

MACQUARIE FOOTBALL LIMITED A.C.N. 050 293 153

NEWCASTLE FOOTBALL LIMITED A.C.N. 052 054 163

HUNTER VALLEY FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION  
INCORPORATED

## **REGULATION G**

### **SECTION A: DISCIPLINARY RULES & PROCEDURES**

### **SECTION B: NATIONAL DISCIPLINARY REGULATIONS**

Issued by the Joint Board of Directors of Macquarie Football Limited, Newcastle Football Limited and Hunter Valley Football Association Incorporated.

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## **SECTION A: DISCIPLINARY RULES & PROCEDURES**

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## **PART A: APPLICATION AND JURISDICTION**

### **G 1. APPLICATION AND JURISDICTION**

- 1.1 The following procedures apply exclusively to facilitate the expeditious and fair resolution of breaches of the Constitution, By-Laws and Regulations of the Zone Association and the Laws of the Game that arise between Zone Associations, Clubs, Players, Officials and Agents (***Participants***).
- 1.2 Each Participant submits exclusively to the jurisdiction of the Disciplinary Procedure and agrees that unless and until the Disciplinary Procedure has been exhausted, it will not attempt to resolve any Grievance in a court of law.
- 1.3 This Disciplinary Procedure binds Participants and applies exclusively for the resolution of Disciplinary determinations.
- 1.4 This Disciplinary Procedure does not apply to policies under FFA or Northern NSW Football Rules and Regulations that have their own dispute resolution procedures, such as the Anti-Doping Policy and the National Teams Selection Policy.

### **G 2. FIFA'S JURISDICTION**

- 2.1 If a Participant has or is involved in a dispute or grievance within the jurisdiction of FIFA Statutes, that Participant:
  - (a) submits to the jurisdiction of FIFA, including the jurisdiction of the Court of Arbitration for Sport in accordance with the procedures specified in the CAS Code of Sports-Related Arbitration; and
  - (b) agrees to comply with the decisions passed by the Court of Arbitration for Sport.

## **PART B: APPOINTMENT AND JURISDICTION OF DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE**

### **G 3. APPOINTMENT OF DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE**

- 3.1 The Competitions Administrator (Disciplinary) must appoint a panel of at least 3 persons to act as a Disciplinary Committee.
- 3.2 The Competitions Administrator (Disciplinary) shall appoint a Chairperson from this panel. The Chairperson may delegate this appointment from time to time to one of the persons of the panel.
- 3.3 The members of the panel should have:
  - (a) a reasonable knowledge of the Laws of the Game; and
  - (b) a background in football to assist in the determination of disciplinary charges.
- 3.4 If a person on the panel resigns or is unwilling or unable to continue to act, the Competitions Administrator (Disciplinary) will appoint a replacement.
- 3.5 The Competitions Administrator (Disciplinary) will notify Participants of the panel of the Disciplinary Committee from time to time, including through its website.

### **G 4. JURISDICTION AND COMPOSITION OF DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE**

- 4.1 A Disciplinary Committee has jurisdiction to determine all matters that arise, directly or indirectly, within the Joint Boards of Zone Associations' jurisdiction, including those specified in clause 1 above.
- 4.2 Unless the parties to the proceedings otherwise consent, the Disciplinary Committee must comprise of a minimum of three (3) persons.
- 4.3 The Disciplinary Committee has the power to:
  - (a) examine reports submitted by Referees, Assistant Referees, Member Clubs, Players, Spectators, Officials and Directors of the Zone Association.
  - (b) impose such penalties as it deems appropriate including – to dismiss the matter, reprimand, impose a fine, bond, period of probation or suspension or any combination of these, as well as deduct points or remove from Competition (Player, Official, or Club).
  - (c) substitute its own sanctions or finding; or
  - (d) impose any sanction or make any finding that the Disciplinary Committee could have imposed or made.
- 4.4 A member of the Disciplinary Committee cannot hear or determine any matter if that member has a conflict of interest, actual or perceived, including if he or she is a director or employee of any party to the matter or if there is any other reason where a private or personal interest could influence the way the member performs his or her duties.
- 4.5 Each member of the Disciplinary Committee has a single vote and all decisions of the Disciplinary Committee will be made by majority vote. If there is an equality of votes, the Chair has the casting vote.

### **G 5. RIGHT OF REFERRAL**

The Chairperson of the Disciplinary Committee may refer a matter directly to the Appeals Tribunal if before the start of the hearing, he or she thinks the matter is best dealt with by the Appeals Tribunal.

## **PART C: ESTABLISHMENT AND JURISDICTION OF APPEALS TRIBUNAL**

### **G 6. ESTABLISHMENT OF APPEALS TRIBUNAL**

- 6.1 The Appeals Tribunal is established and will comprise a panel of at least 3 independent persons, with a Chairperson as appointed by the Competitions Administrator (Disciplinary) as follows:
- 6.2 The members of the panel should have:
- (a) a reasonable knowledge of the Laws of the Game; and
  - (b) a background in football to assist in the determination of disciplinary charges.
- 6.3 If an Appeals Tribunal member resigns or is unwilling or unable to continue to act, the Competition Administrator (Disciplinary) will appoint a replacement.
- 6.4 The Competition Administrator (Disciplinary) will notify Participants of the panel of the Appeals Tribunal from time to time, including through its website.

### **G 7. JURISDICTION AND COMPOSITION OF APPEALS TRIBUNAL**

- 7.1 The Appeals Tribunal has jurisdiction to:
- (a) determine matters referred directly by the Competition Administrator (Disciplinary) under clause 6; and
  - (b) hear appeals from Determinations of the Disciplinary Committee.
- 7.2 Unless the parties to the proceedings otherwise consent, the Appeals Tribunal must comprise of a minimum of three (3) persons.
- 7.3 The Appeals Tribunal has the power to:
- (a) dismiss, allow in whole or part, or vary (whether by way of reduction or increase) any Determination of the Disciplinary Committee;
  - (b) substitute its own sanctions or finding; or
  - (c) impose any sanction or make any finding that the Disciplinary Committee could have imposed or made.
- 7.4 A member of the Appeals Tribunal cannot hear or determine any matter if that member has a conflict of interest, actual or perceived, including if he or she is a director or employee of any party to the matter or if there is any other reason where a private or personal interest could influence the way the member performs his or her duties.
- 7.5 Each member of the Appeals Tribunal has a single vote and all decisions of the Appeals Tribunal will be made by majority vote. If there is an equality of votes, the Chair has the casting vote.

## **PART D: HEARING PROCEDURES AND DETERMINATIONS**

### **G 8. HEARING PROCEDURES**

- 8.1 Hearings are not bound by the rules of evidence usually applicable to proceedings in courts of law, but all hearings must be conducted in accordance with the principles of natural justice, including that a respondent to a matter has had:
- (a) reasonable and sufficient notice of the Hearing; and
  - (b) the opportunity to be heard and to make submissions in relation to the issues of merit and sanction.
- 8.2 A person who is a legally qualified solicitor or barrister shall not be permitted to:
- (a) represent a party at a hearing of the Disciplinary Committee in that capacity; or
  - (b) be represented on the Disciplinary Committee in that capacity.
- 8.3 A party may provide to the Chairperson of the Disciplinary Committee a copy of any written submissions, materials or documents it intends to rely on in the hearing at least 2 business days before the start of that hearing. If it fails to do so, that party is not, without the leave of the Chairperson of the Disciplinary Committee, allowed to submit them into evidence at the hearing.
- 8.4 The Chairperson of the Disciplinary Committee has the right to determine all procedures to be adopted in hearing a matter and may during the course of any hearing:
- (a) admit and request the production of documents or any relevant written evidence available to a Participant or any other person, including reports from Match Officials, declarations from the parties and witnesses, expert opinion and video or Audio recordings;
  - (b) order the attendance of any person for the purpose of asking questions relevant to the matter; or
  - (c) grant or order an adjournment to provide parties with additional time or to consider additional information.
- 8.5 At the start of a hearing, the Chairperson of the Disciplinary Committee will:
- (a) open proceedings with a summary of the matter;
  - (b) present the evidence as received by the parties; and
  - (c) advise as to any relevant Rules and Regulations or Framework Documents.
- 8.6 At a hearing:
- (a) a party may attend in person or be represented by a person of his/her choice;
  - (b) a party that is a minor (ie under the age of 18 years) must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.
  - (c) a party that is a Player must be accompanied by a Club representative.
  - (d) FFA or a State Federation, District Association or Club may be represented by an officer or employee of that party;
  - (e) FFA reserves the right to be heard and to make submissions;
  - (f) the Chairperson of the Disciplinary Committee must, and the Appeals Tribunal may, refuse entry to any person who is not directly involved in the matter, including the media; and
  - (g) any witness that a party intends to call to give evidence in a hearing must remain outside the hearing room until called to give evidence.
- 8.7 If a party fails to attend a hearing, the matter can be heard and determined in that party's absence, including as to determination of the charge and/or sanction.

- 8.8 The Chairperson of the Disciplinary Committee has the right, prior to hearing a matter to:
- (a) if the respondent is a Player - to allow the Player to continue to play pending the hearing of the matter and this shall be at the discretion of the Chairperson of the Disciplinary Committee, it must not be assumed that permission will be given.
  - (b) if the respondent is an Official – to allow that Official to continue in that capacity pending the hearing of the matter and this shall be at the discretion of the Chairperson of the Disciplinary Committee, it must not be assumed that permission will be given.

## **G 9. FEE**

- 9.1 There shall be no fees applicable to matters being dealt with or by the Disciplinary Committee where a matter has been referred for determination.

## **G10. DETERMINATIONS (AUTOMATIC PENALTY / SANCTIONS SYSTEM)**

- 10.1 The Competitions Administrator (Disciplinary) shall be empowered to apply an Automatic Penalty System or Sanctions. This System prescribes minimum penalties to be imposed for Send Off and / or Caution offences committed under the Laws of the Game and as proscribed in the Rules and Regulations.
- 10.2 The Competitions Administrator (Disciplinary) shall as soon as possible after receipt of notification of a Send Off or Caution offence, notify in writing, the participant of the penalty to be imposed under the Automatic Penalty /Sanctions System.
- 10.3 A Participant who has been notified under the Automatic Penalty/ Sanctions System shall have the right within seven (7) days of receipt of such notice to apply in writing for a hearing of the Disciplinary Committee to re-determine the penalty imposed. A fee of \$220.00 (includes GST) must accompany this application. Where the Participant is a Player, Official or Club then the written request must be forwarded on behalf of the Member Club.
- 10.4 The Competitions Administrator (Disciplinary) shall upon receipt in writing convene a hearing to re-determine a determination made under the Automatic Penalty/Sanctions System.
- 10.5 If a hearing is successful the Association shall refund to that party the appeal fee less an administrative charge of \$110.00 (50% of the fee).
- 10.6 In the event of a submitted appeal being later withdrawn by the Participant prior to the hearing, the appeal fee is forfeited in full.

## **G11. DETERMINATION AND COSTS**

- 11.1 The Chairperson of the Disciplinary Committee:
- (a) must determine all matters by reference to:
    - (i) relevant Joint Boards of Associations Rules and Regulations (current),
    - (ii) relevant FFA, NNSW Football Rules and Regulations and Framework Documents; and
    - (iii) considerations of general justice and fairness;
  - (b) must within 7 days after the end of a hearing, provide a Determination of the matter in writing to the party; the Member (if the party is a Player and/or an Official), the Association and
  - (c) may at any time correct, vary or set aside a Determination if there is a manifest error in the expression of that Determination.
- 11.2 The Competitions Administrator (Disciplinary) must keep a register of all Determinations made by the Disciplinary Committee and make those Determinations available to a Participant on request.
- 11.3 Subject only to the right of appeal set out in clause 13, all Determinations of the Disciplinary Committee are final and binding on all parties.
- 11.4 Each party must bear its own costs in relation to any matter, except if the Disciplinary Committee awards costs where they are of the opinion that a party vexatiously or frivolously initiated or defended a matter.

## **PART E: RIGHT OF APPEAL**

### **G12. RIGHT OF APPEAL**

- 12.1 If a party to a Matter heard by the Disciplinary Committee wants to appeal the Determination, it must:
- (a) give written notice to the Competition Administrator (Disciplinary) within 7 days after receipt of that Determination that it wants to appeal the Determination, specifying its grounds of appeal;
  - (b) pay any award or fine the subject of that Determination to the specified Zone Association before the Appeals Tribunal conducts the appeal, unless the party making the appeal can satisfy the Chairperson of the Appeals Tribunal that there are exceptional and compelling circumstances; and
  - (c) pay an appeal fee to the specified Zone Association of \$440.00 (includes GST) if a natural person (such as Player, Official or Agent) and \$440.00 (includes GST) if an entity (such as a Zone Association or Club).
- 12.2 The Chairperson of the Appeals Tribunal must convene an Appeals Tribunal to hear the appeal as soon as practicable, but within 14 days of receipt of that notice.
- 12.3 The Appeals Tribunal will rehear the matter and the terms of Part D (Hearing Procedures and Determinations) will apply to the rehearing of the matter and a reference to the Disciplinary Committee is a reference to Appeals Tribunal.



- 12.4 The Appeals Tribunal has the power to:
- (a) dismiss, allow in whole or part, or vary (whether by way of reduction or increase) any Determination of the Disciplinary Committee;
  - (b) substitute its own sanctions or finding; or
  - (c) impose any sanction or make any finding that the Disciplinary Committee could have imposed or made.
- 12.5 A person who is a legally qualified solicitor or barrister shall not be permitted to:
- (a) represent a party at a hearing of the Appeals Tribunal in that capacity; or
  - (b) be represented on the Appeals Tribunal in that capacity.
- 12.6 The Chairperson of the Appeals Tribunal has the right, prior to hearing a matter to:
- (a) if the respondent is a Player - to allow the Player to continue to play pending the hearing of the matter and this shall be at the discretion of the Chairperson of the Appeals Tribunal, it must not be assumed that permission will be given.
  - (b) if the respondent is an Official – to allow that Official to continue in that capacity pending the hearing of the matter and this shall be at the discretion of the Chairperson of the Appeals Tribunal, it must not be assumed that permission will be given.
- 12.7 If a rehearing is successful, the specified Zone Association must refund to that party the appeal fee less an administrative charge of \$220.00 (50% of the fee).
- 12.8 In the event of a submitted appeal being later withdrawn by the Participant prior to the hearing, the appeal fee is forfeited in full.
- 12.9 If a party to a Matter heard by the Appeals Tribunal appeals the Determination, it must:
- (a) give written notice to the Competitions Administrator (Northern Football) within 7 days after receipt of that Determination that it wants to appeal the Determination, specifying its grounds of appeal;
  - (b) pay any award or fine the subject of that Determination to the specified Zone Association before the Disciplinary Tribunal (Northern Football) conducts the appeal, unless the party making the appeal can satisfy the Competitions Administrator (Northern Football) that there are exceptional and compelling circumstances; and
  - (c) pay an appeal fee to Northern Football of \$880.00 (includes GST) if a natural person (such as Player, Official or Agent) and \$880.00 (includes GST) if an entity (such as a District Association or Club).

## **PART F: ADMINISTRATION**

### **G13. ADMINISTRATION AND EXPENSES**

- 13.1 The Competition Administrator (Disciplinary) acting on behalf of the Chairperson of the Disciplinary Committee and the Appeals Tribunal must:
- (a) collate all documents and evidence received by the parties or relevant to the matter;
  - (b) provide copies of notices and Determinations to the parties to the matter;
  - (c) convene all hearings of a Disciplinary Committee and the Appeals Tribunal as soon as practicable and, if an urgent hearing is required, convene an urgent hearing;
  - (d) be the central point of contact for the parties to a Matter and ensure that all timeframes and requirements are met; and

- (e) provide supporting services to the Chairperson so that he/she can perform all tasks prescribed to the Chairperson and any incidental tasks necessary to ensure the smooth and efficient operation of this Procedure.

13.2 Hearings of a Disciplinary Committee or Appeals Tribunal must be heard in person.

13.3 Hearings of the Disciplinary Committee and Appeals Tribunal will be conducted at a place so determined for those purposes.

13.4 The Joint Board of the Zone Associations must meet all administrative costs of the Chairpersons and the conduct of this Procedure.

13.5 Each party must meet its own expenses incurred in initiating or defending a Matter, including preparation and attendance costs and airfares and accommodation expenses (if applicable).

#### **G14. NOTICE**

14.1 A party notifying or giving notice under these Procedures must notify in writing and in English.

14.2 A notice will be deemed received:

- (a) if delivered by hand to the recipient 's address, on the date of delivery, as long as delivery is acknowledged in writing by the recipient;
- (b) if sent by post, 3 days after the posting; and
- (c) if sent by email or facsimile on a working day at the recipient's, on the date of transmission, or if sent on a non-working day at the recipient's, on the next working day (in both cases as long as the sender's email or facsimile machine records a successful transmission).

#### **G15 DISCIPLINARY DETERMINATION GUIDELINES**

As per the Laws of the Game as proscribed and issued by FIFA from time to time, the Chairperson of the Disciplinary Committee shall follow the following guidelines:

##### **15.1 PLAYER SEND-OFFS      (RED CARD)**

- (a) A Participant shall be sent from the field of play by a Referee (shown the Red Card) for the following offences as prescribed for in the Laws of the Game:

- Violent Conduct
- Serious Foul Play
- Foul and/or Abusive Language
- Persisting in Misconduct after Receiving a Caution
- Professional Foul

The sent-off Participant must remove the playing strip and leave the field, including the bench area to go outside the fence or marked Spectator line of the field.

- (b) A Participant sent from the field shall be penalised by an AUTOMATIC ONE (1) FIXTURE SUSPENSION. There shall be NO Appeal against this Suspension.
- (c) A Participant sent from the field may be penalised additionally to the Automatic One (1) Match Suspension; further penalty may be imposed by the Automatic Penalties/Sanctions System or by the Competition Administrator (Disciplinary).

- (d) A Participant shall serve his/her Suspension whilst his/her Team competes in the following Fixture(s) of the Current Competition or Final Series; or, should that Competition or Final Series conclude, in the following Fixture(s) of the following Zone Association's Competition in which he/she is a registered Player.
- (e) Should a Participant accumulate two (2) or more recorded Red Card Infringements during a Competition and Final Series then he/she shall serve, in addition to the AUTOMATIC ONE (1) FIXTURE SUSPENSION, a further ONE (1) FIXTURE SUSPENSION in addition to any further suspensions imposed by the Competitions Administrator (Disciplinary). There shall be NO Appeal against this Suspension.

15.2 **PLAYER CAUTIONS**      **(YELLOW CARD)**

- (a) A Participant may be cautioned (shown the Yellow Card) during the course of a Fixture for any offence under the Laws of the Game as deemed necessary by the Referee.
- (b) A caution is administered by the Referee recording a Participant's Name and Number and the Offence committed on the back of the Team Sheet during or at the conclusion of the Fixture and may or may not involve the showing of the Yellow Card.
- (c) Should a Participant accumulate three (3) recorded Cautions (four (4) recorded Cautions for Zone Football Competition only) during a Competition (noting that where a yellow card in a match is followed by a second yellow card resulting in a red card sending off neither the original nor the second yellow card shall count in the Participant's cumulative yellow card total), then he/she shall serve an AUTOMATIC ONE (1) FIXTURE SUSPENSION. There shall be NO Appeal against this Suspension.
- (d) Should a Participant receive a further two (2) recorded Cautions during the Competition in addition to 15.2 (c), then he/she shall serve an AUTOMATIC TWO (2) FIXTURE SUSPENSION. There shall be NO Appeal against this Suspension.
- (e) Should a Participant receive any further recorded Cautions during the Competition in addition to 15.2 (d), then EACH Caution shall fetch a further AUTOMATIC ONE (1) FIXTURE SUSPENSION. There shall be NO Appeal against this Suspension. This penalty may be increased at the discretion of the Competitions Administrator (Disciplinary) and a Participant has the right to appeal against this decision to the Disciplinary Committee.
- (f) Should a Participant accumulate two (2) recorded Cautions during a Finals Series Competition (excepting where a Participant receives two (2) recorded Cautions in the same match), then he/she shall serve an AUTOMATIC ONE (1) FIXTURE SUSPENSION. There shall be NO Appeal against this Suspension. The Player shall serve this Suspension in the next Finals Series Competition Fixture and/or the next following Competition Fixture whichever comes first..
- (g) The Participant's Club must contact the Competition Administrator (Disciplinary) to check the total number of accumulated Yellow Cards before acting in any way to stand down the Participant; the Competition Administrator (Disciplinary) will advise the Club during this contact if it needs to stand down the Participant. A Registered Player playing in either a Competition fixture or Final Series fixture after this notification of Suspension and within the period of Suspension shall be deemed an INELIGIBLE PLAYER  
(See Rule C03 (e)).

- (h) Cautions not incurring Suspensions shall not carry over from one Season Competition to the next or carry over into a Final Series; however, any Suspensions occurring in a Competition and not being served in that Competition or Final Series shall be served in the following Season Competition. Any Suspension occurring in a Final Series and not served in that Final Series shall be served in the following Season Competition.

### 15.3 **AUTOMATIC PENALTIES / SANCTIONS SYSTEM**

The Competitions Administrator (Disciplinary) has the power to implement an Automatic Penalty / Sanctions System as per Part 10, and shall use the following Guidelines as per FFA recommendations:

The following **MINIMUM** penalties shall apply for the offences listed below for Player Send-Off (Red Card):-

(a) **Offence No.1 (R4 or R5 for players)**

(Denying the opposing team a clear goal scoring opportunity)

**- The Mandatory Match Suspension**

**Offence No. 2 (R6 for players)**

Use of offensive, insulting or abusive language and/or gesture

**- The Mandatory Match Suspension**

**Offence No. 3 (R1 for players)**

Serious Foul Play (eg; when challenging for the ball).

**- 1 additional match plus the Mandatory Match Suspension**

**Offence No. 4 (R2 for players)**

Assault on a player (eg: violent conduct when not challenging for the ball)

**- 1 additional match plus the Mandatory Match Suspension**

**Offence No. 5 (R6 for players)**

Serious Unsporting Conduct

**- 1 additional match plus the Mandatory Match Suspension**

**Offence No. 6 (R6 for players)**

(Use of discriminatory language and/or gestures, including racist, religious, ethnic or sexist)

**- 4 additional matches plus the Mandatory Match Suspension**

**Offence No. 7 (R3 for players)**

(Spitting at a player)

**- 5 additional matches plus the Mandatory Match Suspension**

**Offence No. 8 (R2 or R6 for players)**

(Inciting a brawl)

**- 5 additional matches plus the Mandatory Match Suspension**

**Offence No. 9 (R6 for players)**

(Use of offensive, insulting or abusive language and/or gestures against a match official)

**- The Mandatory Match Suspension**

**Offence No. 10 (R6 for players)**

(Unsporting conduct toward a match official)

**- 3 additional matches plus the Mandatory Match Suspension**

**Offence No. 11 (R2 for players)**

(Assault of a match official)

**- 6 months including the Mandatory Match Suspension**

**Offence No. 12 (R3 for players)**

(Spitting at a match official)

**- 12 months including the Mandatory Match Suspension**

(b) **Offence No. 13 (R7 for players)**

A player guilty of receiving a Second Caution (Yellow Card) in a match (Persisting in Misconduct After Receiving a Caution)

**– The Mandatory Match Suspension**

15.4 **DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE HEARINGS**

(a) Notwithstanding the existence of the Automatic Penalties/ Sanctions System, the Competitions Administrator (Disciplinary) or his/her nominee may, at his/her discretion, choose to have a Player Send-Off (Red Card) offence dealt with by citing the offending Player to appear at a Disciplinary Committee hearing. This may result in a dismissal of the case or an increase, decrease or maintenance of the penalty that would have been imposed under the Automatic Penalties / Sanctions System.

The following Disciplinary Committee Maximum Penalties Guidelines shall apply for Players charged with action against Players and appearing before the Disciplinary Committee.

(i) Violent Conduct – all these charges represent what is meant by Violent Conduct and the length of sentence is determined by the severity and type of the offence.

Going over the ball	1 year
Violent charging	2 years
Head butting	2 years
Punching/fighting	2 years
Elbow to head	2 years
Grabbing hair	12 matches
Rugby tackle	2 years
Spitting	2 years
Elbow to body	2 years
Indecent actions	20 matches
Dangerous play	1 year
Kicking	2 years

(ii) Foul or Abusive Language 8 matches

(iii) Persistent Misconduct 8 matches

The following Disciplinary Committee Maximum Penalties Guidelines shall apply for Players, Officials or Spectators charged with action against Officials and appearing before the Disciplinary Committee.

Threatening by word or action	life
Tripping	life
Pushing with open hand or part of body	life
Striking with ball or other object, kicking or elbowing	life
Spitting	5 years
Foul or Abusive	1 year
Inciting crowd	6 years
Attacking or fighting spectators	life
Bringing game into disrepute	life
Deliberately misleading Judiciary	2 years

## G16 DEFINITIONS AND INTERPRETATION

### DEFINITIONS AND INTERPRETATION

16.1 In this Disciplinary and Appeals Procedure:

**Competitions Administrator (Disciplinary)** means the person appointed by the Joint Boards of the Zone Associations from time to time to administer these Procedures and to present the facts and evidence at hearings.

**Agent** means a person who is licensed by FFA from time to time to act as a player agent under FFA Rules and Regulations or who otherwise meets the requirements of FIFA Statutes.

**Club** means any club or team that is from time to time:

- (a) a member of, or affiliated to, FFA or a State Federation or District Association;
- (b) admitted by FFA to field a team in a National League; or
- (c) admitted by FFA to field a team in a National Championships.

**Club Official** means any personnel involved with the administration, management or organisation of a Club (whether paid or unpaid), including employees, consultants, officers and directors.

**Determination** means a written determination of a Disciplinary Committee or the Appeals Tribunal in accordance with clause 12.1.

**District Zone Association** means a member or Zone association that is a member of, or affiliated to, a State Federation from time to time.

**FIFA Statutes** means the statutes and accompanying standing orders and regulations promulgated by FIFA from time to time.

**Framework Documents** mean the agreements, regulations and policies as they relate to the establishment, conduct or promotion of a National League or National Championships, including terms of participation, Player or Official contracts, operations manuals and tournament regulations.

**Match** means any match staged or participated in by FFA, a State Federation, a Zone Association or a Club or a match that is otherwise sanctioned by or played under the auspices of FFA, including any pre or post season, trial or exhibition match.

**Match Official** means a referee, assistant referee, fourth official, match commissioner, referee inspector, selector, any person in charge of safety or any other person appointed by FFA or a State Federation or Zone Association to assume responsibility in connection with a Match.

**Matters** means a dispute that arises directly or indirectly out of or in relation to the participation of a Participant in Football under the jurisdiction of the Joint Boards of Macquarie, Newcastle and Hunter Valley Football Zone Associations, including a dispute about the breach, termination, validity, or subject matter of the Constitution and By-Laws, Rules and Regulations of those Zone Associations, Northern NSW Football and FFA's Rules and Regulations, the Laws of the Game or any appeal arising from a grievance or dispute that arises through the Joint Boards of Zone Association's dispute resolution framework.

**National Championships** means any male and female national championships staged or sanctioned by FFA from time to time, including the National Youth Championships.

**National League** means the national men's and women's club competitions or tournaments conducted under the auspices of FFA, including the semi finals, preliminary final and grand final and any pre or post season or knockout cup competition conducted, organised or sanctioned by FFA.

**National Team** means any national team squad selected or nominated by FFA, including the Men's and women's senior, under age, Olympics, Futsal and beach Football teams or any other national representative team determined by FFA from time to time.

**Official** means:

- (a) a Club Official, Match Official or Team Official;
- (b) an employee, consultant, officer and director of FFA, a State Federation or a Zone Association; or
- (c) a member of a council, committee, panel or body constituted by FFA, a State Federation or a Zone Association.

**PFA or Professional Footballers Association** means the Australian association (Registration No. A 0027415N ARBN 083 328 581) that represents the employment and welfare interests of professional players.

**Player** means any person who is, from time to time, registered with, or contracted to, a Club or is selected as a member of a National Team, whether that person is an amateur or professional.

**Rules and Regulations** means FFA's constitution and by-laws and the rules and regulations and policies and procedures as developed or implemented by FFA from time to time, including the Player Contract System (for the men's National League), Disciplinary Regulations, Code of Conduct, Member Protection Policy and Privacy Policy.

**State Federation** means a State or Territory federation or association that is a member or interim member of FFA from time to time.

**Team Official** means any personnel involved with the management, preparation or participation of a Club or a National Team (whether paid or unpaid), including the coaches, managers, medical staff (including team or match doctor), physiotherapists, gear persons and other support staff.

**16.2** In these Procedures:

- (a) any use of the word 'includes' or words such as 'for example' or 'such' do not limit anything else that is included in general speech;
- (b) any reference to '\$' or 'dollars' is to Australian dollars;
- (c) all amounts are GST exclusive; and
- (d) 'day' means a day when the offices of the Joint Boards of Zone Associations are ordinarily open for business.

**16.3** The Joint Board of Zone Associations will interpret all terms of these Procedures and any such interpretation will be final and binding on every person. The Joint Board of Zone Associations may issue guidelines to assist in that interpretation.

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## SECTION B: NATIONAL DISCIPLINARY REGULATIONS

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## 1. OBJECTIVES AND APPLICATION OF REGULATIONS

- 1.1 These National Disciplinary Regulations form part of the FFA Statutes and, subject to clause 1.5, apply to any infringement of the Laws of the Game by any Participant during a Match played in Australia or otherwise played under the direction or control of FFA.
- 1.2 These National Disciplinary Regulations are mandatory and are designed to ensure that appropriate standards of behaviour are upheld on the field of play in a consistent manner across Australia. The Regulations may be supplemented, but not varied, by Competition Rules.
- 1.3 These Regulations:
  - (a) apply to FFA, Member Federations, Zone Associations, Clubs, Players, Officials and Agents (**Members**);
  - (b) apply to all forms of organised football under FFA's jurisdiction, including eleven-a-side, modified football, futsal, indoor and beach football;
  - (c) comply with FIFA Statutes;
  - (d) continue to apply to a Member even after that Member's association, registration, employment or engagement has ended, if that Member breached these Regulations while a current Member;
  - (e) form part of the FFA Statutes to which all Members are bound; and
  - (f) do not limit or restrict the application of FIFA Statutes or FFA Statutes and, in particular, the Code of Conduct for conduct or behaviour of a Participant that occurs outside of the authority of the Referee.
- 1.4 All Matches must be conducted and officiated in accordance with the Laws of the Game. Any modifications, including for age appropriate or gender or disability specific requirements, must be approved by the Competition Administrator in accordance with any guidelines issued by FFA from time to time.
- 1.5 The A-League Disciplinary Regulations specify the rules and procedures that apply to the conduct of the A-League and in particular the prosecution of disciplinary matters arising during matches in the A-League including breaches of the Laws of the Game. In the event of inconsistency between these Regulations and the A-League Disciplinary Regulations, the A-League Disciplinary Regulations prevail.

## 2. INFRINGEMENT OF THE LAWS OF THE GAME

- 2.1 A caution (or yellow card) is issued for a minor infringement of the Laws of the Game and is a warning from the Referee to a Player during a Match to sanction unsporting behaviour of a less serious nature.
- 2.2 An expulsion is for a serious infringement of the Laws of the Game and is the order given by the Referee to someone to leave the vicinity of the field of play and the technical area, including the substitutes' bench, during a Match. Expulsion takes the form of a red card for Players.
- 2.3 A red card is regarded as direct if it sanctions serious unsporting behaviour and indirect if it is the result of the accumulation of two (2) yellow cards in the same Match.
- 2.4 Any yellow card or red card issued during a Match is identified by the Referee on the Referee's Report for that Match, including the name and number of the Player, the Infringement and the time of commission of the Infringement.
- 2.5 For the purpose of these Disciplinary Regulations, an Infringement means an infringement of the Laws of the Game in accordance with the following codes:

## **A. Minor infringements -Yellow Card (Caution) Codes**

- Y1** is guilty of unsporting behaviour
- Y2** shows dissent by word or action
- Y3** persistently infringes the Laws of the Game
- Y4** delays the restart of play
- Y5** fails to respect the required distance when play is restarted with a corner kick, free kick or throw-in
- Y6** enters or re-enters the field of play without the Referee's permission
- Y7** deliberately leaves the field of play without the Referee's permission

## **B. Serious Infringements -Red Card (Expulsion) Codes**

- R1** is guilty of serious foul play
- R2** is guilty of violent conduct
- R3** spits at an opponent or any other person
- R4** denies the opposing team a goal or an obvious goal scoring opportunity by deliberately handling the ball (this does not apply to a goalkeeper within his or her own penalty area)
- R5** denies an obvious goal scoring opportunity to an opponent moving towards the player's goal by an offence punishable by a free kick or a penalty kick
- R6** uses offensive or insulting or abusive language and/or gestures
- R7** receives a second caution in the same Match

## **3. AUTHORITIES AND JURISDICTION**

- 3.1 Each Match is controlled by the Referee who has full authority to enforce the Laws of the Game in connection with the Match to which he or she has been appointed. The powers and duties of a Referee are as specified in the Laws of the Game and, in particular, Law 5. The Referee has the authority to make disciplinary decisions, as from the moment the Referee enters the field of play until he or she leaves the field of play after the final whistle.
- 3.2 During a Match, the Referee makes the disciplinary decisions and these decisions are final.
- 3.3 At the end of each Match, the Referee must submit the Referee's Report to the Competition Administrator (Disciplinary) who then determines if additional action needs to be undertaken in accordance with this clause 3 or clause 4.
- 3.4 A Competition Administrator (Disciplinary) may determine that the send off of a Player or the expulsion of a Team Official was of such a nature as to warrant a sanction greater than the mandatory match suspension, including additional match suspensions and/or a fine. In imposing an additional match suspension, a Competition Administrator (Disciplinary) must determine that a sanction additional to a mandatory match suspension is imposed in accordance with Annexure A and the Table of Offences.

## **4. CITING A PARTICIPANT**

- 4.1 A Competition Administrator (Disciplinary) may cite a Participant to appear before its Disciplinary Committee in relation to:
  - (a) a red card; or
  - (b) a serious infringement that has escaped the Referee's attention.
- 4.2 A Disciplinary Committee may:
  - (a) sanction a red card;
  - (b) sanction a serious infringement that has escaped the Referee's attention; and
  - (c) on application from a Competition Administration (Disciplinary), rectify an obvious error in the Referee's disciplinary decision.

- 4.3 The following guidelines apply to determine whether a Referee's decision amounted to an obvious error under clause 4.2(c):
- (a) a disciplinary decision must have been made by the Referee to issue a yellow card or a red card;
  - (b) it clearly must have been a wrong decision (such as a right decision against a wrong player or mistaken identity); and
  - (c) it must not have been a discretionary decision by a Referee as to whether an action was a foul or a yellow or red card.

## **5. POSSIBLE DISCIPLINARY SANCTIONS**

- 5.1 Mandatory match suspensions are incurred for the accumulation of yellow and red cards by a Player and for the expulsion of a Team Official in accordance with clauses 6, 7 and 8 respectively.
- 5.2 A Competition Administrator (Disciplinary) or a Disciplinary Committee:
- (a) may impose the types of sanctions as specified in Part V of the FFA Statutes; and
  - (b) must determine the scope and duration of each sanction in accordance with, subject to clause 5.4, the Range at the Table of Offences.
- 5.3 Competition Rules may provide an additional grading system for each Offence provided the grading system remains within the Range at the Table of Offences.
- 5.4 A sanction outside of the Range at the Table of Offences may be imposed only in Exceptional Circumstances that must be detailed in either the Competition Administrator's (Disciplinary) Disciplinary Infringement Notice or the Disciplinary Committee's Determination (as the case requires).
- 5.5 If, in the case of a group of people involved in violent conduct, it is not possible to identify the instigators, the Competition Administrator (Disciplinary) or the Disciplinary Committee may sanction the Club to which the aggressors belong.

## **6. ACCUMULATION OF YELLOW CARDS -MANDATORY MATCH SUSPENSIONS**

- 6.1 Competition Rules must specify that a Player who accumulates a certain number of yellow cards during the course of a Competition must serve mandatory match suspensions as specified in those Competition Rules.
- 6.2 The number of yellow cards accumulated to incur a mandatory match suspension will depend on the number of Matches played in the Competition. By way of guidance, the mandatory match suspensions applying to the accumulation of yellow cards by Players playing in the A- League are as specified in the A-League Disciplinary Regulations.
- 6.3 If a Player receives two yellow cards during the same Match and therefore receives a red card, the two yellow cards are expunged from his or her record.
- 6.4 If a Player receives a yellow card and then a direct red card in the same Match, the yellow card will not be expunged and will be counted in the Player's accumulation of yellow cards.
- 6.5 The accumulation of yellow cards will be reset at the end of the last Match of the pre-season, the competition proper and any finals series respectively. This means that yellow cards accumulated in a pre-season competition do not carry over to the competition proper and yellow cards accumulated in a competition do not carry over to any finals series. Match suspensions incurred as a result of the accumulation of yellow cards will not, however, be cancelled.
- 6.6 Yellow cards are not accumulated for Friendly matches.

## **7. ACCUMULATION OF RED CARDS -MANDATORY MATCH SUSPENSIONS**

- 7.1 A Player who receives a red card must serve a mandatory match suspension (unless successful application is made to the Disciplinary Committee in accordance with clause 11.3).
- 7.2 Competition Rules must specify that a Player who accumulates a certain number of direct red cards during the course of a Competition must serve mandatory match suspensions as specified in those Competition Rules.
- 7.3 The number of direct red cards accumulated to incur additional mandatory match suspensions will depend on the number of Matches played in the Competition. By way of guidance, the mandatory match suspensions applying to the accumulation of direct red cards by Players playing in the A-League are as specified in the A-League Disciplinary Regulations.

## **8. TEAM OFFICIALS -MANDATORY MATCH SUSPENSION**

- 8.1 A Referee may take action against a Team Official who fails to conduct himself/herself in a responsible manner and may expel the Team Official from the field of play and its surroundings, including the substitute's bench.
- 8.2 A Team Official who has been expelled from the field of play by a Referee must serve a mandatory match suspension of one (1) match.

## **9. TEAM'S MISCONDUCT**

- 9.1 A Competition Administrator (Disciplinary) must impose additional disciplinary sanctions on a Club for the misconduct of a Team, including when:
  - (a) five (5) Players are cautioned or sent-off during one (1) Match;
  - (b) three (3) Players are sent off during one (1) Match; or
  - (c) several Players together make threats or show force against a Match Official.
- 9.2 By way of guidance, the team misconduct provision for the A-League is as specified in the A-League Disciplinary Regulations.

## **10. NOTIFICATION AND TIMEFRAMES**

- 10.1 The imposition of a mandatory match suspension is immediate. For completeness, a Competition Administrator (Disciplinary) will send a Disciplinary Infringement Notice notifying the Participant (through his or her Club) of the mandatory match suspension within the timeframes specified by the Competition Rules. For the avoidance of doubt, the mandatory match suspension is effective regardless of whether or not the notice was received.
- 10.2 If the Competition Administrator (Disciplinary) has determined under clause 3.4 that an Offence by a Participant was such as to warrant a sanction in addition to the mandatory match suspension, that Competition Administrator (Disciplinary) must send a Disciplinary Infringement Notice notifying the Participant (through his or her Club) of the details of the Offence and of the disciplinary sanction imposed.
- 10.3 If a Competition Administrator (Disciplinary) cites a Participant under clause 4 to appear before a Disciplinary Committee, that Competition Administrator (Disciplinary) will send a Disciplinary Hearing Notice to the Participant (through his or her Club) in accordance with its Competition Rules.
- 10.4 The Disciplinary Hearing Notice must provide:
  - (a) reasonable detail of the alleged Offence;
  - (b) notice of possible sanctions; and
  - (c) date, time and place of the disciplinary hearing.
- 10.5 The Competition Administrator (Disciplinary) must ensure a disciplinary hearing is heard in a timely fashion to enable a Player or Club to have the opportunity to be heard and to make submissions in relation to the issues of infringement and sanction before the next applicable Match.

## **11. DISCIPLINARY HEARING PROCEDURES**

- 11.1 Each Member is bound by Part V of the FFA Statutes (Judicial Bodies and Disciplinary Sanctions), which dictate the independence and impartiality of a Disciplinary Committee, and the Grievance Resolution Regulations, which specify the rules and procedures that apply to the hearing and appeal of disciplinary infringements.
- 11.2 Subject to clause 11.3, a Participant may appeal the disciplinary sanction imposed in a Disciplinary Infringement Notice by notifying the Competition Administrator (Disciplinary) within the timeframe specified in the Competition Rules using the Application Form in accordance with the Grievance Resolution Regulations.
- 11.3 Except in the case of obvious error (the particulars of which are exclusively contained at clause 4.3), there is no appeal from a mandatory match suspension.
- 11.4 An appeal from a Competition Administrator's (Disciplinary) disciplinary sanction must be heard by the Disciplinary Committee. When determining any appropriate sanction, a Disciplinary 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 the offender to commit an infringement;
  - (e) the remorse of the offender; and
  - (f) any extenuating circumstances.
- 11.5 If a Participant disputes a Disciplinary Committee's Determination, that Participant must notify the Competition Administrator (Disciplinary) within the timeframe specified in the Competition Rules using the Application Form in accordance with the Grievance Resolution Regulations.
- 11.6 All decisions of a Disciplinary Committee remain in force unless reversed by the Appeals Committee.

## **12. IMPLEMENTATION OF DISCIPLINARY SANCTIONS**

### **Fines**

- 12.1 All fines imposed under these Regulations must be paid within 14 days after the date on which the fine is imposed unless otherwise specified in Competition Rules or agreed to in writing by the Competition Administrator (Disciplinary).
- 12.2 The Player or the Team Official cannot take part in any Match until the fine is paid in full. This means that if a match suspension is combined with a fine, the suspension is prolonged until the fine is paid in full.
- 12.3 A fine cannot be issued against an Amateur and in the case of a Professional, cannot exceed one half of the Total Payments that Participant would have received over the duration of the sanction. For the avoidance of any doubt, nothing in these Regulations prevents a Competition Administrator (Disciplinary) from implementing Competition Rules that authorise it to sanction a Club in accordance with the FFA Statutes.
- 12.4 A Club is jointly and severally liable for a fine imposed on one of its Participants (even if that Participant subsequently leaves that Club).

## **Effect of Suspension**

- 12.5 A match suspension means a ban from taking part in a Match or to attend it in the area immediately surrounding the field of play and as otherwise specified by the Competition Administrator (Disciplinary) in its Competition Rules.
- 12.6 Unless otherwise specified by a Competition Administrator (Disciplinary) or a Disciplinary Committee, a Participant who receives a suspension for an Offence in a Match must serve that suspension in the next following Match(es) in which his or her Team participates. For the avoidance of doubt, suspensions do carry over from one round to the next in the same competition, including from the pre-season to the regular season to the finals series and to the following season.
- 12.7 A Participant, who receives a mandatory match suspension in a Friendly, must serve that suspension in the next Friendly. A Participant who receives a match suspension in addition to a mandatory match suspension for an Offence that occurs in a Friendly, may be required by the Competition Administrator (Disciplinary) or the Judicial Body to serve the suspension in the next official Matches in which his or her Club participates (rather than the next Friendly).
- 12.8 A suspension imposed in terms of Matches on a Player participating in:
- (a) eleven-a-side football only affects that Player's participation in eleven-a-side football; or
  - (b) futsal only affects that Player's participation in futsal.
- 12.9 A suspension imposed in terms of time (such as days, weeks or months) affects a Player's participation for both that Player's eleven-a-side or futsal Team, regardless of whether the infringement was committed in eleven-a-side football or futsal.

## **Suspended Sanctions**

- 12.10 In respect of sanctions of less than 6 months (as determined in accordance with clause 13.5(a)) or 6 matches, a Competition Administrator (Disciplinary) or Judicial Body may order that part of the match suspension:
- (a) comes into immediate effect; and
  - (b) the other part does not come into effect unless and until an additional Offence (excluding an indirect red card) is committed during a specified probationary period (i.e. is suspended). The Offences (excluding an indirect red card) bringing this suspended portion of the sanction into effect should be outlined by the Competition Administrator (Disciplinary) or Judicial Body in accordance with clause 12.12(a).
- 12.11 If a Competition Administrator (Disciplinary) or Judicial Body imposes a match suspension where part is suspended, the part of the sanction that comes into immediate effect must be at least one half of the total sanction to be imposed.
- 12.12 If, in accordance with clause 12.10, where a sanction partly takes immediate effect and is partly suspended for a probationary period, the sanction must specify:
- (a) the types of Offences (excluding indirect red cards) which, if committed, activate the suspended part of the ban; and
  - (b) the length of the probationary period which must be a period between 6 months and 24 months.
- 12.13 Where a Competition Administrator (Disciplinary) or Judicial Body imposes a match suspension where part is suspended, if the Participant within the specified probationary period commits an Offence (excluding an indirect red card) that triggers the suspended part, that suspended part is then to be served in addition to any sanction that is imposed for the new Offence.
- 12.14 Where a Judicial Body or Competition Administrator (Disciplinary) imposes a sanction involving a suspension from participating as a Participant (whether by reference to a number of matches or period of time), the sanction must:
- (a) impose a continuous suspension; and
  - (b) not be structured in more than one (1) part or in any way that allows the Participant to serve the suspension in a fragmented way by participating in a certain match or matches (in whatever competition) and then resuming the suspension.

### **13. TRANSFERS AND OFF-SEASON**

- 13.1 The objective of these Regulations is that:
- (a) Participants serve suspensions in the Competition in which the Offence was committed and suspension incurred (Relevant Competition);
  - (b) Participants be prevented from effecting a transfer of their registration which has the significant purpose of enabling the Participant to serve a suspension imposed in the Relevant Competition in another Competition;
  - (c) during the Relevant Competition season, a player subject to a suspension may not play in other competitions and, depending on the severity of the Offence and the Competition Rules of a Competition Administrator (Disciplinary), this may also apply to the Relevant Competition off-season;
  - (d) sanctions operate so that the full quantum of the sanctions imposed by applying the Range at the Table of Offences is actually served when the Relevant Competition is in season;
  - (e) in relation to serving suspensions, the timing of when a sanction is imposed and the timing of the Relevant Competition off-season should not produce a different result for Participants committing like Offences.

#### **Eligibility**

- 13.2 Subject to clause 13.4 and clause 12.7 (Friendly matches), a Participant who is suspended may not participate in any Match until he has served his suspension.
- 13.3 Subject to clause 13.4, a suspended Participant transferring to a new club will be required to serve the remainder of that suspension and will not be permitted to play or act in an official capacity (such as coach) until the suspension has been served in its entirety with his or her new club. Accordingly, a suspension must be disclosed on the applicable registration forms under the National Registration Regulations.
- 13.4 If the Relevant Competition season concludes before the Participant has completed his suspension, he may, subject to the Competition Rules of the Competition in which the Participant is proposing to participate, play in other Matches during the Relevant Competition off-season. He must complete his suspension in the Relevant Competition at the commencement of the next Relevant Competition season.
- Sanctions Imposed in Terms of Time & Effect of Off-Season**
- 13.5 Where a suspension is to be imposed in terms of a period of time, and at the time of delivery of the sanction, some or all of the suspension would coincide with the off-season of the Relevant Competition, the Judicial Body must:
- (a) first determine what is the appropriate sanction to be served for the Offence by applying the Range at the Table of Offences; and
  - (b) then extend the length of the suspension by the period of the Relevant Competition off-season that would otherwise coincide with the period of suspension.
- By way of illustration, assuming the Relevant Competition concludes on 1 September and the next season commences on 1 February and a Judicial Body, applying the Range at the Table of Offences, determines a three month suspension is warranted it would:
- (i) if delivering the sanction on 01 April, impose a three month suspension concluding on 01 July;
  - (ii) if delivering the sanction on 01 August, impose an eight month sanction concluding on 01 April the following year, of which one month would be served up to September 01 and two months from 01 February the following year (which incorporates the five-month offseason)
  - (iii) if delivering the sanction on 01 September, impose an eight month suspension concluding on 01 May the following year (which incorporates the five-month offseason);

## 14. EFFECT OF ABANDONED MATCHES

- 14.1 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.
- 14.2 A yellow card issued during an abandoned Match will be annulled if that Match is replayed and upheld if that Match is not replayed.
- 14.3 A direct red card issued during an abandoned Match will be upheld, regardless of whether the Match is replayed or not.

## 15. COMPETITION RULES

Subject to clause 1.5, if there is any inconsistency between a term of these Regulations and a term of any Competition Rules, the term of these Regulations will govern to the extent of that inconsistency and the inconsistent term is void and of no effect

## 16. PROVISIONS FOR TOURNAMENTS

These Regulations apply equally to Competitions that are staged as tournaments (such as national or state championships) except that the Competition Rules may specify:

- (a) procedures to ensure all hearings are heard on an urgent basis given the structure of a tournament; and
- (b) the appointment of ad hoc arbitrators who are present at the tournament.

## 17. DEFINITIONS AND INTERPRETATION

17.1 In these Regulations:

**A-League** means the senior men's national competition staged in Australia and New Zealand by FFA, known as the Hyundai A-League competition or such other name as notified by FFA from time to time and includes any pre-season, regular season and finals matches.

**A-League Disciplinary Regulations** means the rules and procedures that apply to the conduct of the A-League and in particular the prosecution of disciplinary matters arising during matches in the A-League including breaches of the Laws of the Game.

**Club** means any club registered with FFA in accordance with the National Registration Regulations from time to time. A reference to Club includes a club admitted by:

- (a) a Competition Administrator to field a team in a Competition; or
- (b) FFA to field a team in a National League or a National Championships.

**Competition** means any competition, tournament or league conducted by FFA, or by the Competition Administrator and registered with FFA in accordance with the National Registration Regulations, including any pre-season competition and finals series and age specific championships.

**Competition Administrator** means the entity responsible for the conduct and staging of a Competition.

**Competition Administrator (Disciplinary)** means the entity responsible for the conduct of the Disciplinary Rules & Regulations.



**Competition Rules** mean the rules and regulations governing the administration and conduct of a Competition.

**Disciplinary Committee** means the disciplinary committee constituted in accordance with the Grievance Resolution Regulations that has jurisdiction over a Competition.

**Disciplinary Hearing Notice** means the notice issued by a Competition Administrator (Disciplinary) to a Participant citing him or her to appear before a Disciplinary Committee to be heard in relation to an alleged Offence and possible disciplinary sanction, which contains the content as prescribed in Prescribed Form 03.

**Disciplinary Infringement Notice** means the notice issued by a Competition Administrator (Disciplinary) to a Participant notifying of the disciplinary sanction imposed for the Offence committed by that Participant, which contains the content as prescribed in Prescribed Form 02.

**Exceptional Circumstances** means circumstances operating at the time of the Offence and relating to the commission of the Offence and not to the impact a sanction may have on the Participant. Without limitation, the following are not Exceptional Circumstances:

- (a) the significance or importance to the Participant or his Club of the Match in which the Offence was committed;
- (b) the significance or importance of any match or tournament in which the Participant will be ineligible to participate because of the imposition of a sanction within the Range at the Table of Offences;
- (c) the point in the Match at which the Offence was committed;
- (d) the conduct, including actions, words or gestures of any Participant of the opposing team during or related to the Match; and
- (e) any disciplinary decision taken or failure to take a disciplinary decision by a Match Official during the Match. FFA Statutes means FFA's statutes as promulgated by FFA from time to time, including its constitution and by-laws and rules and regulations and policies and procedures.

**Friendly** means any official match participated in by a Club as sanctioned by FFA or a Member Federation, which is not part of a Competition.

**Grievance** means any dispute or grievance that arises in relation to the FFA Statutes, including a dispute about the infringement, enforcement or subject matter of these National Disciplinary Regulations.

**Grievance Resolution Regulations** means the national procedure that applies exclusively to facilitate the expeditious and fair resolution of a Grievance, as promulgated by FFA from time to time (a current version of which can be obtained on [www.footballaustralia.com.au](http://www.footballaustralia.com.au) or on request).

**Infringement** has the definition contained at clause 2.5.

**Laws of the Game** means the official Laws of the Game and the Futsal Laws of the Game as promulgated by FIFA from time to time.

**Match** means any match played in Australia under the auspices of FFA, a Member Federation or a Competition Administrator or otherwise played under FFA's direction or control.

**Match Official** means a referee, assistant referee, fourth official, match commissioner, referee inspector, selector, any person in charge of safety or any other person appointed by FFA, a Member Federation or a Competition Administrator to assume responsibility in connection with a Match.

**Offence** means:

- (a) an offence listed in the Table of Offences at paragraph 6 of Annexure A;
- (b) an indirect red card.

**Participant** means a Player or a Team Official.

**Player** means any person who is, from time to time, registered to a Club or is selected as a member of a National Team, whether that person is male or female, junior or senior or an amateur or professional. For the avoidance of doubt, a reference to a Player during a Match includes a substitute and a substituted player.

**Professional** means a Player employed by a Club to play football under a professional player contract in accordance with the FFA Statutes.

**Range (at the Table of Offences)** means, in relation to each Offence, the range bounded by the minimum sanction prescribed in the Table of Offences and the maximum prescribed at Annexure A.

**Referee** means the referee appointed by the Competition Administrator or who is otherwise approved in accordance with article 13 of the National Registration Regulations (Match Official) to assume responsibility in connection with a Match.

**Referee's Report** means the report to be completed by a Referee at the end of each Match and submitted to the Competition Administrator (Disciplinary), which contains the content as prescribed in Prescribed Form 01.

**Relevant Competition** has the meaning prescribed to it at clause 12.12.

**Table of Offences** means the various offences that can be committed by a Participant contained at Annexure A.

**Team** means the team within a Club to which a Participant is usually a member of.

**Team Official** means any personnel involved with the management, preparation or participation of a Club (whether paid or unpaid), including the coaches, managers, medical staff (including team or match doctor), physiotherapists, gear persons and other support staff.

**Total Payments** means the gross salary (including superannuation but not match bonuses) a Player is entitled to receive under his employment contract with the Club for the period corresponding to the period when he is subject to suspension.

17.2 In these Regulations:

- (a) any term used but not defined has the meaning given to it in the FFA Statutes;
- (b) any use of the word 'includes' or words such as 'for example' or 'such' do not limit anything else that is included in general speech; and
- (c) all notices must be in writing and in English.

17.3 These Regulations will be interpreted, varied and reviewed in accordance with Part IX of the FFA Statutes.

## **ANNEXURE A -TABLE OF OFFENCES**

1. This Annexure specifies the Offences sanctionable in accordance with these Regulations and the Range of sanctions that applies to each of these Offences. In respect of Players, the Table in Column 1 also references the relevant sending-off offences R1 to R7 under the Laws of the Game.
2. Subject to clause 13 (Extending a sanction for the off-season) a Participant who has committed an Offence must receive a sanction within the Range at the Table of Offences.
3. Subject to clause 5.4 (Exceptional Circumstances) the Range for each Offence is bounded at one end by the minimum sanction set out in the Table of Offences that must be applied and at the other end by the maximum sanction that may be applied.
4. Subject to clause 5.4 (Exceptional Circumstances), the maximum sanction that may be applied for each Offence is suspension for a period of 24 months, except for Offence No. 11 (Assault of a match official) where the maximum sanction is suspension for life.
5. A Participant who commits an Offence is subject to the minimum sanction set out below in relation to each Offence. The minimum sanction is a combination of the mandatory match suspension applicable in accordance with these Regulations and an additional match suspension. For example, where a Player receives his second direct red card in the regular season and under Competition Rules attracts a two (2) match mandatory match suspension:
  - a) for committing Offence No. 2 of the Table of Offences, he must receive at least the applicable mandatory match suspension of two (2) matches and any additional match suspension appropriate in the circumstances up to a total sanction of 24 months;
  - b) for committing Offence No. 3 of the Table of Offences, he must receive at least the applicable mandatory match suspension of two (2) matches plus the additional match suspension (which must be a minimum of one (1) additional match) appropriate in the circumstances up to a total sanction of 24 months.

## 6. TABLE OF OFFENCES

Offence No.	Offence	Minimum Sanction
1	(R4 or R5 for Players) Denying the opposing team a clear goal-scoring opportunity	The Mandatory Match Suspension
2	(R6 for Players) Use of offensive, insulting or abusive language and/or gestures	The Mandatory Match Suspension
3	(R1 for Players) Serious Foul Play (e.g. when challenging for the ball)	1 additional match plus the Mandatory Match Suspension
4	(R2 for Players) Assault on a Player (e.g. violent conduct when not challenging for the ball)	1 additional match plus the Mandatory Match Suspension
5	(R6 for Players) Serious Unsporting Conduct	1 additional match plus the Mandatory Match Suspension
6	(R6 for Players) Use of discriminatory language and/or gestures, including racist, religious, ethnic or sexist	4 additional matches plus the Mandatory Match Suspension
7	(R3 for Players) Spitting at a player	5 additional matches plus the Mandatory Match Suspension
8	(R2 or R6 for Players) Inciting a brawl	5 additional matches plus the Mandatory Match Suspension
<b>Specific Offences Against a Match Official</b>		
9	(R6 for Players) Use of offensive, insulting or abusive language and/or gestures against a match official	The Mandatory Match Suspension
10	(R6 for Players) Unsporting conduct toward a match official	3 additional matches plus the Mandatory Match Suspension
11	(R2 for Players) Assault of a match official	6 months including the Mandatory Match Suspension
12	(R3 for Players) Spitting at a match official	12 months including the Mandatory Match Suspension

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