

**GRIFFITH UNIVERSITY**  
**SOCIAL SPORT DISCIPLINARY REGULATIONS**



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## **1. OBJECTIVES AND APPLICATION OF REGULATIONS**

- 1.1 These disciplinary regulations apply to any infringement of the laws of the game by any player team spectator or team official during a match played under the direction or control of Griffith University.
- 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. The regulations may be supplemented, but not varied, by competition rules.
- 1.3 These regulations:
  - a) apply to any sporting games/tournaments being held at Griffith University, and/or any sporting game/tournaments being played under the Griffith University banner and is applicable to players, officials and contracted staff
  - b) apply to all forms of organised sport under Griffith University's jurisdiction,
- 1.4 All matches must be conducted and officiated in accordance with the laws of the game. Any modifications, including for age, gender or disability specific requirements, must be approved by the Competition Administrator in accordance with any guidelines issued by its national body.

## **2. INFRINGEMENT OF THE LAWS OF THE GAME**

- 2.1 A caution is issued for a minor infringement of the laws of the game and is a warning from the match official to a player(s) during a match to sanction unsportsmanlike behaviour of a less serious nature. A caution is expressed in the following ways for each of the sports governed under the Griffith University banner:
  - a) Soccer: Yellow Card
  - b) Basketball: Tech-foul
  - c) Touch: 5-minute Dismissal
  - d) Netball: 2-minute Suspended Play
  - e) Volleyball: Yellow Card
  - f) An official warning by a match official to a player(s) or spectator in any other sporting competition being held at Griffith University, and/or being played under the Griffith University banner.
- 2.1.1 Any caution issued during a match is identified by the match official on their report for that match, including the name and number of the player, the offence and the time of the offence.

2.2 An expulsion is for a serious infringement of the laws of the game and is the order given by the match official to someone to leave the vicinity of the field of play and the technical area, including the substitute's bench, during a match. An expulsion is expressed in the following ways for each of the sports governed under the Griffith University banner:

- a) Soccer: Red Card
- b) Basketball: Tech-foul
- c) Touch: Game Dismissal
- d) Netball: Order Off
- e) Volleyball: Red Card
- f) Flag Gridiron: Disqualification
- g) Expulsion from the area of play by a match official to a player(s) or spectator for the remainder of the match in any other sporting competition being held at Griffith University, and/or being played under the Griffith University banner.

2.2.1 If an expulsion is awarded the offending player is further expelled from taking part in the following scheduled match for their team. The team will also incur a 1 point penalty which will be deducted from the teams' overall competition points.

2.2.2 An expulsion is regarded as direct if it sanctions serious unsportsmanlike behaviour and as indirect if it is the result of the accumulation of two cautions in the same match as outlined in section 2.2.

2.2.3 Any caution or expulsion issued during a match is identified by the match official on the match official's report for that match, including the name and number of the player, the offence and the time of the offence.

For the purpose of these disciplinary regulations, offence means an infringement of the laws of the game in accordance with the following codes:

**A. Minor infringements - (Caution) Codes**

**Y1** infringing the laws of the game

**Y2** persistently infringes the laws of the game

**Y3** guilty of unsporting behaviour

**Y4** shows dissent by word or action

**Y5** delays the restart of play

### ***B. Serious Infringements - (Expulsion) Codes***

**R1** is guilty of serious foul play

**R2** is guilty of violent conduct

**R3** is guilty of serious act of violent conduct

**R4** is guilty of violent conduct against a Match Official

**R5** spits at a Player or any other person

**R6** spits at the Match Official

**R7** uses offensive, insulting or abusive language and/or gestures

**R8** uses discriminatory language and/or gestures, including racist, religious, ethnic or sexist

**R9** uses offensive, insulting or abusive language and/or gestures against a Match Official

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

- 3.1 Each match is controlled by the match official who has full authority to enforce the laws of the game in connection with the match to which he or she has been appointed. The powers and duties of a match official are as specified in the laws of the game. The match official has the authority to make disciplinary decisions, from the moment the match official enters the field of play until he or she leaves the field of play after the final whistle. They also have jurisdiction over any person on the sidelines.
- 3.2 During a match, the match official makes the disciplinary decisions and these decisions are final.
- 3.3 At the end of each match, the match official must submit the match official's report to the Competition Administrator who then determines if additional action needs to be undertaken in accordance with clause 3 or clause 4.
- 3.4 A Competition Administrator may determine that the actions of a player or a team official were of such a nature that it warranted a sanction greater than the mandatory match suspension. This may include additional match suspensions, deduction of competition points and/or a fine.
- 3.5 Without limiting the generality of clause 3.4, a Competition Administrator can determine that a sanction additional to a mandatory match suspension is required for:
  - a) Violent conduct (or R2 expulsion)
  - b) Serious act of violent conduct (or R3 expulsion)
  - c) Conduct directed at or against a match official

- d) Discriminatory or offensive words or gestures, including racial or ethnic vilification; and
- e) Repeated offences

#### **4. CITING A PLAYER OR TEAM OFFICIAL**

- 4.1 The decision of a match official on the day of the game is considered absolute and may not be disputed except in the case of extenuating circumstances. Discretionary decisions made by the match official cannot be contested under any circumstances.
- 4.2 A Competition Administrator may cite a player or a team official for the following:
  - a) Sanction an expulsion or serious infringement that has escaped the match official's attention; or
  - b) Rectify an obvious error in the match official's disciplinary decision (such as a right decision against a wrong player or mistaken identity).
  - c) Serious offences that warrant further sanctioning.
- 4.3 The following guidelines apply to determine whether a match official's decision amounted to an obvious error under clause 4.1(b):
  - a) a decision must have been made;
  - b) it clearly must have been a wrong decision; and
  - c) it must have been a seriously wrong decision (and not, for example, a discretionary decision by a match official as to whether an action was a foul or a caution or an expulsion).
- 4.4 For the avoidance of doubt, neither a Competition Administrator nor a disciplinary committee can change a match official's decision to issue a caution or an expulsion.

#### **5. POSSIBLE DISCIPLINARY SANCTIONS**

- 5.1 Mandatory match suspensions are incurred for the accumulation of cautions and expulsions by a player, team official or spectator in accordance with clauses 6, 7 and 8 respectively.
- 5.2 A Competition Administrator and a disciplinary committee:
  - d) May impose sanctions; and
  - e) Must determine the scope and duration of each sanction in accordance with the recommended sanctions.
- 5.3 A sanction outside of the range of recommended sanctions may be imposed and detailed in either the Competition Administrator's disciplinary infringement notice or the disciplinary committee's determination (as the case requires).

5.4 If, in the case of a group of people involved in violent conduct, it is not possible to identify the instigators, the Competition Administrator or the disciplinary committee may sanction the team to which the aggressors belong.

#### **6. ACCUMULATION OF CAUTIONS - MANDATORY MATCH SUSPENSIONS**

6.1 Competition rules can specify that a player who accumulates a certain number of caution notices during the course of a competition must serve mandatory match suspensions as specified in the competition rules.

6.2 If a player receives two caution notices during the same match they will be issued with an expulsion and the two cautions will be expunged from his or her record.

6.3 If a player receives a caution and then a direct expulsion in the same match, the caution will not be expunged and will be counted in the player's accumulation of caution notices.

#### **7. ACCUMULATION OF EXPULSIONS - MANDATORY MATCH SUSPENSIONS**

7.1 A player who accumulates a certain number of expulsions during the course of a competition may serve an additional match suspension as determined by the disciplinary committee.

#### **8. TEAM OFFICIALS - MANDATORY MATCH SUSPENSION**

8.1 A match official may take action against a team official who fails to conduct themselves in a responsible manner and may expel the team official from the field of play and its surroundings, including the substitute's bench.

A team official who has been expelled from the field of play by a match official must serve a mandatory one (1) match suspension. Pending the seriousness of the breach of behaviour the disciplinary committee may impose additional suspensions to the team official(s) involved

#### **9. TEAM'S MISCONDUCT**

9.1 A Competition Administrator or disciplinary committee may impose additional disciplinary sanctions on a team for misconduct, including when but not limited to:

- a) a specified number of players are cautioned during one (1) match;
- b) a specified number of players are sent off during one (1) match;
- c) several players (3 or more) are involved in a brawl against the opposing team;
- d) several players together make threats or show force against a match official; or
- e) team spectators make threats or show force against officials or opposition players.

- 9.2 When the misconduct is of such a nature that it impedes on the health and safety of players and/or Griffith Sport staff, the Competition Administrator has the power to override the need to take matters of misconduct to the Disciplinary Committee and can independently impose disciplinary sanctions on a team or person.

#### **10. NOTIFICATION AND TIMEFRAMES**

- 10.1 If a Competition Administrator has determined under clause 3.4 that an offence by a player or a team official was such as to warrant a sanction in addition to the mandatory match suspension, the Disciplinary Committee representative must send a disciplinary infringement notice notifying the player or team official of the details of the offence and of the disciplinary sanction imposed. This is to occur within two business days of the infringement.

The disciplinary notice must provide:

- a) reasonable detail of the alleged offence;
- b) details of imposed sanctions;
- c) details of the available appeals process.

#### **11. DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE ROLE**

- 11.1 The Disciplinary Committee can deal with any on-field or off-field incidents and all matters relating to the conduct of sports competitions run by Griffith Sport, Griffith University.

- 11.2 The composition of the Disciplinary Committee is as follows:

- a) Sport Recreation Manager, or representative
- b) Sport Development & Recreation Manager, or representative
- c) Additional third party, or representative

- 11.3 In order to apply an appropriate sanction, the Disciplinary Committee or Competition Administrator may consider:

- a) the nature and severity of the infringement;
- b) if the infringement resulted in the injury of another person
- c) the offender's past record and whether or not this is a repeated offence;
- d) the culpability of the offender (including whether or not the infringement was intentional, negligent or reckless);
- e) whether the misconduct was initiated by the offender or it occurred in retaliation to actions of another person
- f) any reasons prompting the offender to commit an infringement;
- g) the remorse of the offender; and
- h) any extenuating circumstances.

- 11.4 All decisions of a Disciplinary Committee or Competition Administrator remain in force unless mistaken identity of players involved in conduct breach arises. In this case the team/individual has 24hrs to name the player(s) involved otherwise the sanction will apply to the player(s) originally named.
- 11.5 If a team refuses to name the player(s) involved in the original offence, the entire team will receive the original sanction notice and all players will be required to serve any suspensions imposed.
- 11.6 The independence and impartiality of the Disciplinary Committee and Competition Administrator must be upheld throughout the appeals process of disciplinary infringements.

## **12. IMPLEMENTATION OF DISCIPLINARY SANCTIONS**

- 12.1 A match suspension means a ban from taking part in a match or to attend it in the area immediately surrounding the field of play. In the case of a venue ban the player(s), supporters or team officials are not to be at the competition venue during match time.
- 12.2 Unless otherwise specified by a Competition Administrator or a Disciplinary Committee, a player or team official who receives a suspension for an offence in a match must serve that suspension in the next following match(es) in which his or her team participates. For the avoidance of doubt, suspensions do carry over from one round to the next in the same competition to the finals series and to the following season.
- 12.3 A suspension imposed in terms of matches on a player affects a player's participation in the sport competition in which they received the suspension for.
- 12.4 A suspension imposed in terms of time (such as days, weeks or months) affects a player's participation in all competitions, regardless of whether the infringement was committed in Touch Football , 7-a-side Soccer, 5-a-side Soccer, Netball ,Basketball, Volleyball, Flag Gridiron, Tennis or Badminton. A ban applies to all Social Sport competitions run by Griffith Sport including future competitions that may be introduced during the suspension period.
- 12.5 A suspended player transferring to a new team will be required to serve the remainder of that suspension and will not be permitted to play until the suspension has been served in its entirety with his or her new team.
- 12.6 The implementation of a sanction may be suspended and, if so, the person sanctioned is subject to a probationary period. If that person commits another infringement during the probationary period, the suspension is automatically revoked and the sanction is applied in addition to any sanction determined for the new infringement.



12.7 A competition suspension means a ban from taking part in any matches or to attend in the area immediately surrounding the field of play for the duration of the match as specified by the sanction. This can include life bans.

### 13. APPEALS PROCEDURE

13.1 It is possible for a team or person to disagree with a sanction handed down by the Disciplinary Committee. If a team or person wishes to lodge an appeal the following outlines the procedures to be followed.

13.2 If the appeal is for an entire team sanction the appeal is to be completed by the team captain or team official, on behalf of the team. Further to this, if an appeal's meeting is called the entire team is NOT authorised to attend the meet, the team captain or team official is the only one to attend this meeting, with a supporter (see section 13.7.2).

13.3 If an appeal is required, the appeal must be lodged in writing to the Competitions Administrator, Griffith Sport, The appeal must clearly explain the reasons why the sanction is being disputed. The appeal is to be lodged with a copy of the sanction notice and a \$50.00 lodgement fee, which is to be paid via the [Griffith Pay Portal](#) within 24 hours of the sanction notice being issued. If an appeal is successful then the lodgement fee is refunded, if an appeal is unsuccessful the lodgement fee is forfeited.

13.4 In writing the appeal, the team or person should be mindful that the basis for appeal would normally be limited to the following grounds:

- a) The Disciplinary Committee or Competition Administrator did not follow the correct protocol for making the sanction decision;
- b) Evidence or circumstances that should have been taken into account by the Disciplinary Committee or Competition Administrator in reaching a decision were overlooked or were not given sufficient weight.
- c) The inconsistency of the sanction with the nature of the breach of the standards of behaviour.

13.5 New or collaborative evidence which is not merely corroborative or repetitive which was not known (or could not have been known) at the time of the original sanction decision and has come to light and may have produced a different decision may NOT be introduced as grounds for appeal. Such evidence should have been provided to the Competition Administrator whilst they are investigating the alleged offence.

- 13.6 If the Disciplinary Committee, decides that an adequate case has been presented a special appeals meeting will be called to assist in the consideration of the appeal, the panel can comprise of:
- a) Sport Recreation Manager, or representative
  - b) Sport Development & Recreation Manager, or representative
  - c) Additional third party, or representative
- 13.7 A mutually convenient time will be arranged at which all are available to attend. The person may be accompanied by one (1) other person who may act as a supporter.
- 13.7.1 A Disciplinary Committee meeting must be held within a reasonable amount of time following the lodgement of the appeal fee and documentation.
- 13.7.2 The supporter's role is to observe the meeting and provide support and guidance to the person as requested. The supporter may NOT represent the person in discussion or speak on the person's behalf.
- 13.8 Prior to the meeting upon request all parties can be provided with a copy of any documentation pertaining to the matter.
- 13.9 If the person fails to attend the meeting, the Disciplinary Committee, may, without further notice, proceed in the person's absence or dismiss the appeal.
- 13.10 The appeal will be conducted by considering only those matters to which the person's appeal is related.
- 13.11 Upon convening, the appeals committee will hear the person's grounds for appeal and then ask the person to leave the meeting room, after which the panel will discuss and deliberate the presented information.
- 13.12 At the conclusion of these discussions, the committee will make a decision and advise the person as to the decision made.
- 13.13 If the appeal is successful, the original sanction will be suspended and the appeals lodgement fee will be refunded at the earliest convenience of Griffith Sport, Griffith University.
- 13.14 If the appeal is unsuccessful the original sanction will stand and the subsequent penalties will stand. The appeals lodgement fee will also be surrendered.

#### **14. EFFECT OF ABANDONED MATCHES**

14.1 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 player belongs is not responsible for the facts that led to the abandonment, cancellation or forfeiture.

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

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

#### **15. COMPETITION RULES**

If there is an inconsistency between a term in these regulations and a term in the competition rules, the term in these regulations will govern to the extent of that inconsistency and the inconsistent term in competition rules is void.

## 16. DEFINITIONS AND INTERPRETATION

### 16.1 In these Regulations:

**Caution** means a minor infringement of the laws of the game and is a warning from the match official to a player(s) during a match to sanction unsportsmanlike behaviour of a less serious nature.

**Club** means any team registered in Griffith's social sporting competitions.

**Competition** means any competition, tournament or league conducted by Griffith University

**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 committee that has jurisdiction over a competition.

**Disciplinary Hearing Notice** means the notice issued by a Competition Administrator to a player or a team official citing him or her to appear before a Disciplinary Committee to be heard in relation to an alleged offence and possible disciplinary sanction.

**Disciplinary Infringement Notice** means the notice issued by a Competition Administrator to a player or a team official providing notice of the disciplinary sanction imposed for the offence committed by that player or team official.

**Expulsion** means a serious infringement of the laws of the game and is the order given by the match official to someone to leave the vicinity of the field of play and the technical area, including the substitute's bench, during a match.

**Friendly** means any official match participated in by a club as sanctioned by Griffith University, which is not part of a Competition.

**Laws of the Game** mean the official laws of the game which can be obtained from the Competition Administrator.

**Match** means any match played in Australia under the auspices of Griffith University.

**Match Official** means a referee, umpire, assistant referee, fourth official, match commissioner, referee inspector, selector, any person in charge of safety or any other person appointed by Griffith University

**Player** means any person who is playing in the Griffith University social sporting competitions. For the avoidance of doubt, a reference to a player during a match includes a substitute and a substituted player.

**Recommended Sanctions** mean the sanctions for the serious infringements as specified in Annexure A or as amended on notification by Griffith University

**Match Official s Report** means the report to be completed by a referee at the end of the match and submitted to the Competition Administrator

**Sanction** means a penalty in the form of match or time suspensions, deduction of competition points and/or a fine that is applied to a player(s), team official, team or spectator.

**Supporter** means a person who attends an appeals meeting in support of a sanctioned player or team.

**Suspension** means a form of sanction that is served over a period of direct time such as weeks, months or years or in terms of a certain number of matches.

**Team** means the team within a club to which a player or team official is a member of.

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

## 17. ANNEXURE A: RECOMMENDED SANCTIONS

17.1 The recommended sanctions for match suspensions are as specified in the table below.

The match suspensions are inclusive of any applicable mandatory match suspension. The Disciplinary Committee may impose sanctions and match suspensions outside of the recommendations on a case to case basis.

### CODE OFFENCE EXAMPLES RANGE OF MATCH SUSPENSIONS

Code	Offence	Examples	Recommended minimum suspensions	Recommended maximum suspensions
R1	serious foul play	Excessive force or brutality when challenging for the ball when it is in play.  eg: tackle from behind that endangers the safety of an opponent	1 match	4 matches
R2	violent conduct	Excessive force or brutality when NOT challenging for the ball, including but not limited to striking, kicking, elbowing or head-butting. This may occur either on the field of play or outside its boundaries, whether the ball is in play or not, and against an opponent, team-mate or any other person.	2 matches	4 matches
R3	serious act of violent conduct	Violent conduct of the most serious nature that intends to cause or causes significant bodily harm to any person.  Involvement in a brawl (but not if person has tried to prevent a fight, shield others or separate those involved in a brawl).	5 matches	24months

R4	violent conduct against a Match Official	pushing, striking, kicking, elbowing, head-butting	1 year	life
R5	spitting at a Player or any other person		4 matches	12 months
R6	spitting at a Match Official		6 matches	18 months
R7	use of offensive, insulting or abusive language and/or gestures		2 matches	4 matches
R8	use of discriminatory language and/or gestures, including racist, religious, ethnic or sexist		3 matches	5 matches
R9	use of offensive, insulting or abusive language and/or gestures against a Match Official	Intimidation to pressure that Match Official to take or omit to take certain action Harassment (including sexual harassment) of a verbal nature against a Match Official	3 matches	6 matches

17.2 A match suspension in terms of time served (months, years) in accordance with these regulations will take effect across all Griffith University competitions.

17.3 A sanction imposed on a team, such as a deduction of competition points, suspension or expulsion from a competition, or playing a match without spectators or on neutral territory, can be imposed in very serious or repeated circumstances, including a brawl amongst players and/or spectators.