disciplinary Sanction imposed in a Disciplinary Infringement Notice by notifying Sunshine Coast Football by Noon the following Monday using the Appeal Form available from Sunshine Coast Football and signed off by the Club President or Secretary.

It must also include all documentation relevant to the appeal i.e. player's statement and any witness statements. A fee of \$250.00 must accompany this appeal and will be heard by the Disciplinary Appeals Committee. Once the fee has been received a copy of the send off report will be provided.

The fee is refundable at the discretion of the Disciplinary Appeals Committee. Also refer 11.4 re: leave to appeal. An appeal is not automatically accepted on receipt of appeal fee.

**11.4** The Disciplinary Appeals Committee will review the submitted documentation to assess whether there is leave to appeal i.e. there are sufficient grounds to hear the appeal. The onus is on the appellant to provide sufficient argument in the documentation to convince the Disciplinary Appeals Committee that the appeal should be heard. Confirmation or dismissal of the appeal to be advised within 24 hours of receipt of appeal documentation. If an appeal is not accepted the appeal fee will be returned.

**11.5** When determining any appropriate sanction the Disciplinary Appeals Committee may consider:

- (a) The nature and severity of the infringement;
- (b) The offender's past record and whether or not this is a repeated offence;
- (c) The culpability of the offender (including whether or not the infringement was intentional, negligent or reckless);
- (d) Any reasons prompting an offender to commit an infringement;
- (e) The remorse of the offender; and
- (f) Any extenuating circumstances.

In hearing an appeal, the Disciplinary Appeals Committee has the power to overturn, confirm, increase or decrease the additional disciplinary sanction against which the appeal is made.

**11.6** A party may appeal the Disciplinary Appeals Committee decision to Football Queensland within 7 days of advice of the appeal decision.

## **12.0 SANCTIONS UNDER FFA STATUTES**

**12.1** Subject to these Regulations, the following disciplinary sanctions may be imposed against a Club:

- (a) A reprimand;
- (b) A fine;
- (c) Place the Club on a bond;
- (d) A deduction or loss of competition points;
- (e) Ban on the registration or transfer of any Players for a specified period of time;
- (f) Annulment of registration of a player;
- (g) Suspension from participation in all FFA affiliated match or matches;
- (h) Exclusion, suspension or expulsion from Sunshine Coast Football;
- (i) Playing a match without spectators or on neutral territory;
- (j) A ban on playing at a particular ground;
- (k) Annulment of the result of the match; or
- (l) Other such disciplinary sanctions or measures as is appropriate in all the circumstances, including as prescribed in the FFA statutes.

**12.2** Subject to these Regulations, the following disciplinary sanctions may be imposed against a participant:

- (a) A reprimand;
- (b) A fine;
- (c) Return of an award;
- (d) Place the individual on a bond;



- (e) Ban the registration of Player with any club for a specified period of time;
- (f) Annulment of registration of a Player;
- (g) Suspension from participation in all FFA affiliated match or matches;
- (h) Suspension or expulsion from Sunshine Coast Football;
- (i) Suspension or cancellation of licence or accreditation, including coaching accreditation;
- (j) Termination of registration or playing contract;
- (k) A ban from the dressing rooms and/or substitute benches;
  
- (l) A ban from entering grounds;
- (m) A ban on taking part in any football related activity; or
- (n) Such other disciplinary sanctions or measures as is appropriate in all other circumstances, including as prescribed in the FIFA statutes.

The National Disciplinary Regulations are available on the Football Federation of Australia Website:

<https://www.ffa.com.au/sites/ffa/files/2017-09/National%20Disciplinary%20Regulations.pdf> or contact the SCF Office for a hard copy.



**DISCIPLINARY HEARING APPLICATION**

**1. APPLICANT DETAILS**

**Club Name:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Contact Name and Title:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Preferred Contact Phone No:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

**2. DETAILS OF APPEAL**

**Appellant's Name:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**(Player / Official sanctioned)**  
**Match:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Date of Match:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Sanction Imposed:** \_\_\_\_\_

**3. GROUNDS FOR APPEAL**

Grounds for appeal must be provided. Please attach paperwork to be forwarded to the Disciplinary Appeals Committee. Please note all correspondence will be through the appellant's club executive.

**4. TIMEFRAME AND COSTS**

This application must be lodged to Sunshine Coast Football as per Sunshine Coast Football Appendix F, Clause 11.3. Also refer 11.4. Applicant must also enclose appeal fee of \$250.00 which may be refunded if the appeal is upheld.

Appeal fee of \$250.00 enclosed (please circle)                      YES      NO

**5. SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT**

**I warrant that the information contained in this Application Form is true and correct.**

**SIGNED:** \_\_\_\_\_ **DATE:** \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

**PRINT NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

<b>OFFICIAL USE ONLY</b>	
Date appeal received	<input type="checkbox"/> ____/____/2019
Club Notified of Appeal hearing and details	<input type="checkbox"/> ____/____/2019
Documentation Sent to Club	<input type="checkbox"/> ____/____/2019
Received Evidence from Appellant to be relied on during Appeal	<input type="checkbox"/> ____/____/2019
Club notified of results of Appeal	<input type="checkbox"/> ____/____/2019