

OFFICIAL



HUNTER VALLEY
FOOTBALL



Rules and Regulations



REGULATION G: SECTION A: Disciplinary Rules & Procedures SECTION B: National Disciplinary Regulations

Summary

These Rules and Regulations provide information about:

- **Regulation G – SECTION A: Disciplinary Rules & Procedures
– SECTION B: National Disciplinary Regulations**

that all the Joint Zone Associations Competitions will operate under.

The Regulations, Procedures and Policies in conjunction with the Constitution and By-Laws of the Zone Associations shall, with the approval of NSW Football and duly Registered with FA, apply from the date of approval and shall take precedence over any previous Regulations of the Zone Associations.

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

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SECTION A:

PART A: APPLICATION AND JURISDICTION

These Procedures form part of the Regulations of the Zone Associations Statutes and apply to any infringement of the IFAB's Laws of the Game by any Participant during a Match played in Australia or otherwise played under the direction or control of FA.

These Regulations and Procedures 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.

These Regulations may be supplemented, but not varied, by Competition Rules.

G01 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 IFAB 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 FA 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.

G02 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

G03 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 Chair 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 IFAB 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.

G04 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.

G05 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

G06 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.

G07 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

G08 HEARING PROCEDURES AND DETERMINATIONS

- 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 Chair 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 Chair 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 (i.e., 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.** FA or a Northern NSW Football, Zone Association or Member Club may be represented by an officer or employee of that party,
 - e.** FA reserves the right to be heard and to make submissions,
 - f.** the Chair of the Disciplinary Committee must, and the Appeals Tribunal,
 - g.** may, refuse entry to any person who is not directly involved in the matter, including the media; and
 - h.** 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 Chair 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 Chair 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 Chair of the Disciplinary Committee, it must not be assumed that permission will be given.

G09 FEES

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 IFAB 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 72 hours of receipt of such notice to apply in writing to the Competition Administrator - Disciplinary for a hearing of the Disciplinary Committee to re-determine the penalty imposed.

All Automatic Penalty/Sanctions System notifications includes a club notification.

A fee of \$500.00 must accompany this application.

Where the Participant is a Player, Official or Club then the written request must be forwarded by 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 Zone Association shall refund to that party \$300.00

- 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 Chair of the Disciplinary Committee:

- a.** *must determine* all matters by reference to:
 - i. relevant Joint Boards of Zone Associations Rules and Regulations (current),
 - ii. relevant FA, 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 Zone 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 Chair of the Appeals Tribunal that there are exceptional and compelling circumstances; and

- c. pay an appeal fee to the specified Zone Association of \$750.00 if a natural person (such as Player, Official or Agent) and \$750.00 if an entity (such as a Zone Association or Member Club).

12.2 An appeal from the Competition Administrator – Disciplinary’s 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 Participant’s past record and whether or not the Offence committed is a repeated Offence,
- c. the culpability of the Participant (including whether or not the infringement was intentional, negligent, or reckless),
- d. any reasons prompting the Participant to commit the infringement,
- e. the remorse of the Participant; and
- f. any extenuating circumstances relevant to the commission of the Offence

12.3 The Chair 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.

12.4 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.

12.5 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.

12.6 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.

12.7 The Chair 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 Chair 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 Chair of the Appeals Tribunal, it must not be assumed that permission will be given.

12.8 If a rehearing is successful, the specified Zone Association must refund to that party \$300.00.

12.9 In the event of a submitted appeal being later withdrawn by the Participant prior to the hearing, the appeal fee is forfeited in full.

12.10 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 NSW 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 NSW Football) conducts the appeal, unless the party making the appeal can satisfy the Competitions Administrator (Northern NSW Football) that there are exceptional and compelling circumstances; and
- c.** pay an appeal fee to Northern NSW Football of \$1000.00 if a natural person (such as Player, Official or Agent) and \$1000.00 if an entity (such as a Zone Association or Member Club).

PART F: ADMINISTRATION

G13 ADMINISTRATION AND EXPENSES

13.1 The Competition Administrator - Disciplinary acting on behalf of the Chair 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 Chair so that he/she can perform all tasks prescribed to the Chair 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 may be heard in person or via web-based video link (Zoom, Microsoft Teams, etc.) meeting technology.
- 13.3 Hearings of the Disciplinary Committee and Appeals Tribunal will be conducted at a place or web-based video link (Zoom, Microsoft Teams, etc.) system so determined for those purposes.
- 13.4 The Joint Board of the Zone Associations must meet all administrative costs of the Chair 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 IFAB's Laws of the Game as proscribed and issued by FIFA from time to time, the Chair of the Disciplinary Committee shall follow the following guidelines:

15.1 PARTICIPANT SEND-OFFS (RED CARD)

- a. A Participant (Player/Team Official) shall be sent from the field of play by a Referee (shown the Red Card) for the following offences as prescribed for in the IFAB's Laws of the Game:

Participant Send-Off Codes (Red Cards)

- R1** - Serious foul play
- R2** - Violent conduct
- R3** - Bites or Spits at an opponent or any other person.

- R4** - denying the opposing team a goal or an obvious goal scoring opportunity) DOGSO by a handball offence (this does not apply to a goalkeeper within his or her own penalty area.
- R5** - otherwise denying a goal or an obvious goal scoring opportunity to an opponent DOGSO as prescribed by Law 12 of the IFAB's Laws of the Game.
- R6** - Offensive, insulting, or abusive language and/or actions
- R7** - Second caution in the same match
- R8** - Offence against a Match Official
- R9** - Offence by a Team Official

In accordance with Law 5 of the Laws of the Game, a Referee may take action against a Team Official who fails to act in a responsible manner and may issue the Team Official with a Team Official Red Card.

The sent-off Participant must immediately leave the Technical Area, remove their playing shirt (if a player), and move to a point at least 3 metres past the Technical Area marked by a fence, rope line, marked line or line of witches' hats that clearly delineates the boundary.

Such person may not return to the Technical Area or encroach within this Club-marked boundary line for the duration of the Match.

- b.** A send-off is administered by the Referee recording a Participant's Name, Number or Team Official position and the Offence committed on the Digital Team Sheet during or at the conclusion of the Fixture and may or may not involve the showing of the Red Card.
- c.** A Participant sent from the field shall be penalised by an **AUTOMATIC ONE (1) FIXTURE SUSPENSION.**
There shall be **NO** Appeal against this Suspension.
- d.** 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.
- e.** 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.
- f.** 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 PARTICIPANT CAUTIONS (YELLOW CARD)

- a. A Participant may be cautioned (shown the Yellow Card) during the course of a Fixture for any offence under the IFAB's Laws of the Game:

Participant - Caution Codes (Yellow Cards)

Y1 - Unsporting behaviour

Y2 – Dissent by word or action

Y3 - Persistent infringement

Y4 - Delaying the restart of play

Y5 - Fails to respect the required distance

Y6 - Enters, re-enters, or deliberately leaves the field of play without permission

In accordance with Law 5 of the Laws of the Game, a Referee may take action against a Team Official who fails to act in a responsible manner and may issue the Team Official with a Team Official Yellow Card.

A Team Official Yellow Card is issued by the Referee for the cautionable offences specified at Law 12 of the Laws of the Game, as deemed necessary by the Referee.

- b. A caution is administered by the Referee recording a Participant's Name, Number or Team Official position and the Offence committed on the Digital 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 **FOUR (4)** recorded Cautions during a Joint Zone Associations Age Grade Competition or **FIVE (5)** recorded Cautions during a Zone League Football Competition or if a Multi Registered Player **FOUR (4)** recorded Cautions in total from all competitions (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 towards 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 Automatic Suspension.

Note that Rule 15.2 (c) applies to **ALL** Joint Zone Associations Age Grade and Zone League Football Competitions.

- 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 Member 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.*).
- A Registered **TEAM OFFICIAL** participating in either a Competition Fixture or a Finals Series Fixture after this notification of Suspension and within the period of Suspension shall be deemed an **INELIGIBLE TEAM OFFICIAL** (*Refer to Rule C21 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:

MINIMUM MANDATORY SUSPENSIONS			
CODE	OFFENCE	GRADING GUIDELINES	PENALTY
R4	Denying goal scoring opportunity (DOGSO) - Handling the ball -		The Mandatory Match Suspension
R5	Denying goal scoring opportunity (DOGSO) - Foul -		The Mandatory Match Suspension
R1	Serious Foul Play (typically, but not limited to, serious foul play when the ball is in play)	1. Careless or reckless tackle.	The Mandatory Match Suspension
		2. Attempting to gain possession of the ball using excessive force.	The Mandatory Match Suspension
		3. Conduct that endangers the safety of an opponent in a contest for the ball or has the potential to cause serious injury.	The Mandatory Match Suspension +1 WEEK
		4. Conduct causing serious injury.	The Mandatory Match Suspension +2 Weeks
R3	Spitting	1. <u>Spitting at</u> an opponent or another Club	The Mandatory Match Suspension +4 Weeks
		2. <u>Spitting on</u> an opponent or another Club	The Mandatory Match Suspension +8 Weeks
R2	Violent Conduct (typically, but not limited to, serious foul play when the ball is not in play, and/or playing distance)	1. Minimal contact with an opponent or Club Associate	The Mandatory Match Suspension +1 Week
		2. Violent conduct and/or attempted violent conduct towards an opponent or Club Associate	The Mandatory Match Suspension +1 Week
		3. Serious and/or premeditated violent conduct towards an opponent or Club Associate	The Mandatory Match Suspension +2 Weeks
		4. Serious violent conduct that has caused bodily harm	The Mandatory Match Suspension +3 Weeks

		5. Violent conduct causing, or with the potential to cause, serious injury	The Mandatory Match Suspension +4 Weeks
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MINIMUM MANDATORY SUSPENSIONS

CODE	OFFENCE	GRADING GUIDELINES	PENALTY
R6	Offensive, insulting, abusive or intimidating language and/or actions	1. Using language and/or actions in frustration	The Mandatory Match Suspension
		2. Using language and/or actions directed at another player or Club Associate	The Mandatory Match Suspension +1 Week
		3. Incitement to violence, or repeated use of offensive language and/or actions, to another Player or Club Associate	The Mandatory Match Suspension +2 Weeks
		4. Use of discriminatory, homophobic, racist, religious ethnic or sexist language and/or actions	The Mandatory Match Suspension +4 Weeks
R7	Second caution (Yellow Card)		The Mandatory Match Suspension
R8	Offences against	1. Unsporting conduct	The Mandatory Match Suspension +3 Weeks
		2. Using offensive language and/or gestures	The Mandatory Match Suspension +3 Weeks
		3. Repeated use of offensive language and/or gestures	The Mandatory Match Suspension +4 Weeks
		4. Unwarranted contact with and/or conduct with a Match Official	The Mandatory Match Suspension +5* Weeks

	Match Officials	5. Threatening or intimidating language and/or conduct towards a Match Official or conduct reasonably perceived as a threat of physical violence towards a Match Official or their family or property.	The Mandatory Match Suspension +8* Weeks
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MINIMUM MANDATORY SUSPENSIONS			
CODE	OFFENCE	GRADING GUIDELINES	PENALTY
R8 (cont.)	Offences against Match Officials	6. Spitting at or on a Match Official	The Mandatory Match Suspension +10* Weeks
		7. Violence towards a Match Official and/or their family or property	The Mandatory Match Suspension +10* Weeks
		8. Violence towards Junior Match Official and/or their family or property	The Mandatory Match Suspension + Direct to Code of Conduct
R9	Team Official Specific Offences (not covered in R1-R8)	1. Delaying the restart of play for the opposition	The Mandatory Match Suspension
		2. Deliberately throwing / kick an object onto the field of play	The Mandatory Match Suspension
		3. Physical aggressive behaviour towards any person other than a Match Official	The Mandatory Match Suspension +1 Week
		4. Entering the field to confront a Match Official at half time or full time	The Mandatory Match Suspension +3 Weeks
		5. Entering the opposing technical area in an aggressive or confrontational manner	The Mandatory Match Suspension +1 Week
		6. Entering the field to interfere with play or an opposing player	The Mandatory Match Suspension +2 Weeks
		7. Entering the field to confront a Match Official during a Match	The Mandatory Match Suspension +5 Weeks

* Competition Administrator (Disciplinary) will assess these charges and may also refer them to the Independent Disciplinary Chair to be dealt with under the Code of Conduct in addition to the minimum sanction

15.4 DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE HEARINGS

Notwithstanding the existence of the Automatic Penalties/ Sanctions System, the Competition 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 Match 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 another object	Life
Kicking or elbowing	Life
Grabbing hair	5 years

Spitting	5 years
Foul or Abusive Language	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 FA from time to time to act as a player agent under FA 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, FA or Northern NSW Football or Zone Association,
- b. admitted by FA to field a team in a National League; or
- c. admitted by FA 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.

Zone Association means a member or Association that is a member of, or affiliated to Northern NSW Football

FA Statutes means the statutes and accompanying standing orders and regulations promulgated by FA 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 FA, Northern NSW Football, a Zone Association or a Club or a match that is otherwise sanctioned by or played under the auspices of FA, including any pre or post season, trial, or exhibition match.

Match Official means a referee, assistant referee, fourth official, match commissioner, referee assessor, referee mentor, selector, any person in charge of

safety or any other person appointed by FA or Northern NSW Football 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 FA's Rules and Regulations, the IFAB's 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 FA from time to time, including the National Youth Championships.

Official means:

- a. a Club Official, Match Official or Team Official,
- b. an employee, consultant, officer and director of FA, Northern NSW Football, 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.

Participant means a Player or a Team Official.

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 FA's Constitution and By-laws, the Rules Regulations, Policies and Procedures as developed or implemented by FA from time to time, Disciplinary Regulations, Code of Conduct, Member Protection Policy, and Privacy Policy.

Northern NSW Football means the State federation that is a member or interim member of FA .

Team Official means any personnel involved with the management, preparation, or participation of a Member Club (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 '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.

SECTION B: NATIONAL DISCIPLINARY REGULATIONS

Refer to:

Football Australia Statutes - [National Disciplinary Regulations](#) (19 November 2021)

Approved and Issued: February 2024

Assessment/Review: **January 2025**