



Football South Coast

Disciplinary &

Dispute Regulations

Abstract: Football South Coast is a member of Football NSW and is responsible for the administration of the game of Association Football for the Illawarra region.

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1. INTRODUCTION

- a) Football South Coast is a member of Football NSW and is responsible for the administration of the game of Association Football for the Illawarra region.
- b) These Regulations are made under clause 3(g) of the Objects of the Constitution of Football South Coast. Any capitalised terms not defined in Schedule 1 of these Regulations shall have the meaning given to them by Football South Coast.
- c) These Regulations are supplementary to the Football NSW & FA Grievance Resolution Regulations and the FA National Disciplinary Regulations.
- d) For the purposes of these Regulations, a reference to FA in the FA Code of Conduct and Ethics or the FA Spectator Code of Behaviour will also be a reference to Football South Coast.
- e) Where an incident may constitute a breach of these Regulations and a breach of the FA Rules and Regulations (for example, the FA Code of Conduct or the FA National Member Protection Policy), Football FSC may in its absolute discretion determine the appropriate governing document under which to investigate, process, and penalise (if necessary) any matter.
- f) Football South Coast reserves the right to deal with any Member in respect of any offences or complaints and other matters not specifically provided for in these Regulations.
- g) In the case of a Regulation being interpreted in two or more different ways, Football South Coast reserves the right to determine which interpretation is valid. Any such determination is final and not subject to appeal.
- h) If any part of these Regulations is void that part will be severable and will not affect the enforceability of the remaining Articles of these Regulations.
- i) In these Regulations, unless the context requires otherwise, capitalized terms will have the meaning set out in [Schedule 1 – Definitions](#)
- j) In these Regulations:
 - i. any use of the words “includes” or words such as “for example” or “such as” do not limit anything else that is included in general speech.
 - ii. “working day” means a day when the offices of Football South Coast are ordinarily open for business;
 - iii. any reference to “\$” or “dollars” is to Australian dollars.
 - iv. a reference to a singular includes the plural and vice versa; and
 - v. a reference to any document is to that document as amended, supplemented, varied or replaced from time to time except to the extent expressly prohibited by that document or these Regulations.
- k) The Schedules form part of these Regulations.

2. OBJECTIVES

- a) To ensure that the game of football is played in accordance with the Laws of the Game (LOTG).
- b) To ensure that the game of football is played competitively and fairly in accordance with principles of true sportsmanship and with the guiding principles from time to time promulgated by FIFA, FA, FNSW or FSC.

These currently include:

- A. FIFA
 - i. Respect
 - ii. Fair play
 - iii. Eliminate racism
 - iv. Protect the skilful player
 - v. Eliminate destructive negative tactics
 - vi. Encourage acting play.
- B. Football South Coast
 - i. Ensure a family friendly environment.
 - ii. Code of Conduct requirements for players, coaches, team officials, spectators and match officials and any other as per FSC approved requirements.
 - iii. Ensure that the game of football is played competitively and fairly in accordance with principles of true sportsmanship.
- c) To provide an independent, fair and effective system that sets out procedures, requirements and guidelines for the administration and determination of all grievances, incidents, disciplinary, dispute and conduct matters involving Members relating to Football South Coast Competitions and programs as well as Offences, Suspensions and Sanctions for those who breach these Regulations.
- d) To ensure consistency and transparency of approach are evident and present in all aspects of handling all grievance, incidents, disciplinary, dispute and conduct matters involving Members under these Regulations.

3. JURISDICTION

- a) These Regulations shall apply exclusively to facilitate the expeditious and fair resolution of:
- Grievances, incidents, disciplinary, dispute and conduct matters in relation to FSC competitions.
 - Grievances between Members within the jurisdiction of Football South Coast, or a competition or program sanctioned by Football South Coast.
 - Any matter the Executive determines, in its absolute discretion, is important to the interests of football in the region within the jurisdiction of Football South Coast. This may include incidents, disciplinary, dispute and conduct matters conducted by Member Clubs where FSC or the Executive determines, in its absolute discretion, that the matter has not been appropriately dealt with by the Member.
 - Appeals from an FSC Member Appeals Committee (once its internal procedures have been exhausted).
- b) Subject only to any further appeal right to FNSW & FA.
- c) The Schedules form part of these Regulations.
- d) Each Member submits exclusively to the jurisdiction of these Regulations and agrees that unless it has exhausted the procedures set out in these Regulations, it will not attempt to resolve any Grievances, incidents, disciplinary and dispute and conduct matters by recourse to FNSW, FA or a court of law.
- e) These Regulations:
- i. Continue to apply to a Participant even after that Participant's association, registration, employment or engagement has ended, if that Participant breached these Regulations while they were a Participant.
 - ii. Apply to a Participant at the time of that Participant's subsequent association, registration, employment or engagement in relation to conduct that occurs between two periods of association, registration, employment or engagement.
 - iii. Apply to a person who is not registered but who at the time of the conduct was required to be registered to participate in the relevant activity in which the conduct occurred.

4. AUTHORITY TO ESTABLISH COMMITTEES AND TRIBUNALS

- a) The authority to establish committees and tribunals is vested in the Board pursuant to clause 3(g) of Football South Coast's Constitution.
- b) These Regulations shall confirm the establishment of the following Bodies:
 - i. Disciplinary Commission(er) (DC)
 - ii. Match Review Committee (MRC)
 - iii. General Purpose Tribunal (GPT)
 - iv. Appeals Tribunal (AT).
- c) The membership, jurisdiction, responsibilities, and procedures of each of the abovementioned Bodies are set out in these Regulations.
- d) In addition to the establishment of the abovementioned Bodies, Football South Coast shall generally be responsible for administering the procedures of the Committees and Tribunals including:
 - i. Where necessary or appropriate, establishing and maintaining a conflict-of-interest register of persons sitting on each of the Bodies.
 - ii. Collating all submissions, documents and evidence received by the parties or relevant to an incident, Grievance.
 - iii. Providing copies of Notices and Determinations to Members.
 - iv. Convening all hearings and appeals for the Tribunals.
 - v. Providing reports for the Tribunals.
 - vi. Ensuring that any Application Fees are received in good time by Football South Coast.
 - vii. Ensure that all timeframes and requirements are met; and
 - viii. Performing any incidental tasks necessary to ensure the smooth and efficient operation of these Regulations.

5. MEMBERSHIP OF BODIES

5.1 APPOINTMENT OF DISCIPLINARY COMMISSION(ER) (DC)

- a) The Board may appoint between one (1) and three (3) people as Disciplinary Commissioner(s) to:
- Advise it on the appropriateness of these regulations.
 - Carry out regular review of the performance of the Regulations in meeting the needs of Football South Coast and its constituent stakeholders, making appropriate recommendations for change to the Board.
 - Ensure proper consultation with all major stakeholders affected by the regulations in any development or review.
 - Provide recommendations to FSC on prospective appointments to the respective committees and tribunals or, where delegated by the Board, consult with the Executive in appointing Members.
 - Determine jurisdiction for any hearing and participate in any determination that may be made prior to the convening of any Tribunal or Hearing
 - Provide advice and interpretations for implementation or action as required.
- b) At least one (1) member of the Commission (if more than one) should be conversant with the Laws of the Game and current interpretations as promulgated by FIFA and the International Board (IFAB) and one (1) member familiar with procedural fairness and natural justice principles.

5.2 APPOINTMENT OF MATCH REVIEW COMMITTEE MEMBERS

- a) The Executive in consultation with the Disciplinary Commissioner shall appoint the Match Review Committee(s) consisting of at least three (3) members who are appointed and/or engaged by Football South Coast.
- b) One member of the Match Review Committee shall act as Chair in all meetings or hearings.
- c) Upon the appointment of a Match Review Committee member, he or she must disclose to Football South Coast the Clubs which they are current active members of or affiliated to.
- d) A Match Review Committee member shall not be involved in matters in which his or her own Club is an interested party or any matter where a conflict of interest may reasonably exist.
- e) No member of the Board or Constituent Councils with the exception of the Referees' Council may serve on the Match Review Committee.
- f) At least one (1) member of the Committee should be conversant with the Laws of the Game and current interpretations as promulgated by FIFA and IFAB and (1) member familiar with procedural fairness and natural justice principles.

5.3 APPOINTMENT OF TRIBUNAL MEMBERS

- a) Football South Coast Board or its Delegate may, from time to time, appoint Tribunal Members to sit on the General Purpose or Appeals Tribunals.

5.4 TRIBUNAL COMPOSITION

- a) A validly constituted Tribunal shall consist of:
 - i. A Chairperson; and
 - ii. A panel of Tribunal Members.
- b) Each Tribunal Member shall have:
 - i. The ability to exercise sound and fair judgment and to make objective and independent decisions.
 - ii. Knowledge of procedural fairness and natural justice principals and
 - iii. Sufficient knowledge of football and Football South Coast Rules and Regulations, where appropriate, Football NSW and/or FA Rules and Regulations, and, where necessary, the Laws of the Game.
- c) Persons appointed to the roles in this [Article 5.4 \(a\)](#) may be rotated from hearing to hearing across the Match Review Committee or Tribunals due to availability as determined by the DC/Executive in their absolute discretion, except where a Tribunal Member who has sat on a hearing of either the MRC or a GPT hearing of a matter may not then sit on any GPT or Appeals Tribunal into the same matter.
- d) The Executive may, in consultation with the DC, appoint person(s) to sit on a Tribunal hearing who are not Tribunal Members appointed under [Article 5.4 \(a\)](#), if in its opinion, it believes a matter requires special attention or expertise.
- e) All Tribunals shall comprise a minimum of three (3) and maximum of five (5) Tribunal members.

5.5 QUALIFICATION OF TRIBUNAL MEMBERS

- a) Except where FSC Board of Directors otherwise determines, a person shall not be appointed to a Tribunal if that person in the twelve (12) months preceding appointment:
 - i. Is currently under suspension from FSC or has been suspended by the MRC or GPT in the last 2 competition years.
 - ii. Is currently an FSC club Official and has or may be seen to have a conflict of interest with the matters involved in the hearing.
 - iii. Is currently a club coach in any competition in which the parties in the Tribunal are a part.

5.6 TERM

- a) A member of a Body will be appointed for a term of twelve (12) months or as otherwise determined by FSC unless any such member resigns or is removed pursuant to [Article 5.7](#)

5.7 RESIGNATION AND REMOVAL OF TRIBUNAL MEMBERS

- a) A Tribunal Member may resign by providing notice in writing to the Executive.
- b) The Executive, in consultation with the Board and/or the DC may remove a Tribunal Member at any time in its absolute discretion.

5.8 CODE OF CONDUCT OF BODY MEMBERS

- a) Upon appointment by Football South Coast, a member of a Body agrees to be bound and to comply with the Football South Coast Code of Conduct applicable to members of a Body.

6. CORRESPONDENCE, PRESCRIBED FORMS, AND MATCH OFFICIAL REPORTS

6.1 CORRESPONDENCE AND PRESCRIBED FORMS

- a) All correspondence in relation to any matter under these Regulations must be made electronically and directed to the relevant email addresses set out in [Schedule 5: Prescribed forms and email addresses](#).
- b) All prescribed forms can be located on the Football South Coast website.

6.2 MATCH OFFICIAL REPORTS

- a) In order to ensure Football South Coast provides an efficient service to Members under these Regulations, Match Officials must submit their Match Official Reports to Football South Coast as soon as possible, but no later than one working day after the completion of the relevant Match. No Determination of a Body will be quashed or held invalid by reason only of the failure of any Match Official(s) to comply with this [Article 6.2\(a\)](#).
- b) In any case where the match official provides a report to the Club, the Club must ensure its submission to Football South Coast by the close of business on Tuesday following the match unless Football South Coast advises the Club otherwise.
- c) Failure to comply with the requirement set out in this [Article 6.2\(a\) or \(b\)](#) may result in the Match Official or the Club being sanctioned/fined, in the absolute discretion of Football South Coast.
- d) Match Official Reports must set out the following:
 - i. Any Yellow Card Offences to be shown on the match sheet.
 - ii. Any Red Card Offences issued during the Match including the categorisation of Offences (set out in a **Match Official Send-Off Report**); and
 - iii. Any Expulsion Offences issued during the Match including the categorisation of Offences (set out in a **Match Official Expulsion Report**); and
 - iv. Any serious incidents which took place (set out in a **Match Official Incident Report or written correspondence**) detailing any misbehaviour on the part of any Participant, Spectator(s), Team Official(s) and Club Official(s).
- e) For the avoidance of doubt Football South Coast and a Body are not bound by the categorisation of an Offence by a Match Official.
- f) Match Official Incident Reports should include details concerning any misbehaviour on the part of Spectators.

- g) In order to ensure Football South Coast provides a fair and transparent system to Members under these Regulations and to assist the Bodies in arriving at their decisions, in completing Match Official Reports, Match Officials must:
- i. complete their written Match Official Report independent of any other Match Officials involved in the Match and any potential witnesses.
 - ii. as far as reasonably possible, clearly state what they actually saw and/or heard in relation to the incident(s) and clearly distinguish that from what others told them occurred.
 - iii. as far as reasonably possible, in respect of words spoken by a Participant, record those in the first person using the words actually spoken; and
 - iv. as far as reasonably possible, state how they identified the Participant.
- h) A Match Official may seek assistance from a member of a Referees' Body in completing a Match Official Report provided that member was not a Match Official involved in the Match and is not otherwise a witness to the incident(s) the subject of the Match Official Report.
- i) For avoidance of doubt, facts contained in Match Official Reports are presumed to be true.
- j) The DC may determine that any reports submitted be referred to a GPT for determination.
- k) Football South Coast will, within a reasonable period of time following receipt of any Match Official Incident Report, provide a copy of same to the Participant's Club (or to the Club, if the Offence has allegedly been committed by a Club). The purpose of doing so is to:
- i. Require the Club to submit to Football South Coast the details of any Participant (including full name and FA number) referred to but not identified in the Match Official Report, to the extent that the Club is reasonably able to do so.
 - ii. Where the Club believes that the person identified in the Match Official Incident Report is not the offender, provide the Club with the opportunity to submit a challenge on the basis of mistaken identity pursuant to [Article 7.4](#) or
 - iii. Require the Club to provide any information requested by Football South Coast in relation to an investigation pursuant to [Article 8.2 \(Charges of Misconduct and Disrepute\)](#)
- l) Any Club in receipt of a Match Official Incident Report pursuant to this [Article 6.2 \(k\)](#) must provide any information requested or submit any challenge, as the case may be, to Football South Coast by 5.00pm on the next working day after issuance of the Match Official Incident Report to the Club by Football South Coast, or such later time as notified by Football South Coast.
- m) Any Club that fails to comply with [Article 6.2 \(l\)](#) will be deemed to have committed Misconduct and the Executive may, in its absolute discretion, charge the Club accordingly and to consider the matter pursuant to [Article 8.2 \(Charges of Misconduct and Disrepute\)](#)
- n) In the case of a challenge to a Match Official Incident Report on the basis of mistaken identity in accordance with [Article 7.4](#) , if Football South Coast does not receive the properly completed written statements by the time specified in [Article 7.4](#) , any Participant identified as responsible in the Match Official Incident Report for the incident referred to therein is deemed to have been responsible for the incident and may, subject to the MRC's consideration of the incident, be issued with a Notice of Suspension.

7. MATCH REVIEW COMMITTEE (MRC)

7.1 JURISDICTION

- a) In accordance with Table of Offences, the MRC has jurisdiction to:
 - A. Issue Sanctions/Suspensions against Participants based on Match Official Reports for:
 - i. Red Card/Send Off offences (including named substitutes) – Send Off Reports; or
 - ii. Dismissal of Officials/Coaches or others (not including named substitutes) from the Technical Area – Expulsion Reports; or
 - iii. Incident Reports directly related to behaviour of those subject to this [Article 7.1 Ai\) or ii\)](#) or those who participated in the game and committed such offences immediately following the Game and prior to the departure of the Match Official.
 - B. Adjudicate on any challenge to a suspension on the basis of Mistaken Identity ([Article 7.4](#)),
 - C. Adjudicate on any challenge to a suspension on the basis of Exceptional Circumstances ([Article 7.5](#)) or,
 - D. Deal with any matter as a result of a finding by a GPT referred for consideration.
- b) Notwithstanding [Article 7.1 A.i\), A.ii\), A.iii\)](#), the DC may consider any charge of a serious nature should be dealt with by a GPT.

7.2 DETERMINATION

- a) Subject to this [Article 7.2 \(b\)](#), Football South Coast must, within a reasonable time following the completion of a Match, refer any Match Official Send-Off Report, the Participant's Disciplinary History and any other material Football South Coast determines, in its absolute discretion, is relevant to the matter, to the Match Review Committee for its consideration.
- b) The Match Review Committee must issue Sanctions and/or Suspensions based on the material presented by Football South Coast pursuant to this [Article 7.2 \(a\)](#) and applying [Schedule 2 – Table of Offences](#) as set out in these Regulations to FSC within twenty-four hours of the MRC meeting.
- c) Upon receipt of a Suspension from the Match Review Committee, FSC must as soon as is practicable set out any Suspension in a Notice of Suspension and issue same to the Participants Club via electronic means. That Club must, as soon as practicable, advise the Participant and provide the Participant with a copy of the Notice of Suspension. Failure by the Club to do so is deemed a breach of these Regulations.
- d) The Match Review Committee may, in consultation with the DC, consider the case may necessitate it holding a hearing or that it should be heard by a GPT and make such a referral.
- e) Unless otherwise specified in these Regulations, the imposition of a Suspension by the Match Review Committee has immediate effect.
- f) All Suspensions issued by the Match Review Committee remain in force unless reversed by a Body and a Participant must continue to serve any Suspension until the Suspension is served in full.
- g) Where a Participant has a right of challenge or appeal pursuant to [Articles 7.3, 7.4 or 7.5](#) that challenge or appeal may be brought by the Participant's Club on the Participant's behalf and any obligations imposed on a Participant in terms of compliance with those sections apply equally to the Participant's Club.

7.3 CHALLENGING DETERMINATION

- a) The sole grounds for a Participant to challenge a Notice of Suspension are as follows:
 - i. Mistaken identity pursuant to [Article 7.4](#) and
 - ii. Truly exceptional circumstances pursuant to [Article 7.5](#)
- b) For the sake of expediency, applications under Mistaken Identity or Truly Exceptional Circumstances may be made prior to receipt of the Notice of Suspension but, if so made, must be received by FSC through the Club with the appropriate documentation and the applicable fee by 5.00pm on the Tuesday following the match. In such cases, the Match Review Committee will determine at its discretion whether it will consider the application at its next meeting prior to issue of the Notice of Suspension.
- c) Where any challenge under 7.3 b), 7.4 or 7.5 is to rely on video evidence for either Mistaken Identity or Exceptional Circumstances by the Participant challenging, the evidence must be provided to Football South Coast in an unedited form at least 24 hours prior to the hearing of any challenge. The amount of weight to be given to this evidence shall be at the sole discretion of the Chair of the MRC who may discuss the matter prior to the hearing with the Disciplinary Commissioner. No edited video will be accepted.

7.4 MISTAKEN IDENTITY

- a) An application under Mistaken Identity may be made in either of two ways:
 - i. A Club on behalf of a participant may submit an application on the appropriate form to FSC by 5.00 pm on the Tuesday following the match.
 - ii. If a Participant who has been issued with a Notice of Suspension pursuant to [Article 7.2](#) claims that he or she was the victim of mistaken identity, he or she may apply for a hearing by the Match Review Committee in accordance with this [Article 7.4](#), through their respective club.

The Club on behalf of the Participant must, by midnight of the next working day following receipt of the Notice of Suspension, notify Football South Coast by the submission of a Notification Form that it is lodging a claim. The claim may not proceed if the deadline has not been met.

- b) By midnight of the next working day following submission of a Notification Form of mistaken identity to Football South Coast, the Participant or Club must submit in writing the evidence upon which the claim is founded. Where possible, a written statement from the Participant responsible for the Offence should be supplied. The details must, however, include:

A signed written statement by the Participant who is accused of the mistaken identify which must state that he or she was not responsible for the offence reported in the Notice of Suspension and identifying to the best of their knowledge the name of the Participant responsible; AND either/both

Option 1: A signed written statement by the Participant who was responsible for the offence

Option 2: A signed written statement from the Participant's Club identifying to the best of its knowledge, the name of the participant who was responsible for the offence.

FSC may request that any statement be in the form of a Statutory Declaration.

Any other evidence which may support the claim for mistaken identity including, but not limited to, any unedited video or photo evidence may also be submitted. The amount of weight given to this evidence shall be at the sole discretion of the chair of the MRC.

- c) After considering the evidence, the Match Review Committee will decide whether the claim should be rejected or upheld.
- d) If the Match Review Committee considers that the rejected claim had no prospect of success and/or amounts to an abuse of process, it shall impose a mandatory two (2) Match Suspension in addition to the amount set out in the Notice of Suspension. In all other cases in which the claim is rejected, the Participant reported by the Match Official shall serve the Suspension as set out in the Notice of Suspension.
- e) If the Match Review Committee upholds any mistaken identity claim, any Notice of Suspension issued to the original Participant will be rescinded by FSC.
- f) If the Match Review Committee upholds any mistaken identity claim and has made a finding in respect to the identity of the actual offender, the MRC shall determine or re-determine the matter, as the case may be, as if it were dealing with a fresh matter, pursuant to [Article 7.2](#)
- g) In the event that a Participant has been issued with a Yellow Card that has not resulted in a Notice of Suspension being issued and claims that he or she was the victim of mistaken identity, he or she may apply to the Match Review Committee for consideration through this section.
- h) By midnight on the third working day following the issue of the Yellow Card to the Participant, the Participant or Club must submit in writing to Football South Coast the evidence upon which the claim is founded. Where possible, a written statement from the Participant responsible for the Yellow Card Offence should be supplied. The details must, however, include:

A written signed statement by the Participant reported by the Match Official that he or she was not responsible for the Offence and identifying and identifying to the best of their knowledge the name of the Participant responsible; AND either/both:

Option 1: A signed written statement by the Participant who was responsible for the offence.

Option 2: A signed written statement from the Participant's Club identifying to the best of its knowledge, the name of the participant who was responsible for the offence.

Any other evidence which may support the claim for mistaken identity including, but not limited to, any video or photo evidence may also be submitted. The amount of weight given to this evidence shall be at the sole discretion of the chair of the MRC.

- i) After considering the evidence, the Match Review Committee will decide whether the claim should be rejected or upheld.
- j) If the Match Review Committee considers that the rejected claim had no prospect of success and/or amounts to an abuse of process, it shall impose a mandatory two (2) Match Suspension on the Participant.
- k) If the Match Review Committee's decision is that the claim is upheld, the Yellow Card shall be transferred from the record of the Player reported by the Match Official to the appropriate identified offender.
- l) The decision made by the Match Review Committee will be conveyed to the Club via email within two (2) business days from the evidence provided by the Participant or Club pursuant to this [Article 7.4 \(c\) or \(i\)](#), whichever is relevant.
- m) A Club failing to lodge a claim for mistaken identity may be charged with Misconduct by Football South Coast if there is evidence that the Club sought to gain an advantage by remaining silent on the matter.

- n) The decision of the Match Review Committee in relation to claims for mistaken identity is final and binding on all parties and not subject to appeal.
- o) The Participant and Club should note that the time limits set out above are strict. Only completed claims submitted in writing on the appropriate documentation through their Club before the relevant deadlines will be considered by Football South Coast.

7.5 TRULY EXCEPTIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES

- a) This [Article 7.5](#) is intended to apply only in truly exceptional circumstances. It is envisaged that, in the vast majority of matters, the standard Suspensions set out in a Notice of Suspensions will be appropriate and will be applied. They are not intended to encourage or lead to the systematic, regular review of standard Suspensions and are reserved for truly exceptional cases.
- b) A Participant or Club may in very limited circumstances seek to limit the disciplinary consequences of a Suspension by demonstrating to the Match Review Committee that the circumstances of a particular Suspension were truly exceptional, such that the standard Suspension applicable would be clearly excessive.
- c) Truly exceptional circumstances mean circumstances operating at the time of the Offence and relating to the commission of the Offence and not to the impact a sanction may have. The following do not constitute exceptional circumstances:
 - i. The significance or importance to the Participant or his or her Club of the Match in which the Offence was committed.
 - ii. 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 in the Table of Offences.
 - iii. The point in the Match at which the Offence was committed.
 - iv. The conduct, including actions, words or gestures of any Player or Team Official of the opposing team or spectators during or related to the Match; and
 - v. Any disciplinary decision taken or failure to take a disciplinary decision, by a Match Official during the Match.
- d) Any Participant or Club bringing a claim under this [Article 7.5](#) accepts that the sending off was correct according to the Laws of the Game and may not challenge that sending off via mistaken identity or by any other means whatsoever.
- e) The MRC must not expunge a Red Card (except in the case of mistaken identity).
- f) The MRC must not expunge a Mandatory Match Suspension (except in the case of mistaken identity).
- g) In considering a claim of this type, the Match Review Committee is concerned with only the question of whether the Suspension should not be imposed in view of the circumstances of the case. The Match Review Committee is not to usurp the role of the Match Official and the correctness of the decision to issue a Red Card shall not be subject to any scrutiny by the Match Review Committee.
- h) The Club on behalf of the Participant must, by midnight of the next working day following receipt of the Notice of Suspension, notify Football South Coast in writing that it wishes to lodge a claim. The Club must submit a Notification Form and the claim will not proceed if the deadline has not been met.
- i) By midnight of the next working day following submission of a Notification Form of a claim of exceptional circumstances, the Participant or Club must submit in writing, together with the Application Fee ([Article 25](#)), to Football South Coast the evidence upon which the claim is founded. Where possible, a written statement from the Participants involved in the subject incident should be supplied.

- j) After considering the evidence, the Match Review Committee will decide whether the claim is to be rejected or is successful.
- k) A claim will only be successful under this [Article 7.5](#) where it satisfies the Match Review Committee that:
 - i. The circumstances of the Suspension under review are truly exceptional; and
 - ii. As a result of the truly exceptional circumstances the Suspension would be clearly excessive.
- l) If the Match Review Committee considers that the rejected claim had no prospect of success and/or amounts to an abuse of process, it shall impose a mandatory two (2) Match Suspension in addition to the amount set out in the Notice of Suspension. In all other cases, the Participant shall serve the Suspension as set out in the Notice of Suspension.
- m) When determining a challenge in accordance with this section, the MRC may consider:
 - i. the nature and severity of the Offence, including whether it was intentional, negligent or reckless;
 - ii. the nature and severity of any injuries suffered by the victim in the offence;
 - iii. the Player's past record and whether or not this is a repeated Offence;
 - iv. the remorse of the Player; and
 - v. any extenuating circumstances relevant to the commission of the Offence.
- n) If the Match Review Committee's decision is that the claim is successful, it shall impose such Suspension, if any, as it deems to be appropriate taking into consideration the circumstances of the subject incident. The MRC may also determine that the Application fee paid under [Article 25](#) may be refunded.
- o) The decision made by the Match Review Committee will be conveyed to the Club via email.
- p) The decision of the Match Review Committee in relation to claims for exceptional circumstances made by a Participant or Club is final and binding on all parties and not subject to appeal.
- q) In addition to the right of the Participant or Club to seek to limit the disciplinary consequences of a Suspension, the Football Council or its nominated delegate or Referee's Council may also seek to have the sanction prescribed under the Table of Offences set aside or adjusted by demonstrating to the Match Review Committee that the Offence is of such a nature that the prescribed Suspension is manifestly inadequate under the circumstances.
- r) The Football Council or Delegate or Referee's Council must, by midnight on the Monday of the week after the issue of the Notice of Suspension, notify Football South Coast in writing it wishes to lodge a claim. The Council must submit a Notification Form and the claim will not proceed if the deadline has not been met.
- s) By midnight the next working day following submission of a Notification Form of a claim of exceptional circumstance, the Football Council or Delegate or Referee's Council must submit in writing to Football South Coast the evidence upon which the claim is founded.
- t) After considering the evidence, the Match Review Committee will decide whether the claim is to be rejected or is successful.
- u) A claim will only be successful under this [Article 7.5](#) where a claim satisfies the Match Review Committee so that it is sure that:
 - i. The circumstances of the Suspension under review are truly exceptional such that the standard punishment should not be applied; and

As a result of the truly exceptional circumstances the standard punishment would be clearly inadequate.

- v) In considering the matters at [Article 7.5](#) above, the Match Review Committee shall have regard to:
 - i. The applicable Law(s) of the Game and any relevant FA, FNSW and/or Football South Coast Rules and Regulations.
 - ii. The nature of the Offence, and in particular any intent, recklessness, negligence, or other state of mind of the Participant.
 - iii. Where applicable, the level of force used.
 - iv. Any injury to an opponent caused by the dismissal Offence.
 - v. Any other impact on the game in which the dismissal occurred.
 - vi. The prevalence of the type of Offence in question in football generally.
 - vii. The wider interests of football in applying consistent punishments for dismissal offences.
- w) If the Match Review Committee's decision is that the claim is successful, it shall impose such Suspension as it deems to be appropriate taking into consideration the circumstances of the subject incident.
- x) The decision made by the Match Review Committee will be conveyed to the Club via email.
- y) In arriving at a decision on applications for consideration under this section, the Match Review Committee may convene a hearing of parties and witnesses of its' choosing to clarify aspects of the claim.
- z) The decision of the Match Review Committee in relation to claims for exceptional circumstances made by a Council pursuant to [Article 7.5 \(n\)](#) may be appealed by the affected Participant or Club to the Appeals Committee.
- aa) The Participant, Club, Football Council and Referee's Council should note that the time limits set out above are strict. Only complete claims submitted before the relevant deadlines will be considered by Football South Coast.

7.6 ABILITY TO CITE A PARTICIPANT TO APPEAR

- a) For the avoidance of doubt, Football South Coast, through the Disciplinary Commissioner and the Executive may, in its absolute discretion, cite a Participant to appear before the Match Review Committee or a General Purposes Tribunal in relation to:
 - i. a Red Card; or
 - ii. a serious infringement that escaped the Match Official's attention and may use this [Article 7.6](#) to do so.
- b) Whether certain conduct amounts to a "serious infringement" for the purposes of [Article 7.6 a\) ii](#)) is to be determined by FSC in its absolute discretion, however, generally speaking, a Red Card Offence (except an R4, R5 and R7), will amount to a "serious infringement".
- c) For the further avoidance of doubt, any decision by FSC to cite a Participant under [Article 7.6](#) and any determination that certain conduct amounts to a "serious infringement" under [Article 7.6](#) is final and may not be challenged before a Body. The issues of guilt and/or sanction in respect of the conduct cited remain a matter for the Body.
- d) The ability to cite a player under [Article 7.6 a\) ii](#)) for a serious infringement which escaped the Match Official's attention is only to be used sparingly where clear unedited video evidence is available and, for example, the participant has caused an injury to another, or engaged in behaviour (such as obscene gestures) leading to a crowd disturbance. It is not intended to be used as a means of re-refereeing matches. Incidents likely to comprise investigation will be those which occurred behind and away from play out of the vision of the referee and, in most cases the FSC appointed Assistant Referees.

8. GENERAL PURPOSES TRIBUNAL (GPT)

8.1 JURISDICTION

- a) The General Purposes Tribunal has jurisdiction to hear and determine:
 - i. Charges of Misconduct and Disrepute ([Article 8.2](#)).
 - ii. Grievances between Members as set out in [Article 8.3](#).
 - iii. Any other matter that the Disciplinary Commissioner or Match Review Committee deems appropriate to be referred to the GPT as it may bring Football South Coast or football into Disrepute.
 - iv. Offences disclosed in Match Official Reports
- b) The applicable Sanctions for matters set out in this [Article 8.1\(a\)i](#) are set out in [Article 24.8 MISCONDUCT - Penalties](#). A matter will not proceed unless the relevant Application Fee has been lodged with Football South Coast as prescribed in [Article 25](#).
- c) A Member may be jointly and severally liable and/or vicariously liable for the actions of a Participant who is an official or a member of the Member.

8.2 CHARGES OF MISCONDUCT AND DISREPUTE

- a) FSC may investigate any matter which in its opinion is relevant to whether a charge of Misconduct or Disrepute ought to be laid. Such investigation may be initiated on the basis of, including but not limited to, a written report or complaint of a Member, a Match Official Report, referral from the MRC pursuant to [Article 7.2 \(d\)](#) or on the basis of any other evidence which in the opinion of the Board or the Executive, is credible.
- b) Such investigation may be carried out by FSC, a Football Council, Competition Coordinator or the Board in consultation with the DC or Executive as it sees fit and Members are required to cooperate fully with FSC in the conduct of that investigation and must do so in the timeframe specified in any correspondence issued by FSC. A Member agrees that any information provided to FSC may be used as evidence in bringing a charge under this [Article 8.2](#) and may be provided to any party so charged.
- c) A Member who fails to comply with this [Article 8.2 \(b\)](#) will be deemed to have committed Misconduct and the Executive or DC may, in its absolute discretion, charge the Member accordingly and refer the matter to the GPT for determination pursuant to this [Article 8.2](#)
- d) For the avoidance of doubt, a Club may be sanctioned in accordance with [Article 8.2](#) notwithstanding the offender (s) have not been identified.
- e) At any time, the DC, and Board or Executive may determine whether any charge of Misconduct and/or Disrepute is to be laid and, in relation to such charge:
 - i. The DC in consultation with the Executive and Head of Council or a delegated representative or MRC Chairperson, after consideration of all reports, and submitted evidence may
 - ii. Issue a Notice of Charge proposing sanctions from the Table of Offences for application which a Club and/or its Participant(s) may be invited to accept. Clubs and/or Participants will have the right to accept the recommended Sanctions or request the matter be referred to the GPT with the relevant application fee; or
 - iii. The DC may refer the matter directly to the GPT.
- f) Should the proposed penalties in the Notice of Charge in [Article 8.2e](#) not be accepted and the Participant chooses to take the matter to hearing:

- i. FSC is entitled to seek penalties greater than those proposed in the Notice of Charge; and
- ii. The Tribunal is entitled to impose penalties greater than those proposed by FSC:
 - A. in the Notice of Charge (if any); and/or
 - B. During the course of the Hearing.
- g) Members are reminded that timeframes specified for responses are specific and must be strictly complied with.
- h) Where a Club or Participant does not respond to any proposed/recommended Sanctions issued in a Notice of Charge under [Article 8.2e](#) within the specified time, the proposed Sanctions will be deemed to have been accepted, and the Sanctions will be imposed. The Member or Participant will forfeit any right of appeal.

8.3 GRIEVANCES

- a) Football South Coast will only accept a Grievance if these [Articles 8.3 \(c\) and 8.3 \(d\)](#) have been satisfied. In addition to this, a Member cannot refer a Grievance to FSC if the subject matter has been or would ordinarily be, dealt with by FSC under [Article 8.2 or Article 9.8](#) or where FSC has declined to hear the matter due to jurisdictional issues.
- b) The DC in consultation with the Executive may dismiss any Grievance they determine, in their absolute discretion, to be a Vexatious Claim.
- c) Except in the case of a Grievance relating to the purported deregistration of a Player, before referring any Grievance to Football South Coast any Member making a Claim (Claimant) or a Complaint (Complainant) must write to the other Member involved in the subject matter of the Grievance (Respondent) with details of the Grievance (including any material or evidence relied on by the Member in respect of the Grievance) allowing the Respondent at least seven (7) business days to respond. The Respondent's reply must include reasons for any disagreement with the details of the Grievance.
- d) If a response is not received within seven (7) business days of the notice from the Claimant or Complainant referred to in this [Article 8.3 \(c\)](#) or the Grievance is not otherwise resolved, the Claimant or Complainant may in writing refer the Grievance to Football South Coast.
- e) Except in the case of a contractual dispute arising from a Player's professional contract, which is to be dealt with in accordance with the FA grievance Regulations, in order to file a Grievance to Football South Coast a Claimant or Complainant must complete and submit the appropriate Grievance Form and any evidence and/or written submissions it intends to rely on together with the Application Fee within fourteen (14) working days after the notice referred to in this [Article 8.3 \(c\)](#).
- f) The Executive or DC may, on behalf of Football South Coast, either refer the matter to Mediation under [Article 13](#) or make a Complaint involving a Member in accordance with these Regulations.
- g) FSC may, in its absolute discretion, and where the circumstances require it, shorten the above timeline.
- h) Written notice of a Grievance to Football South Coast must be lodged within six (6) months after the last of the events giving rise to the Grievance with the Application fee and notices specified in the Grievance Form.

8.4 REFERRAL FROM THE MRC

- a) The MRC may in consultation with the DC, refer any matter to the GPT as per [Article 7.2 \(d\)](#), if it considers the matter is serious, complex and/or cannot be adequately dealt with given the MRC's jurisdiction.

8.5 OFFENCES DISCLOSED IN MATCH OFFICIAL REPORTS

- a) The DC or Executive in its absolute discretion may refer Offences disclosed in any Match Official Incident Reports and/or Expulsion Offences disclosed in Match Official Incident Expulsion Reports to a GPT.
- b) FSC will, within a reasonable time following receipt of any Match Official Expulsion Report and/or Match Official Incident Report, refer that report, the Participant's (or Club's) Disciplinary History (as the case may be) and any other material FSC determines in its absolute discretion, is relevant to the matter, to the GPT and to the Participant's Club, or the Club, as the case may be.

8.6 MATTERS OF IMPORTANCE

- a) The DC and/or Executive, in their absolute discretion, may refer any matter it determines, to be important to the interests of football in this Region to the GPT for determination.

8.7 RESPONSIBILITIES

- a) Where a GPT is required pursuant to this [Article 8.1](#), Football South Coast must ensure that it has considered as a part of this process all matters regarding impartiality and independence. Football South Coast shall:
 - i. Set a date for the hearing.
 - ii. Issue a Notice of Proceedings; and
 - iii. Convene a GPT in accordance with these Regulations.
- b) The Notice of Proceedings must contain the following information:
 - i. The date, time and place at which the GPT hearing will take place.
 - ii. Sufficient details of the allegations against the party or parties to enable the party or parties to prepare a response to the allegations.
 - iii. Details of previous cases involving the party(parties) and formal counselling or sanctions if any.
 - iv. Details of any documents or other evidence which have been received by Football South Coast.
 - v. References to any alleged breaches.
 - vi. Person(s) required to attend.
 - vii. If the GPT is being held pursuant to [Article 8.2e\)i](#)), advice that the GPT may set aside, increase or decrease the recommended Sanctions being challenged and,
 - viii. Any other information relevant to the hearing, including past history.
- c) Football South Coast must ensure it issues the Notice of Proceedings to the party or parties within a reasonable period of time following the initial referral, incident or complaint.

8.8 NOTICE TO ATTEND

- a) The GPT may request other Members to attend the hearing. If that is the case, then Football South Coast must issue a Notice to attend as soon as possible.

8.9 DETERMINATION

- a) At the conclusion of the hearing, the chairperson will ask all persons present to leave the hearing room while the GPT considers its findings.
- b) The Determination of the GPT will be in accordance with majority opinion.
- c) The types of sanctions that the GPT may impose are as follows, and must be considered in conjunction with the relevant FSC Competition Regulations:
 - i. For disciplinary sanctions against a Club, or any other Incorporated or Unincorporated Body Member:
 - A. A reprimand.
 - B. A fine or costs.
 - C. Placing the Club, or Body on a bond.
 - D. A deduction or loss of competition points.
 - E. A ban on the registration or transfer of any Players for a specified period of time.
 - F. Annulment of registration of a Player.
 - G. Suspension from participation in a Match or Matches.
 - H. Exclusion, suspension or expulsion from a Competition.
 - I. Playing a match without spectators or on neutral territory.
 - J. A ban on playing in a particular stadium.
 - K. Annulment of the result of the match.
 - L. Relegation to a lower division; or
 - M. Such other disciplinary sanctions or measures as are appropriate in all the circumstances, including as prescribed in the FIFA Statutes, FA Rules and Regulations and Football NSW Rules and Regulations and FSC Rules and Regulations.
 - ii. For disciplinary sanctions against a Participant:
 - A. A reprimand.
 - B. A fine or costs (no fine or costs may be applied against a participant who is an amateur or volunteer).
 - C. Requiring the return of an award.
 - D. Placing the individual on a bond.
 - E. Ban on registration of Player with any Club for a specified period of time.
 - F. Annulment of registration of a Player.
 - G. Suspension from participation in a Match or Matches (Fixture Suspension); or for a specified period of time (Time Suspension).
 - H. Suspension or expulsion from a Competition.
 - I. Termination of registration or playing contract.

- J. A ban from the dressing rooms, field of play and/or the Technical Area (within 50 metres).
 - K. A ban from entering a stadium or any number of stadiums or grounds.
 - L. A ban on taking part in any football related activity; or event.
 - M. Such other disciplinary sanctions or measures as are appropriate in all the circumstances, including as prescribed in the FIFA Statutes, FA Rules and Regulations and Football NSW Rules and Regulations and FSC Rules and Regulations.
- d) If a fine is imposed, the GPT determines the terms and time limits for payment.
 - e) A Club is jointly and severally liable for a fine imposed on one of its Participants (even if that Participant subsequently leaves that Club).
 - f) The sanctions imposed under this [Article 8.9](#) may be combined. If a suspension is combined with a fine, it is prolonged until the fine is paid in full.
 - g) A failure to comply with a Determination of the GPT is itself a breach of these Regulations and will be considered in contempt of a Tribunal pursuant to [Article 12.12 - Contempt in the face of a Tribunal](#).
 - h) The GPT will use its reasonable endeavours to issue a short oral or written summary of its Determination (Preliminary Determination) within five (5) working days of the completion of any hearing. The GPT will use its reasonable endeavours to issue a full written Determination, with reasons for decision (Final Determination), within fourteen (14) working days of the completion of any hearing.
 - i) Unless otherwise specified in these Regulation or by the General Purposes Tribunal in a GPT Determination, the imposition of a sanction has immediate effect.
 - j) All Determinations of the GPT remain in force unless reversed by the Appeals Tribunal.
 - k) The Notice of determination must include the party's (ies') rights, including the possible right to Appeal and references to any consequences which may arise during any such appeal as set out in these Regulations.
 - l) Where a GPT in accordance with [Article 8.9](#) or FSC pursuant to [Article 8.2e](#)), impose
 - A fine;
 - A bond;
 - A loss of points; or
 - A fixture or time suspension

the GPT or FSC may, after specifying reasons suspend a part/portion of the Sanction specifying the terms and time frame of the suspended portion and the circumstances under which it will be applied. Where any part of the sanction is to be suspended, that part to be suspended must not exceed 50% of the total Sanction unless, at the sole discretion of the GPT or FSC, they consider exceptional circumstances exist in the particular case.

8.10 CHALLENGING DETERMINATION

- a) A GPT Determination may be appealed by a party to the Appeals Tribunal in accordance with [Article 9](#).

9. APPEALS TRIBUNAL (AT) PROCEDURES

9.1 JURISDICTION

The AT will be responsible for hearing and determining in accordance with these Regulations any appeals of decisions made by

- a) Match Review Committee
- b) A General Purpose Tribunal.
- c) FSC Member Appeals Committees but subject to [Article 9.2](#) (Grounds of Appeal) and [Article 9.8](#) (Appeals against a decision of a FSC Member Appeals Committee).

9.2 GROUNDS OF APPEAL

The sole grounds of an appeal to the AT are:

- a) A party was not afforded a reasonable opportunity to present its case.
- b) Lack or excess of jurisdiction of a Body or a Member Appeals Committee.
- c) The decision of a Body or a FSC Member Appeals Committee was affected by actual bias.
- d) The decision was one that was not reasonably open to a Body or a FSC Member Appeals Committee having regard to the evidence before the Body or Member Appeals Committee.
- e) Severity only where a Body or Member Appeals Committee imposed a sanction of at least:
 - i. A Fixture Suspension of four (4) or more Matches; or
 - ii. A Time Suspension of three (3) or more months; or
 - iii. A fine of one thousand dollars (\$1,000); or
 - iv. A bond to be of good behaviour of one thousand dollars (\$1000) or more; or
 - v. A deduction, loss or ban on accruing three (3) or more competition points; or
 - vi. Exclusion, suspension or Expulsion of a Club or Team from a competition.
- f) Leniency, but only in the case of an appeal brought by FSC or an appeal allowed by the DC in consultation with the Executive.

9.3 NOTICE OF APPEAL

- a) If a party wishes to appeal a decision of the MRC or the GPT, it must lodge a Notice to Appeal form to Football South Coast, together with the Application Fee within five (5) business days of receiving the decision of the MRC, the GPT or the Member Appeals Board.
- b) The Notice to Appeal must contain the following information:
 - i. The name of the party wishing to appeal a decision of the MRC or the GPT; and
 - ii. The grounds upon which the party seeks to rely from those set out in [Article 9.2](#) above.

- c) A party must not submit any new material which was not before the MRC or GPT except where considered appropriate by the Disciplinary Commissioner as relevant to the Appeal. Such new material must be submitted with the Notice to Appeal.
- d) Any timeframes specified in this [Article 9](#) may be altered by Football South Coast where it would be just and reasonable.

9.4 COMMENCEMENT OF PROCEEDINGS

- a) Upon receipt of the Notice to Appeal and where an AT is required pursuant to [Article 9.1](#), Football South Coast must ensure that it has considered as a part of this process all matters regarding impartiality and independence. Football South Coast shall:
 - i. Set a date for the hearing.
 - ii. Issue a Notice of Proceedings; and
 - iii. Convene an Appeals Tribunal in accordance with these Regulations.
- b) The Notice of Proceedings must contain the following information:
 - i. The date, time and place at which the AT hearing will take place.
 - ii. Sufficient details of the grounds of appeal to enable the party or parties to prepare a response to the appeal.
 - iii. Details of any documents or other evidence which have been received by Football South Coast.
 - iv. References to any alleged breaches.
 - v. Person(s) required to attend.
 - vi. Advice to:
 - a. refer to these Regulations and
 - b. specific mention of the right of an Appeals Tribunal to dismiss, allow in part or vary (whether by way of reduction or increase) any Determination of any Sanction or Penalty previously imposed.
 - vii. Any other information relevant to the hearing.
- c) Football South Coast must ensure it issues the Notice of Proceedings to the party or parties within seven (7) days unless there are extenuating circumstances.

9.5 NOTICE TO ATTEND

- a) The AT may request other Members to attend the hearing. If that is the case, then Football South Coast must issue a Notice to attend as soon as possible.
- b) All parties involved in the hearing may be requested to address the AT in the presence of other parties.

9.6 DETERMINATION

- a) At the conclusion of the hearing, the chairperson will ask all person's present to leave the hearing room while the AT considers its findings.
- b) The AT Determination will be in accordance with majority opinion.

- c) The AT has the power to:
 - i. Dismiss, allow in whole or part, or vary (whether by way of reduction or increase) a Determination, including any sanction or penalty imposed by a Body or a FSC Member Appeals Committee, as the case may be.
 - ii. subject to any applicable Minimum Suspension, impose any sanction, measure or make any order it thinks fit or that a Body or FSC Member Appeals Committee, as the case may be, could have imposed or made under these Regulations.
 - iii. Remit the matter to the Body or the FSC Member Appeals Committee from which the appeal originated, or to the tribunal (or similar) that dealt with the matter at the first instance, for rehearing and issue any directions of orders in relation to the rehearing of the matter that the AT deems appropriate.
- d) No Determination of the MRC or GPT will be quashed or held invalid by the AT by reason only of any defect, irregularity, omission or other technicality, provided the AT is satisfied there has not been a miscarriage of justice.
- e) A failure to comply with a Determination of the AT is itself a breach of these Regulations and will be considered in contempt of a Tribunal pursuant to [Article 12.12](#).
- f) A Determination must be given as soon as possible but no later than fourteen (14) days following the hearing and the result will be advised by FSC to the appropriate parties within two (2) business days of receipt of the Determination from the AT.
- g) In making its determination the Appeal Committee may have in mind whether the Appeal had any chance of success and may at its discretion increase any sanction or suspension if, as a result of its considerations, it determines the parties ought to have been reasonably aware that the appeal had on the balance of probabilities, little chance of success.
- h) The Appeals Tribunal will use its reasonable endeavours to issue a short oral or written summary of its Determination (Preliminary Determination) within five (5) working days of the completion of any hearing. The Appeals Tribunal will use its reasonable endeavours to issue a full written Determination, with reasons for decision (Final Determination), within fourteen (14) working days of the completion of any hearing.

9.7 APPEAL FROM A GPT IN RELATION TO A GRIEVANCE

- a) No appeal can be brought from a General Purposes Tribunal Determination in relation to a Grievance ([Article 8.3](#)) except with leave of the Appeals Tribunal granted in accordance with this [Article 9.7](#).
- b) Any Notice of Appeal, of a decision of a General Purposes Tribunal in relation to a Grievance received by Football South Coast must be referred, within three (3) working days of receipt, to the Chairperson of the Appeals Tribunal and the Disciplinary Commissioner for determination as to whether leave should be granted for the appeal to proceed.
- c) The Chairperson and the DC will determine, within seven (7) working days of receipt of a Notice of Appeal referred under [Article 9.7 \(b\)](#), whether leave to appeal should be granted and the outcome of such determination will be communicated in writing to the party lodging the appeal within ten (10) working days of the lodging of the Notice of Appeal.

- d) In determining whether leave to appeal should be granted, the Chairperson and the DC, must have regard to:
 - i. the grounds of appeal set out in the Notice of Appeal.
 - ii. whether any obvious error on the part of the General Purposes Tribunal has been identified.
 - iii. the prospects of success of the appeal; and
 - iv. the nature and significance of the Grievance and the subject of the decision being appealed.
- e) If leave to appeal is not granted, the Chairperson and the DC may, in their absolute discretion, recommend that all or part of the Appeal Fee be refunded to the appellant by Football South Coast.
- f) If leave to appeal is granted, an appeal lodged pursuant to this section will proceed and be determined in the same manner as all other appeals determined by the Appeal Tribunal.

9.8 APPEALS AGAINST A DECISION OF A FSC MEMBER APPEALS COMMITTEE

- a) Members such as Member Clubs and the Referee Council have their own disciplinary process for their members.
- b) In addition to the limitations set out under [Article 9.2 \(Grounds of Appeal\)](#), the AT will only hear and determine a matter involving an appeal from a FSC Member Appeals Committee where the matter has proceeded in accordance with and exhausted that Member's own disciplinary / grievance rules and regulations. A party wanting to appeal a decision of a FSC Member Appeals Committee to the AT must provide documentation, to the satisfaction of FSC, to demonstrate that the matter has proceeded in accordance with and exhausted that Member's own disciplinary/grievance rules and regulations before it can be appealed to the AT.
- c) If a party wants to appeal a decision of a FSC Member Appeals Committee, it must, within seven (7) working days of being issued the decision:
 - i. Pay to FSC the relevant Application Fee as set out in [Article 25](#).
 - ii. Pay any award or fine the subject of the decision to the Member.
 - iii. Submit to FSC a completed and signed Notice of Appeal of a decision of a Member Appeals Committee form.
 - iv. Submit to FSC written copies of the decision of the Member Appeals Committee and of the decision at the first instance (if applicable).
 - v. Submit to FSC evidence that the matter has proceeded in accordance with and exhausted the Member's own disciplinary/grievance rules and regulations.
 - vi. Submit to FSC a copy of the Member's Constitution.
 - vii. Submit to FSC a copy of the Member's Disciplinary/grievance rules and regulations.
 - viii. Submit to FSC any supporting material, including additional evidence; and
 - ix. Submit to FSC any written submissions the party intends to rely on.

9.9 ABANDONED APPEALS

- a) Any appellant may abandon an appeal prior to any hearing by giving notice to FSC in which case the Application fee may, in FSC's absolute discretion, be refunded in total or in part.

10. NO RECOURSE TO COURTS – FURTHER RIGHTS

- a) The AT Determination will be final and binding on the parties to the appeal and no person may institute or maintain proceedings in any court of law or tribunal other than through the limited right of appeal to Football NSW (subject to the FNSW Regulations) or FA (subject to the FA Statutes).

11. SERVING OF SUSPENSIONS

11.1 SUSPENSIONS TO BE SERVED IMMEDIATELY

- a) Subject to this [Article 11](#), any Suspension must be served immediately or in accordance with the specificity of the determination. In serving a Suspension, FSC must take into consideration any Fixtures or time already served while awaiting issuance of the Notice of Suspension or Determination. Any Suspension imposed by a Body shall apply in respect of those Football Activities listed in the Notice of Suspension or Determination or, if none are set out, all Football Related Activities.
- b) Club Officials or Team Officials expelled from the Technical Area during a Match are NOT eligible to play as a Player in a Match scheduled in the same round or on the same day unless otherwise determined by the DC in consultation with the Executive.
- c) A Player issued with a Red Card or Expelled from the field of play or Technical Area during a Match is NOT eligible to be a Club Official or Team Official in the Technical Area in a Match scheduled in the same round or on the same day unless otherwise determined by the DC in consultation with the Executive.
- d) A Participant who receives a Red Card in a trial or friendly Match shall serve any Suspension in the next Match(es) that the Club plays. Any player sent off shall incur a mandatory one match suspension plus any additional matches based on level of offence as determined by the MRC from [Schedule 2 – Table of Offences](#).
- e) A Participant who receives a Red Card in a Competition Match shall serve any Suspension in the next Competition Match that the Club plays (refer to [Article 11.4 - Fixture Suspensions](#)). For the avoidance of doubt, trial or friendly Matches are not considered towards the serving of such a Suspension.
- f) A first Red Card received during a Competition Match shall be deemed to be a First Offence for the purposes of calculating a Suspension pursuant to the [Schedule 2 – Table of Offences](#), to these Regulations.

11.2 TYPES OF SUSPENSIONS

- a) The Match Review Committee or a Tribunal may issue Suspensions either in terms of the number of fixtures for which a Participant shall be suspended (Fixture Suspension) or the amount of time for which a Participant shall be suspended (Time Suspension).
- b) A Member does not need to be registered to serve a Time Suspension.
- c) Subject to this [Article 11.2 \(d\)](#), or unless Football South Coast has determined otherwise in its absolute discretion, a Member must be registered to serve a Fixture Suspension.
- d) A Participant subject to a Fixture Suspension as a Spectator only, does not need to be registered to serve a Fixture Suspension.

11.3 TIME SUSPENSIONS

- a) When issuing a Time Suspension, the Match Review Committee or Tribunal shall take into consideration the amount of time spent in the off season and adjust the length of the Suspension accordingly so that consistency of duration ineligible for actual football involvement is consistent across Determinations.
- b) A Participant sanctioned with a Time Suspension shall be ineligible to participate in any Football Activity as directed in his or her Notice of Suspensions and until such time as the Suspension has been served. For the avoidance of doubt, this includes participating in any Football South Coast Competition or Football NSW Competitions.
- c) Football Related Activities include, but are not limited to:
 - i. taking to the Field of Play (or court) as a Player or Match Official in any match or competition sanctioned or administered by Football South Coast, Football NSW, Clubs, Centres, Association Members or their clubs.
 - ii. taking a position as a coach, Team Official or Club Official in any match or competition sanctioned or administered by Football South Coast, Football NSW, Clubs, Centres, Association Members or their clubs.
 - iii. entering the Field of Play (or court), its surrounds, the Technical Area, players race, dressing rooms or any other place within a venue on a match day where players, coaches or Officials are likely to assemble to prepare for a match.
 - iv. taking part as a player, coach, Team Official or Club Official in any training session conducted by or for a team or club participating in any matches or competitions sanctioned or administered by Football South Coast, Football NSW, Clubs, Centres, Association Members or their clubs.
 - v. acting in any way as a Team Official, Club Official or Association Member Official, including, but not limited to, participating in or carrying on any function as a member of a committee, sub-committee or board of directors (whether paid, voluntary or honorary) at any level.
 - vi. having any contact with the Host Broadcaster or any other media where the purpose of such contact is for it to be electronically broadcast to the public, including (but not limited to) participating in any post-match press conference and participating in television or radio interviews.
 - vii. attending any function or event coordinated, conducted, or sanctioned by Football South Coast, Football NSW; and/or entering a stadium, venue, ground or Centre during any match, competition or training session sanctioned or administered by Football South Coast, Football NSW, Clubs, Centres, Association Members or their clubs.

11.4 FIXTURE SUSPENSIONS

- a) A Fixture Suspension imposed on a Player participating in:
- eleven-a-side football, only affects that Player's participation in eleven-a-side football; or
 - futsal or other modified versions of the Game, only affects that Player's participation in futsal or the modified version.
 - Summer Football only affects that player's participation in Summer Football.
- b) A Participant subject to a Fixture Suspension for a red card offence resulting from or related to any:
- Premiership,
 - Championship,
 - Cup,
 - FNSW or
 - FA Cup

fixture must serve that Suspension in the next

- Premiership,
- Championship,
- Cup,
- FNSW or
- FA Cup

Fixture(s) in which that Participant's Team or Club plays in, whichever occurs first, until that Suspension is served in full. A Participant cannot serve such a Suspension in a Trial Match, Tournament, the NPL 1 Pre-Season Competition, the Futsal State Titles, the FA national titles, any Football NSW Representative Match, any competition, event or tournament conducted by another Member Federation or any other match/fixture.

- c) A Participant subject to a Fixture Suspension resulting from or related to any Football NSW Representative Match (for example, Football NSW State Titles) must serve that Suspension in the next consecutive Fixture(s) (be that a Football NSW Representative Match, Premiership, Championship, Cup or FA Cup Match/Fixture) in which that Participant's Team or Club plays in, whichever occurs first, until the Suspension is served in full. A Participant cannot serve such a Suspension in a Trial Match, Tournament or the NPL 1 Pre-Season Competition.
- d) A Participant subject to a Fixture Suspension resulting from or related to any Trial Match, Pre-Season Competition or Tournament must serve that Suspension in the next consecutive Trial Match, Pre-Season Competition, Tournament, Premiership, Championship, Cup or FA Cup Match/Fixture in which the Participant's Team or Club plays in, whichever occurs first, until the Suspension is served in full.
- e) A Participant must serve a Fixture Suspension in the same age grade/division for which he or she received that Suspension and will not be eligible to participate in any Match/Fixture until that Suspension is served in full. If a Fixture Suspension extends over one (1) or more Seasons, that Suspension must be served in the age grade/division in which the Participant would normally compete in the following Season(s).

- f) While subject to a Fixture Suspension, a Participant may only participate in a Trial Match, Tournament or the NPL 1 Pre-Season Competition if Football South Coast has determined, in its absolute discretion, that the Participant may do so. To the extent any determination by a Body permits, or seeks to permit, a Participant to participate in a Trial Match, Tournament or the NPL 1 Pre-Season Competition, that part of the determination will not apply.
- g) Unless a Body determines otherwise, a Fixture Suspension applies to the Participant in the capacity in which the Participant was acting when he or she committed the Offence giving rise to the Suspension.
- h) While serving a Fixture Suspension, a Participant must not, on the day of a Fixture, act in any manner or role for which he or she has been suspended.
- i) For the purposes of this [Article 11.4h](#)), a Participant subject to a Fixture Suspension as a Player or Official must not:
 - i. enter the field of play (or court), its surrounds, the Technical Area, players race, dressing rooms or any other place within a stadium, venue, ground or Centre where players and/or officials are likely to assemble to prepare for a match.
 - ii. be seated in an area in a stadium, venue, ground or Centre normally reserved for players and/or officials.
 - iii. have any contact with any media where the purpose of such contact is for it to be electronically broadcast to the public, including (but not limited to) participating in any post-match press conference and participating in television or radio interviews; and
- j) For the purposes of [Article 11.4h](#)), a Participant subject to a Fixture Suspension as a Spectator must not enter a stadium, venue, ground or Centre during a Fixture until that Suspension is served in full. Unless a Body determines otherwise, a Fixture Suspension imposed on a Participant as a Spectator will be served in accordance with this section.
- k) Where a Participant the subject of a Fixture Suspension is unable to register with a Club participating in a Football South Coast Competition such that he or she would be otherwise able to serve the Fixture Suspension in accordance with these Regulations, that Participant may register with a club in another competition and Football South Coast may, in its absolute discretion, allow that Participant to serve the Fixture Suspension in that other competition.
- l) Where a Fixture Suspension extends over one (1) or more Seasons and the Participant does not return to participate in a Football South Coast Competition in the following Season(s), that Participant must serve that Suspension in whichever competition he or she subsequently participates in, if any. If Football South Coast determines, in its absolute discretion, that the Participant joined that competition for the purpose (in whole or in part) of enabling the Participant to serve that Suspension in that other competition, any suspension served in that other competition may not be permitted to count towards the serving of the Suspension.
- m) Non-selection of FSC representative teams.

If a Participant has been selected to represent Football South Coast in a representative competition, event or tournament and is then subsequently the subject of a Suspension, Football South Coast may decide, in its absolute discretion, to suspend the Participant from representing Football South Coast at that representative competition, event or tournament. For the avoidance of doubt, a suspension imposed under this section will not count towards the serving of the Suspension. Any decision made by FSC under this section 11.4(m) is final and not subject to any appeal.

- n) Special consideration may be given by FSC to applications in writing from Clubs for participation by a suspended player, in pre-season trials or friendlies for the purposes of contract or trial negotiations in FSC sanctioned matches.

In granting permission, the suspended player will be subject to playing under a 'two match good behaviour bond' which will be added to any suspension handed down by the Match Review

Committee or Tribunal should this suspended player be sent off in the pre-season and found guilty of an R1, R2, R3 or R6 offence as well as any carry over suspension.

- o) Applications [Article 11.4n\)](#) above must be made in writing to Football South Coast in adequate time for appropriate consideration – (no less than 7 days). Each case will be determined on its merits by the Executive in consultation with the DC whose decision shall be final.
- p) For the purposes of Clauses n) and o), the pre-season Fraternity Cup preliminary Rounds will be regarded as trials, however, the Final Series' games, quarter finals, semi-finals and finals will be regarded as competitive games in which suspensions must be served.

11.5 ABANDONED OR FORFEITED MATCHES

- a) Only those Matches actually played count towards the completion of any Suspension.
- b) Notwithstanding [Article 11.6a\)](#), if a Match is abandoned or forfeited that Match can only be considered in relation to serving a Suspension if the suspended Player's team did not contribute to the facts that led to the abandonment or forfeiture of a Match.
- c) Football South Coast shall have the final decision on whether a Suspension or part thereof may be served in an abandoned or forfeited match.

11.6 NON-SUBMISSION OF SUSPENSIONS

- a) A Player shall still be required to serve any Suspension regardless of any non-submission of any Match Official Reports to Football South Coast in a timely fashion.
- b) Clubs shall not list a Player on a team sheet either as a player or named substitute who should be serving a suspension at that time, regardless of whether the facts surrounding that suspension have been reported to Football South Coast or not.
- c) No suspended player or official shall be allowed in the Technical Area in any match during the period of suspension.

11.7 SUSPENDED SANCTIONS

A Tribunal of MRC may suspend all or any portion of a Sanction as a part of a Determination under these Regulations.

- a) Where a Tribunal imposes a Sanction of a fine, loss of competition points, a Bond or a Suspension for a number of matches or period of time, the Tribunal may suspend a part of the Sanction or Suspension. The Tribunal must give reasons for its decision and must also specify the terms and timeframe of the suspended portion and the circumstances under which it will be applied.
- b) Where an MRC imposes a time suspension or a fixture suspension it MUST be satisfied of extenuating circumstances to justify not applying the suspensions from the Table of Offences. In suspending any portion of the suspension, it must state the reasons and the terms under which they will be applied. Any period or number of fixtures in the suspension which are suspended cannot include the mandatory match suspension for a Red Card offence and this Clause should be used only in rare cases.
- c) Where any part of a sanction is to be suspended, that part to be suspended must not exceed 50% of the total Sanction, other than in exceptional circumstances determined by the Tribunal or FSC at its sole discretion.

12. ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES OF TRIBUNALS

12.1 NOTICES

- a) A party giving notice under these Regulations must notify the other parties and Football South Coast in writing and in English.
- b) A notice will be taken to have been received:
 - i. If delivered by hand to the recipient's address, on the date of delivery, as long as delivery is acknowledged in writing by the recipient.
 - ii. If sent by post, 4 business days after the posting; and
 - iii. If sent by email or facsimile on a working day at the recipient's email/facsimile on the date of transmission or if sent on a non-working day at the recipient's email/facsimile, on the next working day (in both cases as long as the sender's email or facsimile machine records a successful transmission and/or delivery and/or receipt).

12.2 LOCATION OF TRIBUNALS

- a) Hearings of Tribunals will be conducted at Football South Coast's headquarters, unless otherwise determined by Football South Coast.
- b) Hearings may be conducted by teleconference or audio-visual telecommunications subject to leave being granted by the Chair in consultation with the Disciplinary Commissioner and the parties involved.

12.3 SUBMISSION BY A PARTY

- a) The terms of this [Article 12.3](#), apply to ensure each party is provided with an opportunity to consider the other party's evidence before the hearing in order that it may appropriately respond.
- b) A party must provide to Football South Coast a copy of any written submissions, materials, documents, or other evidence it intends to rely on in the hearing at least two (2) business days before the start of that hearing. If it fails to do so it is not, without the leave of a Tribunal, allowed to submit same into evidence at the hearing.
- c) All written submissions, materials, documents, or other evidence supplied to Football South Coast must be via email.
- d) All written submissions, materials, documents, or other evidence supplied to Football South Coast by one party must at the same time be provided by that party to the other parties.
- e) A party must provide advance notice about who will represent it at a hearing, including any witnesses, whom a party intends to present together with at least the subject matter on which the witness will testify. This must be provided to the other parties and Football South Coast at least two (2) business days before the start of that hearing.
- f) Legal representation is not permitted at any MRC, GPT or AT hearing. Parties attending the hearing with a background in the legal profession may be requested by FSC through the DC to produce a Statutory Declaration stating that they are not acting for the club as a legal representative and not being remunerated either directly or indirectly for their representation.
- g) Any timeframes specified in these Regulations may be altered by Football South Coast where it would be just and reasonable.

- h) Where a Football Council or Referees' Council is not a directly affected Party to the hearing but may have an interest, it may seek leave from the Chairperson to have an observer in attendance. The granting of such leave shall be entirely at the discretion of the Chairperson and may be withdrawn at any time throughout the Hearing.

12.4 PARENT/GUARDIAN

- a) A party must be accompanied at a hearing before a Tribunal by a parent or guardian or an appropriate Club Official if he or she is under the age of 18.

12.5 NON-ATTENDANCE

- a) If a party, parties or witnesses fail to attend a Tribunal hearing without showing sufficient cause for such failure, the hearing can be heard ex parte and determined in that party's absence, including as to Determination on the merits and/or sanction. An ex parte Determination of a Tribunal has the same force and effect as if it was made after a full hearing before that Tribunal.
- b) If the party or witness that fails to attend is a Member, that Member shall have committed Misconduct. The Tribunal shall determine the appropriate sanction for such Misconduct on the night of the hearing unless there is a compelling reason why it is unable to do so.

12.6 ADJOURNMENT

- a) A party may apply to a Tribunal at least two (2) business days before the start of that hearing to have the hearing adjourned if there are compelling circumstances which warrant such steps to be taken to avoid costs, hardship, or significant inconvenience to the party. This will be at the absolute discretion of Football South Coast through the DC in consultation with the Executive and/or Tribunal Chair.

12.7 GENERAL CONDUCT OF TRIBUNAL HEARINGS

- a) A Tribunal will not be bound by the rules of evidence usually applicable to proceedings in courts of law, but all hearings must be conducted in accordance with the principles of natural justice.
- b) A Tribunal may conduct the hearing in any manner as it sees fit provided that:
 - i. All parties are given a reasonable opportunity to be heard.
 - ii. The hearing is conducted with as little formality and technicality and with as much expedition as proper consideration of the matters before it permits.
- c) Any Member who appears before the hearing and who in the opinion of the Tribunal has:
 - i. Failed to fully co-operate with a Tribunal.
 - ii. Failed to truthfully answer any questions asked by a Tribunal.
 - iii. Failed to provide any document in that person's possession or control relevant to the matter to be determined by a Tribunal following a request by either Football South Coast or a Tribunal; and/or,
 - iv. Made any false or misleading statement or has made a statement or acted in a manner calculated to or which is likely to be misleading, that Member shall have committed Misconduct. The Tribunal shall determine the appropriate sanction for such Misconduct preferably on the night of the hearing unless there is a compelling reason why it is unable to do so.

- d) A Tribunal is empowered to:
 - i. Conduct its hearings in the manner in which it sees fit, subject to the requirements of these Regulations.
 - ii. Take evidence.
 - iii. Require the attendance of any party Member or Participant to give evidence.
 - iv. Require the production of any document, information or other material in whatever form held by any party under the jurisdiction of Football South Coast.
 - v. Inform itself on any matter or thing in order to properly carry out its function in accordance with these Regulations.
- e) To the extent that a matter about the procedures of a Tribunal is not provided for by these Regulations, the Chairperson for a Tribunal may issue directions about its procedures.
- f) Where a determination is required prior, the DC will make such a determination which will be final.

12.8 EVIDENCE

- a) The admissibility and weight to be given to evidence, including electronic, audio, visual material, i.e., video, DVD recordings in a hearing shall be at the discretion of a Tribunal.

12.9 CHALLENGE OF JURISDICTION OF A TRIBUNAL

- a) If a Member wants to allege that the Tribunal does not have jurisdiction, it must raise this objection in submissions in writing to Football South Coast at least two (2) business days before the hearing date. A Tribunal has the power to rule on objections that it has no jurisdiction.
- b) In general, the Tribunal should rule on a plea concerning its jurisdiction as a preliminary question. However, the Tribunal may proceed with the hearing and rule on such an objection in its final Determination. The Tribunal Chair may seek advice or discuss jurisdiction with the DC.

12.10 ONUS OF PROOF

- a) A Body shall make Determinations on the balance of probabilities.

12.11 EX PARTE

- a) If a party fails to attend a hearing, a Tribunal shall determine the matter ex parte. An ex parte decision of a Tribunal has the same force and effect as if the Determination was made after a full hearing before that Tribunal.

12.12 CONTEMPT IN THE FACE OF A TRIBUNAL

- a) A person before a Tribunal must not:
 - i. Insult a member of a Tribunal in or in relation to the exercise of the powers or functions of a member.
 - ii. Repeatedly interrupt the proceedings of a Tribunal.
 - iii. Create a disturbance or take part in creating or continuing a disturbance in or near a place where Tribunal is sitting.
 - iv. Obstruct or hinder the Tribunal or a member in the performance of the functions of the Tribunal.
 - v. Fail to comply in full of an order of the Tribunal; or
 - vi. Do any other act or thing that would, if a Tribunal were a Court of record, constitute a contempt of Court.

- b) A Person must not submit to Football South Coast or to a Tribunal a Grievance, complaint, written statement, evidence of any kind or written submissions that the person knows or suspects to be untrue or that is intended to deliberately mislead Football South Coast or a Tribunal.
- c) A Member must comply with a Determination of a Tribunal.
- d) Parties, their representatives and all witnesses must not use or disclose to any third party any confidential information obtained during the course of any investigations or proceedings.
- e) If a Tribunal considers that a Member has breached this [Article 12.12](#), then it may impose sanctions as it sees fit in accordance with these Regulations or make recommendations to the Executive to issue a Notice of Charge pursuant to [Article 8.2](#)
- f) If the Executive determines that a Member has breached this [Article 12.12](#), then it may, in its absolute discretion, investigate the matter and take any relevant action pursuant to [Article 8.2](#).

12.13 TRIBUNAL MAY HEAR PROCEEDINGS REGARDLESS OF RELATED CRIMINAL OR DISCIPLINARY ACTION

A Body may issue Suspensions or make a determination whether or not a Member:

- a) Has been charged with, convicted of or sentenced for an offence arising out of the contravention.
- b) Is the subject of a pending disciplinary proceedings relating to the contravention; or
- c) May be, or has been, subject to disciplinary action relating to the contravention.

12.14 IMMUNITY

- a) The parties, and its respective witnesses, agree to not institute or maintain any proceedings, or bring any claim against Football South Coast, a Tribunal, or a Tribunal Member, in respect of any act or omission during the course of a hearing or arising out of any Determination or findings made.

12.15 LIMITATION PERIOD OF SUSPENSIONS

- a) These Regulations do not apply, and Football South Coast will not accept any applications for Determinations, if more than one (1) year has elapsed.
- b) The limitation period starts:
 - i. From the day on which the perpetrator committed the infringement.
 - ii. If the infringement is recurrent, from the day on which the most recent infringement was committed; or
 - iii. If the infringement lasted a certain period, from the day on which it ended.
- c) Notwithstanding the above, a prosecution for corruption has no limitation period.

12.16 CORRECTION OF A DETERMINATION

- a) Within five (5) business days of receipt of a Determination by a Tribunal, either party may with written notice to Football South Coast request a Tribunal to correct in the Determination any errors in computation, any clerical or typographical errors or any other error of a similar nature.
- b) If the Tribunal considers the request to be justified, it will make the correction and reissue to the parties.

12.17 FOOTBALL SOUTH COAST REPRESENTATIVE

- a) The Executive or DC reserves the right to appoint a representative to any Tribunal hearing. The representative may argue the case on behalf of Football South Coast and may be a Football South Coast staff member.

13. MEDIATION

- a) In relation to any Grievance between Members, Football South Coast may require a Member or Members to attend a meeting with Football South Coast and/or an independent person who shall act as a mediator for the purpose of attempting to reach agreement as to how such allegations are to be dealt with.
- b) A Mediator will be a person who, in the opinion of the DC in consultation with the Executive, is appropriately qualified to conduct the mediation, and may include a member of the Institute of Arbitrators & Mediators Australia or other similar body, or a legal practitioner.
- c) Unless otherwise determined by the Executive, any costs involved in the mediation, including the costs of the Mediator, must be borne equally by the parties to the Grievance.
- d) A Mediator must disclose to the parties to the Grievance, at the commencement of the mediation process, any prior or existing relationship with those parties. If one or more parties to the Grievance object to the Mediator's right to hear a matter on the basis of perceived bias, the party/parties must raise the objection immediately with the Mediator. The Mediator must then advise the Executive or DC who will in consultation, appoint another Mediator or refer the Grievance directly to the General Purposes Tribunal for determination.
- e) No legal representation will be permitted by any party involved in mediation. Parties attending the mediation with a background in the legal profession may be requested by DC to produce a Statutory Declaration stating that they are not acting for the club as a legal representative and not being compensated either via sponsorship, cash or some other form of benefit for representing the party.
- f) Such a meeting shall be conducted on a without prejudice basis and the mediator shall have no power to impose any Suspension, decision or sanction on any of the parties.
- g) During the mediation process, the parties to the Grievance and their representatives must:
 - i. Participate in good faith.
 - ii. Follow all reasonable directions of the Mediator with regard to the conduct of the mediation process including directions in respect of joint and private discussions with the parties; and
 - iii. Have in attendance an individual with the necessary authority to settle the Grievance and execute any mediation agreement.
- h) The mediation will be conducted on a "without prejudice basis" and the Mediator will have no power to impose any Suspension, decision or sanction on any of the parties to the Grievance. The role of the Mediator is not to act as an advisor to parties or to make a determination but is instead to facilitate the parties to the Grievance in identifying the issues and considering the options to arrive at a mutual agreement.
- i) If the parties to a Grievance reach agreement in relation to a Grievance during the mediation process, the parties must execute a mediation agreement. Once a mediation agreement is executed by the parties to a Grievance, those parties will have no right of appeal to FSC, FNSW or the FA and will not be able to lodge any Grievance or bring any claim in relation to the subject matter of the original Grievance.
- j) The Mediator may terminate a mediation at any time if he or she determines, in his or her absolute discretion that the mediation is unlikely to produce an agreement and must then refer the Grievance to the General Purposes Tribunal for determination pursuant to these Regulations.

- k) A Member who fails to attend mediation convened in accordance with this [Article 13](#) when reasonably requested by FSC to do so and without reasonable excuse will be deemed to have committed Misconduct and the Executive may, in its absolute discretion, charge the Member accordingly and refer the matter to the General Purposes Tribunal for determination pursuant to [Article 8.2](#).
- l) Unless agreement has been reached in such a meeting, Football South Coast may, in its absolute discretion, refer the matter to the GPT in accordance with these Regulations.
- m) A member of a Tribunal who acted as Mediator in respect of a Grievance which was subsequently referred to the General Purposes Tribunal pursuant to [Article 13 \(l\)](#) must not sit on a Tribunal that subsequently hears the Grievance.

14. PUBLICATION AND CONFIDENTIALITY

- a) Football South Coast must keep a central register of all Determinations made by a Body and may, at its discretion, make those decisions available subject to any term, confidentiality, or any legal requirements, such as Privacy legislation, imposed by or on Football South Coast or Football NSW. This may include publishing de-identified summaries of the results of Determinations of the MRC Committee or Tribunals for the purposes of transparency.
- b) After the expiry of any relevant appeal period and subject to any term of a Determination imposing confidentiality or any other legal requirements, any Determination may be published by Football FSC on its website or elsewhere or by a third party (with Football FSC's written consent).
- c) All evidence and information provided in proceedings of a Tribunal must be treated in the strictest confidence. Parties, their representatives and all witnesses must not use or disclose to any third party any confidential information obtained during the course of any investigations or proceedings.
- d) A breach of [Article 14.c\)](#) is deemed to be contempt against a Tribunal and the offender may be sanctioned pursuant to [Article 8.2 Charges of Misconduct](#). (Contempt against a Tribunal)

15. MISCONDUCT AND DISREPUTE

15.1 MISCONDUCT

Misconduct means any act or omission by a Member which:

- a) constitutes a breach of the FIFA Statutes and Regulations.
- b) constitutes a breach of FNSW or FA Rules and Regulations.
- c) constitutes a breach of the Laws of the Game.
- d) constitutes a breach of these Regulations including the Offences set out in [Schedule 2 – Table of Offences](#): constitutes a breach of Football South Coast Rules and Regulations, unless a document contains a provision or provisions for dealing with any breach thereof.
- e) brings or, in Football South Coast's opinion may bring, the Member, Football South Coast or the game of football into Disrepute or adversely affect the image, reputation and goodwill of the Member, Football South Coast or the game of football; or
- f) in the opinion of Football South Coast, is or may be prejudicial to the image, interests or reputation of the game of football, Football South Coast or any of its sponsors.

15.2 MISCONDUCT – CULPABILITY, ATTEMPT AND INVOLVEMENT

- a) Offences are punishable regardless of whether they have been committed deliberately, recklessly or negligently.
- b) Acts amounting to attempt are also punishable. A Body may, however, reduce the sanction envisaged for the actual Offence and determine any extent of mitigation as it sees fit. Any Participant who knowingly takes part in committing an Offence, either as instigator or accomplice, is also punishable. A Body may take account of the degree of guilt of the party involved by reducing the sanction as it sees fit.

15.3 MISCONDUCT – CLUB LIABILITY FOR PARTICIPANTS, SPECTATORS AND SUPPORTERS

- a) A Club is deemed to have committed an offence(s) under [Article 15 Misconduct and Disrepute](#) where one of its Participants, Spectators or Supporters has allegedly committed any Offence(s) outlined in [Article 15 – Misconduct and Disrepute](#) and the Executive may, in its absolute discretion, take any relevant action against the Club pursuant to [Article 8.2 Charges of Misconduct and Disrepute](#). For the avoidance of doubt, a Club may be sanctioned in accordance with [Article 15.1](#) notwithstanding the offender(s) have not been identified.
- b) Notwithstanding [Article 15.3 \(a\)](#) the Executive may, in its absolute discretion, elect not to proceed against a Club for the conduct of one of its Participants, Spectators or Supporters where:
 - i. the Club is (for the relevant Match or event) compliant with match day security standards and/or protocols as published by Football South Coast from time to time.
 - ii. the Club cooperates with any investigation by Football South Coast into the alleged conduct, including, without limitation, naming or identifying, upon request by Football South Coast, the Club's Participants or individuals known to the Club in relation to the alleged conduct; and
 - iii. Football South Coast, on review of the information available to it, forms the view that to proceed against the Club for the actions of its Participants is unduly harsh or unfair in the circumstances.

- c) Matters that Football South Coast may consider in forming its view under [Article 15.3 \(b\)iii](#)) include but are not limited to:
 - i. the Club or individual's Disciplinary History.
 - ii. the co-operation of the Club.
 - iii. the significance of the nature of the conduct.
 - iv. whether the Club acted swiftly to counter the conduct and denounce the incident at the relevant time.
 - v. whether the Club has taken any relevant action of its own regarding the conduct; and
 - vi. whether the Club has taken any steps to minimise the risk of repetition of such conduct by those individuals involved and its other Participants.
- d) Where a Club complies with all these matters, Football South Coast nevertheless retains a discretion to proceed against the Club for the conduct where it is of the view that the relevant conduct is of a particularly egregious or significant nature. Where Football South Coast does so proceed against the Club, Football South Coast or the Tribunal (as the case may be) may consider these factors in penalty mitigation.
- e) These Regulations, the Football South Coast Spectator Behaviour Management Policy and the FA Spectator Code of Behaviour apply to all Spectators attending any Match or any training session conducted by or on behalf of a Club.
- f) Football South Coast and Tribunals have jurisdiction to determine matters involving Spectators and to issue sanctions against:
 - i. Spectators.
 - ii. Players or Officials who are children or wards of any Spectator, in respect of the behaviour of that Spectator; and
 - iii. Clubs, in respect of the behaviour of any Spectator/Supporter.
- g) In the event of an alleged breach of these Regulations, the Football South Coast Spectator Behaviour Management Policy and/or the FA Spectator Code of Behaviour, Football South Coast may refer the matter to the General Purposes Tribunal pursuant to [Article 15 \(Charges of Misconduct\)](#) and seek an appropriate sanction including, but not limited to, banning a Spectator from attending Matches or suspending a Player or Official (who is the child or ward of a Spectator) from participating in Matches.
- h) Any ban imposed by FA under the FA Rules and Regulations against a person may be endorsed and applied by Football South Coast across all Matches and across all matches and competitions sanctioned or administered by Clubs, Centres, or Summer Football Competitions.
- i) A Club is responsible, and liable, for the conduct and behaviour of its Supporters, whether at home or away Matches. A Club is deemed to have breached these Regulations where its Supporters engage in Misconduct at or in connection with a Match, Competition or event or activity staged or sanctioned by Football South Coast.
- j) It is the Home Club's responsibility to ensure the Football South Coast Spectator Behaviour Management Policy and the FA Spectator Code of Behaviour is implemented and enforced against all Spectators.
- k) The Home Club is liable for improper conduct among its own group of Supporters. Supporters occupying the home sector of a stadium, ground or centre are regarded as the Home Club's Supporters, unless proven to the contrary (as determined by Football South Coast in its sole and absolute discretion).

- l) An Away Club is liable for improper conduct among its own group of Supporters. Supporters occupying the away sector of a stadium, ground or centre are regarded as the Away Club's Supporters, unless proven to the contrary (as determined by Football South Coast in its sole and absolute discretion).
- m) A Club is responsible for ensuring that sanctions imposed on its Spectators/Supporters are enforced and adhered to. Any Club which fails to do so will be deemed to have committed Misconduct ([Article 15.1](#)) and the Executive may, in its absolute discretion, take any relevant action against the Club pursuant to [Article 8.2 \(Charges of Misconduct\)](#).

16. PUBLIC COMMENT

- a) No Member shall make any public statement, including any contribution to television, radio, print or social media (for the avoidance of doubt comments made via social media are regarded as public comment) where such comment:
 - i. Is libellous, defamatory or harassing content – this also applies to the use of illustrations or nicknames.
 - ii. Is confidential in any way.
 - iii. Brings the organisation or the sport into disrepute.
 - iv. Breaches FSC and FA Codes of Conduct
 - v. Is disparaging or derogatory or may diminish the safety of a Match Official, opposition team or any Player or Official or Member of FSC.
 - vi. Is disparaging or critical of Football South Coast, any Football South Coast Rules and Regulations, or any Football South Coast policy decision, without reasonable basis or justification.
 - vii. Is with respect to a matter the subject of proceedings currently before a Body; or
 - viii. Is disparaging of a Determination without reasonable basis or justification.
 - ix. Is unfair, unreasonable, or excessive public criticism (including via social media) of a decision made by a Body or any other matter touching or concerning a Tribunal.
- b) No member shall breach the FSC or FNSW Social Media Policy.
- c) Where a statement made by an Official or a Player which, in the absolute opinion of the FSC, constitutes a breach of this [Article 16 \(a\)](#), the Club is subject to sanction under this Code, independent of any sanction FSC has chosen to impose against the Official or Player who made the statement.
- d) Any breach of this [Article 16 \(a\) to \(c\)](#) of this section will be treated as Misconduct.

17. ON-FIELD MISCONDUCT

17.1 YELLOW CARD (YC) OFFENCES

- a) A Yellow Card Offence is a warning from a Match Official to a Player or Team Official in respect of unsporting behaviour of a less serious nature (*pursuant to Law 12 of the Laws of the Game*) and shall be given as follows in accordance with the Laws of the Game from time to time and currently:

| Code | Description |
|------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Y1 | <p>The player is guilty of unsporting conduct.</p> <p>The team official shows a lack of respect for the game.</p> <p>The team official excessively / persistently gesturing for a red or yellow card (or the TV signal for a VAR review).</p> <p>The team official gestures or acts in a provocative or inflammatory manner.</p> |
| Y2 | <p>The player shows dissent by action or word.</p> <p>The team official shows dissent by word or action including throwing / kicking bottles or other objects and gestures which show a clear lack of respect for match official(s) e.g., sarcastic clapping.</p> |
| Y3 | <p>The player persistently infringes the Laws of the Game.</p> <p>The team official persists in unacceptable behaviour (including repeated warning officials).</p> |
| Y4 | <p>The player delays the restart of play.</p> <p>The Team Official delays the restart of play by their team.</p> |
| Y5 | <p>The player fails to respect the required distance when play is restarted with a corner kick, free kick or throw in.</p> |
| Y6 | <p>The player deliberately leaves the field of play or re-enters the field of play without the Referee's permission.</p> <p>The team official clearly/persistently not respecting confines of team's Technical Area. The team official deliberately enters the Technical Area of the opposing team (non-confrontational).</p> |
| Y7 | <p>The Team Official enters the referee review area – if applicable.</p> |
| Y8 | <p>Other.</p> |

Table 1 - Yellow Card Offence Codes

- b) Yellow Card Offences issued to players (does not apply to Team Officials) during an abandoned Match will be:
 - i. Void if that Match is replayed at a later time; or
 - ii. Upheld if that Match is not replayed at a later time.
- c) For the avoidance of doubt, if a Player or Team Official receives two (2) Yellow Card Offences in a Match, resulting in a Red Card Offence, then neither caution shall be considered when accumulating cautions.

17.2 ACCUMULATION OF YC OFFENCES – PREMIERSHIP (LEAGUE) COMPETITIONS

- a) A Player who accumulates five (5) Yellow Cards Offences in a Football South Coast Premiership Competition in any, one (1) Competition Season shall serve a mandatory one (1) Match Suspension as per [Article 24.4 Accumulation of Cautions by an Individual Player in a Season](#). The Match Suspension must be served immediately in the next Premiership competition or Final Series match and, in the age/grade in which the fifth yellow card was received.
- b) A Player who accumulates an additional three (3) Yellow Card Offences (in total eight (8) Yellow Card Offences) in a Football South Coast Premiership Competition in any, one (1) Competition Season shall serve a mandatory 2 (two) Match Suspension as per [Article 24.4 Accumulation of Cautions by an Individual Player in a Season](#). The two (2) match suspension shall be served immediately in the next Premiership competition or Final Series match and must be served in the age or grade in which the eighth yellow card is received.
- c) A Player who accumulates ten (10) Yellow Card Offences in a Football South Coast Premiership Competition in any one (1) Competition Season shall serve a mandatory three (3) Match Suspension as per [Article 24.4 Accumulation of Cautions by an Individual Player in a Season](#). The three (3) match suspension must be served immediately in the next Premiership Competition or Final Series match and must be served in the age/grade in which the tenth yellow card is received.

17.3 ACCUMULATION OF YC OFFENCES – FINAL SERIES

- a) A Player who accumulates two (2) Yellow Cards in a Finals Series, irrespective of the age-grade in which they are received, must serve a Mandatory Match Suspension of one (1) Fixture.
- b) The Mandatory Match Suspension must be served immediately and, in the age-grade in which the second (2nd) Yellow Card was received. Where that team is eliminated from the final series, the mandatory suspension will be served in the next game where the Club participates and the player is otherwise eligible to play, and, in the opinion of FSC would normally be likely to be considered for selection.
- c) A Mandatory Match Suspension incurred as a result of the accumulation of Yellow Cards pursuant to [Article 17.3](#) must be served in accordance with [Article 17.7](#).
- d) Yellow Cards received during a Final Series that do not result in a Mandatory Match Suspension do not carry over into the next Premiership Season, Final Series, FA Cup, any Tournaments or any other matches or competitions.

17.4 ACCUMULATION OF YC OFFENCES – CUP COMPETITIONS

- a) A Player who accumulates two (2) Yellow Cards in a Cup Competition, irrespective of the age-grade in which they are received, must serve a Mandatory Match Suspension of one (1) Fixture.
- b) The Mandatory Fixture Suspension must be served immediately and, in the next Cup competition match and in the age-grade in which the second (2nd) Yellow Card was received.

- c) Where the second (2nd) Yellow Card was received in a grade where the team was eliminated and the player is eligible to play in another grade with that Club still competing in a Cup Competition, the Mandatory Match Suspension must be served in the next Cup match played by the other grade. The Mandatory Match Suspension may not be served by missing another grade which the participant is eligible and playing on the same day.
- d) For the avoidance of doubt, where a second Yellow Card is received in Cup Competition in a match following which all games that all grades of the Club for which the player would otherwise be eligible to play in the current Cup Competitions have been completed or the Club's teams eliminated, the Mandatory Match Suspension is void and no further suspension is applied.
- e) Yellow Cards received during a Cup that do not result in a Mandatory Match Suspension do not carry over into the Premiership, Championship, FA Cup, any Tournaments, the next Cup or any other matches or competitions.

17.5 ACCUMULATION OF YC OFFENCES – ALL COMPETITIONS

- a) A Player who accumulates more than ten (10) Yellow Card Offences in Football South Coast Competitions (Premiership plus Finals plus Cup) in any, one (1) Competition Season shall be required to appear before an MRC hearing in accordance with these Regulations. The MRC may impose such sanctions as it sees fit in accordance with these Regulations. A Player who is to appear before the MRC shall not be eligible to participate in any Match after receiving his or her eleventh (11th) Yellow Card Offence and until he or she has appeared before the MRC and served the sanction.
- b) Yellow cards incurred in trial or friendly matches do not accumulate for the purposes of this section.

17.6 ACCUMULATION OF YC OFFENCES – TEAM OFFICIALS

- a) Where there is an accumulation of yellow cards by Team Officials, the sanctions will be as set out in [24.5 Accumulation of Cautions by Team Officials during a Season](#).

17.7 CLUB RESPONSIBILITY FOR ACCUMULATION OF YC OFFENCES

- a) It is a Club's responsibility to keep accurate records of the Yellow Card Offences received by its Players regardless of whether a Player may have accumulated same while registered with a previous Club.
- b) It is a Club's responsibility to ensure that any Player who has incurred a Match Suspension serves that sanction in full.
- c) A Club must not list a Player on a team sheet as a player or named substitute who is subject to a Match Suspension.

17.8 RED CARD (RC) OFFENCES

- a) A Red Card may be issued by a Referee during a Match to expel from the match, a Participant (player, named substitute or a Team Official occupying a position within the Technical Area as defined in the Laws of the Game and Competition Rules) who engages in any one of the offences listed in [Schedule 2 – Table of Offences](#): to these Regulations.
- b) A Participant who is expelled from the match (either the Field of Play or Technical Area) MUST
 - Leave the field immediately and/or Technical Area;
 - Go straight to the dressing rooms where they exist or change area otherwise and change out of their playing attire into civilian clothes; AND

- At no stage during the remainder of the match should they return to the Technical Area or within 50 metres of the Technical Area nor approach the match officials following the conclusion of the match.
- Not participate in any awards presentation or ceremony that takes place after the Match/Fixture where they have been dismissed as follows:
 - i. In the case of a player participating in Senior Competitions, for Red Card offences R1, R2, R5 or R6.
 - ii. In the case of a player participating in Junior Competitions at the discretion of the FSC officials responsible on the day after consideration of the seriousness of the R1, R2, R5 or R6 offence,
 - iii. In the case of Team Official for any Red Card offence for which they have been dismissed.
- c) A Participant sent from the Field of Play as defined during a Match shall receive Sanctions/Suspensions in accordance with [Schedule 2 – Table of Offences](#):
- d) Suspensions shall be served immediately and in accordance with [Article 11 Serving of Suspensions](#) of these Regulations.
- e) Red Cards issued during an abandoned Match will be upheld regardless of whether the Match is replayed or not.

17.9 ACCUMULATION OF RC

- a) A Participant who accumulates more than three (3) Red Cards in Football South Coast and Football NSW Competitions in any, one (1) Competition Season may be required to appear before a MRC hearing in accordance with these Regulations. The MRC may impose such sanctions as it sees fit in accordance with these Regulations. A Participant who is to appear before a MRC shall not be eligible to participate in any Match after receiving his or her fourth (4th) Red Card Offence and until he or she has appeared before the MRC and served the sanction.

17.10 CLUB RESPONSIBILITY FOR ACCUMULATION OF RC OFFENCES

- a) It is a Club's responsibility to keep accurate records of the Red Card Offences received by its Players and Officials regardless of whether a Participant may have accumulated same while registered with a previous Club.
- b) It is a Club's responsibility to ensure that any Participant who has incurred a Match Suspension serves that sanction in full.
- c) A Club must not list a Player on a team sheet who is subject to a Match Suspension.

17.11 TEAM MISCONDUCT

- a) Football South Coast will impose additional Sanctions/Suspensions on a Club for the misconduct of a team, including when:
 - i. Five (5) Players are given Yellow Cards or Red Cards during one (1) Match.
 - ii. Three (3) Players are given Red Cards during one (1) Match.
 - iii. Several Players together make threats or show force against a Match Official.
 - iv. In the case of any Football Council in accordance with its policy for team and club discipline.
- b) The relevant sanctions for team misconduct are set out in [Schedule 2 – Table of Offences](#): to these Regulations.

18. UNREGISTERED, “RING-IN” AND INELIGIBLE PLAYERS

18.1 UNREGISTERED PLAYERS

- a) Clubs must not field or list unregistered Players, including “ring-in” Players, in any Match. Unregistered Players means those Players who have not registered with FA through Football South Coast for the competition season and as defined within the relevant Football Council Competition Regulations
- b) Sanctions may be imposed as per the relevant FSC Competition Regulations and may also constitute Misconduct. As a result, the DC in consultation with the Executive may, in their absolute discretion, issue sanctions against Clubs, Team Officials or Club Officials who knowingly field or list unregistered Participants knowingly, or in situations where they ought to reasonably have known that the Participant was not registered.

18.2 INELIGIBLE PLAYERS

- a) Clubs must not field or list ineligible Players in any Match. Ineligible Players means those Players who have been issued with Suspensions by FA, Football South Coast, Football NSW, a Club or a Football Council or are ineligible as a result of any relevant FSC Competition Regulation.
- b) Sanctions may be imposed as per the relevant FSC Competition Regulations and may also constitute Misconduct. As a result, the Executive in consultation with the DC may, in its absolute discretion, issue sanctions against Clubs, Team Officials or Club Officials who field or list ineligible Participants knowingly or in situations where they ought reasonably to have known that the Participant was ineligible.

19. PROHIBITION ON DUAL REGISTRATION

- a) A player cannot be dual registered except in exceptional circumstances as per Football NSW policy and the relevant FSC Competition Regulations.
- b) Any breach of dual registration policies may be deemed to be 'Misconduct; and the Executive in consultation with the DC has jurisdiction to issue sanctions against Players, Clubs, Team Officials or Club Officials in accordance with these Regulations.

20. TEAM OFFICIALS AND CLUB OFFICIALS

- a) The Match Review Committee has jurisdiction to issue Sanctions based on the Match Official Reports and in accordance with the Table of Offences against Team Officials and Club Officials.
- b) A Team Official or Club Official who has been expelled from the field of play including the technical area by a Match Official must serve the Suspensions issued as part of any Sanction by the Match Review Committee immediately and the Suspension may apply across all Football Activities.

21. REFUSAL TO TAKE THE FIELD OF PLAY AND MASS WALK-OFFS

- a) Any Club which by its conduct caused a Match to be terminated or abandoned shall be deemed to have brought the game into Disrepute and as a result the Executive in consultation with the DC, may apply sanctions in accordance with [Schedule 2 – Table of Offences](#), or refer the matter to the GPT for determination as to sanction.

22. INTERFERENCE WITH FIXTURES

- a) Clubs shall not arrange other fixtures until after the Football South Coast Competition fixtures are settled.
- b) Clubs shall not improperly interfere with another Club's home fixture(s).
- c) Clubs in breach of this [Article 22](#) shall be deemed to have brought the game into Disrepute and as a result the Match Review Committee may, in its absolute discretion, refer the matter to the GPT for determination as to sanction.

23. SCHEDULE 1 – DEFINITIONS

In these Regulations, unless the contrary interpretation appears:

“**Appeal Tribunal (AT) Determination**” means a decision or Determination made by the AT pursuant to section 9.

“**Appeal Tribunal (AT)**” means the Body responsible to hear and determine decisions appealed from the MRC, GPT or Member Appeals Board with its terms of reference set out in [Article 9](#).

“**Application Fees**” means the applicable fees to appear before a GPT or AT pursuant to [Schedule 3: Application Fees](#).

“**Association Member**” means those admitted from time to time as Members of Football South Coast under the Football South Coast Constitution.

“**Body or Bodies**” means one or more of the following bodies established by FSC under its By-Laws or these Regulations:

1. Disciplinary Commissioner (DC);
2. Match Review Committee (MRC);
3. General Purposes Tribunal (GPT); and
4. Appeal Tribunal (AT)

“**Claim**” means a claim or disagreement by, against or between Members.

“**Club**” means an entity (whether incorporated or otherwise) formed for the purpose of playing football in Competitions conducted by Football South Coast or Association Members. A reference to a Club in these Regulations refers to a Team where that Team is not a part of a Club.

“**Club Official**” means any person involved with the administration, management or organisation of a Club (whether paid or unpaid), including employees, contractors, consultants, officers and directors and representatives.

“**Competition Match**” means a match or game between Clubs or Associations who are playing in a Competition owned and conducted and sanctioned by Football South Coast.

“**Competitions**” means any or all of the football matches or competitions owned, sanctioned or conducted by Football South Coast or an Association Member.

“**Complaint**” means an allegation that a Member’s conduct is unethical and/or in breach of FA Rules and Regulations and/or Football South Coast Rules and Regulations or Codes of Practice/Conduct.

“**Determination**” means a decision or Determination made by a Body in accordance with these Regulations.

“**Disrepute**” means any conduct, statement or appearance in public that is damaging to reputation.

“Bringing the Game into Disrepute” means a Member will be taken as having brought football into Disrepute if any of the following occurs:

- a) Discriminatory behaviour, including public disparagement of, discrimination against, or vilification of, a person on account of an Attribute.
- b) Harassment, including sexual harassment or any unwelcome sexual conduct which makes a person feel offended, humiliated and/or intimidated where that reaction is reasonable in the circumstances.
- c) Offensive behaviour, including offensive, obscene, provocative or insulting gestures, language or chanting.
- d) Provocation or incitement of hatred or violence.
- e) Spectator or crowd violence.
- f) Intimidation of Match Officials, which may take the form of (but is not restricted to) derogatory or abusive words or gestures toward a Match Official or the use of violence or threats to pressure a Match Official to take or omit to take certain action regardless of where such action is taken.
- g) Forgery and falsification, including creation of a false document, forgery of a document or signature, the making of a false claim or providing inaccurate or false information on a prescribed form.
- h) Corruption, including offering a Benefit or an advantage to a Player or an Official in an attempt to incite him or her to violate FSC, FIFA or FA Statutes.
- i) Abuse of position to obtain personal benefit.
- j) Commission or charge of a criminal offence; or
- k) Any other conduct, behaviour or statement that materially injures the reputation and/or goodwill of FSC, FNSW or football generally.

A Club is deemed to have committed an offence under this definition where its crowd or its spectators have engaged in any of the conduct outlined in “bringing the game into disrepute”.

Players and Officials are entitled to have their privacy respected, and this Code is not intended to apply to private activities engaged in by a Player or an Official that are not in the public domain.

Regulations and reference to FA in the FA Code of Conduct and FSC right of entry conditions shall also be a reference to Football South Coast.

“Executive” means the Chief Executive Officer of Football South Coast or his or her nominee appointed from time to time by the Board of Football South Coast.

“Field of Play” means the field of play as defined in the Laws of the Game and any perimeter area between the line markings of the pitch and the spectator area, including the Technical Area and Substitutes benches, except for Futsal and court-based competitions where it means the court of play.

“FA” means Football Australia Limited, the governing body for Association Football (soccer) in Australia.

“FA Statutes” means the statutes and any accompanying standing orders, by-laws and regulations governing football in Australia as promulgated by FA from time to time.

“[FA Rules and Regulations](#)” means the FA Statutes and any other rules, regulations, policies, procedures, codes of conduct and guidelines developed, promulgated, and implemented by FA from time to time, as they apply to Football South Coast, the Members, supporters or spectators as amended from time to time.

“[FIFA](#)” means Federation Internationale de Football Association, its successor or assignee.

“[Fixture/Match](#)” means any match played in the State under the auspices of Football South Coast or an Association Member or otherwise played under Football South Coast’s direction or control, including a Competition Match.

“[Football Activity](#)” has its meaning given to it under the Football South Coast By-Laws.

“[Football South Coast Rules and Regulations](#)” means the Football South Coast Constitution, Football By-Laws and any other rules, regulations, policies, procedures, codes of conduct and guidelines developed, promulgated, and implemented by Football South Coast from time to time applying to Football South Coast, the Members, supporters or spectators as amended from time to time.

“[Football NSW](#)” means Football NSW Limited, a company limited by guarantee, which is the governing body for Association Football in the State.

“[Football South Coast](#)” or “[FSC](#)” means Football South Coast Ltd. a company limited by guarantee which is the Governing body for Association Football in the Illawarra area.

“[General Purpose Tribunal or GPT](#)” means the Body responsible to hear and determine decisions referred to it from the MRC, and/or in accordance with its terms of reference set out in [Article 8](#)

“[General Purpose Tribunal Determination or GPT Determination](#)” means decision or Determination made by the GPT pursuant to [Article 8](#).

“[Grievance](#)” means either a Claim or Complaint as the case requires.

“[Grievance Form](#)” means the prescribed form for raising a Grievance with Football South Coast.

“[Laws of the Game](#)” means the official laws of the game of football as promulgated by FIFA through the International Football Association Board (IFAB) from time to time.

“[Match Review Committee or MRC](#)” means the Body established under these Regulations with its terms of reference set out in [Article 7](#).

“[Match / Fixture](#)” means any match played in the State under the auspices of Football South Coast or an Association Member or otherwise played under Football South Coast’s direction or control, including a Competition Match.

“[Match Official](#)” means a referee, assistant referee, 4th official, referees’ inspector, match commissioner, any person in charge of safety or any other person appointed by Football South Coast, an Association Member, Referees’ Body, a Centre or a Club to assume responsibility in connection with a Match. This may include an official of Football South Coast or a Football Council member in attendance at a game in a non-appointed capacity.

“[Match Official Report](#)” means a Team Sheet, Match Official Send Off Report, Match Official Expulsion Report or a Match Official Incident Report prepared and submitted by Match Officials to Football South Coast in relation to a Football South Competition Match.

“[Match Official Incident Report](#)” means the report prepared and submitted by a Match Official to Football South Coast which sets out any incidents which occurred prior to, during or after Football South Coast Competition Match.

“**Match Official Send Off/Expulsion Report**” means the report prepared and submitted by a Match Official to Football South Coast which sets out any Yellow Card Offences and Red Card/Expulsion Offences that occurred during a Football South Coast Competition Match.

“**Members**” means for the purposes of these regulations means a Football Council, a Club, Club Official, a Team, a Referee’s Body and/or Participants.

“**Members Appeal Committee**” means any tribunal or committee established by Class A members, as defined in the FSC Constitution, for the purpose of hearing and determining appeals in the Member’s disciplinary processes.

“**Misconduct**” - Misconduct is defined in [Article 15](#).

“**National Registration Regulations**” means the National Registration Regulations contained in the FA Statutes.

“**Notice**” means a notice issued by Football South Coast and includes (but not limited to) the following:

- Notice to Attend.
- Notice of Suspension/Sanctions.
- Notice of Proceedings; and
- Notice to Appeal.

“**Notice of Proceedings**” means a Notice submitted by Football South Coast to parties and witnesses subject to a hearing setting out the time, date and location of the hearing.

“**Notice of Suspension/Sanction**” means a Notice submitted by Football South Coast to a Member who has breached these Regulations and has been issued with a Suspension(s) or Sanction(s) pursuant to these Regulations.

“**Notice to Appeal**” means the relevant form submitted by a party to FSC wishing to appeal a decision of the MRC, GPT or a FSC Member Appeals Committee.

“**Notice to Attend**” means a Notice submitted by Football South Coast to a Member requiring them to attend a MRC, GPT, AT or Mediation session.

“**Notification Form**” means the prescribed form notifying Football South Coast of a Participant’s intention to not accept a Suspension issued by the MRC.

“**Offences**” includes those offences committed by a Member set out in [Schedule 2 – Table of Offences](#).

“**Official**” means a Club Official, Match Official or Team Official.

“**Participant**” means a Player, Official (including referees) a Spectator or an individual otherwise registered with FA to participate in Football in the State.

“**Player**” means any person who is, from time to time, registered with FA, Football South Coast or a Club, whether that person is male or female, junior or senior or an amateur or professional.

“**Red Card Offence**” means one of the sending-off offences set out in [Schedule 2 – Table of Offences](#), to these Regulations.

“**Referees Body**” means a body made up Match Officials who provide services to Football South Coast or an Association Member. For the avoidance of doubt, a Referees Body which may be an entity in its own right or the FSC Referees’ Council shall be considered a Member of Football South Coast together with its members and shall be bound by these Regulations.

“**Regulations**” means the Football South Coast Disciplinary Regulations adopted by Football South Coast in accordance with the Objects of its Constitution.

“**Sanctions**” means the sanctions imposed by FSC through these Regulations by the MRC, GPT or AT.

“**Season**” means from the commencement of a Football South Coast Competition or Association Competition to the conclusion of a Football South Coast Competition or Association Competition unless otherwise directed by Football South Coast.

“**Spectator**” means a spectator is a person at a stadium, venue, ground or Centre during any match, competition or training session sanctioned or administered by Football South Coast, Clubs or Centres.

“**State**” means the state of New South Wales with the exception of the northern regions of NSW (the governing body for which is Northern New South Wales Football).

“**Supporter**” means the supporter of a Club and includes, without limitation, Club members and a Club’s active supporter groups.

“**Suspensions**” means the suspensions issued by a Body under these Regulations.

“**Table of Offences**” means the Offences as set out at [Schedule 2 – Table of Offences](#)

“**Team Official**” means any person involved with the management, preparation or participation of a Club or Association Member’s team (whether paid or unpaid), including the coaches, managers, medical staff, physiotherapists, gear persons and other support staff or any other person acting as an employee, contractor or volunteer at a Club or an Association Member.

With respect to the issue of a Red Card by a Match Official, it relates specifically to any Team Official within the Field Of Play or Technical Area subject to the control of the referee under the Laws of the Game.

“**Technical Area**” means the area marked and designated in accordance with the FIFA Laws of the Game within which the coach, the substitute Players and the Team Officials must remain during a match.

“**Trial Match**” means any match played by two Clubs/Teams which does not form part of a Football FSC Competition, Premiership, Championship, Cup or other event or tournament but has been sanctioned by Football FSC.

“**Tribunal Members**” means those persons appointed by Football South Coast to sit on the GPT or AT pursuant to [Article 6](#) of these Regulations.

“**Tribunals**” means The General Purpose Tribunal or the Appeal Tribunal.

“**Yellow Card Offence**” means a caution of a Player by a Match Official for an infringement set out in [Article 17.1](#)

24. SCHEDULE 2 – TABLE OF OFFENCES

24.1 OFFENCES RELATED DIRECTLY TO PLAYER AND TEAM/CLUB OFFICIAL EXPULSIONS DURING A MATCH.

- a) All players and officials sent from the Field of Play or Technical Area will be subject to a Mandatory match suspension plus any additional matches determined by the Match Review Committee based on the seriousness of the offence.
- b) In addition, Team Points will be accumulated by Teams in competitions conducted by FSC in the Community Competitions (Men's Community Leagues, Women's Community Leagues, Junior Competitions) FSC 5 – aside and Summer Competitions in accordance with the following:
 - i. Unless otherwise determined and communicated by the relevant Council, at the start of each season, all teams will be allotted twenty (20) "team points".
 - ii. Nominated offences as outlined below carry a number of demerit points which are accumulated to the team.
 - iii. Demerit points will be awarded for offences by players, team officials and spectators.
 - iv. When a team accumulate one quarter of their demerit points, they are issued with a counselling letter advising of the consequences when accumulate half of their demerit points in (v) below.
 - v. When a team accumulates half of their demerit points, they are:
 - Given a first formal warning including what may constitute further action (vi) below.
 - Deducted one (1) competition point.
 - vi. When a team accumulates three – quarters of their demerit points they are:
 - Given a second formal warning, including the possibility of being withdrawn from the competition, and
 - Stood down from their next competition match which will be considered a forfeit (not including a bye).
 - vii. When a team accumulates the nominated number of demerit points they are withdrawn from the competition / season. Team expulsion will only occur after the team and its Club has appeared before a GPT and failed to show reasonable cause as to why they should not be expelled.
 - viii. Where it is noted that a club has persistent offenders, the relevant FSC Football Council may cite the club, if, in its opinion, the Club is not performing its role of Club discipline.
 - ix. The above procedure does not supersede other procedures whereby the penalty for such demands team withdrawal.

c) The following tables will also include Team points.

Mandatory Suspensions for players will be:

| Occurrence – Send off or Expulsion in a season | Mandatory Suspension | Team Points – Additional to those for the Offence |
|------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------------------------------|
| First | 1 Match | |
| Second | 2 Matches | 1 team point |
| Third | 3 Matches | 2 team points |
| Fourth and Subsequent | Appearance before MRC | 3 team points |

Table 2 - Mandatory Suspension for Players

Table of Additional Matches for players sent off / expulsion based on the seriousness as determined by the MRC.

| Offence Code | Description | Comment | Range | Team Points |
|--------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|
| R1 | Serious Foul Play Excessive force or brutality in challenging for the ball. | According to seriousness | 1 – 11 matches | 3 |
| R2 | Violent Conduct Excessive force or brutality when not challenging for the ball – including but not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Striking or attempting to strike Kicking or attempting to kick Violent charging Head Butting Fighting, brawling | According to seriousness | 1 match – 24 months | 3 - 5 |
| R3 | Spitting at or towards a player or any other person (not a Match Official) | | 4 – 8 matches | 5 |
| | Spitting on or biting a player or any other person. | | 8 – 16 matches | |
| R4/R5 | Denying a Goal Scoring Opportunity when an offence punishable under R1 or R2 is not evident | | 0 matches | 0 |
| R6a | Use of Offensive, Insulting or Abusive Language | | 0 – 4 matches +1 for each occurrence to a maximum of 5 matches* | 3 |
| R6b | Use of Offensive, Insulting or Abusive Gestures or indecent actions. | | 4 – 20 matches | 3 – 5 |
| R6c | Use of Discriminatory Language and/or Gestures – but not necessarily limited to racist, religious, ethnic, homophobic or sexist. | | 8 – 12 matches +1 for each occurrence to a maximum of five matches * | 3 – 5 |
| R7 | Two Yellow cards in a match | | 0 matches | 0 |
| R2 or R6 | Incites a brawl or melee | | In accordance with Misconduct Offences M11 – M14 | 5 |

Table 3 - Red Card Offence Codes, Additional Suspensions for Players

d) Specific Offences against a Match Official

In considering the application of penalties in this area the MRC or Tribunal should give consideration to the relative responsibility of the role of the perpetrator and the greater level of accountability expected from those in leadership positions – e.g., club executives, team managers and coaches.

Extra consideration is also necessary where such offences are directed at match officials who are subject to child protection legislation.

| Offence Code | Description | Range | Team Points |
|--------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|
| R2 | Tripping, elbowing to the body, pushing with open hand, shoulder or hip, striking with the ball or attempting any of the above. | 1 year to life | 10 |
| | Punching, head butting, striking, kicking, elbowing to the head, Violent Charging or attempting any of the above. | Life | 10 |
| R3 | Causing spittle to land on a Match Official (e.g. blowing a “Raspberry”) | 6 months | 10 |
| | Spitting at or towards a Match Official | 1 year to 2 years | |
| | Spitting on or biting a Match Official | 2 years to life | |
| R6d | Use of Offensive, Insulting or Abusive Language or Gestures and/or images against or about a Match Official and/or their family. | Mandatory matches as per table 3 plus 3 – 20 matches (+1 for each occurrence to a maximum of 5) * | 4 |
| R6e | Threatening or Intimidating a Match Official or their family by word or action | Mandatory matches as per table 3 plus 12 matches – life | 10 |

Table 4 - Specific Offences against a Match Official

* An occurrence is defined as each occasion that is not immediately continuous – e.g., after a few seconds or after walking a few metres or as walking off and directed at another person. Any occurrences in excess of five (5) will have the seriousness considered by the MRC to determine whether an appearance at a hearing is appropriate.

e) Send off offences by Team Officials (Technical Area)

The following tables will also include Team points.

Mandatory Suspensions for team officials will be:

| Occurrence – Send off or Expulsion in a season | Mandatory Suspension | Additional Restrictions |
|------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|
| First | 1 Match | As per 24.6 (2) |
| Second | 2 Matches | As per 24.6 (2) |
| Third | 3 Matches | Suspension to be served away from grounds on Match Day. |
| Fourth and Subsequent | As determined with appearance before MRC | Suspension to be served away from grounds on Match Day. |

Table 5 - Mandatory Suspensions for Team Officials

| Offence Code | Description | Range | Team Points |
|--------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|-------------|
| TRC1 | Delaying the restart of play by the opposing team e.g., holding onto the ball, kicking the ball away, obstructing the movement of a player. | 1 match | 3 |
| TRC2 | Deliberately leaving the technical area to show dissent towards, or remonstrate with, a match official | 1 match | 5 |
| | Deliberately leaving the technical area to act in a provocative or inflammatory manner. | 3 matches | |
| TRC3 | Enter the opposing technical area in an aggressive or confrontational manner. | 2 matches | 5 |
| TRC4 | Deliberately throwing/kicking an object onto the field of play. | 1 match | 5 |
| TRC5 | Entering the field of play to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Confront a match official (including at half-time and full time); Interfere with play, an opposing player or match official | 1 – 3 matches | 5 |
| TRC6 | Physical or aggressive behaviour (including spitting or biting) towards an opposing player, substitute, team official, match official, spectator or any other person (e.g. ball boy/girl, security or competition official etc.) | 3 – 20 matches | 5 |
| TRC7 | Using offensive, insulting or abusive language and/or gestures (including sexual harassment, racist or other discriminatory comments) | 2 – 12 matches | 5 |
| | And directed to a match official | 3 – 16 matches | |
| TRC8 | Violent conduct against an opponent or spectator | 4 matches – As determined by MRC | 5 |
| | Violent conduct against a match official | 4 years to Life | |
| TRC9 | Receiving a second caution in the same match | 1 match | 3 |
| TRC10 | Using unauthorised electronic or communication equipment and/or behaving in an inappropriate manner as the result of using electronic or communication equipment. | 3 matches | 2 – 5 |
| TRC11 | Other as determined. | Minimum 1 match and as otherwise determined | 2 - 5 |

Table 6 - Red Card offence codes - additional suspensions for Team Officials

24.2 FINES

a) **CAUTION FINES – INDIVIDUAL PLAYERS**

In Men's Premiership Competition Matches, a fine of \$10 per yellow card issued to players will be applied to the club, in addition to any suspension for a Player accumulating a certain number of yellow cards.

b) **SEND OFF / EXPULSION FINES – INDIVIDUAL PLAYERS**

The following fines will be applied to the Club in Men's Premiership Competition Matches in addition to any suspension for Player during a match or otherwise reported for behaviour on match day.

| Occurrence | Fine |
|------------------------------|-------|
| First Offence | \$45 |
| Second Offence | \$55 |
| Third and subsequent offence | \$110 |

Table 7 – Club fines for players sent off

c) **SEND OFF / EXPULSION FINES – TEAM OFFICIALS**

The following fines will be applied to the Club in Men's and Women's Premiership Competition Matches for any team official, in any grade, who is sent from the Technical Area during a match or otherwise reported for behaviour on match day. This is in addition to any suspension for the individual.

| Occurrence | Club Sanction Men's Premiership All grades | Team Sanction Men's Premiership All Team Officials |
|-----------------|--------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 st | \$75 | Nil |
| 2 nd | \$150 | Warning Letter of possible loss of competition points |
| 3 rd | \$250 | Show cause why 1 competition point should not be deducted |
| 4 th | \$500 | Loss of competition points as determined |

Table 8 – Club fines for Team Officials sent off / expelled

For clarity,

Club Sanction: If Team Official X is sent from the technical area in Youth Grade Wk 1 and Team Official Y is sent from the technical area in First Grade Wk 2 then this would be the second offence against the Club.

Team Sanction: If the Head Coach is sent from the Technical Area R2 and Assistant Coach in R4 then that would be the second offence.

24.3 MULTIPLE YELLOW CARD OR RED CARD OFFENCES BY PLAYERS AND/OR TEAM OFFICIALS IN A MATCH

Should five or more players and/or Team Officials from the same team receive Yellow/Red cards in a Match and/or should 3 or more players and/or Team Officials from the same team receive red cards in a match then the Club/team shall be subject to the following sanctions:

| Code | Occurrence | Men's and Women's Premiership | Community Competitions |
|------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|
| D1 | 1st | Warning Letter | Warning Letter |
| D2 | 2nd | \$200 Second Warning letter | 3 team points Second warning letter. |
| D3 | 3rd | \$300 Warning letter advising next offence will incur the loss of 1 competition point. | 5 team points |
| D4 | 4 th and subsequent | \$500 Loss of 1 competition point for that team. Increasing by one for each future occurrence. | 5 team points Club to appear before GPT |

Table 9 - Club/Team Penalties for multiple YC/RC in a match

24.4 ACCUMULATION OF CAUTIONS BY AN INDIVIDUAL PLAYER IN A SEASON

| Code | Offence | Suspensions – All Comps | Team Points |
|------|-------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------|
| D5 | 5 cards | 1 Competition Match | 1 |
| D6 | 8 cards | 2 Competition Matches | 2 |
| D7 | 10 cards | 3 Competition Matches | 3 |
| D8 | 11 cards or more | Suspended. Must appear before MRC | MRC determination |
| D9 | 2 cards in Final Series | 1 Competition Match | NA |

Table 10 – Suspension & penalties for accumulation of cautions for players

24.5 ACCUMULATION OF CAUTIONS BY TEAM OFFICIALS DURING A SEASON

| Code | Offence | Suspensions – All Comps | Club Fine Men's Premiership | Team Points |
|------|--------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------|
| D10 | 2 cards | 1 Competition Match | \$50 | 1 |
| D11 | 4 cards | 2 Competition Matches | \$150 | 2 |
| D12 | 5 cards | 2 Competition Matches Cannot attend match or ground. | \$250 | 3 |
| D13 | 6 cards or more | Appearance before FSC with Club Executive Rep | \$500 | 4 |

Table 11 - Suspension and penalties for accumulation of cautions for team officials

For those of less than five yellow cards, any suspension MUST always be served by the Team Official in accordance with the requirements of [Articles 11.4h\) and 11.4i\)](#).

24.6 ACCUMULATION OF MULTIPLE RED CARDS WITHIN MEN'S OR WOMEN'S PREMIERSHIP TEAMS FOR ABUSE OF MATCH OFFICIALS.

- Where the players and/or Team Officials of any team accumulate four Red Cards for abuse of Match Officials (i.e. Offence Codes R6d, R6e, or TRC 7) during a season, the team will be deducted one (1) competition point and the Club will be fined \$200
- Subsequent Offences of the same type in the season will incur a deduction of one (1) competition point for each occurrence and the Club will be fined \$100 on each subsequent occasion.

Note – This issue is managed in the Community Competition through the Team Points system.

24.7 OFFENCES BY OFFICIALS/OTHERS ON MATCH DAY AND OTHER MISCELLANEOUS ISSUES

- a) Suspensions are generally in Accordance with those listed above. This Table Specifies some other offences not listed. Where an Official/player is removed from the Bench/Technical Area:
- He or she must immediately move from the Technical Area, be directly outside any fenced area surrounding the field and must immediately move to and remain at all times at least 50 metres from the Technical Area and
 - The period of Suspension must be served in accordance with the requirements of [Articles 11.4h\) and 11.4i\)](#).

| Code | Description | Comment | Range | Team Points |
|------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|-------------|
| O1 | Intimidation to pressure the match official to take or omit certain action. Harassment (including sexual harassment) of a verbal nature against a match official. | According to seriousness | 3 – 12 matches | 5 |
| O2 | Breaches of Codes of Conduct by Players and right of entry, Team Officials, Parents and Spectators. | | FSC/MRC/GPT determination | 5 |
| O3 | Breach of Alcohol Policy of Football Council. | | FSC/MRC/GPT determination | 10 |

Table 12 - Suspensions and penalties for Club Officials / others

24.8 MISCONDUCT - PENALTIES

The types of sanctions allowable for Misconduct against a Club Incorporated or Un-Incorporated Body Member or a Participant are set out in section 8.9c).

The following is a guide for application of penalties but is not binding for issuing sanctions for Misconduct.

| Offence Code | Offence Description | Occurrence | Participant Sanction | | Club Sanction | |
|--------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| | | | Min Suspension | Max Suspension | Fine \$ | Other |
| M01-01 | Unauthorised entry onto the Field of Play | First | 1 Fixture | 8 Fixtures / 2 months | Such penalty as FSC or Tribunal determines (if any) | |
| M01-02 | | Second & subsequent | 2 Fixtures | | | |
| M02-01 | Fail to abide by or comply with a reasonable direction of an Official (other than a Match Official) or FSC employee or representative in relation to conduct and/or behaviour at a Match. | First | 1 Fixture | 12 Fixtures / 3 months | Such penalty as FSC or Tribunal determines (if any) | |
| M02-02 | | Second & subsequent | 2 Fixtures | | | |
| M03-01 | Unsportsmanlike or unprofessional behaviour. | First | 4 fixtures / 1 month | 24 months | Such penalty as FSC or Tribunal determines (if any) | |
| M03-02 | | Second & subsequent | 8 fixtures / 2 months | | | |
| M04-01 | Failure to provide a safe environment for Participants or to maintain public order at a Match. | First | 4 fixtures / 1 month | 24 months | \$250 | Such penalty as FSC or Tribunal determines (if any) |
| M04-02 | | Second & subsequent | 8 fixtures / 2 months | | \$500 | |
| M05-01 | Failing to provide identifying details of an individual when reasonably requested to do so by a Match Official or FSC employee or representative. | First | 2 fixtures | 24 months | \$250 | Such penalty as FSC or Tribunal determines (if any) |
| M05-02 | | Second & subsequent | 4 fixtures / 1 month | | \$500 | |
| | | | | | | |

| Offence Code | Offence Description | Occurrence | Participant Sanction | | Club Sanction | |
|--------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|------------------------|----------------|-----------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| | | | Min Suspension | Max Suspension | Fine \$ | Other |
| M06-01 | Use offensive, insulting or abusive language and/or gestures (isolated incident). | First | 2 fixtures | 24 months | Such penalty as FSC or Tribunal determines (if any) | |
| M06-02 | | Second & subsequent | 4 fixtures / 1 month | | | |
| M07-01 | Use offensive, insulting or abusive language and/or gestures (repeated and/or excessive conduct). | First | 4 fixtures / 1 month | 24 months | Such penalty as FSC or Tribunal determines (if any) | |
| M07-02 | | Second & subsequent | 8 fixtures/ 2 months | | | |
| M08-01 | Indecent gestures | First | 4 fixtures / 1 month | 24 months | Such penalty as FSC or Tribunal determines (if any) | |
| M08-02 | | Second & subsequent | 8 fixtures/ 2 months | | | |
| M09-01 | Provocation or incitement of hatred or violence. | First | 8 fixtures/ 2 months | 24 months | Such penalty as FSC or Tribunal determines (if any) | |
| M09-02 | | Second & subsequent | 12 fixtures / 3 months | | | |
| M10-01 | Use of discriminatory, homophobic, racist, religious, ethnic or sexist language and/or gestures. | First | 8 fixtures/ 2 months | 24 months | \$250 | Such penalty as FSC or Tribunal determines (if any) |
| M10-02 | | Second & subsequent | 12 fixtures / 3 months | | \$500 | |
| M11-01 | Participating in a melee (non-violent). | First | 4 fixtures / 1 month | 24 months | \$250 | Such penalty as FSC or Tribunal determines (if any) |
| M11-02 | | Second & subsequent | 12 fixtures / 3 months | | \$500 | |
| M12-01 | Instigator of a melee (non-violent). | First | 8 fixtures/ 2 months | 24 months | \$500 | Such penalty as FSC or Tribunal determines (if any) |
| M12-02 | | Second & subsequent | 16 fixtures / 4 months | | \$1000 | |
| M13-01 | Participating in a violent melee | First | 12 fixtures / 3 months | Life | \$500 | Such penalty as FSC or Tribunal determines (if any) |
| M13-02 | | Second & subsequent | 20 fixtures / 5 months | | \$1000 | |
| | | | | | | |

| Offence Code | Offence Description | Occurrence | Participant Sanction | | Club Sanction | |
|--------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|-----------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| | | | Min Suspension | Max Suspension | Fine \$ | Other |
| M14-01 | Instigator of a violent melee. | First | 16 fixtures / 4 months | Life | \$750 | Loss of 3 competition points |
| M14-02 | | Second & subsequent | 20 fixtures / 5 months | | \$1500 | Loss of 6 competition points |
| M15-01 | Assault / striking | First | 8 fixtures/ 2 months | Life | \$500 | Such penalty as FSC or Tribunal determines (if any) |
| M15-02 | | Second & subsequent | 16 fixtures / 4 months | | \$1000 | |
| M16-01 | Violent Conduct | First | 12 fixtures / 3 months | Life | \$500 | Such penalty as FSC or Tribunal determines (if any) |
| M16-02 | | Second & subsequent | 24 fixtures / 6 months | | \$1000 | |
| M17-01 | Serious violent conduct (including, but not limited to, spitting at or on a Player, Spectator, Club Official, Team Official or FSC employee or representative | First | 12 months | Life | \$750 | Loss of 3 competition points |
| M17-02 | | Second & subsequent | 24 months | | \$1500 | Loss of 6 competition points |
| M18-01 | Damaging property/equipment. | First | 2 fixtures | 24 months | \$250 | Cost of repair/replace property & equipment |
| M18-02 | | Second & subsequent | 8 fixtures / 2 months | | \$500 | |
| M19-01 | Contempt against a Body. | First | 4 fixtures / 1 month | 5 years | Such penalty as FSC or Tribunal determines (if any) | |
| M19-02 | | Second & subsequent | 8 fixtures / 2 months | | | |
| M20-01 | Breach of the prohibition on dual registration (as per Article 4.9 of the FA National Registration Regulations | First | 8 fixtures / 2 months | 12 months | \$500 | Loss of 3 competition points |
| M20-02 | | Second & subsequent | 12 fixtures / 3 months | | \$750 | Loss of 6 competition points |
| M21-01 | Breach of Football NSW or FSC Rules and Regulations relating to registration (other than dual registration) and/or competitions. | First | Any penalty or sanction prescribed by the FSC Rules and Regulations | | Such penalty as FSC or Tribunal determines | |
| M21-02 | | Second & subsequent | | | | |
| | | | | | | |

| Offence Code | Offence Description | Occurrence | Participant Sanction | | Club Sanction | |
|--------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------------------------|----------------|-----------------------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| | | | Min Suspension | Max Suspension | Fine \$ | Other |
| M22-01 | Possessing a Prohibited Item at a Match, Fixture or Football NSW event. | First | 2 years | Life | \$500 | NA |
| M22-02 | | Second & subsequent | 5 years | | \$2500 | Loss of 3 competition points |
| M23-01 | Throwing missiles including, but not limited to, on to the Field of Play or at other Spectators). | First | 2 years | Life | \$750 | Loss of 3 competition points |
| M23-02 | | Second & subsequent | 5 years | | \$1500 | Loss of 6 competition points |
| M24-01 | Bring in to (or attempting to bring into) a stadium, venue, ground or centre national or political flags or emblems (except for the recognised national flags of any of the competing teams) or insulting, offensive, inappropriate, religious or political banners or slogans, whether written in English or a foreign language. | First | 2 years | Life | \$500 | Loss of 3 competition points |
| M24-02 | | Second & subsequent | 5 years | | \$1000 | Loss of 6 competition points |
| M25-01 | Letting off incendiary device(s) or fire(s). | First | 2 years | Life | \$750 | Loss of 3 competition points |
| M25-02 | | Second & subsequent | 5 years | | \$2,500 | Loss of 6 competition points |
| M26-01 | Group of Spectators uttering insulting words or sounds. | First | 6 months | 5 years | \$500 | Loss of 3 competition points |
| M26-02 | | Second & subsequent | 12 months | | \$1000 | Loss of 6 competition points |
| M27-01 | Breach of a Suspension, Notice of Suspension or Determination. | First | Such penalty as FSC or Tribunal determines | | Such penalty as FSC or Tribunal determines | |
| M27-02 | | Second & subsequent | | | | |
| M28-01 | Betting, match-fixing or corruption (as per clause 4 of the FA Code of Conduct) | First | Such penalty as FSC or Tribunal determines | | Such penalty as FSC or Tribunal determines (if any) | |
| M28-02 | | Second & subsequent | | | | |
| | | | | | | |

| Offence Code | Offence Description | Occurrence | Participant Sanction | | Club Sanction | |
|--------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|
| | | | Min Suspension | Max Suspension | Fine \$ | Other |
| M29-01 | Breach of the FNSW Privacy Policy, the FA Privacy Policy or any privacy policy applicable to a Member’s collection, use and disclosure of personal information. | First | Such penalty as FSC or Tribunal determines | Such penalty as Football NSW or Tribunal determines | Such penalty as FSC or FNSW or Tribunal determines (if any) | |
| M29-02 | | Second & subsequent | | | | |
| M30-01 | Bringing the game into Disrepute | First | Such penalty as FSC or Tribunal determines | | Such penalty as FSC or Tribunal determines (if any) | |
| M30-02 | | Second & subsequent | | | | |
| M31-01 | Detrimental Public Comment (including Media and Social Media) ** (see notes below) | First | 8 fixtures / 2 months | Such penalty as FSC or Tribunal determines | \$500 | Such penalty as FSC or FNSW or Tribunal determines (if any) |
| M31-02 | | Second & subsequent | 16 fixtures / 4 months | | \$1000 | |
| M32-01 | Other action or behaviour in breach the FA Code of Conduct, the FA Spectator Code of Behaviour and/or the FA National Member Protection Policy not identified elsewhere in this Table | First | Such penalty as FSC or Tribunal determines | | Such penalty as FSC or Tribunal determines (if any) | |
| M32-02 | | Second & subsequent | | | | |
| M33-01 | Threatening or Intimidating language towards an individual | First | Mandatory Match Suspension + 7 fixtures | 24 Months | Such penalty as the Executive or Tribunal determines (if any) | |
| M33-02 | | Second & subsequent | Second & subsequent | Mandatory Match Suspension + 10 fixtures | | |
| M34-01 | Threat of Physical violence towards an individual or their family or property | First | 6 months | 24 Months | Such penalty as the Executive or Tribunal determines (if any) | |
| M34-02 | | Second & subsequent | 12 months | 24 Months | | |
| M35-01 | Interfering with, or delaying the restart of, play | First | 1 fixture | 24 Months | Such penalty as the Executive or Tribunal determines (if any) | |
| M35-02 | | Second & subsequent | 2 fixtures | 24 Months | | |
| | | | | | | |

| Offence Code | Offence Description | Occurrence | Participant Sanction | | Club Sanction | |
|--------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|---------|
| | | | Min Suspension | Max Suspension | Fine \$ | Other |
| M36-01 | Failure to comply with Article 11 of these Regulations (restrictions imposed on Participants after receiving a Red Card or being Expelled during a match) | Any | 1 fixture | 24 Months | Such penalty as the Executive or Tribunal determines (if any) | |
| | | | Any sanction applied above, is in addition to the sanction issued in respect of the Red Card Offence or the Expulsion Offence. | | | |
| M37-01 | Inappropriate goal celebration | First | 5 fixtures (if red card issued) | 24 Months | \$200 | |
| M37-02 | | Second & Subsequent | 8 fixtures (if red card issued) | 24 Months | \$500 | |
| M38-01 | Illegal Training Activities | First | Warning | 24 Months | | Warning |
| M38-02 | | Second & Subsequent | 2 Fixtures | 24 Months | \$1000 | |

Table 13 - Misconduct Penalties

Notes

M31

Detrimental Public Comment (including Media and Social Media)

Including but not limited to, comments that:

- i. denigrate or criticise FSC or Football NSW (including any of its staff and Board), FA or any of their commercial partners;
- ii. denigrate or criticise another Member, whether in relation to incidents that have occurred in a Match/Fixture or otherwise;
- iii. denigrate or criticise a Participant by inappropriately commenting on any aspect of his or her performance, abilities or characteristics;
- iv. refer to the likely outcome of a matter being investigated by FSC or Football NSW or a matter or hearing before a Body
- v. criticise the outcome of a FSC or Football NSW investigation;
- vi. criticise the decision of a Body
- vii. criticise a Body or any of its members; or
- viii. criticise any evidence, submission or other comment made by any person at or in relation to a matter or hearing before a Body.

25. SCHEDULE 3: APPLICATION FEES

The Executive and DC in consultation may take into account extenuating circumstances impacting on an individual's capacity to pay the fee and either mitigate or waive the fee at the discretion of the Executive and DC.

Where Mediation is referred to a Member of the Institute of Arbitrators and Mediators Australis or other similar body or a legal practitioner the costs shall be shared equally by both parties.

Should the Grievance or Appeal be found in favour of the Complainant/Applicant, then the Application Fee will be refunded.

| Type | Description | Fee |
|-------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|
| Hearing MRC | Application for a hearing of the MRC on Exceptional Circumstances – Junior Competitions | \$50 |
| Hearing MRC | Application for a hearing of the MRC on Exceptional Circumstances – Senior Competitions | \$100 |
| GPT | Application for a Grievance referred to Mediation | \$0 |
| GPT | Application for a Grievance which is heard by a GPT | \$250 |
| GPT | Application for a GPT on rejection of recommended sanctions. | \$250 |
| AT | Application for an Appeal – Article 9 | \$500 |

Table 14 - Application Fees

26. SCHEDULE 4: PROCESS FLOW CHART

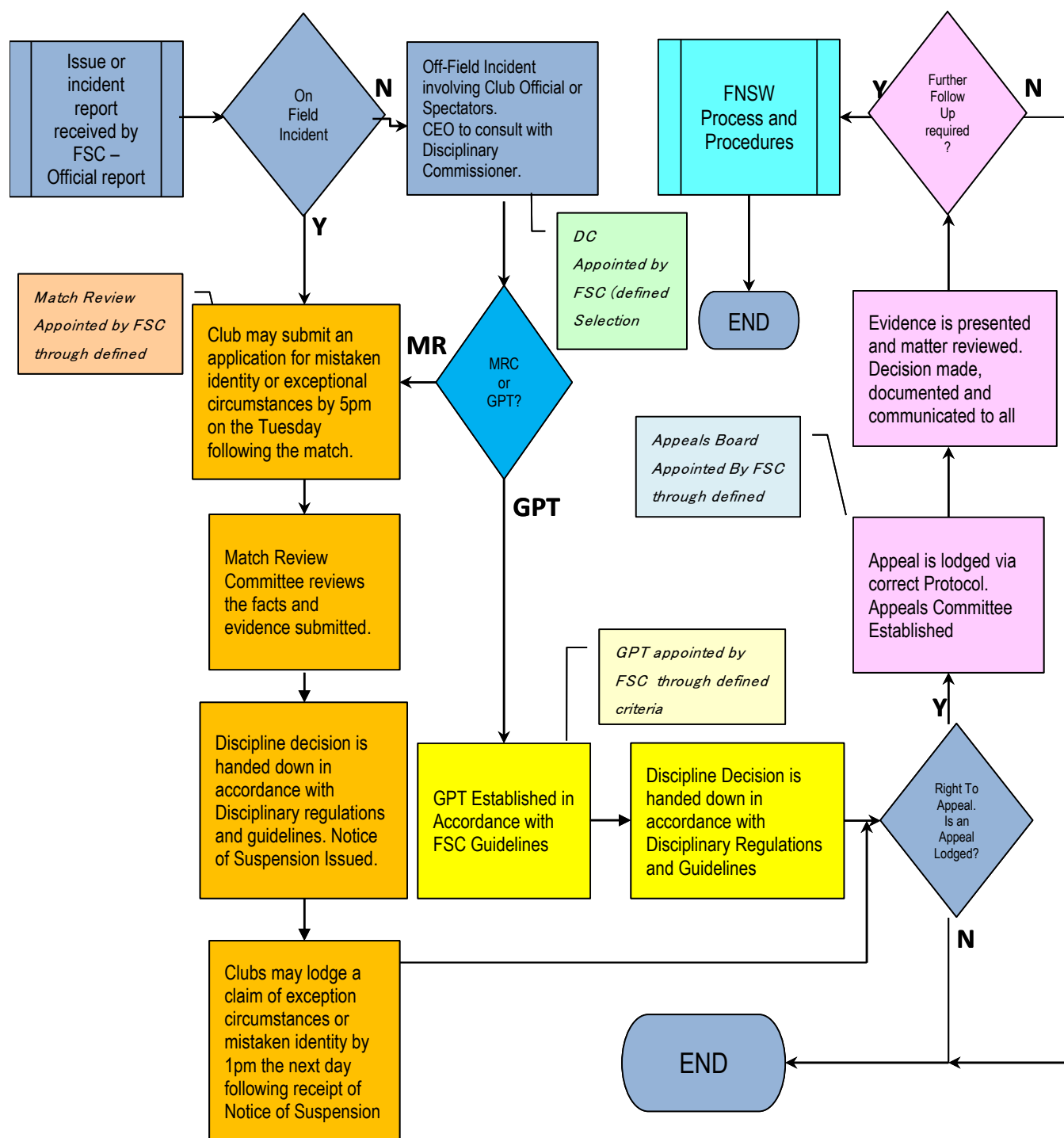


Figure 1 - Process Flow Chart

27. SCHEDULE 5: PRESCRIBED FORMS AND EMAIL ADDRESSES

27.1 CORRESPONDENCE

All correspondence in relation to any disciplinary matter under these Regulations must be in writing and directed to FSC, PO Box 105 Fairy Meadow or by email to incident@footballsouthcoast.com

Match Official Reports – email to referees@footballsouthcoast.com

27.2 PRESCRIBED FORMS

The following prescribed online forms are available from the FSC website under Resources /All / Disciplinary and Disputes

- i. Article 6.2
 - Match Official/Referee Send Off Report
 - Match Official /Referee Expulsion Report
 - Match Official/Referee Incident Report
- ii. Article 7.4
 - Notification form – Mistaken Identity – Challenge by Club
 - Notification form – Mistaken Identity – Challenge by Participant
 - Notification form – Mistaken Identity – Participant Responsible
- iii. Article 7.5
 - Notification form – Exceptional Circumstances
- iv. Article 8.3
 - Notification form – Grievance
- v. Article 9
 - Notification form - Appeal