



## **National Disciplinary Regulations**

12 December 2025

**Football Australia Limited**

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## 1. OBJECTIVES AND APPLICATION OF THE REGULATIONS

- 1.1 These Regulations form part of the Football Australia (**FA**) Statutes and, subject to clauses 1.4 and 1.5 apply to any infringement of the Laws of the Game by any Participant during a Match played in Australia or otherwise played under the direction or control of FA.
- 1.2 These Regulations are mandatory and are designed to ensure that appropriate standards of behaviour are upheld on the field of play in a consistent manner across Australia. Subject to clause 1.6, these Regulations may be supplemented, but not varied, by Competition Rules.
- 1.3 These Regulations:
- (a) apply to FA, Member Federations, District Associations, Competition Administrators, Clubs, Players and Officials (**Members**);
  - (b) apply to all forms of organised football under FA's jurisdiction, including eleven-a-side, modified football, futsal, indoor and beach football;
  - (c) comply with FIFA Statutes;
  - (d) continue to apply to a Member even after that Member's association, registration, employment or engagement has ended, if that Member breached these Regulations while they were a Member; and
  - (e) do not limit or restrict the application of FIFA Statutes or FA Statutes, including but not limited to, the Code of Conduct and Ethics for conduct or behaviour of a Member.
- 1.4 The A-Leagues Disciplinary Regulations specify the disciplinary rules and procedures that apply to the conduct of both the A-League Men and A-League Women competitions and, in particular, the consideration of disciplinary matters arising during Matches in both the A-League Men and A-League Women competitions, including breaches of the Laws of the Game. These Regulations do not apply to the conduct of the A-League Men and A-League Women competitions or the consideration of disciplinary matters arising during Matches in the A-League Men or A-Leagues Women competitions.
- 1.5 The Australian Championship Disciplinary Regulations specify the disciplinary rules and procedures that apply to the conduct of the Australian Championship and, in particular, the consideration of disciplinary matters arising during Matches in the Australian Championship including breaches of the Laws of the Game. These Regulations do not apply to the conduct of the Australian Championship or the consideration of disciplinary matters arising during Matches in the Australian Championship.
- 1.6 For the purposes of the Australia Cup only:
- (a) these Regulations; and
  - (b) Annexure E to these Regulations,
- specify rules and procedures that apply to the conduct of the Australia Cup (**Australia Cup Disciplinary Rules**), including the consideration of disciplinary matters arising during Matches in the Australia Cup including breaches of the Laws of the Game. With respect to disciplinary matters, in the event of any inconsistency between these Regulations and the Australia Cup Competition Regulations, these Regulations will prevail.

## 2. LAWS OF THE GAME

- 2.1 All Matches must be conducted and officiated in accordance with the Laws of the Game. Any modifications, including for age appropriate or gender or disability specific requirements, must be approved by the Competition Administrator in accordance with any guidelines issued by FA from time to time.
- 2.2 A Referee, from the time of entering the field of play for a pre-match inspection for a Match until leaving the field of play after the Match ends (including kicks from the penalty mark), may take the following disciplinary action:
- (a) in the case of a Player, issue a Player Yellow Card (caution) in accordance with the Laws of the Game;
  - (b) in the case of a Player, issue a Player Red Card (expulsion) in accordance with the Laws of the Game;
  - (c) in the case of a Team Official, issue a Team Official Yellow Card (caution) in accordance with the Laws of the Game; and/or
  - (d) in the case of a Team Official, issue a Team Official Red Card (expulsion) in accordance with the Laws of the Game.
- 2.3 Any Yellow Card or Red Card issued during a Match must be identified by the Referee on the Referee's Report for that Match, including the name and number of the Player or Team Official (as applicable), the type of infringement by reference to the codes in clauses 2.5, 2.7, 2.11 and 2.13 (as applicable) and the time that the infringement occurred in the Match.

### *Player Yellow Cards*

- 2.4 A Player Yellow Card is issued for a minor infringement of the Laws of the Game and is a warning from the Referee to a Player during a Match to sanction unsporting behaviour of a less serious nature.
- 2.5 A Player Yellow Card is issued by the Referee for the cautionable offences specified at Law 12 of the Laws of the Game, which include:

### *Minor Infringements - Yellow Card (Caution) Codes*

- Y1** unsporting behaviour
- Y2** dissent by word or action
- Y3** persistent infringements of the Laws of the Game
- Y4** delaying the restart of play
- Y5** failure to respect the required distance when play is restarted with a corner kick, free kick or throw-in

- Y6** entering, re-entering or deliberately leaving the field of play without the Referee's permission

#### *Player Red Cards*

- 2.6 A Player Red Card is issued for a serious infringement of the Laws of the Game and is the order given by the Referee to a Player (including a substitute) to leave the vicinity of the field of play and the technical area, including the substitutes' bench, during a Match.
- 2.7 A Player Red Card is issued by the Referee for the sending-off offences specified at Law 12 of the Laws of the Game, which include:

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

- R1** Serious foul play
- R2** Violent conduct
- R3** Biting or spitting at and / or on an opponent
- R4** Denying the opposing team a goal or an obvious goal scoring opportunity 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 as prescribed by Law 12 of the Laws of the Game
- R6** Using offensive, insulting, or abusive language and/or gestures
- R7** Receiving a second caution in the same Match
- 2.8 A Player Red Card is regarded as a Direct Red Card if it sanctions serious unsporting behaviour (R1 to R6) and an Indirect Red Card (R7) if it is the result of the accumulation of two (2) Player Yellow Cards in the same Match.

#### *Team Official Yellow Cards*

- 2.9 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 or Team Official Red Card.
- 2.10 A Team Official Yellow Card is issued for a minor infringement of the Laws of the Game and is a warning from the Referee to a Team Official during a Match to sanction unsporting behaviour of a less serious nature.
- 2.11 A Team Official Yellow Card is issued by the Referee for the cautionable offences specified at Law 12 of the Laws of the Game, which include:

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### *Minor Infringements - Yellow Card (Caution) Codes*

- Y-TO1** Dissent by word or action, including throwing / kicking drinks bottles or other objects and/or gestures which show a clear lack of respect for the Match Officials (e.g. sarcastic clapping)
- Y-TO2** Gesturing or acting in a provocative, derisory, or inflammatory manner
- Y-TO3** Excessively / persistently gesturing for a Red Card or Yellow Card
- Y-TO4** Clearly / persistently not respecting the confines of their team's Technical Area
- Y-TO5** Deliberating entering the Technical Area of the opposing team (non-confrontational)
- Y-TO6** Delaying the restart of play by their team
- Y-TO7** Showing a lack of respect for the game
- Y-TO8** Persistent unacceptable behaviour (including repeated warning offences)

### *Team Official Red Cards*

- 2.12 A Team Official Red Card is issued for a serious infringement of the Laws of the Game and is the order given by the Referee to a Team Official to leave the vicinity of the field of play and the technical area, including the substitutes' bench, during a Match.
- 2.13 A Team Official Red Card is issued by the Referee for the sending-off offences specified at Law 12 of the Laws of the Game, which include:

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

- R-TO1** Violent conduct
- R-TO2** Physical or aggressive behaviour (including spitting or biting) towards an opposing Player, substitute, Team Official, Match Official, spectator or any other person (e.g. ball boy / girl, security or competition official)
- R-TO3** Using offensive, insulting or abusive language and/or gestures
- R-TO4** Biting or spitting at and / or on any person
- R-TO5** Entering the field of play to:
  - (a) confront a Match Official (including at half-time and / or full-time); or

- (b) interfere with play or an opposing Player or Match Official

**R-TO6** Deliberately leaving to technical area to:

- (a) show dissent towards or remonstrate with a Match Official; or
- (b) act in a provocative or inflammatory manner

**R-TO7** Enter the opposing technical area in an aggressive or confrontational manner

**R-TO8** Deliberately throwing / kicking an object onto the field of play

**R-TO9** Delaying the restart of play by the opposing team e.g. holding onto the ball, kicking the ball away, obstructing movement of a player

**R-TO10** Receiving a second caution in the same Match

2.14 A Team Official Red Card is regarded as a Direct Red Card if it sanctions serious unsporting behaviour (R-TO1 to R-TO10) and an Indirect Red Card (R-TO11) if it is the result of the accumulation of two (2) Team Official Yellow Cards in the same Match.

2.15 A medical Team Official (for example, a doctor or physiotherapist) who commits a Team Official Red Card Offence may remain in the immediate surrounds of the field of play, including on the substitutes' bench, if the team has no other medical person available, and may act if a Player needs medical attention.

### **3. AUTHORITIES AND JURISDICTION**

3.1 The Referee:

- (a) controls each Match and has the authority to enforce the Laws of the Game in each Match to which he or she has been appointed;
- (b) makes all disciplinary decisions during a Match and those decisions (subject to the limited exceptions contained in these Regulations) are final;
- (c) has the powers, duties and authority:
  - (i) as specified in the Laws of the Game and, in particular, Law 5;
- (d) to take disciplinary action as prescribed by the Laws of the Game as and from the moment he or she enters the field of play for pre-Match inspection until he or she leaves the field of play after the Match ends (including any kicks from the penalty mark); and
- (e) at the end of each Match, must submit the Referee's Report to the Competition Administrator who will determine if additional action is to be taken in accordance with clause 3.2.

3.2 A Competition Administrator:

- (a) may determine that an infringement resulting in a Direct Red Card for a Player or a Direct Red Card for a Team Official warrants a sanction greater than the Mandatory Match Suspension, including additional match suspensions in accordance with the Table of Offences at Annexure A and/or a fine and may impose sanctions accordingly;
- (b) may rectify a Yellow Card and/or Red Card issued in error in cases of Mistaken Identity;
- (c) may convene a Judicial Body to make determinations as required under these Regulations;
- (d) may cite a Participant to appear before its Disciplinary Committee in relation to:
  - (i) a Red Card; or
  - (ii) a serious infringement that has escaped the Referee's attention;
- (e) must give effect to the sanctions applied pursuant to these Regulations and, where appropriate, impose further sanctions if a Participant contravenes the terms of a sanction; and
- (f) may exercise any of the powers granted to it under these Regulations.

3.3 A Disciplinary Committee:

- (a) has jurisdiction to hear, and must determine, matters that have been referred to it in accordance with these Regulations;
- (b) must impose such sanctions as are authorised and appropriate to the determination, which may include sanctioning a:
  - (i) Player in relation to a Direct Red Card;
  - (ii) Team Official in relation to a Direct Red Card;
  - (iii) Player or Team Official in relation to a serious infringement that has escaped the Referee's attention; and
- (c) may, in accordance with these Regulations, rectify an Obvious Error in a Referee's disciplinary decision.

3.4 An Appeals Committee has jurisdiction to hear appeals from a Disciplinary Committee in accordance with these Regulations and must determine appeals, including imposition of any sanction, in accordance with these Regulations and the FA Statutes.

#### **4. MISTAKEN IDENTITY AND OBVIOUS ERROR**

4.1 Where a Competition Administrator is satisfied that a Referee:

- (a) issued in error a Player Yellow Card and/or Player Red Card during the Match to a Player instead of to another Player (being the Player who should have received the card as the Player who committed the offence attracting the card); or

- (b) issued in error a Team Official Yellow Card and/or Team Official Red Card to a Team Official instead of another Team Official (being the Team Official who committed the offence attracting the card)  
***(Mistaken Identity)***,
  - (c) the Competition Administrator must rectify that error, provided that any process imposed by the Competition Administrator in cases of Mistaken Identity has been complied with.
- 4.2 Competition Rules may provide that, where there is sufficient verifiable evidence available, as determined by the Competition Administrator in its sole and absolute discretion, that leads the Competition Administrator to believe that an Obvious Error may have been made in a Referee's disciplinary decision, then the Competition Administrator will refer the incident to a Disciplinary Committee to hearing and determination.
- 4.3 An Obvious Error for the purpose of these Regulations is a decision by a Referee to:
- (a) issue a Direct Player Red Card to a Player when no card was warranted; or
  - (b) issue a Team Official Red Card to a Team Official when no card was warranted,
- being a decision that no reasonable referee in the possession of all the facts, including the evidence relied upon by the Competition Administrator in clause 4.2, could reasonably have made.

## **5. DISCIPLINARY SANCTIONS**

- 5.1 A Competition Administrator or Judicial Body:
- (a) may impose the types of sanctions as specified in the FA Constitution; and
  - (b) subject to clause 5.5, must determine the scope and duration of each sanction in accordance with the Range at the Table of Offences.
- 5.2 A Player who receives a Player Red Card, or a Team Official who receives a Team Official Red Card, must serve at least a one (1) match Mandatory Match Suspension (subject to the outcome of any determination made in accordance with clause 4.1 and/or 4.2, if applicable).
- 5.3 A Player or Team Official (as applicable) must serve a Mandatory Match Suspension for the accumulation of Yellow Cards and Red Cards in accordance with clauses 6 and 7 respectively.
- 5.4 Competition Rules may provide an additional grading system for each Offence (other than an Indirect Red Card) provided the grading system remains within the Range at the Table of Offences.
- 5.5 A sanction outside of the Range at the Table of Offences may be imposed only in Exceptional Circumstances that must be detailed in either the Competition Administrator's Disciplinary Infringement Notice or the Judicial Body's Determination (as the case requires) provided always that the Mandatory Match Suspension referred to in clause 5.2 must always be served.

- 5.6 If, in the case of a group of Participants involved in violent conduct, it is not possible to identify the instigators, the Competition Administrator or a Judicial Body may sanction the Club to which the aggressors belong.

## **6. ACCUMULATION OF YELLOW CARDS**

- 6.1 Competition Rules must specify that a Player or Team Official who accumulates a certain number of Yellow Cards during the course of a Competition must serve Mandatory Match Suspensions as specified in those Competition Rules.
- 6.2 The number of Yellow Cards accumulated to incur a Mandatory Match Suspension will depend on the number of Matches played in the Competition.
- 6.3 If a Player receives two (2) Player Yellow Cards during the same Match and therefore receives an Indirect Red Card, the two (2) Player Yellow Cards will be expunged from his or her record.
- 6.4 If a Team Official receives two (2) Team Official Yellow Cards during the same Match and therefore receives an Indirect Red Card, the two (2) Team Official Yellow Cards will be expunged from his or her record.
- 6.5 If a Player receives a Player Yellow Card and then a Direct Red Card in the same Match, the Player Yellow Card will not be expunged and will be counted in the Player's accumulation of Player Yellow Cards.
- 6.6 If a Team Official receives a Team Official Yellow Card and then a Direct Red Card in the same Match, the Team Official Yellow Card will not be expunged and will be counted in the Team Official's accumulation of Team Official Yellow Cards.
- 6.7 The accumulation of Yellow Cards will be reset at the end of the last Match of the pre-season, the regular season and any finals series respectively. This means that Yellow Cards accumulated in a pre-season competition do not carry over to the regular season and Yellow Cards accumulated in the regular season do not carry over to any finals series. Match suspensions incurred as a result of the accumulation of Yellow Cards will not, however, be cancelled.
- 6.8 No Mandatory Match Suspension applies for the accumulation of Yellow Cards in Friendlies.

## **7. ACCUMULATION OF RED CARDS**

- 7.1 Competition Rules must specify that a Player or Team Official who accumulates a certain number of Direct Red Cards during the course of a Competition must serve Mandatory Match Suspensions as specified in those Competition Rules.
- 7.2 The number of Direct Red Cards accumulated to incur additional Mandatory Match Suspensions will depend on the number of Matches played in the Competition.

## **8. TEAM MISCONDUCT**

A Competition Administrator may impose additional disciplinary sanctions on a Club for the misconduct of a Team, including when:

- (a) five (5) Players receive a Yellow Card or Red Card during one (1) Match;
- (b) three (3) Players receive a Red Card during one (1) Match;
- (c) several Players together make threats or show force against a Match Official; or
- (d) its Participants engage in a melee or brawl in connection with a Match.

## **9. NOTICE**

### *Disciplinary Infringement Notice*

9.1 The imposition of a Mandatory Match Suspension is immediate. A Competition Administrator will send a Disciplinary Infringement Notice notifying the Participant (through his or her Club) of the Mandatory Match Suspension within the timeframes specified by the Competition Rules, provided always that the Mandatory Match Suspension is effective regardless of whether or not such notice is received.

9.2 If a Competition Administrator has determined under clause 3.2 that an Offence by a Participant was such as to warrant a sanction in addition to the Mandatory Match Suspension, that Competition Administrator must send a Disciplinary Infringement Notice notifying the Participant (through his or her Club) of the details of the Offence and of the disciplinary sanction imposed.

### *Disciplinary Hearing Notice*

9.3 If a Competition Administrator cites a Participant under clause 3.2 to appear before a Disciplinary Committee, that Competition Administrator must send a Disciplinary Hearing Notice to the Participant (through his or her Club) in accordance with its Competition Rules.

9.4 The Disciplinary Hearing Notice must provide:

- (a) reasonable detail of the alleged Offence;
- (b) notice of possible sanctions; and
- (c) date, time and place of the disciplinary hearing.

## **10. DISCIPLINARY HEARING PROCEDURES**

10.1 Each Member is bound by the FA Statutes and the Grievance Procedure By-Law.

10.2 Subject to clause 10.3, a Participant may appeal the disciplinary sanction imposed in a Disciplinary Infringement Notice by notifying the Competition Administrator within the timeframe, and in accordance with the procedures, specified in the relevant Competition Rules. In the absence of Judicial Body hearing procedures being prescribed by the

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Competition Administrator, any appeal of a disciplinary sanction must be in accordance with clauses 10.4 to 10.14 and the following principles:

- (a) if a Participant wishes to appeal the disciplinary sanction imposed in a Disciplinary Infringement Notice under these Regulations (**Applicant**), the Applicant must do so in writing or in accordance with an application form prescribed by the Competition Administrator within seven (7) days of receiving the Disciplinary Infringement Notice;
  - (b) an Applicant's written application to appeal the disciplinary sanction referred to in clause 10.2(a) above must be signed by the Applicant and contain the following mandatory information (in addition to any other information prescribed by the Competition Administrator):
    - (i) the name and contact details of the Applicant;
    - (ii) the date on which the event the subject of the appeal took place;
    - (iii) a statement summarising the alleged facts and any legal arguments including the application of the relevant provision(s) of these Regulations to the facts; and
    - (iv) whether the Applicant is appealing the decision to issue a sanction or is seeking the imposition of a lesser sanction; and
  - (c) an Applicant may indicate the urgency of a matter.
- 10.3 A Mandatory Match Suspension cannot be appealed, other than in accordance with the limited exceptions contained under clauses 4.1 and 4.2.
- 10.4 An appeal from a Competition Administrator'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.
- 10.5 If a Participant wishes to appeal a Disciplinary Committee's determination to the Appeals Committee, that Participant must notify the Competition Administrator within the timeframe, and in accordance with the procedures, specified in the Competition Rules.
- 10.6 All decisions of a Disciplinary Committee remain in force unless varied by the Appeals Committee.
- 10.7 The Competition Administrator must use its best endeavours to ensure a disciplinary hearing is heard in a timely fashion to enable a Participant or Club to have the opportunity to be heard

and to make submissions in relation to the issues of infringement and sanction before the next applicable Match.

- 10.8 A disciplinary hearing is not bound by the rules of evidence that apply to proceedings in a court of law. However, all disciplinary hearings must be conducted in accordance with the principles of natural justice, including that the parties:
- (a) are treated with equality;
  - (b) have reasonable and sufficient notice of the alleged Offence; and
  - (c) have the opportunity to be heard and to make submissions in relation to the issues of merit and sanction.
- 10.9 If a matter has the potential to become complex or lengthy, a Judicial Body may order a directions hearing for the purpose of setting a timetable for the submission of materials by each party. If a party fails to comply with the timetable as determined by the directions hearing without showing sufficient cause, the Judicial Body may continue the proceedings and make a determination on the materials before it.
- 10.10 A Judicial Body has the right to determine all procedures to be adopted in a disciplinary hearing and may during the course of any hearing:
- (a) grant or order an adjournment to provide parties with additional time or to consider additional evidence;
  - (b) admit or request the production of documents or any relevant written evidence available to a Participant or any other person, including a Referee's Report, declarations from the parties and witnesses, expert opinion and video or audio recordings; or
  - (c) order the attendance of any person for the purpose of asking questions relevant to the alleged Offence.
- 10.11 Facts contained in a Referee's Report are presumed to be accurate.
- 10.12 At a disciplinary hearing:
- (a) a Participant or a representative of the Club (as the case may be) may attend in person or by phone or video link;
  - (b) a party may be represented legally (unless otherwise specified in local Competition Rules) or by any other person provided the names have been communicated to the other parties in advance of the hearing;
  - (c) an entity (such as FA, a Member Federation or Club) may be represented by an officer or employee of that party;
  - (d) FA reserves the right to be heard and to make submissions if a decision has the potential to affect FA or football generally;
  - (e) a Judicial Body may in its sole and absolute discretion, refuse entry to any person who is not directly involved in the matter, including the media; and

- (f) 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.

- 10.13 Hearings and deliberations by a Judicial Body must be held behind closed doors.
- 10.14 If a party fails to attend a hearing without showing sufficient cause for such failure, the matter may be heard and determined in that party's absence, including any determination on the merits and/or sanction.

## **11. IMPLEMENTATION OF DISCIPLINARY SANCTIONS**

### *Fines*

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

### *Effect of suspension*

- 11.5 A match suspension means a ban from taking part in the Match(es) to which the ban relates or to attend such Match(es) in the area immediately surrounding the field of play and as otherwise specified by the Competition Administrator in its Competition Rules.
- 11.6 Unless otherwise specified by a Competition Administrator or a Judicial Body, but subject always to clause 11.14, a Participant who receives a suspension for an Offence in a Match forming part of a Competition must serve that suspension in the next following Match(es) forming part of any Competition (i.e. the Competition in which the relevant Offence was committed, or another Competition) in which his or her Team participates. For the avoidance of doubt, suspensions carry over from one round to the next in the same Competition, including from the pre-season to the regular season to the finals series and to the following season.
- 11.7 Subject to clause 11.14, a Participant, who receives a Mandatory Match Suspension in a Friendly, must serve that suspension in his or her Team's next Friendly. A Participant who receives a match suspension in addition to a Mandatory Match Suspension for a Direct Red Card that occurs in a Friendly, may be required by the Competition Administrator or the

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Judicial Body to serve the suspension in the next Matches (forming part of a Competition) in which his or her Team participates (rather than the next Friendly).

- 11.8 A suspension imposed in terms of Matches on a Participant participating in:
- (a) eleven-a-side football only affects that Participant's participation in eleven-a-side football; or
  - (b) futsal only affects that Participant's participation in futsal.
- 11.9 Subject to clause 12.8, a suspension imposed in terms of time (such as days, weeks or months) affects a Participant's participation in both eleven-a-side and futsal Teams, regardless of whether the infringement was committed in eleven-a-side football or futsal.

*Suspended sanctions*

- 11.10 A Competition Administrator or Judicial Body may suspend part of a sanction only in accordance with clauses 11.11 to 11.13.
- 11.11 Only where a sanction is fewer than six (6) months where the sanction is given in terms of time, or fewer than six (6) matches where the sanction is given in terms of matches, a Competition Administrator or Judicial Body may order that part of the match suspension or time suspension:
- (a) comes into immediate effect; and
  - (b) the other part does not come into effect unless and until an additional Offence (excluding Yellow Card or Indirect Red Card offences) is committed during a specified probationary period (i.e. is suspended).
- 11.12 If a Competition Administrator or Judicial Body imposes a suspension where part is suspended under clause 11.11:
- (a) the part of the sanction that comes into immediate effect must be at least one half of the total sanction to be imposed;
  - (b) the length of the probation period must be a period between six (6) months and 24 months;
  - (c) the Competition Administrator or Judicial Body must specify the types of Offences (excluding Yellow Card and Indirect Red Card offences) which, if committed, activate the suspended part of the suspension;
  - (d) the suspension must be continuous and not structured in more than one (1) part or in any way that allows the Participant to serve the suspension in a fragmented way by participating in certain matches (in whatever Competition) and then resuming the suspension; and
  - (e) subject to clause 5.5, no part of a sanction for an Offence may be suspended which results in a Participant serving less than the minimum sanction prescribed under the Table of Offences.

- 11.13 If a Participant commits an Offence (excluding a Yellow Card or an Indirect Red Card offence) during a probationary period that triggers the suspended part of a sanction (**Further Offence**), the suspended sanction must be served in addition to any sanction that is imposed for the Further Offence.

*Suspensions for Dual Club Players*

- 11.14 Clauses 11.15 to 11.18 apply to a Player who is a Dual Club Player. For the avoidance of doubt, all other provisions in these Regulations (including in clause 11) apply to a Dual Club Player, unless expressly stated otherwise.
- 11.15 A Dual Club Player who receives a suspension for an Offence must serve that suspension with the Team for which he or she committed the Offence. That suspension must be served in the next following Match(es) forming part of any Competition (i.e. the Competition in which the relevant Offence was committed, or another Competition) that the Team for which he or she committed the Offence participates in, unless a Competition Administrator or Judicial Body specifies that the suspension may only be served in the particular Competition in which the relevant Offence was committed.
- 11.16 Subject to clause 11.17, and notwithstanding clause 12.3, the suspension of a Dual Club Player applies in respect to the Team for which he or she received the suspension and does not affect that Player's eligibility to play for his or her other Club whilst serving the suspension.
- 11.17 Where a Dual Club Player is suspended by a Competition Administrator or Judicial Body for:
- (a) six (6) or more Matches (if the sanction is given in terms of Matches) or six (6) or more weeks (if the sanction is given in terms of a period of time);
  - (b) the Offence of "use of discriminatory language and/or gestures, including racist, religious, ethnic or sexist conduct"; or
  - (c) the Offence of "unsporting conduct towards a Match Official",
- the Player is ineligible to participate in any Match in any Competition until he or she has served his or her suspension in accordance with clause 11.15.
- 11.18 The Competition Administrator(s) of the Competitions in which a Dual Club Player plays are responsible to ensure compliance with clause 11.17 and, where applicable, must liaise to ensure compliance with clause 11.17.

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

- 12.1 The following guiding principles apply to situations where a suspended Participant transfers Clubs and/or where a Participant's suspension applies during his or her Club's off-season:
- (a) a Participant serves his or her suspension in his or her Club's next official Match(es) forming part of a Competition (being the Competition in which the Offence was committed and suspension incurred, or another Competition);

- (b) where an Offence is committed and suspension incurred by a Participant with one (1) Club and that Participant transfers to a new Club, that Participant will be required to serve the remainder of that suspension with the new Club;
- (c) where an Offence is committed and suspension incurred in one Competition and a Participant transfers to a new Club participating in another Competition for the purpose (in whole or in part) of enabling the Participant to serve that suspension in that other Competition, a determination may be made as to whether any suspension served with the new Club be counted towards satisfaction of the suspension;
- (d) subject to clause 11.16, during the period in which a Participant is suspended, a Participant subject to a suspension may not participate in any Match, but may participate in Friendlies unless determined otherwise by the Competition Administrator or Judicial Body;
- (e) sanctions operate so that the full amount of the sanction imposed, after applying the Range at the Table of Offences, is actually served in Matches forming part of a Competition; and
- (f) in relation to serving suspensions, the timing of when a sanction is imposed and the time period where the relevant Participant's Club is not participating in Matches forming part of a Competition should not produce a different result for Participants committing like Offences.

#### *Eligibility and suspensions*

- 12.2 A Participant who is suspended must serve his or her suspension in his or her Club's next official Match(es) forming part of a Competition (being the Competition in which the Offence was committed and suspension incurred, or another Competition).
- 12.3 Subject to clause 11.7 (Friendlies), a Participant who is suspended may not participate in any Match until he or she has served his or her suspension in Matches forming part of a Competition, provided that a Participant may participate in Friendlies during the period of suspension unless the Competition Administrator or Judicial Body determines otherwise.
- 12.4 A suspended Participant transferring to a new Club will be required to serve the remainder of that suspension with the new Club and will not be permitted to play or act in an official capacity (such as a Team Official) until the suspension has been served in its entirety with his or her new Club in Matches forming part of a Competition.
- 12.5 Where an Offence is committed and suspension incurred in one Competition (Competition A) and the Competition Administrator of Competition A determines that a Participant has transferred to a new Club in another Competition (Competition B) for the purpose (in whole or in part) of enabling the Participant to serve that suspension in Competition B, the Competition Administrator of Competition A may determine that any suspension served with the new Club in Competition B not be counted towards satisfaction of the suspension outstanding from Competition A.

- 12.6 If a Participant is under suspension and transfers to a new Club, that suspension must be disclosed by the Participant on any applicable registration form under the National Registration, Status and Transfer Regulations.

*Sanctions imposed in terms of time & effect of sanction coinciding with Non-playing Period*

- 12.7 Where a suspension is to be imposed in terms of a period of time, and some or all of the suspension coincides with any Non-playing Period(s), then such Non-playing Period(s) will not be counted towards the satisfaction of that suspension, unless the suspension is for a period of 24 months or more.
- 12.8 Subject to clauses 12.9 and 12.10, a Non-playing Period in relation to a Club means any time period between a Club's final Match in a League Competition and the Club's next Match:
- (a) in the following season of that Competition; or
  - (b) in another League Competition,
- (whichever comes first). If the Participant is also participating in a form of football other than eleven-a-side football (such as futsal or social football), a Judicial Body may determine that the Participant may participate for a team in such other form of football during the Non-playing Period.
- 12.9 Where a Club's final Match in a League Competition (Competition A) coincides with a period when that Club is still participating in another League Competition (Competition B), any time period between that Club's final Match in Competition A and the Club's next Match in Competition B does not constitute a Non-playing Period.
- 12.10 Where a Participant serves a suspension in a Competition which only comprises knock-out Matches (**Knock-out Cup**) during a Non-playing Period, a period of ten (10) days prior to that Knock-out Cup Match to the day of that Knock-out Cup Match will be counted towards satisfaction of that Participant's suspension provided that, for the avoidance of doubt:
- (a) any of those days which overlap with a period during a League Competition in which that Club is participating (Competition B) (i.e. after that Club's first Match in Competition B but before that Club's final Match in Competition B) will not be counted towards the satisfaction of that Participant's suspension; and
  - (b) any of those days which overlap with another ten (10) day period in respect of another Knock-out Cup Match will not be counted towards the satisfaction of that Participant's suspension.
- 12.11 By way of illustration of clauses 12.7 and 12.8 only, if:
- (a) a Competition Administrator, applying the Range at the Table of Offences, determines a six (6) month suspension is warranted for a Participant and such sanction is delivered on 1 June;
  - (b) that sanction is delivered while the Club is participating in the regular season of a League Competition (Competition A) and that Participant's Club's final Match in that Competition is on 31 October; and

- (c) that Participant's Club's next official match is in another League Competition (Competition B) on 1 March,

then the period between 1 November and 28 February is a Non-playing Period.

Accordingly, in accordance with clauses 12.7 and 12.8, the period between 1 November and 28 February will not be counted towards the satisfaction of that Participant's suspension.

12.12 By way of illustration of clause 12.9 only, if:

- (a) a suspended Participant's Club's final Match in a Competition (Competition A) is on 1 October and that final Match is during another Competition (Competition B) (i.e. after that Club's first Match in Competition B but before that Club's final Match in Competition B); and

- (b) that Club's next official Match is on 10 October in Competition B,

then the period between 2 October and 9 October does not constitute a Non-playing Period.

12.13 By way of illustration of clause 12.10 only, if:

- (a) a suspended Participant's Club's final Match in a League Competition (Competition A) is on 31 August; and

- (b) that Club's next official Matches are in a Knock-out Cup on 15 September and 15 October,

then:

- (c) the periods from 1 September to 5 September and 16 September to 5 October will be Non-playing Periods and will not be counted towards the satisfaction of the Participant's suspension; and

- (d) the periods from 6 September to 15 September and 6 October to 15 October will be counted towards the satisfaction of a Participant's suspension.

### **13. EFFECT OF ABANDONED MATCHES**

13.1 If a suspension is to be served in terms of matches, only those matches actually played count towards the execution of the suspension. If a Match is abandoned, cancelled or forfeited, a suspension is only considered to be served if the Team to which the suspended Participant belongs is not responsible for the conduct that led to the abandonment, cancellation or forfeiture.

13.2 A Yellow Card issued during an abandoned Match will be expunged if that Match is replayed and upheld if that Match is not replayed.

13.3 A Direct Red Card issued during an abandoned Match will be upheld, regardless of whether the Match is replayed or not.

## 14. COMMUNICATIONS

Otherwise than as permitted in accordance with the Laws of the Game, Participants must not use electronic communication systems during a Match. A Competition Administrator may sanction a Club, and/or a Club's Participants, for any use of electronic communication systems in breach of the Laws of the Game during a Match.

## 15. COMPETITION RULES

Subject to clauses 1.4 to 1.6, if there is any inconsistency between a term of these Regulations and a term of any Competition Rules, the term of these Regulations will govern to the extent of that inconsistency and the inconsistent term is void and of no effect.

## 16. PROVISIONS FOR TOURNAMENTS

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

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

## 17. DEFINITIONS AND INTERPRETATION

17.1 In these Regulations:

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

***A-League Women*** means the senior women's national competition staged in Australia by the APL, known as the Ninja A-League Women competition or such other name as notified by FA from time to time and includes any pre-season, regular season and finals Matches.

***A-Leagues Disciplinary Regulations*** means the rules and procedures that apply to the conduct of the A-League Men and A-Leagues Women and in particular the prosecution of disciplinary matters arising during Matches in the A-League Men or A-League Women competitions, including breaches of the Laws of the Game.

***Australian Championship*** means the second tier national men's club competition, staged by FA, known as the Australian Championship (or as otherwise notified by FA from time to time), including the pre-season, regular season and finals series.

***Australian Championship Disciplinary Regulations*** means the rules and procedures that apply to the conduct of the Australian Championship and in particular the prosecution

of disciplinary matters arising during Matches in the Australian Championship including breaches of the Laws of the Game.

**APL** means Australian Professional Leagues Company Pty Ltd (ACN 646 799 199) as trustee for the Australian Professional Leagues Trust ABN 95 869 867 692 being the Competition Administrator for the A-League Men and A-League Women, under licence from Football Australia.

**Applicant** has the meaning given in clause 10.2(a).

**Appeals Committee** means the appeals committee constituted by a Competition Administrator in accordance with its Grievance procedure that has jurisdiction over a Competition.

**Auckland FC** means the football club currently known as “Auckland FC” operated by Black Knight Football Club LP (NZBN 9429051697822).

**Australia Cup** means the national club competition staged by, or under the control of, FA between A-League, National Premier Leagues and grassroots clubs, currently known as the Australia Cup (or as otherwise notified by FA).

**Australia Cup Competition Regulations** means the competition regulations for the FA Cup, as promulgated by FA from time to time.

**Australia Cup Disciplinary Rules** has the meaning given in clause 1.6

**Club** means any club registered with FA in accordance with the National Registration, Status and Transfer Regulations from time to time. A reference to Club includes a club approved or licensed by:

- (a) a Competition Administrator to field a team in a Competition; or
- (b) FA to field a team in a National League or a National Championships and includes Wellington Phoenix FC and Auckland FC.

**Competition** means any competition, cup, tournament or league conducted by FA, or by the Competition Administrator and registered with FA in accordance with the National Registration, Status and Transfer Regulations, including a League Competition, a Knock-out Cup, any pre-season competition and finals series and age specific championships but excluding a Friendly.

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

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

**Disciplinary Committee** means the disciplinary committee constituted by a Competition Administrator in accordance with its grievance procedure that has jurisdiction over a Competition.

**Disciplinary Hearing Notice** means the notice issued by a Competition Administrator to a Participant citing him or her to appear before a Disciplinary Committee to be heard in relation to an alleged Offence (not including an Indirect Red Card Offence) and possible disciplinary sanction, which contains the content as prescribed in Prescribed Form 03.

**Disciplinary Infringement Notice** means the notice issued by a Competition Administrator to a Participant notifying of the disciplinary sanction imposed for the Offence committed by that Participant, which contains the content as prescribed in Prescribed Form 02. **Direct Red Card** means a Player Red Card issued for the sending-off offences R1 to R6 as defined in clause 2.7 or a Team Official Red Card issued for the sending-off offences R-TO1 to R-TO10 as defined in clause 2.13, whichever is applicable.

**Dual Club Player** means a Player approved by FA pursuant to Article 6.13 of the National Registration, Status and Transfer Regulations to play for more than one (1) Club in a particular form of the game.

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

- (a) the significance or importance to the Participant or his or her Club of the Match in which the Offence was committed;
- (b) the significance or importance of any match or tournament in which the Participant will be ineligible to participate because of the imposition of a sanction within the Range at the Table of Offences;
- (c) the point in the Match at which the Offence was committed;
- (d) the conduct, including actions, words or gestures of any Participant of the opposing team during or related to the Match; and
- (e) any disciplinary decision taken or failure to take a disciplinary decision by the Referee during the Match.

**FA** means Football Australia Limited (ABN 28 106 478 068) of Level 2, 4 Driver Avenue, Moore Park NSW 2021.

**FA Statutes** means FA's statutes as promulgated by FA from time to time, including its constitution, by-laws, rules and regulations, and policies and procedures.

**Further Offence** has the meaning given in clause 11.13.

**Friendly or Friendlies** means any Match participated in by a Club as sanctioned by FA or a Member Federation, which is not part of a Competition.

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

**Indirect Red Card** means a Player Red Card issued for the sending-off offence R7 as defined in clause 2.7 or a Team Official Red Card issued for the sending-of offence R-TO11 as defined in clause 2.13, whichever is applicable.

**Judicial Body** means a Disciplinary Committee or Appeals Committee.

**Knock-out Cup** has the meaning given in clause 12.10.

**Laws of the Game** means the official Laws of the Game and the Futsal Laws of the Game as drafted by the International Football Association Board and adopted by FIFA from time to time.

**League Competition** means a Competition that is not a Knock-out Cup.

**Mandatory Match Suspension** means the automatic suspension from participating in a Match or Matches in accordance with, and subject to, these Regulations.

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

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

**Member Protection Policy** means the National Member Protection Policy as promulgated by FA from time to time.

**Mistaken Identity** has the meaning given in clause 4.1.

**National Premier Leagues** means those Competitions designated by FA as National Premier Leagues, including state league competitions administered by a Member Federation.

**National Registration, Status and Transfer Regulations** or **NRSTRs** means the national regulations specifying the rules relating to the registration of Players, Officials, Clubs and Competitions with FA, as promulgated by FA from time to time (a current version of which can be obtained on [www.footballaustralia.com.au](http://www.footballaustralia.com.au) or on request).

**Non-playing Period** has the meaning given in clause 12.8.

**Obvious Error** has the meaning given in clause 4.3.

**Offence** means:

- (a) an offence listed in the:
  - (i) Players Table of Offences at paragraph 6 of Annexure A for Players; or
  - (ii) Team Officials Table of Offences at paragraph 7 of Annexure A for Team Officials; or
- (b) an Indirect Red Card.

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

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

**Player Red Card** means an expulsion of a Player by the Referee for an infringement as outlined in clause 2.7

**Player Yellow Card** means a caution of a Player by the Referee for an infringement outlined at clause 2.5.

**Players Table of Offences** means the various offences that can be committed by a Player contained in paragraph 6 of Annexure A.

**Professional** means a Player employed by a Club to play football under a professional player contract in accordance with the FA Statutes. **Range at the Table of Offences** means, in relation to each Offence (other than an Indirect Red Card), the range bounded by the minimum sanction prescribed in the Players Table of Offences or the Team Officials Table of Offences (as applicable) and the maximum prescribed at Annexure A.

**Red Card** means a Player Red Card or a Team Official Red Card.

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

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

**Regulations** means these National Disciplinary Regulations.

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

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

**Team Official Red Card** means an expulsion of a Team Official by the Referee for an infringement outlined at clause 2.13.

**Team Official Yellow Card** means a caution of a Team Official by the Referee for an infringement outlined at clause 2.11.

**Team Officials Table of Offences** means the various offences that can be committed by a Team Official contained in paragraph 7 of Annexure A.

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

**Wellington Phoenix FC** means the football club currently known as “Wellington Phoenix FC” operated by Welnix LP (No. 2553524).

**Yellow Card** means a Player Yellow Card or a Team Official Yellow Card.

17.2 In these Regulations:

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

17.3 For the avoidance of doubt, the operation and application of these Regulations does not limit any Participant from engaging in any process available under the Member Protection Policy.

17.4 FA may review and vary these Regulations from time to time or make any necessary amendments in its sole discretion, including to give effect to changes to FIFA Statutes or AFC Statutes.

## 18. Enforcement

These Regulations were approved by FA’s directors and come into force on 7 October 2025.

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## ANNEXURE A – TABLE OF OFFENCES

1. This Annexure specifies the Offences (other than an Indirect Red Card) sanctionable in accordance with these Regulations and the range of sanctions that applies to each of these Offences. In respect of Players, Column 1 in the Players Table of Offences also references the relevant sending-off offences R1 to R7 under the Laws of the Game. In respect of Team Officials, Column 1 in the Team Officials Table of Offences also references the relevant sending-off offences R-TO1 to R-TO10 under the Laws of the Game.
2. A Participant who has committed an Offence must receive a sanction within the Range at the Table of Offences.
3. Subject to clause 5.5 (**Exceptional Circumstances**) the range for each Offence is bounded at one end by the minimum sanction set out in the Players Table of Offences and the Team Officials Table of Offences (whichever is applicable) that must be applied and at the other end by the maximum sanction that may be applied.
4. Subject to clause 5.5 (**Exceptional Circumstances**), the maximum sanction that may be applied for each Offence is a suspension for a period of 24 months, except for Offence No. 11 (**Assault of a Match Official**) in the Players Table of Offences and Offence No. 13 in the Team Officials Table of Offences where the maximum sanction is suspension for life.
5. A Participant who commits an Offence is subject to the Minimum Sanction set out below in relation to each Offence. In respect of:
  - (a) Offences 4, 6, 7, 8, 10, 11 and 12 in the Players Table of Offences; and
  - (b) Offences 4, 8, 9, 12, 13 and 14 in the Team Officials Table of Offences,the Minimum Sanction is a combination of the Mandatory Match Suspension applicable in accordance with these Regulations and an additional match or matches suspension as specified in the Players Table of Offences or Team Officials Table of Offences (as applicable). For example, where a Player receives his or her second Direct Red Card in the regular season and under Competition Rules attracts a two (2) match Mandatory Match Suspension:
  - (c) for committing Offence No. 2 of the Table of Offences, he or she must receive at least the applicable Mandatory Match Suspension of two (2) matches and any additional match suspension appropriate in the circumstances up to a total sanction of 24 months; or
  - (d) for committing Offence No. 4 of the Table of Offences, he or she must receive at least the applicable Mandatory Match Suspension of two (2) matches plus the additional match suspension (which must be a minimum of one (1) additional match) appropriate in the circumstances up to a total sanction of 24 months.

## 6. PLAYERS TABLE OF OFFENCES

<b>Offence No.</b>	<b>Offence</b>	<b>Minimum Sanction</b>
1 (R4 or R5 for Players)	Denying the opposing team an obvious goal-scoring opportunity as prescribed by Law 12 of the Laws of the Game	The Mandatory Match Suspension
2 (R6 for Players)	Use of offensive, insulting or abusive language and/or gestures	The Mandatory Match Suspension
3 (R1 for Players)	Serious foul play (e.g. when challenging for the ball)	The Mandatory Match Suspension
4 (R2 for Players)	Assault on a Player (e.g. violent conduct when not challenging for the ball) or against any other person other than a Match Official, including an attempted assault	1 additional match plus the Mandatory Match Suspension
5 (R2 or R6 for Players)	Serious unsporting conduct towards an opponent or a person other than a Match Official	The Mandatory Match Suspension
6 (R6 for Players)	Use of discriminatory language and/or gestures, including racist, religious, ethnic or sexist conduct	4 additional matches plus the Mandatory Match Suspension
7 (R3 for Players)	Spitting at a Player or any other person other than a Match Official	5 additional matches plus the Mandatory Match Suspension
8 (R2 or R6 for Players)	Inciting a brawl	5 additional matches plus the Mandatory Match Suspension
<b>Specific Offences Against a Match Official</b>		
9 (R6 for Players)	Use of offensive, insulting or abusive language and/or gestures against a Match Official	The Mandatory Match Suspension
10 (R2 or R6 for Players)	Unsporting conduct toward a Match Official	3 additional matches plus the Mandatory Match Suspension
11 (R2 for Players)	Assault of a Match Official	6 months including the Mandatory Match Suspension
12 (R3 for Players)	Spitting at a Match Official	12 months Including the Mandatory Match Suspension

## 7. TEAM OFFICIALS TABLE OF OFFENCES

Offence No.	Offence	Minimum Sanction
1 (R-TO5 for Team Officials)	Entering the field of play to interfere with play or an opposing Player	The Mandatory Match Suspension
2 (R-TO6, R-TO7, or R-TO11 for Team Officials)	Deliberately leaving the Technical Area to act in a provocative or inflammatory manner or enter the opposing Technical Area in an aggressive or confrontational manner, or to enter the video operation room	The Mandatory Match Suspension
3 (R-TO3 for Team Officials)	Use of offensive, insulting or abusive language and/or gestures	The Mandatory Match Suspension
4 (R-TO1 or R-TO2 for Team Officials)	Assault on a Player, Team Official, spectator or any other person other than a Match Official (including physical or aggressive behaviour to such individuals)	1 additional match plus the Mandatory Match Suspension
5 (R-TO8 for Team Officials)	Deliberately throwing/ kicking an object onto the field of play	The Mandatory Match Suspension
6 (R-TO12 for Team Officials)	Using unauthorised electronic or communication equipment and/or behaving in an inappropriate manner as the result of using electronic or communication equipment	The Mandatory Match Suspension
7 (R-TO9 for Team Officials)	Delaying the restart of play by the opposing team (e.g. holding onto the ball, kicking the ball away, obstructing the movement of a Player)	The Mandatory Match Suspension
8 (R-TO3 for Team Officials)	Use of discriminatory language and/or gestures, including racist, religious, ethnic or sexist	4 additional matches plus the Mandatory Match Suspension
9 (R-TO4 for Team Officials)	Biting or spitting at a Player, Team Official or any other person other than a Match Official	5 additional matches plus the Mandatory Match Suspension
	Specific Offences Against a Match Official	
10 (R-TO3 for Team Officials)	Use of offensive, insulting or abusive language and/or gestures against a Match Official	The Mandatory Match Suspension
11 (R-TO5 or R-TO6 for Team Officials)	Deliberately leaving the Technical Area or entering the field of play to interfere with or confront a Match Official (including to show dissent towards or remonstrate with a Match Official)	The Mandatory Match Suspension
12 (R-TO1, R-TO2 or R-TO3 for Team Officials)	Unsporting conduct toward a Match Official	3 additional matches plus the Mandatory Match Suspension

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13 (R-TO1 or R-TO2 for Team Officials)	Assault of a Match Official	6 months including the Mandatory Match Suspension
14 (R-TO4 for Team Officials)	Biting or spitting at a Match Official	12 months Including the Mandatory Match Suspension

**ANNEXURE B – NDR PRESCRIBED FORM 01: REFEREE REPORT**

**ANNEXURE C – NDR PRESCRIBED FORM 02: DISCIPLINARY INFRINGEMENT NOTICE**

**ANNEXURE D – NDR PRESCRIBED FORM 03: DISCIPLINARY HEARING NOTICE**

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## ANNEXURE E – AUSTRALIA CUP DISCIPLINARY RULES

### 1. Definitions

In this Annexure E:

**Appeal Committee** means the committee so named and established in accordance with the Judicial Bodies By-Law and convened by FA from time to time.

**Australia Cup Competition Regulations** means the competition regulations for the Australia Cup, as promulgated by FA from time to time.

**Australia Cup Final** has the meaning given to it within the Australia Cup Competition Regulations.

**Australia Cup Player Roster** means the roster of Players for each Club maintained in accordance with the Australia Cup Competition Regulations.

**Chair** has the meaning given to it in the Judicial Bodies By-Law.

**Deputy Chair** has the meaning given to it in the Judicial Bodies By-Law.

**Disciplinary Counsel** means the person appointed by FA in accordance with item 17 of Annexure E.

**Disciplinary and Ethics Committee** means the committee so named and established in accordance with the Judicial Bodies By-Law and convened by FA from time to time.

**Final Rounds** means the Australia Cup Round of 32 and onwards.

**Final Rounds Playoff Match** means a match in the Final Rounds Playoffs.

**Immune Persons** has the meaning prescribed in item 26 of Annexure E.

**Investigations Officer** means the person appointed by FA from time to time in accordance with item 13 of Annexure E.

**Match Review Panel** means the panel appointed by FA from time to time in accordance with item 5(a) of Annexure E.

**Maximum Sanction** has the meaning given at item 4 of Annexure A.4.

**Minimum Sanctions** has the meaning given at item 5 of Annexure A5.

**Mobile and Communication Devices Policy** means the mobile and communication devices policy, as promulgated by FA from time to time.

**Officials on the Substitution Bench Form** means the form used to nominate those Team Officials eligible to appear on the substitution bench during an Australia Cup Match, as prescribed by FA from time to time.

**Preliminary Rounds** means the rounds of the Australia Cup preceding the Final Rounds.

**Quarter Finals** has the meaning given to it within the Australia Cup Competition Regulations.

**Round of 16** has the meaning given to it within the Australia Cup Competition Regulations.

**Round of 32** has the meaning given to it within the Australia Cup Competition Regulations.

**Semi Finals** has the meaning given to it within the Australia Cup Competition Regulations.

**Simulation** means an act or attempt by a Participant to deceive the Referee by feigning injury or pretending to have been fouled.

**Team Misconduct** has the meaning given to it in item 12(b) of Annexure E.

## 2. General Disciplinary Rules

- (a) The Australia Cup Disciplinary Rules in these Regulations are set by FA as the Competition Administrator of the Australia Cup and form part of these Regulations.
- (b) The Australia Cup Disciplinary Rules in these Regulations are the Australia Cup Disciplinary Regulations for the purposes of the Judicial Bodies By-Law.
- (c) This Annexure E of these Regulations supplements these Regulations which apply to disciplinary matters arising in or in relation to a Match or Matches within the Australia Cup, or such other Matches or disciplinary matters that would otherwise relate to or effect participation in a Match or Matches in the Australia Cup.
- (d) Unless otherwise expressly specified to the extent of any inconsistency between this Annexure E and these Regulations, this Annexure E will prevail to the extent that inconsistency relates to the application of item 2(c) immediately above.
- (e) In accordance with the Australia Cup Competition Regulations, Member Federations shall administer the disciplinary procedures for the Preliminary Rounds in accordance with this Annexure E and these Regulations, which are applicable to the Preliminary Rounds, as set out in this Annexure E. Notwithstanding the foregoing, FA reserves the right to require the Member Federation to enforce the disciplinary procedures in relation to the Preliminary Rounds at any time in its sole and absolute discretion.

## 3. Authorities and Jurisdiction

- (a) FA:
  - (i) administers the Australia Cup;
  - (ii) may exercise any of the powers granted to it under these Regulations;
  - (iii) must convene the Disciplinary and Ethics Committee and the Appeal Committee to make determinations as required under these Regulations;
  - (iv) will constitute a Match Review Panel to operate in accordance with these Regulations;
  - (v) will appoint a Disciplinary Counsel to act in accordance with these Regulations;

- (vi) must give effect to the sanctions applied pursuant to these Regulations and, where appropriate, impose further sanctions if a Participant contravenes the terms of a sanction;
- (b) may appoint an Investigations Officer to operate in accordance with these Regulations.
- (c) The Disciplinary and Ethics Committee must determine matters that have been referred to it and impose such sanctions as are authorised and appropriate to the determination arising from Australia Cup Matches as specified and in accordance with these Regulations and the FA Statutes.
- (d) The Appeal Committee has jurisdiction to hear appeals from the Disciplinary and Ethics Committee and appeals pursuant to item 22(b) and must determine appeals, including imposition of any sanction, in accordance with these Regulations and the FA Statutes.
- (e) The Match Review Panel refers matters to the Disciplinary and Ethics Committee arising from Australia Cup Matches as specified in accordance with these Regulations and the FA Statutes.

#### **4. Infringements by Players**

##### ***Player Yellow Cards***

- (a) Subject to items 4(h) and 4(o), a Player who accumulates the following number of Player Yellow Cards will serve the Mandatory Match Suspension:
  - (i) for the Preliminary Rounds, three (3) Player Yellow Cards equates to a one (1) Match suspension, being one (1) Australia Cup Match; and
  - (ii) for the Final Rounds Playoff Matches and the Final Rounds, three (3) Player Yellow Cards equates to a one (1) Match suspension, being one (1) Australia Cup Match.
- (b) All suspensions imposed on Players in accordance with item 4(a) are to be served exclusively in the Australia Cup.
- (c) The accumulation of Player Yellow Cards during Preliminary Rounds will be reset to zero (0) at the end of the Preliminary Rounds. This means that Player Yellow Cards accumulated in the Preliminary Rounds do not carry over to the Final Rounds.
- (d) For clarity, Player Yellow Cards accumulated in the Final Rounds Playoff Matches carry over to the Final Rounds.
- (e) The accumulation of Player Yellow Cards during the Final Rounds Playoff Matches, Round of 32, Round of 16 and Quarter Finals will be reset to zero (0) at the end of the Quarter Finals stage.
- (f) The accumulation of Player Yellow Cards during the Semi Finals and the Australia Cup Final will be reset to zero (0) at the end of the Australia Cup Final.

- (g) Suspensions incurred due to the accumulation of Player Yellow Cards from the Preliminary Rounds and/or Final Rounds will apply to the next Australia Cup Match in which the suspended Player's team competes. For the avoidance of doubt, this includes Preliminary Rounds, the Final Rounds Playoff Matches, Final Rounds and also Australia Cup Matches held in the season following the season in which the suspension was incurred, including where that Player may have transferred to another Club.
- (h) If a Player receives two (2) Player Yellow Cards during the same Australia Cup Match and therefore receives an indirect Player Red Card, the two (2) Player Yellow Cards do not count for the purposes of accumulation.
- (i) If a Player receives a Player Yellow Card and then a direct Player Red Card in the same Preliminary Rounds Match, the Player Yellow Card will count in the Player's accumulation of Player Yellow Cards. Further, if receipt of this Player Yellow Card means the Player must serve a Mandatory Match Suspension due to an accumulation of Player Yellow Cards in accordance with item 4(a), the suspensions for the accumulation of Player Yellow Cards and the direct Player Red Card respectively must be served consecutively and not concurrently.
- (j) Where an Australia Cup Match is postponed, forfeited or abandoned in accordance with the Australia Cup Competition Regulations:
  - (i) any Player Yellow Cards received by Players during any part or portion of the relevant Australia Cup Match played prior to such postponement, forfeiture or abandonment will not count for the purposes of accumulation; however,
  - (ii) any Player Red Cards, direct or indirect, received by Players during any part or portion of the relevant Australia Cup Match played prior to such postponement, forfeiture or abandonment will stand, and the Player must serve any applicable suspension in the same manner as if such Australia Cup Match had been completed.
- (k) For a Player to be deemed to have served a suspension in an Australia Cup Match, the Player must appear on his Club's Australia Cup Player Roster for such Australia Cup Match.

#### ***Player Red Cards***

- (l) A Player Red Card is an order given by the Referee to a Player to leave the field of play, its surrounds and the Technical Area, such order to be given at any time from when the Referee enters the field of play for a pre-match Australia Cup Match inspection until he or she leaves the field of play after the Australia Cup Match ends (including kicks from the penalty mark).
- (m) A Player Red Card is regarded as indirect if it is the result of the accumulation of two (2) Player Yellow Cards in the same Australia Cup Match and as direct in all other

cases. Where a Player receives an indirect Player Red Card, he will serve a Mandatory Match Suspension.

- (n) Where an Australia Cup Match is postponed, forfeited or abandoned in accordance with the Australia Cup Competition Regulations, further to item 4(j)(ii) any Player Red Cards, direct or indirect, received by Players during any part or portion of the relevant Australia Cup Match played prior to such postponement, forfeiture or abandonment will stand, and the Player must serve any applicable suspension in the same manner as if such Australia Cup Match had been completed.
- (o) For a Player to be deemed to have served a suspension in an Australia Cup Match, the Player must appear on his Club's Australia Cup Player Roster for such Australia Cup Match.

## **5. Infractions by Team Officials**

### ***Team Official Yellow Cards***

- (a) Subject to items 5(h) and 5(o), a Team Official who accumulates three (3) Team Official Yellow Cards during the Final Rounds will serve the Mandatory Match Suspension of one (1) Match, being one (1) Australia Cup Match.
- (b) All suspensions imposed on Team Officials in accordance with item 5(a) are to be served exclusively in the Australia Cup.
- (c) The accumulation of Team Official Yellow Cards during the Final Rounds Playoff will be reset to zero (0) at the end of the Final Rounds Playoff.
- (d) The accumulation of Team Official Yellow Cards during the Round of 32, Round of 16 and Quarter Finals will be reset to zero (0) at the end of the Quarter Finals stage.
- (e) The accumulation of Team Official Yellow Cards during the Semi Finals and the Australia Cup Final will be reset to zero (0) at the end of the Australia Cup Final.
- (f) Suspensions incurred due to the accumulation of Team Official Yellow Cards from the Final Rounds will apply to the next Australia Cup Match in which the suspended Team Official's team competes. For the avoidance of doubt, this includes the Final Rounds Playoff, Final Rounds and also Australia Cup Matches held in the season following the season in which the suspension was incurred, including where that Team Official may have registered with another Club.
- (g) If a Team Official receives two (2) Team Official Yellow Cards during the same Australia Cup Match and therefore receives an indirect Team Official Red Card, the two (2) Team Official Yellow Cards do not count for the purposes of accumulation.
- (h) If a Team Official receives a Team Official Yellow Card and then a direct Team Official Red Card in the same Australia Cup Match, the Team Official Yellow Card will count in the Team Official's accumulation of Yellow Cards. Further, if receipt of this Yellow Card means the Team Official must serve a Mandatory Match Suspension due to an accumulation of Team Official Yellow Cards in accordance

with item 5(a), the suspensions for the accumulation of Team Official Yellow Cards and the direct Team Official Red Card respectively must be served consecutively and not concurrently.

- (i) Where an Australia Cup Match is postponed, forfeited or abandoned in accordance with the Australia Cup Competition Regulations:
  - (i) any Team Official Yellow Cards received by Team Officials during any part or portion of the relevant Australia Cup Match played prior to such postponement, forfeiture or abandonment will not count for the purposes of accumulation; however,
  - (ii) any Team Official Red Cards, direct or indirect, received by Team Officials during any part or portion of the relevant Australia Cup Match played prior to such postponement, forfeiture or abandonment will stand, and the Team Official must serve any applicable suspension in the same manner as if such Australia Cup Match had been completed.
- (j) For a Team Official to be deemed to have served a suspension in an Australia Cup Match, the Team Official must appear on his Club's Australia Cup Officials on the Substitution Bench Form for such Australia Cup Match.

#### ***Team Official Red Cards***

- (k) A Team Official Red Card is an order given by the Referee to a Team Official to leave the field of play, its surrounds and the Technical Area, such order to be given at any time from when the Referee enters the field of play for a pre-match Australia Cup Match inspection until he or she leaves the field of play after the Australia Cup Match ends (including kicks from the penalty mark).
- (l) A Team Official Red Card is regarded as indirect if it is the result of the accumulation of two (2) Team Official Yellow Cards in the same Australia Cup Match and as direct in all other cases. Where a Team Official receives an indirect Team Official Red Card, he or she will serve a Mandatory Match Suspension.
- (m) Where an Australia Cup Match is postponed, forfeited or abandoned in accordance with clause 12 of the Regulations, further to item 5(i)(ii), any Team Official Red Cards, direct or indirect, received by Team Officials during any part or portion of the relevant Australia Cup Match played prior to such postponement, forfeiture or abandonment will stand, and the Team Official must serve any applicable suspension in the same manner as if such Australia Cup Match had been completed.
- (n) For a Team Official to be deemed to have served a suspension in an Australia Cup Match, the Team Official must appear on his Club's Australia Cup Officials on the Substitution Bench Form for such Australia Cup Match.

***Participants Registered as both a Player and Team Official***

- (o) A Participant who is registered as both a Player and a Team Official in the Australia Cup and who accumulates three (3) Yellow Cards during the course of the Final Rounds, must serve a Mandatory Match Suspension of one (1) Australia Cup Match.

**6. Constitution of Bodies**

***Match Review Panel***

- (a) The Match Review Panel will be constituted by three (3) members appointed from time to time by the Chief Executive Officer of FA of which at least one (1) will be a former national referee and one (1) a former professional player.
- (b) The Match Review Panel will reach decisions by a majority verdict, each member entitled to cast one (1) vote except when making a determination pursuant to item 8(a) when its decision must be unanimous.

***Disciplinary and Ethics Committee***

- (c) FA from time to time will appoint a Chair, a Deputy Chair and the number of members deemed necessary for the proper functioning of the Disciplinary and Ethics Committee. A Chair and Deputy Chair must have legal qualifications.
- (d) The Disciplinary and Ethics Committee has jurisdiction to determine matters referable to it pursuant to these Regulations.
- (e) In a hearing, the Disciplinary and Ethics Committee must consist of three (3) persons (including a Chair).
- (f) Each member of the Disciplinary and Ethics Committee has and must exercise a single vote and all decisions of the Disciplinary and Ethics Committee will be made by majority vote.

***Appeal Committee***

- (g) FA from time to time will appoint a Chair, a Deputy Chair and the number of members deemed necessary for the proper functioning of the Appeal Committee. A Chair and Deputy Chair must have legal qualifications.
- (h) The Appeal Committee has jurisdiction to determine appeals from Determinations of the Disciplinary and Ethics Committee in accordance with these Regulations and appeals by Clubs in the case of sanctions issued by FA for Team Misconduct.
- (i) In a hearing, the Appeal Committee must consist of three (3) persons (including a Chair and at least one former professional player).
- (j) Each member of the Appeal Committee has and must exercise a single vote and all decisions of the Appeal Committee will be made by majority vote.

## 7. Direct Player Red Cards and Direct Team Official Red Cards

- (a) For the Preliminary Rounds, the Minimum Sanctions set out in the Players Table of Offences and Team Officials Table of Offences (as applicable) must be applied by the relevant Member Federation to Player Red Card Offences and to Team Official Red Card Offences.
- (b) For the Final Rounds Playoff Matches and Final Rounds, the Minimum Sanctions set out in the Players Table of Offences and Team Officials Table of Offences (as applicable) will be applied by FA to Player Red Card Offences and to Team Official Red Card Offences unless where:
  - (i) the prescribed Minimum Sanction for the Player Red Card or Team Official Red Card offence is four (4) matches or more (including the Mandatory Match Suspension); or
  - (ii) there is sufficient evidence that leads FA to consider that the incident is of such a serious nature that applying the Minimum Sanction only may be grossly inadequate in the circumstances,  
in which case, FA will issue a Disciplinary Notice which:
    - (iii) notifies the Participant of the Minimum Sanction (inclusive of the Mandatory Match Suspension which must be served); and
    - (iv) refers the matter to the Disciplinary and Ethics Committee for hearing and determination of the sole question of what additional sanction should be imposed (above the Minimum Sanction (inclusive of the Mandatory Match Suspension which must be served)) applying the Range at the Table of Offences in accordance with these Regulations.

## 8. Obvious Error – Expunging Red Cards

- (a) Where there is sufficient evidence that leads FA to consider that an Obvious Error (within the meaning of item 8(b)) may have been made by a Referee in the Final Rounds Playoff Matches or the Final Rounds then FA will refer the incident to the Match Review Panel, who if forming the unanimous view that an Obvious Error has been made, shall make a determination in the case of a:
  - (i) Player, that the Player is not required to serve the Mandatory Match Suspension and that the Player Red Card be expunged from the record of the Player; and
  - (ii) Team Official, that the Team Official is not required to serve the Mandatory Match Suspension and that the Team Official Red Card be expunged from the record of the Player.
- (b) An Obvious Error for the purposes of item 8(a) means a decision by a Referee to:
  - (i) issue a direct Player Red Card when no card was warranted;

- (ii) issue a direct Team Official Red Card when no card was warranted; or
  - (iii) issue a direct Player Red Card for denying the opposing team an obvious goal-scoring opportunity where there was no obvious goal scoring opportunity,  
being such a decision that no referee in the possession of all the facts, including all available evidence, could reasonably have made.
- (c) For the avoidance of doubt, there is no right of appeal or other review of the determination of the Match Review Panel under item 8(a).

## **9. Obvious Error – FA Citations**

- (a) Where there is sufficient evidence that leads FA to consider that an Obvious Error (within the meaning of item 9(b)) may have been made by a Referee in the Final Rounds Playoff Matches or the Final Rounds and FA considers that the application of the Minimum Sanction only would be grossly inadequate in the circumstances had the Obvious Error not been made, FA will issue a Disciplinary Notice to the relevant Participant which:
- (i) includes reasonable details of the alleged Offence; and
  - (ii) refers the matter to the Disciplinary and Ethics Committee for hearing and determination as to whether an Offence has been committed, and if so, as to what sanction should be imposed applying the Range at the Table of Offences.
- (b) An Obvious Error for the purposes of item 9(a) means a decision by a Referee to:
- (i) issue a Player Yellow Card when a direct Player Red Card was warranted;
  - (ii) issue a Team Official Yellow Card when a direct Team Official Red Card was warranted;
  - (iii) not issue any card when a direct Player Red Card was warranted; or
  - (iv) not issue any card when a Team Official Red Card was warranted,
- being such a decision that no referee in the possession of all the facts, including all available evidence, could reasonably have made.

## **10. Obvious Error – Simulation**

- (a) Where there is sufficient evidence that leads FA to consider that, in relation to the Final Rounds Playoff Matches or the Final Rounds:
- (i) a Player may be guilty of Simulation;
  - (ii) an Obvious Error (within the meaning of item 10(d)) may have been made by a Referee; and
  - (iii) the incident involving the possible Simulation by the Player resulted in:

- (A) a penalty kick being awarded to the Player's team;
- (B) a direct Player Red Card being issued to a Player of the opposing team which is expunged in accordance with item 8(a); or
- (C) a Player Yellow Card being issued to a Player of the opposing team directly as a result of the alleged act of Simulation,

FA will refer the matter to the Match Review Panel, who if determining on the basis of the evidence reviewed, that there is a case to answer must issue a Disciplinary Notice to the Player which:

- (iv) includes reasonable details of the alleged Simulation; and
  - (v) refers the matter directly to the Disciplinary and Ethics Committee for hearing and determination as to whether:
    - (A) the Player was guilty of Simulation; and
    - (B) an Obvious Error was made.
- (b) If at a hearing conducted pursuant to a referral under item 10(a) the Disciplinary and Ethics Committee determines all three elements set out in items 10(a)(i) to 10(a)(iii) are established, it must impose a sanction of a suspension of:
- (i) two (2) matches where the Simulation committed by the Player resulted in:
    - (A) a penalty kick being awarded to the Player's team in accordance with item 10(a)(iii)(A);
    - (B) a Player Red Card being issued to a Player in accordance with item 10(a)(iii)(B);
    - (C) an indirect Player Red Card being issued to a Player due to that Player receiving a Player Yellow Card in accordance with item 10(a)(iii)(C); or
  - (ii) one (1) match where the Simulation committed by the Participant resulted in a Player Yellow Card being issued to a Player in accordance with item 10(a)(iii)(C).
- (c) Where the Disciplinary and Ethics Committee determines that all three elements set out in items 10(a)(i) to 10(a)(iii) are established, the Disciplinary and Ethics Committee must make a determination that where the Simulation committed by the Player resulted in the affected Player of the opposing team receiving:
- (i) an indirect Player Red Card due to the other Player being guilty of Simulation, then the affected Player is not required to serve the Mandatory Match Suspension and the Player Yellow Card issued due to the other Player being guilty of Simulation is expunged from the record of the affected Player; or
  - (ii) only one (1) Player Yellow Card due to the other Player being guilty of Simulation, that Yellow Card does not count for the purposes of

accumulation and the Player Yellow Card issued due to the other Player being guilty of Simulation is expunged from the record of the affected Player.

- (d) An Obvious Error for the purposes of item 10(a) means a decision by the Referee not to issue a Player Yellow Card to a Player directly as a result of a Participant engaging in Simulation when a Player Yellow Card for engaging in Simulation was warranted, being such a decision that no referee in the possession of all the facts, including all available evidence, could reasonably have made.

## **11. Incidents escaping the Referee's attention**

- (a) Where, in relation to the Final Rounds Playoff Matches or the Final Rounds:
- (i) an incident has escaped the Referee's attention (within the meaning of item 11(b)); and
  - (ii) there is sufficient evidence of a type determined by FA (including evidence gathered by an Investigations Officer who may be appointed by FA to investigate an incident in the Final Rounds Playoff Matches or Final Rounds) which leads FA to consider that an Offence may have been committed and:
    - (A) the prescribed Minimum Sanction for the Player Red Card Offence or the Team Official Red Card Offence is four (4) matches or more (including the Mandatory Match Suspension); or
    - (B) FA considers that the incident is of such a serious nature that applying the Minimum Sanction only would be grossly inadequate in the circumstances had the incident not escaped the Referee's attention,
- then FA will issue a Disciplinary Notice which:
- (iii) includes reasonable details of the alleged Offence; and
  - (iv) refers the matter to the Disciplinary and Ethics Committee for hearing to determine if a Player Red Card Offence or Team Official Red Card Offence has been committed and if so, what sanction should be imposed applying the Range at the Table of Offences in accordance with the Regulations.
- (b) An incident has escaped the attention of the Referee for the purposes of item 11(a) if the Referee confirms to FA that either the Referee did not see the incident, his or her view of the incident was not sufficiently clear for him or her to rule on the incident or the incident was not drawn to his or her attention by an assistant referee, fourth official or, if applicable, Video Assistant Referee.

## **12. Team Misconduct**

- (a) Each Club must ensure that its Participants do not engage in Team Misconduct.
- (b) Team Misconduct in relation to a Club is where in the Australia Cup:

- (i) five (5) of its Participants are cautioned or sent off during that Australia Cup Match;
  - (ii) three (3) of its Participants are sent off during that Australia Cup Match;
  - (iii) its Players and Officials collectively show dissent towards a Match Official or collectively seek to intimidate, threaten or exert pressure on a Match Official to make or alter a decision in an Australia Cup Match; or
  - (iv) its Participants engage in a melee or brawl in an Australia Cup Match.
- (c) In accordance with the FIFA Disciplinary Code, FA may sanction a Club whose Participants engage in Team Misconduct in Final Round Matches and the relevant Member Federation may sanction a Club whose Participants engage in Team Misconduct in the Preliminary Rounds.
- (d) In determining whether to sanction a Club whose Participants are found to have engaged in Team Misconduct, FA (in the case of the Final Rounds Playoff Matches and the Final Rounds) or the Member Federation (in the case of the Preliminary Rounds) may consider any exceptional circumstances which it deems applies (as determined in FA's or the Member Federation's (as the case may be) sole and absolute discretion), including where extra time has been played during the relevant Australia Cup Match.
- (e) Any decision by FA that a Club has committed Team Misconduct (in the case of the Final Rounds Playoff Matches or the Final Rounds) is final and not subject to appeal. The Club may appeal the severity of the sanction imposed by FA to the Appeal Committee in accordance with items 22(b) and 22(e).

### **13. Investigations Officer**

- (a) FA may appoint an Investigations Officer to investigate an incident during the Final Round Playoff Matches or a Final Round Match involving a Participant that has escaped the Referee's attention and of which there is no or only partial Broadcast Footage.
- (b) FA may on receipt of a report from the Investigations Officer, issue a Disciplinary Notice to the Participant that:
- (i) includes reasonable details of the alleged Offence; and
  - (ii) refers the matter to the Disciplinary and Ethics Committee for hearing to determine if an Offence has been committed and if so, what sanction should be imposed in accordance with these Regulations.

### **14. Red Cards and Suspensions**

- (a) Subject to items 14(b) and 14(f), a Participant that is:
- (i) issued with a Player Red Card; or

- (ii) issued with a Team Official Red Card,  
during an Australia Cup Match:
  - (iii) must proceed directly to the Club's designated dressing room in the first instance;
  - (iv) must not for the remainder of the Australia Cup Match, enter the field of play, the surrounds of the field of play or the Technical Area or occupy the Players' race;
  - (v) must not until one (1) hour after the conclusion of the Australia Cup Match, have contact with:
    - (A) the Broadcast Partner or any other media where the purpose of such contact is for it to be electronically broadcast to the public, including (but not limited to) participating in any post-match press conference and participating in television or radio interviews (with the exception of the Head Coach who will be required to fulfil their media commitments at the conclusion of the Australia Cup Match); and
    - (B) any Participant while that person is in an area outlined in item 14(a)(iv) above;
  - (vi) may, if the Venue facilitates it, be escorted to a suitable secure area within the Venue to observe the remainder of the Australia Cup Match. Should the Venue not provide access to a coach's box or an alternative secure area, it will be at the discretion of the Home Club to determine the most secure place for the Participant to be positioned for the remainder of the Australia Cup Match; and
  - (vii) in the case of a Participant who is a minor, an adult Team Official must remain with the minor at all times once they have left the field.
- (b) A Doctor or Physiotherapist who is issued with a direct Team Official Red Card, may remain in the Technical Area for the remainder of the Australia Cup Match if the Club does not have another medical person available and may act if a Player requires medical attention during the Australia Cup Match.
- (c) Subject to item 14(f) while serving a suspension, a Participant may not in relation to an Australia Cup Match:
  - (i) on the day an Australia Cup Match is being conducted, enter the field of play, the surrounds of the field of the play, the Technical Area, the Players' race, the dressing rooms or any other place within a Venue where Participants are likely to assemble to prepare for that Australia Cup Match;
  - (ii) if attending an Australia Cup Match, be seated in a Venue area normally reserved for Participants; and

- (iii) within two (2) hours of the start of the Australia Cup Match from which the Participant is suspended and within one (1) hour of the conclusion of the Australia Cup Match from which the Participant is suspended have any contact with:
    - (A) the Broadcast Partner or any other media where the purpose of such contact is for it to be electronically broadcast to the public, including (but not limited to) participating in any post-match press conference and participating in television or radio interviews; and
    - (B) any Participant while that Participant is in an area included within item 14(c)(i) above other than where the suspended Participant is a Team Official and such contact is text-based communication only via a mobile or communication device and is otherwise permitted in accordance with the Mobile and Communication Devices Policy.
- (d) In accordance with clause 11 of these Regulations, if a Participant commits an Offence in the Australia Cup, the Participant will serve any suspension imposed in his Club's next competitive fixture(s) in domestic competitions. Further, notwithstanding any regulation to the contrary prescribed by a Member Federation, any Participant who receives a suspension for an Offence in a match forming part of a competition administered by a Member Federation, must serve that suspension in that Club's next Australia Cup Match where such Australia Cup Match is such Club's next competitive fixture.
- (e) Otherwise than as permitted in accordance with the Australia Cup Competition Regulations, these Regulations, the Laws of the Game or the Mobile and Communication Devices Policy, Participants must not use electronic communication systems during an Australia Cup Match. FA may sanction a Club and/or a Club's Participants for any use of electronic communications systems in breach of the Laws of the Game or the Mobile and Communication Devices Policy during an Australia Cup Match.
- (f) In the event there is a post-match presentation for an Australia Cup Match (for example, the Australia Cup Final trophy presentation), a Participant that:
  - (i) has, during that Australia Cup Final, been issued with a Player Red Card or a Team Official Red Card; or
  - (ii) is serving a suspension in that Australia Cup Final,  
may at the conclusion of the Australia Cup Final:
    - (iii) enter the field of play, the surrounds of the field, Technical Area or the Player's race to participate in the post-match presentation; and
    - (iv) have contact with the Broadcast Partner or any other media where the purpose of such contact is for it to be electronically broadcast to the public, unless determined otherwise by FA in its sole and absolute discretion.

## 15. Application of sanctions and administrative and hearing procedures

The following items 16 to 27 shall apply to conduct occurring in the Final Rounds Playoff Matches and Final Round Matches only.

## 16. Sanctions – Right to Sanction

- (a) For conduct in Final Rounds Playoff Matches and Final Round Matches only, a Judicial Body:
  - (i) may, subject to these Regulations, impose the types of sanctions as specified in the FA Constitution;
  - (ii) must determine the scope and duration of each sanction in accordance with these Regulations;
  - (iii) must determine what sanction it considers should apply, which in the case of:
    - (A) an appeal from the Determination of the Disciplinary and Ethics Committee; or
    - (B) an appeal against a decision of FA pursuant to item 22(b),  
may be the same as, less or greater than the additional sanction imposed by the Disciplinary and Ethics Committee or FA, whichever applies; and
  - (iv) is not bound by the categorisation of an offence by the Referee or other Match Official.
- (b) When determining any appropriate sanction in accordance with the Range at the Table of Offences, a Judicial Body may consider:
  - (i) the nature and severity of the Offence, including whether it was intentional, negligent or reckless;
  - (ii) the Participant's past record and whether or not this is a repeated Offence;
  - (iii) the remorse of the Participant; and
  - (iv) any extenuating circumstances relevant to the commission of the Offence.
- (c) Where an additional sanction above the Minimum Sanction is to be imposed, a sanction outside of the Range at the Table of Offences may be imposed by a Judicial Body only in Exceptional Circumstances that must be detailed in the Determination, provided always that the Mandatory Match Suspension must be served.
- (d) FA may, where appropriate, impose further sanctions if a Participant contravenes the terms of a sanction imposed under these Regulations.

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## **Administrative and Hearing Procedures**

### **17. Role of FA**

#### ***Disciplinary Counsel***

- (a) FA will appoint a person to act as Disciplinary Counsel in hearings of a Judicial Body conducted in accordance with these Regulations.
- (b) The Disciplinary Counsel will be a barrister or solicitor of any state or territory of Australia.
- (c) The Disciplinary Counsel will:
  - (i) in a Disciplinary and Ethics Committee hearing, appear at that hearing to present the evidence, examine and cross-examine witnesses and make submissions to the Disciplinary and Ethics Committee in support of the charge and as to the appropriate sanction; and
  - (ii) in an Appeal Committee hearing, appear before the Appeal Committee on the hearing of the appeal and make such submissions as are, in the circumstances, appropriate,having regard to the objectives, interests and responsibilities of FA as a member of FIFA and as the governing body of football in Australia.
- (d) In the discharge of any of the functions and responsibilities with which the Disciplinary Counsel is charged and in the exercise of any of the powers and authorities which are conferred, the Disciplinary Counsel must at all times:
  - (i) act independently of a Judicial Body, impartially and fairly; and
  - (ii) be aware of, and have regard to the objectives, interests and responsibilities of FA as a member of FIFA and as the governing body of football in Australia.
- (e) FA will brief the Disciplinary Counsel with the following information:
  - (i) all evidence required to support the case, including the Referee's Reports, and Match Official Reports, any report of the Match Review Panel or any other relevant report, Broadcast Footage, and any statement from witnesses;
  - (ii) the applicant's disciplinary history;
  - (iii) any written submission or supporting material received by FA from the Participant;
  - (iv) if applicable, any decision of the Disciplinary and Ethics Committee; and
  - (v) upon request by the Disciplinary Counsel, any reasonably available additional evidence or information as may in his opinion be required to adequately present the case before the Judicial Body.

- (f) The discharge by the Disciplinary Counsel of any of the functions and responsibilities with which the Disciplinary Counsel is charged or the exercise by the Disciplinary Counsel of any of the powers and authorities which are conferred on the Disciplinary Counsel shall not be capable of review and, in any event, shall not be justiciable.

***Administrator***

- (g) FA will appoint an Administrator to ensure the efficient operation of these Regulations.
- (h) The Administrator will:
  - (i) collate all submissions, documents and evidence received by FA or relevant to the review by the Match Review Panel or a hearing;
  - (ii) provide copies of Disciplinary Notices, other notices and Determinations to the Participant;
  - (iii) provide all evidence upon which the Disciplinary Counsel proposes to rely to the Participant in a timely manner;
  - (iv) provide administrative assistance and information to the Disciplinary Counsel in accordance with item 17(e);
  - (v) convene all hearings of a Judicial Body as soon as practicable and, if an urgent hearing is required convene an urgent hearing;
  - (vi) be the central point of contact for the Participant and the Disciplinary Counsel and ensure that all timeframes and requirements are met; and
  - (vii) perform all tasks prescribed to the Administrator and any incidental tasks necessary to ensure the smooth and efficient operation of these Regulations.

**18. Conduct of Hearings**

- (a) Hearings may be conducted by teleconference or videoconference.
- (b) In respect of hearings, it is the responsibility of the Club and the Participant to make certain that:
  - (i) the Participant and his representative have in their possession all the materials they need to conduct the hearing, including any materials provided by FA, a copy of these Regulations and a copy of the Laws of the Game;
  - (ii) the Administrator has been provided with any witness statements, reports or other evidence intended to be relied upon by the Participant in accordance with item 19(e);
  - (iii) if the Participant wishes to participate by teleconference, the Participant and his representative can both hear and participate in the hearing on a working speaker phone;

- (iv) the Participant has access to an interpreter if necessary; and
  - (v) the Participant and his representative have watched, and have the facilities to be able to watch the Broadcast Footage or any verified technical venue footage (if available) of the incident during the hearing.
- (c) Hearings of the Judicial Bodies will be conducted as directed by FA in Sydney, New South Wales at the earliest possible opportunity (as determined by the Administrator in his or her sole and absolute discretion) following the incident giving rise to the hearing.
- (d) FA must provide and meet the costs of all administrative services required to enable a Judicial Body to carry out its functions, including procurement of hearing rooms, administrative support and copying of documents.

## **19. Procedural Fairness**

- (a) A Participant or Club has the right to a fair and expeditious hearing determined by an independent and impartial Judicial Body.
- (b) A member of a Judicial Body cannot hear or make any determinations if that member has a conflict of interest, actual or perceived, including if he or she is a director or employee of a Club or if there is any other reason where a private or personal interest could materially influence the way the member performs his or her duties.
- (c) A member of a Judicial Body cannot be an employee or a director of the FA.
- (d) A member of a Judicial Body may be challenged if circumstances exist that give rise to justifiable doubts as to the member's impartiality or independence. Such a plea must be raised in submissions before the hearing date. A Judicial Body has the power to rule on this objection and, if the challenge fails, reasons must be provided in the final Determination.
- (e) A Participant must provide to the Administrator a copy of any written submissions, materials, documents or other evidence he intends to rely on in the hearing by 1pm on the day of the hearing. If it fails to do so, the Participant is not, without the leave of the Judicial Body, allowed to submit them into evidence at the hearing.
- (f) All submissions, materials, documents or evidence supplied to a Judicial Body by the Participant or by the Disciplinary Counsel must at the same time be provided to the other person.
- (g) A Participant or, in the case of an appeal pursuant to item 22(b) a Club, must provide advance notice about who will represent it at a hearing, including any legal representative and any witness whom the Participant or Club intends to present together with at least the subject matter on which the witness will testify.

## 20. Hearing Procedure

### *Evidence*

- (a) 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 the Participant or, in the case of an appeal pursuant to item 22(b), a Club:
  - (i) is treated with equality;
  - (ii) receives advance notice of the hearing; and
  - (iii) has the opportunity to be heard and to make submissions in relation to the issues of, where applicable, merit and/or sanction.
- (b) Facts contained in a Referee's Report are prima facie evidence of the contents of the Referee's Report.

### *Directions*

- (c) If a matter has the potential to become complex or lengthy, a Judicial Body may order a directions hearing for the purpose of setting a timetable for the submission of evidence by the Participant or the Disciplinary Counsel or in the case of an appeal pursuant to item 22(b), a Club. If a person fails to comply with the timetable as determined by the directions hearing without showing sufficient cause, a Judicial Body may continue the proceedings and make a determination on the evidence before it.

### *Determining Procedures*

- (d) A Judicial Body has the right to determine all procedures to be adopted at a hearing and may during the course of any hearing:
  - (i) grant or order an adjournment to provide the Participant or the Disciplinary Counsel or in the case of an appeal pursuant to item 22(b), a Club with additional time or to consider additional evidence;
  - (ii) admit or request the production of documents or any relevant written evidence available to a Participant or Club or any other person, including reports from Match Officials, declarations from the Participant or the Disciplinary Counsel or in the case of an appeal pursuant to item 22(b)(b), a Club and witnesses, expert opinion and video or audio recordings; or
  - (iii) order the attendance of any person for the purpose of asking questions relevant to the hearing.
- (e) Where a Judicial Body grants an adjournment, the Participant is ineligible to participate in any Australia Cup Matches as either a Player or Team Official, whichever is relevant, until the Judicial Body had reached a Determination in the matter. Any matches missed by the Participant as a consequence will be incorporated into any sanction imposed by the final Determination of the matter.

**Media**

- (f) Subject to such directions, as in the opinion of the Chair are necessary for the orderly conduct of the proceedings or for other good reason, the hearings of the Disciplinary and Ethics Committee and Appeal Committee, but not the deliberations, will be open to the Media but not to members of the public for the purpose of observing and reporting on the hearing. Members of the Media may not make audio or visual recordings.

**21. Determinations and Deliberations****Deliberations**

- (a) If a Participant fails to attend a hearing without showing sufficient cause for such failure, the hearing can be heard and determined in the Participant's absence, including as to determination on the merits and/or sanction.
- (b) A Judicial Body must determine all hearings by reference to:
  - (i) these Regulations, FA Statutes, FIFA Statutes and other relevant rules and regulations;
  - (ii) considerations of general justice and fairness; and
  - (iii) applicable law as specified in item 2525

**Determinations**

- (c) A Determination must:
  - (i) contain the names of the members of the Judicial Body;
  - (ii) be made in writing;
  - (iii) in the shortest form reasonably practicable, provide the reasons on which the Determination is based;
  - (iv) contain the terms of the decision;
  - (v) in the case of the Disciplinary and Ethics Committee, be signed by the Chair;
  - (vi) in the case of the Appeal Committee, be signed by the Chair;
  - (vii) contain the date on which, and the place where, the Determination was made; and
  - (viii) be promptly provided to the Administrator so that it may be forwarded to the Participant.
- (d) A Judicial Body may verbally announce the Determination at the end of the hearing, but must provide written reasons for the Determination in accordance with the above.
- (e) All Determinations of a Disciplinary and Ethics Committee remain in force unless reversed by the Appeal Committee.

- (f) Subject only to the right of appeal to the Appeal Committee in accordance with item 2222, a Determination of the Disciplinary and Ethics Committee is final and binding and no person may institute or maintain proceedings in any court of law or tribunal.

***Compliance with Determinations***

- (g) A failure to comply with a Determination within the manner or time as prescribed by that Determination is itself a breach of the FA Statutes and the non-compliant person is subject to further sanction.

***Correction of a Determination***

- (h) Within 30 days of receipt of a Determination, FA itself or a Club or Participant with written notice to FA, may request the Judicial Body to correct in the Determination any errors in computation, any clerical or typographical errors or any other error of a similar nature. If the Judicial Body considers the request to be justified, it will make the correction.
- (i) Within 30 days after communication of the Determination, a Judicial Body may of its own initiative correct in the Determination any errors in computation, any clerical or typographical errors or any other error of a similar nature.
- (j) Any corrections must be in writing and communicated to the Administrator.

**22. Appeals**

***Right of Appeal***

- (a) A Participant who is the subject of a Determination has a right to appeal such Determination of the Disciplinary and Ethics Committee if the Participant can establish one or more of the grounds of appeal referred to in item 22(e).
- (b) A Club has a right to appeal the severity of a sanction imposed by FA for Team Misconduct if the Club can establish one or more of the grounds of appeal referred to in item 22(e).
- (c) To initiate an appeal, a Participant or Club must:
- (i) notify FA of its intention to do so within seven (7) days of the date on which the written Determination or notice from FA was received, using the Judicial Bodies By-Law Application Form; and
  - (ii) pay to FA an appeal fee of \$2,000.
- (d) A hearing will not be convened unless and until the applicable fees have been received by FA.

***Grounds of Appeal***

- (e) The grounds of appeal are those specified in clause 23.1 of the Judicial Bodies By-Law and are:

- (i) the Participant or, in respect of an appeal under item 22(b) of this Annexure E, the Club, was not afforded a reasonable opportunity to be heard on the issues;
  - (ii) the Determination was affected by bias; and
  - (iii) the decision was one that was not reasonably open to the Disciplinary and Ethics Committee or, in respect of an appeal under item 22(b) of this Annexure E, to FA, having regard to the evidence before the Disciplinary and Ethics Committee or FA (whichever applies).
- (f) The Appeal Committee has the power to:
- (i) dismiss, allow in whole or part, or vary (whether by way of reduction or increase) any Determination of the Disciplinary and Ethics Committee or decision of FA;
  - (ii) substitute its own sanctions or finding; or
  - (iii) impose any sanction or make any finding that the Disciplinary and Ethics Committee or FA could have imposed or made,
- in accordance with these Regulations.
- (g) If the appellant is completely successful in its appeal, the FA must refund to the appellant the appeal fee.

### **23. Notices**

- (a) A Disciplinary Notice issued to a Participant in accordance with this Annexure E must contain the information specified in the clause pursuant to which the Disciplinary Notice has been issued.
- (b) A person notifying or giving notice under these Regulations must notify in writing and in English.
- (c) Disciplinary Notices to Participants are deemed to be received by the Participant if notified to the Participant's Club.

### **24. No Recourse to Courts**

- (a) The determination of the Appeal Committee will be final and binding on the parties to the appeal and no person may institute or maintain proceedings in any court of law or tribunal.
- (b) Without limiting the generality of items 24(a) and 22(f) and for further assurance notwithstanding that such provisions have no applicability, there will be no right of appeal under sections 34 (Application for setting aside as exclusive recourse against arbitral award) or 34A (Appeals against awards), and no right to apply for the determination of a question of law under section 27J (Determination of preliminary point of law by the Court), of the Commercial Arbitration Act 2010 (NSW) or

equivalent or similar legislation in any of the Australian states or territories or Commonwealth.

**25. Applicable Law**

A Judicial Body must apply the law as applicable in New South Wales.

**26. Immunity**

Members of Judicial Bodies, Disciplinary Counsel, the Match Review Panel and FA including the Administrator (***Immune Persons***) shall be immune from suit and no person may institute or maintain any proceedings or bring any claim in respect of any act or omission on the part of an Immune Person or any decisions made by an Immune Person except in the event of fraud.

**27. Substantial Compliance**

No proceedings before or determination of a Judicial Body or Match Review Panel or FA will be invalidated for any defect whether of substance or of form in any notice or report or by reason of non-compliance with any term of these Regulations.

**28. National Disciplinary Regulations**

To the extent that any provision of the National Disciplinary Regulations is not addressed in these Australia Cup Disciplinary Rules and that provision is not inconsistent with the Disciplinary Rules in these Regulations, that provision of the National Disciplinary Regulations will supplement these Australia Cup Disciplinary Rules in these Regulations in relation to on field disciplinary matters in respect of an Australia Cup Match.