



**“But now you must also rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander and filthy language from your lips” Colossians 3:8**

## **PART 1 – GENERAL INFORMATION (A TO H)**

### **A. JUDICIARY COMMITTEE**

1. The Judiciary Committee (“JC”) including the Chairman shall be selected by the Management Committee at the beginning of each year and shall be appointed for twelve (12) months.
2. The JC shall be comprised of up to five (5) persons with a minimum of three (3) including the Chairman. The MC may select any persons considered competent for the task required.
3. No participant of the JC shall be associated with a Club or organisation involved in the matter to be adjudicated by the Committee.

### **B. LAWS OF THE GAME**

Players shall abide by the LOTG of football as laid down by FIFA and its sub-Committees and as set out in the Coaches, Managers, Players manual issued by NSWCFCA and as altered, amended or supplemented by the NSWCFCA from time to time.

### **C. POWERS**

The JC shall have, in addition to its other powers, the power to:

1. Call before the Committee on discipline cases of misconduct by any person, player, coach, manager, Club official, team, spectator and person.
2. Impose suspensions as decided by the JC, after deliberation of all evidence presented to the Committee.
3. Penalise a player by imposing a suspended sentence for a period &/or number of matches to be determined by the Committee on discipline.
4. Make representations to the Management Committee, on matters the JC considers appropriate, to enforce such action that may fall outside these Guidelines.
5. Investigate and collect any information contained within any correspondence received by the Committee on discipline.

### **D. DISCIPLINE NOTIFICATIONS**

1. The JC Chairman will communicate to all parties, via their respective Club Secretary any requests to attend a JC hearing, penalties and/or suspensions and any other matters pertaining to the performance of the JC.
2. Automatic penalties will be communicated electronically to the relevant Club Secretary.

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3. All suspensions and/or penalties handed down by the JC will be communicated to the Club Secretary by email or in writing within 48 hours of decision where possible.
4. Where notification is not confirmed electronically, a telephone call to the Club Secretary will be made.
5. In all cases, when notification is made to the Club Secretary it is accepted that communication is made with the player/team and any other relative parties.
6. The JC will notify the NSWCFCA of any suspensions and or penalties handed down by the JC that affects the running or results of any fixture or competition.

**E. CARD OFFENCES**

1. When a player is shown a yellow or red card by the referee during a match then the player shall be assumed to have committed the offence.
2. A player that is shown a red card in any competition round is not permitted to play in any other match until a suspension or penalty is issued by the JC.

**F. RED CARD OFFENCES**

1. A player sent from the field of play will automatically be suspended for one (1) round.
2. Suspensions shall apply to the player's next scheduled round.
3. The player, having served the one (1) round suspension, shall be eligible to resume playing, unless notified by the Association that further disciplinary action is being applied.
4. If the offence for which a player has been sent off can be dealt with by the automatic penalties guidelines, the JC shall be able to apply this penalty

**G. YELLOW CARD OFFENCES**

1. Yellow card offences are recorded by the Match Referee and the offence shall be reported to the NSWCFCA through the Match Sheet.
2. It is the Club's responsibility to monitor and advise their Club players of any pending suspensions resulting from further yellow cards.
3. Any player who received five (5) Yellow Cards in any one season, in any competition, shall be dealt with by the automatic penalty of one round for such an offence and a notice will be sent to the Club, whose responsibility it is to inform player and enforce penalty.
4. Any player who receives a further five (5) Yellow Cards in any one season, in any competition, will be suspended for three (3) competition rounds and a notice will be sent to the Club, whose responsibility it is to inform player and enforce penalty.
5. Any player who receives an eleventh (11th) Yellow Card in any one season, in any competition, will be required to attend a JC hearing to show cause why the player should be allowed to continue to be registered with NSWCFCA.

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6. For the sake of clarity, if a player is sent off in a game for a second caution in one match then these two cautions are not accumulated. The send-off offence takes precedence and will be handled by the Judiciary Committee (JC). However, if a player is sent off for a straight red card offence, after being cautioned earlier in the same game, then the earlier caution will be accumulated.
7. Yellow cards cannot be appealed after they are issued and/or reported to the NSWCFA or JC, unless it is a case of mistaken identity that can be proven.
8. Accumulated yellow cards do not carry forward from one season to the next.

#### **H. YELLOW CARDS AND FINALS SERIES**

Any player who accumulates three (3) yellow cards in the finals series, including any yellow cards carried through from the last competition round will be liable to suspension from all competition rounds for at least one week.

Depending on the number of yellow cards accumulated by a player throughout the season, these may be declared null and void for the finals.

The calculation for the number of yellow cards carried through will be:

1 <sup>st</sup> set of 5 yellows	Yellow cards wiped for semis
2 <sup>nd</sup> set of 5 yellows	1 yellow card carried through
3 <sup>rd</sup> set of 5 yellows	2 yellow cards carried through
Yellow card(s) in last round	Carried through into semis
Any combination of above	Yellow cards accumulated into semis

Note that a 5<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> or 15<sup>th</sup> yellow card issued to a player in the final competition round will be dealt with as per "Accumulated Yellow Cards" above.

### **PART 2 - SUSPENSION GUIDELINES (A TO I)**

#### **A. GENERAL INFORMATION**

The JC is delegated to handle:

1. all send offs and caution reports that are received from the referees
2. any citing made to them by the MC
3. any other matter delegated to it by the MC

#### **B. DISCIPLINE PROCESS**

1. Upon receiving an official report of any incident the JC shall assess the reports submitted by the referee or MC.
2. The JC shall convene each week, either in person, telephone or any other means available.

#### **AUTOMATIC SUSPENSIONS**

3. Where applicable, the JC shall apply an automatic penalty as outlined in the schedule of automatic penalties and notify the club Secretary accordingly.
4. The player may accept the penalty in accordance with the notice given, or they can object to the penalty and elect to have the case proceed to hearing.

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5. If the player elects to have a hearing, the matter shall be heard at the next Judiciary Hearing (date & time to be advised by JC) following the original notice of suspension.
6. Where a matter proceeds to hearing, any suspension given may be increased, reduced or remain unchanged as determined by the JC. Refer to rules relating to “Imposed Penalties” below.

**NON-AUTOMATIC SUSPENSIONS**

7. If the initial matter cannot be addressed through an automatic suspension, the JC shall assess the incident at the convened meeting, and working to the guidelines decides the outcome and relevant penalty.
8. The convened meeting does not require the attendance of the person or Club subject to discipline.
9. At the convened meeting, it is within the power of the JC to defer any decision in order to convene a disciplinary hearing with the relevant player, Club official or any other person the JC deem necessary.
10. The JC shall notify the club Secretary of any decision or penalty imposed.
11. Where a penalty is determined, the player may accept the penalty in accordance with the notice given, or can object to the penalty and elect to have the case proceed to hearing.
12. If the player elects to have a hearing, the matter is heard at the next Judiciary Hearing (date & time to be advised by JC) following the original notice of suspension.
13. Where a matter proceeds to hearing, any suspension given may be increased, reduced or remain unchanged as determined by the JC.

**NO PENALTY IMPOSED**

14. In certain extreme cases the JC may choose not to impose a penalty for a player that is sent off. In these cases the discipline will refer reports to the MC for ratification.

**CONFIDENTIALITY OF INFORMATION**

The JC shall hold confidential any and all information and reports received by it. The JC shall not be permitted to provide any player, club or person a copy of any referee or assistant referee reports.

**C. AUTOMATIC SUSPENSIONS**

After receiving an official report of any incident, the JC has the power to apply automatic penalties as outlined in Appendix 1 – Guidelines to penalties.

Automatic penalties are only permitted as prescribed within the guidelines. The JC do not have the power to impose an automatic penalty outside the guidelines.

**D. SEND – OFF REQUIRING HEARING**

All other send-off offences require the JC to convene a disciplinary hearing under its powers described in this document.

**E. ADDITIONAL OR HIGHER PENALTIES**

The suspension limits for non-automatic penalties are intended as guidelines. The JC may apply higher penalties where in the opinion of the JC such higher penalty is justified.

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In deciding an automatic penalty, after reading and interpreting the referee's report the JC will in all cases apply a penalty that applies to the highest offence committed. (E.g.: in accordance with FIFA guidelines, where a player is sent off for denying a goal scoring opportunity by way of a dangerous tackle from behind, will be handed the automatic penalty applicable to the charge of Serious Foul Play).

Where a player, having been sent from the field commits further offences, the JC shall upon proper consideration of the referee's report and any other evidence obtained, impose additional penalty within the guidelines. (EG: where the player abuses or dissents against the referee, the JC shall consider whether an additional suspension under R26 or R27 shall be imposed.

**F. USE OF OFFENSIVE, INSULTING OR ABUSIVE LANGUAGE AND/GESTURES**

Foul and Abusive Language reports will be categorised individually into one of three categories:

- Low level,
- Medium level; and
- High level

Individual officials and players have a different view of what is considered offensive and what is considered normal. In making their assessment on the severity of the offense the JC will consider:

- the words reported;
- the intensity and audibility,
- position on the field;
- who the language is directed at or to
- the context in which the offense has occurred.

A separate document titled "Guidelines to Foul Language" has been issued which provides more detail on the application and interpretation of foul and abusive language.

**G. IMPOSED PENALTIES**

Suspensions imposed on players shall be served as follows:

- a. Where applicable, suspensions shall carry forward from one season to the next.
- b. Suspensions and/or penalties imposed at JC hearings are immediate, pending written confirmation from the Committee or JC Chairman to the Club Secretary.
- c. Suspensions imposed on players are served in all NSWCFCA sanctioned fixtures regardless of whether the matches are in the same competition.

Example 1: a player accumulates five yellow cards and is suspended for one competition round. If the player's team is due to play in a mid-week knockout game then this is the round in which the suspension will be served. Similarly, if a player gets his 5<sup>th</sup> yellow card in a mid-week knockout game then the suspension will be served on the following Saturday (normal competition) round.

Example 2: where the player has been sent off in a mid-week knockout competition match for receiving two cautions in the same match, the player is suspended from the next match on the following Saturday (normal competition) round.

Example 3: where a player has been sent off on Saturday for receiving two cautions in the same match. If the player's team is due to play in a mid-week knockout game then this is the round in which the suspension will be served.

Example 4: where a player receives a 4 match suspension and if the player's team is due to play in a mid-week knockout game whilst the player is still suspended, then this Knockout round will count in the serving of the suspension.

- d. When a player is suspended, the player is suspended for the full fixture round.
- e. The suspension only applies for fixture rounds for the team in which the player is registered.
- f. A washout, bye or when the player's team forfeits will not count as a fixture round. If the player's team is not playing, the suspension is the next round the player's team plays in.

## **H. OBJECTIONS**

### Objection to issuing of red card

1. Where a player disagrees with the issuing of a red card, the player shall lodge an objection in writing within 48 hours of the player being sent off.
2. All objections must be sanctioned by the player's Club and shall include reasons for the objection.
3. The objection shall be considered at a JC hearing.
4. There is no requirement for the player to attend the JC consideration of the objection, although the JC may request the player to attend.

### Objection to automatic 1 match penalty

1. A player that receives an automatic penalty of one (1) fixture or competition round may object to the JC decision.
2. Objections must be sanctioned by the player's Club and received in writing within 48 hours of the original notification of suspension.
3. There is no requirement for the player to attend the JC consideration of the objection, although the JC may request the player to attend.

### Objection to automatic penalty of more than 1 match

1. A player that receives an automatic penalty of more than one (1) fixture or competition round may object to the JC decision.
2. Objections must be sanctioned by the players Club and received in writing within 48 hours of the original notification of suspension.
3. A disciplinary hearing will be conducted in all cases of objection against an automatic penalty of more than 1 match.

## **I. FINDINGS**

1. All decisions of a JC discipline hearing may be subject to appeal by either the player/team.

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