Suspensions and Sanctions

Policy

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**1. Purpose**

1.1 This document provides a system that sets out procedures, guidelines and penalties for participants in all Tournaments, Cup Competitions and Competition Matches and may also apply to other competitions administered by SCCSA or matches authorised by SCCSA who:

1. are charged with misconduct:
2. infringe the Laws of the Game;
3. breach SCCSA Policies, including but not limited to conduct on and off the field of play.

1.2 Where a statement appears to be able to be interpreted in two or more different ways, SCCSA Executive Committee reserves the right to determine which interpretation is valid. Any such determination is final and not subject to appeal.

1.3 There is no appeal against the receiving of a red or yellow card from a Referee.

1.4 Where a coach, manager or other team official is sanctioned by a red or yellow card, that person shall be treated as a player for the purposes of determining the appropriate suspension.

**2. Accumulation of Yellow Cards**

2.1 If a Player receives two (2) yellow cards in a Match, resulting in an R7 red card offence, then the two (2) yellow cards are expunged from the Players record and do not contribute to the accumulation of yellow cards.

2.2 If a Player receives one (1) yellow card in a Match and then receives a direct red card in the same match, the yellow card will not be expunged from the Player’s record and must be considered when accumulating yellow cards.

2.3 After an individual Player has received five (5) yellow cards, irrespective of the age-grade in which they are received, the Player must serve a Mandatory one (1) Match Suspension. There is no appeal against the one (1) match suspension after receiving five (5) yellow cards.

2.4 Where no Matches are scheduled in the week following the Match in which the Player has received (5) yellow cards, the one Match suspension is to be served in the next week in which matches are scheduled.

2.5 A player receiving 5 yellow cards shall receive a 1 match suspension; a player receiving 9 yellow cards shall receive a 2 match suspension; and a player receiving 12 yellow cards shall receive a 3 match suspension.

2.6 There is no accumulation of yellow cards in the Finals Series, however any player who accumulates their 5th , 9th or 12th yellow card in their last match of the normal competition, must serve the applicable suspension in the Final Series.

**3. Red Cards**

3.1 A player who receives a red card:

1. must leave the field of play and its surroundings, including the technical area during a Match;
2. will receive a mandatory one match suspension;
3. may receive an additional fixed suspension;
4. Depending on the grading of the offence, may be referred to the Disciplinary

Committee for further consideration.

3.2 A Player who receives a red card is ineligible to play in any further matches until such time as they have been issued a notice of suspension, participated in the disciplinary process where required, and served their suspension in full unless otherwise determined by the Disciplinary Committee.

3.3 A Participant who during the course of a football season (including any Finals Series) accumulates more than one red card, regardless of the Competition in which it is received, must serve additional Mandatory Suspensions.

3.4 A player receiving 3 red cards shall receive a 1 match suspension; a player receiving 4 red cards shall receive a 2 match suspension; and a player receiving 5 red cards shall receive a 2 match suspension. Such suspensions are ADDITIONAL to any other suspension received for the red card offence for which they have been sanctioned.

**4. Fixed Penalties**

4.1 Red cards given in a Match are governed by the fixed penalty system. When the competition manager is advised of a red card being issued, he/she shall act according to the fixed penalty system. The player’s club shall be advised of the fixed penalty imposed and the player shall serve the suspension.

4.2 Where the suspension exceeds one match and the player/club consider the fixed penalty to be inappropriate, the club may refer the matter to Disciplinary Committee for further consideration. A request to have the matter heard by the Disciplinary Committee must be received by SCCSA Admin no more than two (2) days following notification of the red card.

4.3 Where an offence is graded at level 3 or 4, and the competition manager considers that the offence warrants referral to the Disciplinary Committee, he/she may refer the matter and advise the club of such a referral.

4.4 Where an offence is graded at level 5, the competition manager shall refer the matter to the Disciplinary Committee and advise the club of such a referral.

4.5 Fixed penalties are detailed in schedule 1 below

**5. Abandoned matches**

5.1 Only those Matches actually played count towards the execution of the suspension. If a Match is abandoned or forfeited, a suspension is only considered to be served if the team to which the suspended player belongs is not responsible for the facts that led to the abandonment or forfeiture.

5.2 A yellow card issued during an abandoned Match will be annulled if that Match is replayed and upheld if that Match is not replayed.

5.3 A red card issued during an abandoned Match will be upheld, regardless of whether the Match is replayed or not.

**6. Other offences**

In addition to any conduct noted in this document, SCCSA at its absolute discretion, may refer any conduct of spectators, team officials or players to the Disciplinary Committee for investigation.

Where a Disciplinary Committee considers that such conducts should be sanctioned, the SCCSA Executive Committee may impose penalties including suspension of players and team officials at its absolute discretion.

**7. Mistaken Identity**

Where the Competition Manager is satisfied that a Referee issued a Yellow Card and/or Red Card during the match in error to one Player instead of to another Player (being the player committed the offence attracting the card), the Competition Manager may rectify that error, provided that there is sufficient verifiable evidence available, as determined by the Competition Manager in his/her sole and absolute discretion, that leads the Competition Manager to believe that an obvious error in identity may have been made in a Referee’s disciplinary decision.

**8. SCHEDULE 1**

(NB Where a sentence is suspended (sus), the penalty shall be imposed in addition to any new penalty if the player reoffends).

MS = Mandatory one week suspension only.

Number of matches is ADDITIONAL to mandatory 1 week.

Please note that “repeat offender” suspensions are ADDITIONAL to accrued penalty (e.g. 3 red card).

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| RC Code | Grade | Description | Guideline | Matches | Repeat offender |
| R1 | 1 – 2 | Serious Foul Play | Bad tackle, no injury | MS | 1 |
|  | 3 - 4 |  |  | 1 sus | 1 |
|  | 1 – 2 |  | Conduct that endangers the safety of an opponent | 1 sus | 1 |
|  | 3 - 4 |  |  | 1 | 1 + 1 sus |
|  | 3 - 4 |  | Causes minor injury | 2 | 2 + 1 sus |
|  | 3 - 4 |  | Causes serious injury | 3 | 4 |
| R2 | 1 - 2 | Violent Conduct | Excessive contact when the ball is not in play or playing distance | MS | 1 |
|  | 3 - 4 |  |  | 1 | 1 + 1 sus |
|  | 1 - 2 |  | Pushing an opponent | MS | MS + 1 sus |
|  | 3 - 4 |  | Punching an opponent | 1 | 2 |
|  | 3 - 4 |  | Serious, premeditated punch or violent push of opponent | 2 | 2 + 1 sus |
|  | 3 - 4 |  | Inciting, instigating violent melee | 3 | 4 |
| R3 | 1 – 2  | Spitting AT  | AT opponent or other person | 2 | 4 |
|  | 3 – 4  | Spitting opponent or other person | ON opponent or other person | 4 | 6 |
|  | 2 – 3 |  | Participating in a melee (non violent) | 1 | 2 |
|  | 3 - 4 |  | Participating in a melee (violent) | 3 | 3 + 1 sus |
| R5 | 1  | DOGSO | Obvious reflex action stopping ball with hand | sus | MS |
|  | 2 - 3 |  |  | MS | MS + 1 sus |
| R6 | 1 -2  | OFFINABUS | Using language and/or gestures in frustration | MS | MS + 1 sus |
|   |  2- 3 |   | Using language and/or gestures directed at another person | MS + 1 sus | 2 |
|  | 3 - 4 |  | Inciting violence or hatred, or repeated use of offensive language and/or gestures, to another person | 2 | 3 |
|  | 2 -3  |  | Use of discriminatory, homophobic, racist, religious, ethnic or sexist language and/or gestures | 3 | 4 |
|  | 3 - 4 |  |  | 5 | 6 |
|  | 3 – 4  |  | Using language and/or gestures directed at match official | 4 | 5 |
|  | 4 - 5 |  | Spitting at match official | 1 year | 2 year |
|  | 4 - 5 |  | Striking or spitting ON a match official | 2 year | Life |
|  | 4 - 5 |  | Threatening a match official | 1 year | 2 year |
| R7 | 1 - 2  | Second Yellow |  | MS | MS |

**REFERENCE**

1. <https://footballqueensland.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/2019-FQ-Disciplinary-Regulations-.pdf>
2. <https://capitalfootball.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/20170220-PLC-Capital-Football-Disciplinary-Regulations-2.pdf>