



## JUDICIARY COMMITTEE GUIDELINES

(Amended February 2014)

1. The Judiciary Committee shall consist of four (4) members, including the J.C. Chairman, with no more than one person from any one club. The Chairman does not have a deliberate vote, but only he will determine the sentence within the guidelines of the J.C. as determined by the Board of Directors. The other members shall be selected from a roster of club committee person/s and/or members submitted to the Association, Sub Committee members, but not having any connection with the team involved in the match in which the send off occurred.
2. The J.C. shall meet on Wednesday evenings or any other evening at a time and place notified by the J.C. Chairman. Should less than three (3) J.C. members be available to hear a challenged case, then that case shall be deferred to a later date, except when the offence is deemed by the Chairman to be of a serious or violent nature. If the J.C. Chairman is unable to officiate as J.C. Chairman, the Director, Local Competition will nominate a member of the L.C.C. to officiate in his/her place.
3. It shall be preferable for the referee who sent the player from the field of play to be present. A Referees Body representative should be present at the J.C. hearing if available to give technical evidence and written evidence of the offence. Should the referee be unable to attend the J.C. hearing, the J.C. Chairman at his/her discretion may contact the referee or a Referees' Association Executive member by telephone to obtain further information/clarification.
4. For the purpose of defining suspensions, competition fixtures (matches) shall be deemed to be any premierships competition fixture or play-off and any cup tie fixture or play off actually controlled or organised by the Association.
5. Suspensions and penalties of the Judiciary Committee of the Association shall also apply to any player, person or official registered within its jurisdiction by seeking to play in a competition recognised by the Association, although not necessarily under its direct control.



Players Sent Off

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

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| R1 | Guilty of serious foul play   |
| R2 | 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 goal keeper within his 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   |

7. Players sent from the field shall incur a minimum one (1) match suspension. This one (1) match suspension is mandatory and is not subject to challenge, appeal or waiver by the Judiciary Chairman.
8. At the termination of a match, the referee must complete the match sheet indicating the send off offence for any player dismissed from the field.
9. All Club Secretaries whose players are dismissed from the field of play are required to adhere to the following directions:
- a. Each and every Club Secretary whose player/s was/were dismissed from the field of play for any offence must contact the Judiciary within 24 hours to have the send off recorded, and heard by the Judiciary Committee. After the suspension has been advised to the Club Secretary, the said Club Secretary must advise the Judiciary Chairman, of any players wishing to challenge the suspension handed down by the Judiciary Committee. Such notifications of challenges must be forwarded to the Judiciary Chairman within 48 hours following the notification of the suspension.
  - b. Players may, no later than twenty four (24) hours prior to the hearing inform the Association in writing, via the Club Secretary, that they consent to the hearing being heard ex-parte and submit written evidence in support of their defence or in mitigation of penalty.



- c. Clubs shall be notified prior to the commencement of the season of the meeting day and place for the Judiciary Committee. Refer to paragraph 2
- d. Players shall be deemed to have received notice from the club secretary as to the meeting day of the Judiciary Committee.
- e. Players sent from the field of play on a charge of R2 assault or violent conduct will be summoned to appear before the Judiciary Committee shall be suspended until such time that they will appear.
- f. Players failing to appear before the Judiciary Committee on the scheduled appointed date shall have the matter dealt with in their absence.

#### Players Dismissed from the Field of Play

10. A player who has been sent from the field will not participate in any other match or in official duties until case has been heard.
- 10a If it is alleged the incorrect player is sent off, both players will appear before the J.C Chairman in the week after the send off or prior to their next game..

#### Suspended Players – Trial Games

11. A player under suspension for one or more competition matches from the previous year shall not be permitted to play in trial games without the specific sanction of the J.C Chairman or Board of Directors. A payment of a good behaviour surety as determined by the Board of Directors may be imposed which may be forfeited at the discretion of the Board of Directors.

#### Match Cautions

12. A player shall be cautioned during the course of an Association match for any offence under the laws of Association football, which is deemed necessary by the referee.
13. The referee may reprimand a player during the course of play, without the showing of a yellow card.
14. An official booking (or caution) is administered by the referee recording a player's name and number and the offence committed on the Association Match Card at the conclusion of the match.
15. At the conclusion of the match, the club shall collect the Association Match Card from the referee.





16. after an individual player has received five (5) official cautions (yellow cards); the player shall serve a one (1) match suspension. The suspension shall be served in the competition match following notification of the fifth (5<sup>th</sup>) caution. There shall be no appeal against a one (1) match suspension after receiving five (5) official cautions.
17. Any player who accumulates a further three (3) official cautions (yellow cards), making a total of eight (8) shall serve a further two (2) match suspension. The player must serve the two (2) matches following the match in which the eighth (8<sup>th</sup>) official cautions were received.
18. Any player who receives their 9th official caution (yellow cards) in anyone season shall be called to appear before the Judiciary Committee who may apply a further penalty.
19. Cautions (yellow cards) shall not carry over from season to season. The termination of a competition season shall be at the conclusion of the last competition match of the season, or as determined by the L.C.C.
20. Any player who is dismissed from the field upon being cautioned for a second yellow card offence, the two (2) yellow cards issued during that game shall NOT be taken into account for the purpose of the accumulations of cautions for application of suspensions.

Any club who is found to have played a player who should have been stood down because of any breach of suspension rules will be fined an amount as determined by the L.C.C. and the match result will be determined by the LCC

- 20a An unofficial referee does not need yellow or red cards to caution or send off players. The unofficial referee just informs the player of the caution or send off.

#### Recidivist Offenders

21. In cases of repetition, that is, if the same player during the same season is sent off for other offences, even if the infraction is not of the same nature, more severe sanctions may be taken. this player will be summoned to front the J.C before any sentence is given It should be noted that a mandatory one (1) match also applies in relation to this guideline.

#### Violence

22. All cases of violence will be severely punished.



Appeals (Not “Challenges” as detailed above in Paragraph 2)

23. Appeals to the General Purpose Committee against a determination of the Judiciary Committee following a “Challenge” must be lodged within 24 hours of the decision or finding being notified to the suspended player and/or club. Such appeals must include new evidence not previously presented at the Judiciary Hearing and such appeals must be lodged through the Club Secretary to the Association. A fee is applicable in the case of an appeal to the General Purpose Committee.

Finding of the Judiciary Committee

24. The Judiciary Committee has the power to:
- a. Consider the reports of referees, assistant referees and others
  - b. Decide if the offence is proven
  - c. Have 48 hours to obtain further information if required before any decision.
  - d. Determine and set whatever punishments or sanctions that the Chairman considers appropriate in accordance with the guidelines

Sentencing

25. If the Judiciary Committee considers that the offence is proved it must select the punishment from the following guidelines:
- a. The Judiciary Chairman is not empowered to set punishments outside these guidelines.
  - b. Suspensions are calculated in matches or a time factor.
  - c. The Judiciary Committee has the right to consider:
    - i. The severity of the offence
    - ii. The player’s past record
    - iii. Extenuating circumstances



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Penalties

27. The Judiciary Chairman shall impose penalties within the following:

For all R1, and R6 first offences, a player shall have the option to enter an early guilty plea for their first offence of a season only if offered by the J.C Chairman

Should a player have been previously charged with any offence and this offence was proven or a suspension imposed as a result of those offences, the early guilty plea shall not apply. (i.e. If a player has received an R7 as their first offence of a season, that player is not entitled for consideration of an early guilty plea for any further offences as this would be considered that players second offence in a season)

Upon a player being offered an early guilty plea, the Judiciary Chairman shall reduce the minimum sentence and impose the early guilty plea sentence.

In the event a player chooses to enter challenge of a not guilty plea, the Judiciary Chairman findings shall hear the player's challenge through the appropriate procedures. In the event a player chooses to plead not guilty and is subsequently found guilty, the Judiciary Chairman shall impose a sentence allowed as per the following table:



## Suspensions- Section A

### Offences by Players against Players and Other Persons

- Notes: 1. To be used by the Judiciary Committee for Offences assessed by the committee as being from Level 1 to Level 5 and carrying suspensions between 2 to 8 matches.
2. The full Range of Suspensions applies to all offences referred to the Judiciary Committee and shown below under Football Federation of Australia (FFA) Send Off Codes R1 to R7 and Football NSW Regulations.
- 3. Players who receive their third (3<sup>rd</sup>) set of double yellow cards will receive a three (3) match suspension.**

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|---|--|--|--|--|
| R1-FFA Send off Code<br><b>SERIOUS FOUL PLAY</b>  | <b>CHALLENGING FOR THE BALL IN PLAY</b> – Illegal contact with the legs or body using moderate to excessive force with a possibility of causing injury, including violent charging and over the ball tackles   |  |  | <b>RANGE OF SUSPENSIONS</b><br>2 matches to 12 matches |
| <b>LEVEL 1</b>  | <b>LEVEL 2</b>   | <b>LEVEL 3</b>   | <b>LEVEL 4 or LEVEL 5</b>  |  |
| <b>2 match suspension</b>   | <b>3 match suspension</b>  | <b>4 match suspension</b>  | <b>5 or 6 match suspension</b>   |  |
| Mistimed, careless or late tackle<br>With low level of violence   | Careless or late tackle or body charge from any direction using moderate level of violence and with some risk of causing injury  | Strong or reckless tackle or body charge with a high risk of causing injury to the opponent  | Using excessive to extreme force and showing disregard for the safety of an opponent   |  |
| R2 - FFA Send off Code<br><b>VIOLENT CONDUCT</b>  | <b>NOT CHALLENGING FOR BALL</b> – Off the ball tackle or incident involving striking, kicking, elbowing or head butting, either on or off the field, against an opponent, team mate or any other person. Involvement in a brawl or melee or running in to join a melee causing the incident to escalate but <u>not</u> if attempting to prevent a fight or shield a player |  |  | <b>RANGE OF SUSPENSIONS</b><br>2 matches to 2 years    |
| <b>LEVEL 1</b>  | <b>LEVEL 2</b>   | <b>LEVEL 3</b>   | <b>LEVEL 4 OR LEVEL 5</b>  |  |
| <b>2 or 3 match suspension</b>  | <b>3 or 4 match suspension</b>   | <b>4 to 6 match suspension</b>   | <b>6 to 8 match suspension</b>   |  |
| Use of minimum force to strike or push, possibly in frustration or retaliation. Minor attempt to strike an opponent without making contact. | Striking once or twice to the body or head with moderate force, maybe in retaliation or in response to provocation   | One or more strikes to the head or body using strong force with a risk of causing injury, including kicking, whether provoked or not. Involvement in a melee or brawl. | <b>Level 4-</b> Striking in anyway, including kicking or stomping, with a very strong force.<br><b>Running in</b> to take part and possibly prolonging a melee or brawl<br><b>Level 5-</b> Striking with strong and/or brutal force.<br>Very aggressive and ongoing<br>Involvement in a brawl or melee |  |

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| R3-FFA Send off Code<br><b>SPITTING AT A PLAYER, ANOTHER PERSON</b>   | <b>ANY ACT OF SPITTING AT OR ONTO A PLAYER OR OTHER PERSON</b> |   | <b>RANGE OF SUSPENSIONS</b><br>6 matches to 5 years   |
| <b>NO LEVEL 1 OFFENCE</b>   | <b>LEVEL 2</b>   | <b>LEVEL 3</b>  | <b>LEVEL 4 or LEVEL 5</b>   |
|   | <b>3 match suspension</b><br>Minor act of spitting             | <b>4 match suspension</b><br>Spitting towards but not onto a Player or another person | <b>5 or 6 match suspension</b><br>Spitting on the lower body of a player or another person. |
| <b>ALL OTHER SPITTING OFFENCES INCLUDING SPITTING AT OR ON A MATCH OFFICIAL OR MACARTHUR OFFICIAL REFERRED TO S.P.C</b> |  |   |   |

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| R6 - FFA Send off Code<br><b>OFFENSIVE OR</b>                                      | <b>USE OF OFFENSIVE, INSULTING, INDECENT, DISCRIMINATORY OR RACIST LANGUAGE OR GESTURES, INCLUDING RELIGIOUS, ETHNIC OR SEXIST REMARKS</b> |  | <b>RANGE OF SUSPENSIONS</b><br>2 matches to 20 matches |
| <b>LEVEL 1</b>   | <b>LEVEL 2</b>   | <b>LEVEL 3 OR LEVEL 4 OR LEVEL 5</b>   |  |
| <b>2 match suspension</b>  | <b>3 match suspension</b>  | <b>4, 5 OR 6 match suspension</b>  |  |
| One or two words or gestures<br>Carrying minor offence, possibly                   | Minor offence, insulting or abusive words, actions or gestures.  | Strong to very strong offensive, insulting or abusive words, gestures or actions, including discriminatory, racist, religious, ethnic or sexist remarks. |  |
| Very minor offensive, but not insulting words to a match official                  | Minor offensive but not insulting words to a match official  | The assessed level to depend on the wording and descriptions provided in the Referee's report.   |  |
| <b>VERY SERIOUS OFFENCES UNDER R6 WILL ALWAYS BE REFERRED TO THE J.C COMMITTEE</b> |  |  |  |

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| R4- DENY A GOAL SCORING OPPORTUNITY BY DELIBERATE HANDBALL)<br>R5- DENY A GOAL SCORING OPPORTUNITY BY A FREE KICK OFFENCE )<br>e.g. tripping, holding, impeding ) R4, R 5 AND R7<br>R7- SECOND CAUTION DURING A MATCH ) FFA Send off codes | <b>ALL INCUR A MANDATORY (1) MATCH SUSPENSION</b> |
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