



## NATIONAL DISCIPLINARY REGULATIONS

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## 1. OBJECTIVES AND APPLICATION OF THE REGULATIONS

- 1.1 These Regulations form part of the FFA 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 FFA.
- 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 clauses 1.6 and 1.7, these Regulations may be supplemented, but not varied, by Competition Rules.
- 1.3 These Regulations:
- (a) apply to FFA, Member Federations, District Associations, Competition Administrators, Clubs, Players and Officials (**Members**);
  - (b) apply to all forms of organised football under FFA'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 FFA Statutes, including but not limited to, the Code of Conduct for conduct or behaviour of a Member.

### **FFA National Competitions**

- 1.4 The A-League Disciplinary Regulations specify the disciplinary rules and procedures that apply to the conduct of the A-League and, in particular, the consideration of disciplinary matters arising during Matches in the A-League including breaches of the Laws of the Game. These Regulations do not apply to the conduct of the A-League or the consideration of disciplinary matters arising during Matches in the A-League.
- 1.5 The W-League Disciplinary Regulations specify the disciplinary rules and procedures that apply to the conduct of the W-League and in particular the consideration of disciplinary matters arising during Matches in the W-League including breaches of the Laws of the Game. These Regulations do not apply to the conduct of the W-League or the consideration of disciplinary matters arising during Matches in the W-League.
- 1.6 The FFA Cup Competition Regulations specify rules and procedures that apply to the conduct of the FFA Cup, including the consideration of disciplinary matters arising during Matches in the FFA Cup including breaches of the Laws of the Game. These Regulations together with the FFA Cup Competition Regulations apply to the consideration of disciplinary matters arising during Matches in the FFA Cup. Notwithstanding clause 1.2, in the event of any inconsistency between these Regulations and the FFA Cup Competition Regulations, the FFA Cup Competition Regulations will prevail.
- 1.7 These Regulations together with the Y-League Disciplinary Rules apply to the consideration of disciplinary matters arising during Matches in the Y-League. Notwithstanding clause 1.2, in the event of any inconsistency between the Y-League Disciplinary Rules and these Regulations, the Y-League Disciplinary Rules 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 FFA 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 Yellow Card (caution) in accordance with the Laws of the Game;
  - (b) in the case of a Player, issue a Red Card (expulsion) in accordance with the Laws of the Game; and/or
  - (c) in the case of a Team Official, direct that Team Official to leave the field of play and its immediate surrounds, including the substitutes' bench (**Expulsion**).
- 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, the type of infringement by reference to the codes in clauses 2.5 and 2.7 and the time that the infringement occurred in the Match.

### **Yellow Cards**

- 2.4 A 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 Yellow Card is issued by the Referee for the following cautionable offences specified at Law 12 of the Laws of the Game:

#### *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

### **Red Cards**

- 2.6 A 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 Red Card is issued by the Referee for the following sending-off offences specified at Law 12 of the Laws of the Game:

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

- R1** serious foul play
  - R2** violent conduct
  - R3** spitting at an opponent or any other person
  - R4** denying the opposing team a goal or an obvious goal scoring opportunity by deliberately handling the ball (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 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) Yellow Cards in the same Match.

### ***Expulsion of Team Official***

- 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 Expel the Team Official from the field of play and its immediate surrounds, including the substitutes' bench.
- 2.10 A medical Team Official (for example, a doctor or physiotherapist) who commits an Expulsion 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;
  - (ii) 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
- (d) 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 Expulsion of 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, Red Card and/or Expulsion 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
  - (ii) an Expulsion; or
  - (iii) 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 an Expulsion;
  - (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 FFA Statutes.

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

- 4.1 Where a Competition Administrator is satisfied that a Referee:
- (a) issued in error a Yellow Card and/or 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) Expelled in error a Team Official instead of another Team Official (being the Team Official who should have been Expelled)

**(Mistaken Identity)**,  
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 Red Card when no card was warranted; or
- (b) Expel a Team Official when no expulsion 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 FFA 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 Red Card, or a Team Official who is Expelled by the Referee, 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 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 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 Yellow Cards during the same Match and therefore receives an Indirect Red Card, the two Yellow Cards will be expunged from his or her record.
- 6.4 If a Player receives a Yellow Card and then a Direct Red Card in the same Match, the Yellow Card will not be expunged and will be counted in the Player's accumulation of Yellow Cards.
- 6.5 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.
- 6.6 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 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 FFA 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 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 FFA, a Member Federation or Club) may be represented by an officer or employee of that party;
- (d) FFA reserves the right to be heard and to make submissions if a decision has the potential to affect FFA 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, 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 FFA 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 or Expulsion Offence that occurs in a Friendly, may be required by the Competition Administrator or the 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 6 months where the sanction is given in terms of time, or fewer than 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 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 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 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 1.7, 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** means the senior men's national competition staged in Australia and New Zealand by FFA, known as the Hyundai A-League competition or such other name as notified by FFA from time to time and includes any pre-season, regular season and finals Matches.

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

**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.

**Club** means any club registered with FFA in accordance with the National Registration Regulations from time to time. A reference to Club includes a club admitted by:

- (a) a Competition Administrator to field a team in a Competition; or
- (b) FFA to field a team in a National League or a National Championships.

**Competition** means any competition, cup, tournament or league conducted by FFA, or by the Competition Administrator and registered with FFA in accordance with the National Registration 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 Red Card issued for the sending-off offences R1 to R6 as defined in clause 2.7.

**Dual Club Player** means a Player approved by FFA pursuant to Article 4.9 of FFA's National Registration 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 or Expulsion Offence 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.

**Expulsion, Expelled or Expel** has the meaning given in clause 2.2(c).

**FFA** means Football Federation Australia Limited (ABN 28 106 478 068) of Level 22, 1 Oxford Street, Darlinghurst NSW 2010.

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

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

**FFA Statutes** means FFA's statutes as promulgated by FFA 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 FFA or a Member Federation, which is not part of a Competition.

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

**Indirect Red Card** means a Red Card issued for the sending-off offence R7 as defined in clause 2.7.

**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 FFA, a Member Federation or a Competition Administrator or otherwise played under FFA's direction or control.

**Match Official** means a referee, assistant referee, fourth official, match commissioner, referee inspector, selector, or any other person appointed by FFA, 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 FFA from time to time.

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

**National Premier Leagues** means the national men's second tier club competition staged in each Member Federation in Australia, known as the National Premier Leagues or such other name as notified by FFA from time to time.

**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 Table of Offences at paragraph 6 of Annexure A; 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.

**Professional** means a Player employed by a Club to play football under a professional player contract in accordance with the FFA 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 Table of Offences and the maximum prescribed at Annexure A.

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

**Referee** means the referee appointed by the Competition Administrator or who is otherwise approved in accordance with the National Registration 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.

**Table of Offences** means the various offences that can be committed by a Participant contained at Annexure A.

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

**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.

**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.

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

**W-League Disciplinary Regulations** means the rules and procedures that apply to the conduct of the W-League and in particular the prosecution of disciplinary matters arising during Matches in the W-League including breaches of the Laws of the Game.



**Y-League** means the men's youth club football competition staged in Australia by FFA, known as the Foxtel Y-League competition or such other name as notified by FFA from time to time and includes the regular season and finals series Matches.

**Y-League Disciplinary Rules** means the rules and procedures that supplement these Regulations and apply to the conduct of the Y-League, in particular the prosecution of disciplinary matters arising during Matches in the Y-League including breaches of the Laws of the Game.

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

17.2 In these Regulations:

- (a) any term used but not defined has the meaning given to it in the FFA 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 FFA 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.

## 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 table also references the relevant sending-off offences R1 to R6 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 Table of Offences 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**) 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 Offences 4, 6, 7, 8, 10, 11 and 12, 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 Table of Offences. 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:
  - (a) 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;
  - (b) 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. 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

**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**