



## **SECTION 6**

### **DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE**

#### **DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS**

- 6.1 The Board of Directors shall appoint a Disciplinary Committee consisting of three members drawn from a panel of 10 which shall hold office for a term of twelve (12) months from the date of appointment.
- 6.2 A member of the Disciplinary Committee shall not arbitrate on matters involving a member of his own Club.
- 6.3 Quorum for the Disciplinary Committee shall be two (2).
- 6.4 The Committee shall meet at least once a week, if required, during the playing season, at a time and place to be determined by the Executive.
- 6.5 For the purpose of defining suspensions, competition fixtures shall be deemed to be any premiership competition fixture or play-off and any cup-tie fixture or play off actually controlled or organised by Football NSW that the suspended parties' team actually participates in.
- 6.6 Suspensions and penalties of the Disciplinary Committee of Football NSW shall also apply to any player; person or official registered within its jurisdiction whose team by seeking to play in a competition recognised by Football NSW although not necessarily under its direct control.

#### **6.7 PLAYERS SENT OFF**

A player shall be sent from the field for the following offences as prescribed for in the laws of the game;

- R1 The player is guilty of serious foul play
- R2 The player is guilty of violent conduct
- R3 The player spits at an opponent or any other person
- R4 The player denies the opposing team a goal or an obvious goal scoring opportunity by deliberately handling the ball (this does not apply to a goal keeper within his or her own penalty area)

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- R5 The player 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 The player uses offensive or insulting or abusive language and/or gestures
- R7 The player receives a second caution in the same match

*For the purpose of these Regulations, reference to a player during a match includes a substitute and a substituted player.*

- (a) Players sent from the field shall incur a minimum one (1) match suspension. A sixty dollar (\$60) fine shall be issued to the player's club for all send offs except in Youth and Metropolitan Leagues. This one (1) match suspension is mandatory and is not subject to challenge, appeal or waiver by the Disciplinary Committee.
- (b) At the termination of a match, the Referee must provide the club with a copy of the Referees Report which indicates the send off charge for any player dismissed from the field.
- (c) All clubs whose players are dismissed from the field of play are required to follow these directions:
- (i) Each and every club whose player/s was/were dismissed from the field of play for offences other than R4, R5, and R7, must contact Football NSW Office by not later than noon of the Tuesday of the second week following the send-off to inquire as to what the Disciplinary Committee's decision is after reviewing the offence. If the decision is to be challenged, notification of such action is to be received by Football NSW Office by no later than noon of the following day.
- (ii) Offences with a more than the minimum of fixture penalty have two options:-
- (a) Accept the penalty as stipulated, or
- (b) Challenge the penalty, and if the player is found guilty he/she will be subject to a penalty greater than the minimum by one or more fixtures up to the maximum number of fixtures as prescribed in the Regulations.
- (iii) In the event that a player challenges a determination by the Disciplinary Committee above the minimum sentence, the player is required to stand down until the challenge is heard.
- (iv) If a player fails to attend the Disciplinary Committee meeting his/her hearing will be dismissed.

- (v) Players may no later than twenty four (24) hours prior to the hearing inform Football NSW in writing that they consent to the matter being heard ex-parte and submit written evidence in support of their defence or in mitigation of penalty.
  - (vi) Clubs shall be notified prior to the commencement of the season of the meeting day and place for the Disciplinary Committee.
  - (vii) Players shall be deemed to have received notice from the club as to the meeting day of the Disciplinary Committee.
- (d) Persons summoned to appear before the Disciplinary Committee shall be suspended until such time that they appear.
- 6.8 In cases of emergency the Disciplinary Committee shall meet at short notice to hear cases of players sent off in mid-week fixtures. In such cases players and Referees shall receive 48 hours notice to be in attendance.
- 6.9 Players failing to appear before the Disciplinary Committee when requested to do so will be considered suspended from playing until such time as their matter is dealt with by the said Committee.
- (a) Players sent from the field and who do not attend the Disciplinary Committee as required, will receive a certified letter to attend a further Disciplinary Committee Meeting. Such players are suspended from taking part in any games in the meantime or until such time that the sentence has been served as specified in the Regulations. If such a player fails to attend this rescheduled meeting, the matter will be dealt with in their absence.
- 6.10 **PLAYERS DISMISSED FROM THE FIELD OF PLAY**
- A player who has been sent from the field will not participate in another match on the same day.
- 6.11 **SUSPENDED PLAYERS - TRIAL GAMES**
- A player under suspension for a number of competition fixtures shall not be permitted to play in trial games without the specific sanction of the Executive Management and the payment of a good behaviour surety as determined by the Executive Management which may be forfeited at the discretion of the Executive Management
- 6.12 **MATCH CAUTIONS - PREMIERSHIP SERIES**
- (a) A player shall be cautioned for the following offences as prescribed for in the laws of the game;
    - Y1 The player is guilty of unsporting behaviour
    - Y2 The player shows dissent by word or action
    - Y3 The player persistently infringes the Laws of the Game
    - Y4 The player delays the restart of play

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- Y5 The player fails to respect the required distance when play is restarted with a corner kick, free kick or throw-in
- Y6 The player enters or re-enters the field of play without the referee's permission
- Y7 The player deliberately leaves the field of play without the referee's permission
- (b) A player shall be cautioned during the course of a Football NSW Match for any offence under the Laws of Association Football which is deemed necessary by the Referee.
- (c) The Referee may reprimand a player during the course of play, without the showing of a yellow card.
- (d) An official booking (or caution) is administered by the Referee recording a player's name and number and the offence committed on Football NSW Referees Report form at the conclusion of the match.

There shall be no appeal against the receiving of a caution from the Referee.

- (e) At the conclusion of the match the club shall collect the club's copy of the Referee Report from the Referee.
- (f) In the event of no players being cautioned the Referees Report shall still be completed. The words "NO CAUTIONS" shall be written across the report.
- (g) Clubs shall receive an automatic ten dollar (\$10.00) fine for players receiving their first caution in a season. An automatic thirty dollar (\$30.00) fine shall be applied for all subsequent cautions received by a player in the same season.
- (h) After an individual player has received five (5) official cautions, the player shall serve a one (1) fixture suspension. The suspension shall be served in the competition fixture following receipt of the fifth (5th) caution. There shall be no appeal against a one (1) fixture suspension after receiving five (5) official cautions, however, if the player receives his/her fifth (5th) caution in the Grade 20, Reserve Grade or Youth League competitions he/she may play in a higher grade on that same day only, and the player shall serve the suspension in the competition fixture following receipt of the fifth (5th) official caution.
- (i) Any player who accumulates a further three (3) official cautions, making a total of eight (8) shall be suspended for a further two (2) fixtures. The player must serve the two (2) fixture suspension in the club's next two (2) competition fixtures following the match in which the eight (8) official cautions were received.
- (j) Any player who accumulates more than eight (8) official cautions in any one season shall be called to appear before the Disciplinary Committee, who may apply further penalty, bond, fine or suspension for each official caution given to the player thereafter.

- (k) Premiership cautions shall not carry over from season to season. The termination of a premiership season shall be at the conclusion of the last premiership fixture of the season before the final series.
- (l) Any player who is dismissed from the field upon being cautioned for a second yellow card offence, the initial yellow card during that game shall NOT be taken into account for the purpose of the accumulation of cautions for the application of suspension in accordance with Regulation 6.12 (G) and 6.12 (H).
- (m) Any club who is found to have played a player who should have been stood down because of any breach of Regulations 6.12 may be fined the amount of \$500.00 and the match may be awarded to the opponents with the score line reading three goals to nil (3-0).

#### 6.12 (1) **FINAL SERIES CAUTIONS**

Any player receiving two (2) cautions in the final series shall automatically stand down the next fixture. If the player's team/ club has completed its final series commitments the player shall stand down the first competition game in the following season.

#### 6.12 (2) **WARATAH CUP/SHIELD CAUTIONS**

Any player receiving two (2) cautions in the Waratah Cup/Shield tournament shall automatically stand down in his/her next Cup fixture. Should his/her team be eliminated from the cup/shield tournament the player will serve an automatic one (1) match stand down in his/her club's next official fixture.

#### 6.13 **FINDINGS OF THE DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE**

The Committee has the power to:

- (a) Consider the reports of Referees, assistant referees and others.
- (b) Decide if the offence is proved.
- (c) Determine and set whatever punishments or sanctions that it considers appropriate in accordance with the guidelines.

#### 6.14 **PUNISHMENT**

If the Disciplinary Committee considers that the offence is proved it must select the punishment from the following guidelines. The Disciplinary Committee is not empowered to set punishments outside these guidelines. Suspensions are calculated in fixtures or a time frame.

6.15 The Disciplinary Committee has the right to consider:

- (a) the severity of the offence
- (b) the player's past record
- (c) extenuating circumstances

6.16 **PENALTIES**

The Disciplinary Committee shall impose penalties within the following guidelines:

**SECTION 'A' - Offences by players against other players or any other person  
Sending-Off Offences (In accordance with the guidelines of FIFA Law 12)**

<b>Offence Codes</b>	<b>Minimum</b>	<b>Maximum</b>
(a) R1 – Serious foul play	2 Fixtures	12 Fixtures
R1 Expanded		
(a) Violent Tackle from behind that endangers the safety of an opponent	3 Fixtures	10 Fixtures
(b) (i) Rugby Tackle	2 Fixtures	8 Fixtures
(ii) Violent Charging	2 Fixtures	8 Fixtures
(iii) Over the Ball Tackle	2 Fixtures	12 Fixtures
(b) R2 Violent conduct		
R2 Expanded		
(a) (i) Head Butting	5 Fixtures	24 Months
(ii) Punching/Fighting	2 Fixtures	8 Fixtures
(iii) Kicking	2 Fixtures	12 Fixtures
(b) Elbowing	2 Fixtures	16 Fixtures
R2 (b) Expanded		
(i) Elbowing to the Head	4 Fixtures	16 Fixtures
(ii) Elbowing to the Body	2 Fixtures	10 Fixtures
(c) R3 - Spitting	8 Fixtures	1 Year
(d) R4 - Sabotaging an obvious goal scoring opportunity (handball)	1 Fixture	4 Fixtures
(e) R5 - Sabotaging an obvious goal scoring opportunity (holding) (tripping) (impeding)	1 Fixture	6 Fixtures
(f) R6 Using Offensive, Insulting or Abusive Language	2 Fixtures	8 Fixtures
R6 (a) Making offensive, insulting or abusive gestures	4 Fixtures	20 Fixtures
R6 (a) Expanded		
(a) (i) Indecent Actions	4 Fixtures	20 Fixtures
(g) R7 - Second Caution		1 Fixture

*Note: Section 'A' applies also for "Offences by players and team officials against match officials after having been sent from the field" and dealt with by a General Purpose Tribunal.*

### **SECTION 'B' - Offences by players and team officials against match officials**

Note: Players includes named substitutes. Team officials comprise coaches, managers, trainers, and any other person permitted in the Technical Area.

Offence Codes	Minimum	Maximum
(h) R2 Threatening or intimidating a referee or assistant referee by word or action	12 Fixtures	Life
(i) Tripping a referee or assistant referee	1 Year	Life
(ii) Pushing with an open hand, or shoulder, hip	1 Year	Life
(iii) Striking with the ball or other object	1 Year	Life
(iv) Punching, Kicking or elbowing	Life	Life
(i) R3 Spitting	8 Fixtures	Life
(j) R6 Uses offensive, insulting or abusive language.	3 Fixtures	12 Fixtures
(i) Making offensive, insulting or abusive gestures.	4 Fixtures	20 Fixtures

Note: Section 'B' applies also for "Offences by players and team officials against match officials after having been sent from the field" and dealt with by a General Purpose Tribunal.

### **SECTION 'C' - Other offences by players and team officials**

(k) Inciting the crowd	10 Fixtures	6 Years
(l) Attacking or fighting with spectators	1 Year	Life
(m) Bringing the game into disrepute	6 Fixtures	Life
(n) Deliberately misleading the Disciplinary Committee	10 Fixtures	2 Years
(o) Spitting at or onto spectators	8 Fixtures	Life

*Note: Players includes named substitutes. Team officials comprise coaches, managers, trainers, and any other person permitted in the Technical Area.*

**6.17 TEAM OFFICIALS – MANDATORY MATCH SUSPENSION**

A referee may take action against a Team Official who fails to conduct themselves in a responsible manner and may expel the Team Official from the field of play and its surroundings, including the technical area.

A Team Official who has been expelled from the field of play or technical area by a referee must serve a mandatory one (1) fixture suspension.

The club of any Team Official that is found to have entered either the field of play or technical area whilst suspended may be fined up to \$250.00.

**6.18 ABANDONED MATCHES, CAUTIONS AND SEND OFFS**

A yellow card issued during an abandoned match will be annulled if that match is replayed and upheld if that match is not replayed

A red card issued during an abandoned match will be upheld, regardless of whether the match is replayed or not.

**6.19 FINES & BONDS**

The Disciplinary Committee is also empowered to additionally fine a Professional player or place an Amateur or Professional player on a bond.

**6.20 PERSISTENT OFFENDERS**

In cases of repetition, that is, if the same player during the same season is reported for other offences, even if the infraction is not of the same nature, more severe sanctions may be taken.

**6.21 VIOLENCE**

All cases of violence will be severely punished.

**6.22 UNABLE TO DETERMINE OFFENCE**

Should the Disciplinary Committee be unable to decide what category a particular offence falls under the Chief Executive Officer of the Football NSW shall decide.

**6.23 USE OF VIDEO EVIDENCE**

The admissibility and weight to be given to evidence including electronic, audio, visual material ie: video, DVD recordings in the proceedings shall be at the discretion of the commission/tribunal.

Visual aids (video, films, etc) to support or question a referee's report regarding an offence punishable by expulsion can be used only to verify the player's identity.

- (a) Audio visual evidence is to be used solely as additional proof in disciplinary cases.

- (b) Decisions of fact made by referees are final and not subject to appeal and shall not be modified on the basis of video recordings (e.g. offside, penalty, goals, etc.).
- (c) Decisions must be based principally on the reports of the referee and assistant referees, as well as those of the commissioner, referee inspector and other officials.
- (d) Video recordings shall not be used as a means of restricting the authority and decisionary power of the referee, but only as the most accurate way of investigating the truth when disciplinary action is required. Such film evidence may also be referred to, if further sanctions are to be imposed on the guilty player.

#### 6.24 **APPEALS**

All appeals to a determination of the Disciplinary Tribunal are to be made to the Appeals Tribunal.

Appeals against a determination of the Disciplinary Committee must be lodged within seven (7) days of the decision or finding being notified to the appellant. A non refundable appeal fee of \$750 is to accompany any appeal.

#### 6.25 **ADDITIONAL SANCTIONS ABOVE THE RECOMMENDED RANGE**

In exceptional circumstances, the Disciplinary Committee may impose a sanction greater than the range of suspension as detailed in these regulations.

#### 6.26 **APPLICATION OF FIXTURE V TIME SUSPENSIONS**

Suspensions in terms of fixtures apply only to the style of football in which they were received (either 11 – a – side or Futsal).

Suspensions in terms of time (eg: months) apply to all types of football (both 11 – a – side and Futsal).