



Disciplinary Policy 2011

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1 National Disciplinary Regulations (NDR)

The following policy is to be read in conjunction with the Football Federation of Australia (FFA) National Disciplinary Regulations (NDR), and is a supplement to those regulations. The NDR are available on the Football Brisbane web site (www.footballbrisbane.com.au).

This policy may be revised subject to any alterations to the NDR.

2 Disciplinary Committee

- (a) The Zone Council shall appoint suitably qualified persons to a Disciplinary Committee to deal with:
- (i) disciplinary matters in any Football Brisbane competition
 - (ii) appeals against Additional Disciplinary Sanctions
 - (iii) misconduct and other incidents
 - (iv) appeals against penalties applied by Clubs on their members
- (b) The Disciplinary Committee has jurisdiction over breaches of the Code of Conduct for players, coaches, club officials and referees and is the initial arbitrator on all disciplinary matters.
- (c) The Disciplinary Committee is independent of the Zone Council, but shall report all its findings to the Zone Council for ratification. A Disciplinary Committee Hearing Panel should consist of three (3) members. However, if, for any reason, a third member is unavailable, it may convene with two (2) members and the Chair shall have a deciding vote if necessary.
- (d) The Disciplinary Committee shall conduct Hearings into:
- (i) R2 Grade 4 send offs
 - (ii) R3 Grade 2 send offs
 - (iii) other send offs as it deems appropriate
 - (iv) appeals against Additional Disciplinary Sanctions
 - (v) incident reports
 - (vi) misconduct reports/complaints
 - (vii) appeals against penalties imposed by clubs
- (e) Hearings on (i), (ii), (iii) and (iv) should commence no later than the 10th day after the offence and as soon as practicable for (v), (vi) and (vii). Should the number of incidents to be dealt with warrant such an action, there may be several hearings operating at the same time and staffed by alternate Disciplinary Committee panels.
- (f) It should be noted that:
- (i) permission must be sought from the Zone Council for the attendance of Legal Representation at any Disciplinary Committee Hearing and the Zone Council may determine the conditions for such an attendance
 - (ii) a club representative shall be required to attend any Disciplinary Committee Hearing into the actions of individuals connected to such club
 - (iii) all representatives at a Disciplinary Committee Hearing shall only address the hearing with the permission of the Chair.
- (g) Any party summoned to appear before the Disciplinary Committee shall receive at least three (3) working days notification prior to the Hearing.
- (h) Any party summoned to appear before the Disciplinary Committee shall attend, otherwise they may be sanctioned until they appear.
- (i) If there is a valid reason for not attending, a party can write to Football Brisbane requesting a postponement of a maximum of one (1) week.
- (j) Any party may also request that they would like the charge(s) to be determined by the Disciplinary Committee in their absence. In this situation, the party must present their plea (guilty or not guilty) and detail their defence to the charge (if pleading not guilty).

- (k) The Disciplinary Committee reserves the right to sanction any party that is summoned to a Hearing that fails to appear and has not advised their non-attendance.
- (l) Persons entitled to appear before a Disciplinary Committee Hearing shall be:
 - (i) Summoned party accompanied by a Club Representative
 - (ii) Player's Parent or Guardian (Junior Players)
 - (iii) Summoned party's Witness
 - (iv) Appointed Match Official(s) accompanied by a Referee's Representative

3 Definition of Penalties

Penalties fall into two (2) categories:

- (i) Mandatory match suspensions
- (ii) Additional Disciplinary Sanctions (as per FFA NDR 5.2 and Part V of the FFA Statutes)

4 Zone System

During the playing season Football Brisbane operates a "Three (3) Zone" system in relation to cautions and suspensions:

- (i) Pre-Season (Zone 1) covering all Pre-Season Competitions (excluding Friendly matches)
- (ii) Fixture Season (Zone 2) covering all Premiership Fixtures, Grading Fixtures and Cup games
- (iii) Finals Series (Zone 3) covering all Finals Series games.

5 Yellow Card Offences (Cautions)

- (a) A player is cautioned and shown the yellow card if they commit any of the following seven offences:

- 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) A substitute or substituted player is cautioned and shown the yellow card if they commit any of the following three offences:

- Y1** is guilty of unsporting behaviour
- Y2** shows dissent by word or action
- Y4** delays the restart of play

- (c) Referees must clearly indicate the offence code on the team-sheet before submitting to club officials for a final sign off.

- (d) If a player receives two yellow cards during the same match and therefore receives a red card (an indirect red card), the two yellow cards are expunged from their record.

- (e) 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

- (f) If a referee omits to show the appropriate card when taking action against a player, this does not nullify the caution.

6 Accumulation of Yellow Cards

- (a) In Zones 1 and 3, two yellow cards accumulated in more than one (1) match automatically means the player will receive a mandatory one (1) match suspension. This suspension is to take place in the next match in which this player would be involved.
- (b) In Zone 2, yellow cards accumulated in more than one (1) match will have the following mandatory suspensions applied:
- | | | |
|-------|--|-----------------------------|
| (i) | Four (4) yellow cards accumulated by a player | 1 match |
| (ii) | Seven (7) yellow cards accumulated by a player | 2 additional matches |
| (iii) | Ten (10) yellow cards accumulated by a player | 3 additional matches |
| (iv) | Thirteen (13) yellow cards accumulated by a player | 4 additional matches |

7 Red Card Offences (Send Offs)

- (a) A player, substitute or substituted player is sent off and shown the red card if they commit any of the following seven offences:
- 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 goalscoring opportunity by deliberately handling the ball (this does not apply to a goalkeeper within his own penalty area)
R5 denies an obvious goalscoring 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
- (b) A player, substitute or substituted player who has been sent off and shown the red card **must leave the vicinity of the field of play and technical area and return to the dressing room.**
- (c) All players who are sent off and shown the red card receive **a mandatory match suspension**, which is **not appealable** except in the case of alleged mistaken identity (see Clause 11.2 of the NDR). They may be subject to an additional disciplinary sanction depending on the offence.
- (d) The following Standard suspensions shall apply for each offence (mandatory match suspension plus any additional disciplinary sanction):

OFFENCE	GRADE	MANDATORY MATCH SUSPENSION (non-appealable)	ADDITIONAL DISCIPLINARY SANCTION (appealable)	TOTAL (STANDARD) SUSPENSION
R1		1 match	1 match	2 matches
R2	Grade 1	1 match	1 match	2 matches
	Grade 2	2 matches	1 match	3 matches
	Grade 3	2 matches	3 matches	5 matches
	Grade 4	2 matches	+ Hearing	2 matches + Hearing
R3	Grade 1	2 matches	5 matches	7 matches
	Grade 2	2 matches	+ Hearing	2 matches + Hearing
R4		1 match		1 match
R5		1 match		1 match
R6	Grade 1	1 match	1 match	2 matches
	Grade 2	2 matches	4 matches	6 matches
	Grade 3	2 matches	1 match	3 matches
R7		1 match		1 match

(See Attachment 1 for Grading of Offences and Attachment 2 for penalties for assaults on Match Officials)

- (e) Any player who uses offensive, insulting or abusive language and/or gestures towards any match official(s) after being sent off will incur **at least an additional one (1) match suspension**.
- (f) Any player who fails to leave the field of play and the technical area and immediately return to the dressing room after being sent off will incur **at least an additional one (1) match suspension**.
- (g) If a referee omits to show the appropriate card when taking action against a player, this does not nullify the sending off offence.

8 Accumulation of Direct Red Cards

The following suspensions will apply for the accumulation of direct red cards in a season:

(i)	Second Direct Red Card	Standard + 1 additional match
(ii)	Third Direct Red Card	Standard + 2 additional matches
(iii)	Fourth Direct Red Card	Standard + 3 additional matches

These **additional match suspensions are mandatory** and cannot be appealed against.

9 Dismissal from the Technical Area

- a) 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 surrounds including the Technical Area.
- b) Any person removed from the Technical Area during the course of a match at all levels of the game must move far enough away from the Technical Area so as not to be able to continue in their original role or any other role as an official or player. They **must not** interfere either physically or verbally with the match or the match officials from that point, until the completion of any mandatory or additional suspension. Any interference and/or further misconduct must be reported to Football Brisbane by the match official(s). The distance from the Technical Area is entirely at the discretion of the Referee or Ground Official, based on the structural configuration of each ground.

NOTE: Medical Support Staff who have been removed from the Technical Area may be permitted to return to the field but only at the specific request of the Referee.

- c) A team official who has been expelled by a referee must serve a mandatory one (1) match suspension plus an Additional Disciplinary Sanction of two (2) matches. The Disciplinary Committee may review Incident Report to determine if a further sanction is required.
- d) A team official who has been expelled by a referee for the second time in a season must serve a mandatory one (1) match suspension plus an Additional Disciplinary Sanction of five (5) matches. The Disciplinary Committee may review the Incident report to determine if a further sanction is required.
- e) A team official who has been expelled by a referee for the third time in a season must serve a mandatory one (1) match suspension plus an Additional Disciplinary Sanction of eleven (11) matches. The team official will also be required to attend a Disciplinary Committee hearing to show cause as to why his/her registration as a team official should not be withdrawn.

10 Incident Reports

- (a) A referee or assistant referee shall submit an Incident Report in the following cases:
 - (i) an incident that occurred that is not covered by one of the above offences
 - (ii) dismissal of a team official from the Technical Area
 - (iii) assault or harassment experienced during and/or after a match
 - (iv) any other matter as deemed necessary
- (b) They should lodge the written Incident Report as soon as possible after the event and Football Brisbane shall refer all such reports to the Disciplinary Committee for consideration as required.

11 Suspensions

- (a) A match suspension means a ban from taking part in a match, either as a player, a team official or a match official, or to attend it in the area immediately surrounding the field of play.
- (b) A suspension can either be for a number of matches or for a specified period. If the suspension is for a number of matches, the number of matches specified in the suspension relate to the division of the competition in which the player or official incurred the suspension. Therefore a player or official under suspension is not allowed to play or be involved in that or any other division, whether senior or junior, until **the day after** the team in which they were playing in or involved in when they incurred the suspension has played the relevant number of matches for which they were suspended.
- (c) Any match suspensions incurred by players or team officials in any Football Brisbane competition shall be served consecutively, until such time as those suspensions are completed. If, at the conclusion of the competition season, a player or team official was still under suspension, then that suspension will carry over and shall be served in the next fixture(s) that player or team official would normally be eligible to play in or be involved in.
- (d) If a player receives a yellow card and then a direct red card in the same match and this leads to the imposition of more than one suspension from the same game, then these suspensions shall be served consecutively.
- (e) Should a player or team official be suspended for an offence incurred in a non-Football Brisbane competition (excluding International and Representative Teams), that player or official **will not** be permitted to play or have any involvement until that suspension has been served.

12 Effect of Abandoned/Cancelled/Forfeited Matches

- (a) Only those matches actually played count towards the execution of a suspension. If a match is abandoned, cancelled or forfeited (this does not include postponed matches), a suspension is only considered to be served if the team to which the suspended player or official belongs is not responsible for the facts that led to the abandonment, cancellation or forfeiture.
- (b) A yellow card issued during an abandoned match will be annulled if that match is replayed and upheld if that match is not replayed.
- (c) A direct red card issued during an abandoned match will be upheld, regardless of whether the match is replayed or not.

13 Effect of a Team Withdrawing from Fixtures

- (a) Any yellow or red cards incurred in fixtures that were played prior to the team's withdrawal will stand.
- (b) If the team is withdrawn during the first round, then the remaining fixtures in that round will be classed as "cancelled" and 12 (a) above will apply, while the fixtures in any subsequent round will not be classed as "cancelled".
- (c) If the team is withdrawn during the second round, then the remaining fixtures in that round will be classed as "cancelled" and 12 (a) above will apply, while the fixtures in any subsequent round will not be classed as "cancelled".

14 Player of the Year Awards

- (a) A suspension incurred by a player through the accumulation of four (4) yellow cards will not render that player ineligible for any such award.
- (b) A suspension incurred by a player as a result of a send off in a fixture match or through the accumulation of seven (7) or more yellow cards, will render that player ineligible for any such award.

15 Incident Reports/Misconduct

- (a) Reports on misconduct shall be accepted from club officials, team officials, club members and spectators. These reports must be factual (i.e. not based on supposition and/or third party allegations). They must be submitted through the club (ie via the club Secretary).

- (b) Reports may be submitted via letter or email and must contain the Name and Contact Details of the person submitting the report.
- (c) Reports must be lodged within five (5) working days of the incident and Football Brisbane will make all the necessary investigations and gather any other reports it deems necessary. (Refer Attachment 3 for Procedures)
- (d) Football Brisbane will refer the reports to the Disciplinary Committee for consideration as required.

16 Penalties for Misconduct

Clubs shall be ultimately accountable for the behaviour of their club members and supporters. Should a club member or supporter be the subject of a Disciplinary Hearing to answer an allegation(s) of behaving in a manner which brings the game into disrepute, then the Disciplinary Committee shall be empowered to impose upon the club any sanction as specified in Part V of the FFA Statutes. Any fines so imposed shall be paid under the terms of the Football Brisbane Debtors Policy.

17 Disciplinary Bond

- (a) This bond shall be a sum equal to \$100 per team (Senior Competitions only).
- (b) Failure to lodge this bond before the first fixture played by a club shall result in loss of competition points for all teams in the club until the bond is lodged.
- (c) Fines resulting from yellow/red card offences shall be deducted from the Disciplinary Bond progressively throughout the season with any balance at the end of the season to be returned to the club.
- (d) Should the Disciplinary Bond be exhausted before the end of the season, then the club shall be required to restore the bond to the original level.
- (e) No competition points shall be awarded to a club which has not restored the Disciplinary Bond within the time allowed.

18 Disciplinary Fines

- (a) For Senior Competitions (Male and Female), disciplinary fines shall be imposed against clubs on the following basis:
 - (i) Accumulated yellow cards (in Zone 2 in the same season)

Four (4) yellow cards accumulated by the same player	\$40
Next Three yellow cards (Seven [7] in total) accumulated by the same player	\$30
Next Three yellow cards (Ten [10] in total) accumulated by the same player	\$30
Next Three yellow cards (Thirteen [13] in total) accumulated by the same player	\$30
 - (ii) Accumulated red cards (in Zones 2 & 3 in the same season)

Indirect red card (2 Yellow cards in same game) incurred by a player	\$25
First Direct red card incurred by a player	\$50
Second Direct red card incurred by the same player	\$75
Third or subsequent Direct red card incurred by the same player	\$100
 - (iii) Team Discipline

Five (5) or more players from one team cautioned or sent off during one (1) match	\$250
Three (3) or more players from one team sent off during one (1) match	\$500
 - (iv) Accumulated Dismissals from Technical Area (in the same season)

First offence by a team official	\$50 up to \$250
Second offence by the same team official	\$75 up to \$1000
Third offence by the same team official	\$100 up to \$2000

- (b) For all Junior Competitions (Male and Female), no disciplinary fines or Disciplinary Bond are applicable for offences by players, however disciplinary fines may be imposed against clubs, if incidents warrant it, on the following basis:
- | | | |
|-----|--|--------------|
| (i) | <u>Accumulated Dismissals from Technical Area (in the same season)</u> | |
| | First offence by a team official | up to \$250 |
| | Second offence by the same team official | up to \$1000 |
| | Third offence by the same team official | up to \$2000 |

19 Appeals

- (a) A player cannot appeal against a yellow card (caution). This also includes being sent off for a second cautionable offence in the same match.
- (b) A player or team official cannot appeal against a mandatory match suspension, except in the case of alleged mistaken identity (see Clause 4.3 (b) of the NDR). In the case of alleged mistaken identity, the alleged actual offender must be named and a statement from the offender must be submitted admitting the offence. (This does NOT include a player being sent off for a second cautionable offence in the same match.)
- (c) If a player or team official is considering an appeal, they should contact the relevant Competition Administrator to obtain a copy of the Match Official's report.
- (d) Under Clause 11.2 of the National Disciplinary Regulations, a player or team official may appeal the Additional Disciplinary Sanction imposed in a Disciplinary Infringement Notice by notifying Football Brisbane **within 7 days of the date on which the Disciplinary Infringement Notice was received** using the Appeal Form available on the Football Brisbane website, and signed by the player or official and the club President or Secretary. **It must include all documentation relevant to the appeal (player's statement and any witness statements). The \$200 appeal fee must be paid at the time of lodgement of the appeal.**
- (e) The Disciplinary Committee will review the submitted documentation to assess whether the appeal has sufficient grounds to be heard. The onus is on the appellant to provide sufficient argument in that documentation to convince the Disciplinary Committee that the appeal should be heard. Facts contained in the Match Officials' reports are presumed to be accurate. Proof of the inaccuracy of the contents of these reports may be provided by any party.
- (f) If an appeal is to be heard, any further documents supporting the charge, appeal conditions and notification of the date and time of the hearing will be forwarded to all parties as soon as the appeal is scheduled.
- (g) If an appeal against the Additional Disciplinary Sanction is unable to be heard prior to the commencement of that suspension, the player or team official will be allowed to participate in the next match pending the hearing of the appeal. The fact of a player participating in that next match signifies that a lodged appeal will proceed. Should the appeal be withdrawn, then the result of such a match will be recorded as a 3-0 win in favour of the opposing team, unless the final result was of a greater margin in favour of the opposing team, and the points will be awarded to the opposing team.
- (h) If a player or team official is found not guilty of the offence with which he has been charged (on the grounds of mistaken identity), then mention of this offence will be expunged from his record.
- (i) In hearing an appeal, the Disciplinary Committee has the power to overturn, confirm, increase or decrease the additional disciplinary sanction against which an appeal is made.
- (j) A party may appeal the decision of the Disciplinary Committee by notifying Football Brisbane **within 7 days of the date on which the decision of the Disciplinary Committee was received** using the Appeal Form available on the Football Brisbane website, and signed by the player or official and the club President or Secretary. **It must include all documentation relevant to the appeal. The \$200 appeal fee must be paid at the time of lodgement of the appeal.**

- (k) An appeal against a decision of the Disciplinary Committee will not be allowed unless the person seeking to appeal satisfies Football Brisbane that one or more of the following grounds of appeal are involved:
- (i) that significant new or additional evidence has become available
 - (ii) that the penalty imposed by the Disciplinary Committee is excessive and/or not in accordance with the provisions of this policy
 - (iii) that the Disciplinary Committee failed to follow procedures or requirements of this policy to the significant detriment of the person seeking to appeal.
- (l) **NOTE** – For any appeal, failure to adhere to the conditions outlined in (d) or (j) above will render that appeal invalid and the original penalty will stand.

20 Appeal Fees

- (a) Hearing of an appeal against a Disciplinary Infringement Notice - \$200
- If the additional disciplinary sanction is partially overturned or if the appeal is upheld - \$200 fee will be refunded
- (b) Hearing of an appeal against a penalty imposed by a club - \$200
- If the appeal is upheld - \$200 fee will be refunded
- (c) Hearing of an appeal against a penalty imposed at a Disciplinary Committee Hearing - \$200
- If the appeal is upheld - \$200 fee will be refunded

ATTACHMENT 1

Grading of Offences

R2	Grade 1	Pushing with no punches thrown
	Grade 2	Striking, kicking, elbowing or head-butting (including attempting these offences)
	Grade 3	Intends to cause significant bodily harm to any person, involvement in a brawl
	Grade 4	Against a match official
R3	Grade 1	At a player or other person
	Grade 2	At a match official
R6	Grade 1	Against a player or other person
	Grade 2	Discriminatory language
	Grade 3	Against a match official

ATTACHMENT 2

Assaults on Match Officials

Football Brisbane Guidelines for Disciplinary Sanctions to be imposed for assaults on match officials.

CATEGORY 1 OFFENCE

Deliberately striking a match official by way of physical contact with any part of the body or the use of any object.

Sanction:

6 months to 10 years suspension from all facets of the game (for a Player or Team Official)

\$5000 fine on Club (for a Club Official or Club Supporter)

CATEGORY 2 OFFENCE

Attempting to strike a match official by way of physical contact with any part of the body or the use of any object.

Sanction:

6 months to 3 years suspension from all facets of the game (for a Player or Team Official)

\$1500 fine on Club (for a Club Official or Club Supporter)

CATEGORY 3 OFFENCE

Spitting at or on a match official.

Sanction:

12 months to 18 months suspension from all facets of the game (for a Player or Team Official).

\$1000 fine on Club (for a Club Official or Club Supporter)

CATEGORY 4 OFFENCE

Deliberate physical contact with a match official not covered in categories 1, 2, 3 or 5.
Such conduct would include, but is not limited to, deliberately pushing a match official.

Sanction:

5 matches to 2 years suspension from all facets of the game (for a Player or Team Official)

\$500 fine on Club (for a Club Official or Club Supporter)

CATEGORY 5 OFFENCE

Threatening or deliberately touching a match official.

Sanction:

Suspension for 5 competition matches from all facets of the game (for a Player or Team Official).

\$100 fine on Club (for a Club Official or Club Supporter)

ATTACHMENT 3

ACTIONS ON RECEIPT OF INCIDENT REPORT FROM TEAM OFFICIAL, CLUB OFFICIAL, CLUB MEMBER OR SPECTATOR

- Email alleged offending club advising receipt of report providing details of allegation
- Request confirmation or denial of allegation

- If allegation confirmed:
 - request explanation
 - request advice of club action in relation to incident
 - assess explanation
 - assess club action
 - determine penalty to be applied

- If allegation denied:
 - go back to originator of protest/report for further evidence if available
 - provide any further evidence to alleged offending club requesting response

- If allegation confirmed:
 - request explanation
 - request advice of club action in relation to incident
 - assess explanation
 - assess club action
 - determine penalty to be applied

- If allegation still denied

- convene Disciplinary Committee hearing