



MEMORANDUM

Reference: M26-10

To: All Clubs
From: FSC Disciplinary Commissioner
Date: 13 February 2026
Subject: **2026 FSC Disciplinary and Disputes Regulations**
Email: admin@footballsouthcoast.com

Members

FSC has recently reviewed its [Disciplinary and Disputes Regulations](#) ((DDRS) following which the Board has approved a number of changes.

The purpose of this memorandum is to summarise the major changes to enable Clubs to take appropriate action to inform those who need to be aware of consequences of inappropriate behaviour for Breaches of Laws of the Game, Codes of Conduct, various regulations and Policies of FSC, Football NSW and Football Australia.

There are a number of changes that have been implemented to increase the Sanctions on repeated offenders in three (3) particular areas of concern.

1. **Inappropriate behaviour by Team Officials in the Technical Areas in Premiership Competitions (Men and Women) where Cautions (Yellow Cards) and Expulsions from the Technical Area (Red Card) are issued to those officials.** (the Team Points system addresses these issues in Junior and Community League Competitions).

This issue has been raised over a number of years following IFAB (the Laws of the Game making body) declaring its own frustration with behaviour of those who should be showing positive leadership, leading to the codification of specific offences for Team Officials in the Laws of the Game.

FSC is still concerned that the behaviour of many in leadership positions in the Technical Areas falls well below what is required.

If the behaviour of leaders is poor, that will also reflect in those on the field. Sanctions relating to repeat offenders have been increased during this review.

The responsibility for such behaviour is at all times that of:

- i. The Team Officials themselves and
- ii. The Clubs who appoint those officials for whom they are vicariously responsible.

Impact on Clubs for Accumulation of Send Offs/Expulsions of Team Officials

A club will be fined for every Send Off/Expulsion of a Team Official from the Technical Area. Each Send Off/Expulsion will be accumulated regardless of the team involved with fines progressively increasing to \$300 after the third and \$600 for the fourth and any subsequent occurrences.

Impact on Individual Team Officials, the Club and Team for Accumulation of Cautions (Yellow Cards) Clause 24.5

The club will be fined at an increasing rate where individuals appointed to the Technical Area accumulate yellow Cards.

Suspensions will be imposed on the individual official after two (2) Cautions and will increase if more occur.

Any individual Team Official incurring five (5) cautions or more will, apart from the suspension and fine on the Club, incur the loss of one (1) competition point for the team and will be required to serve their individual suspension away from the ground on match day.

Six cautions or more will lead to the same requirement for serving the suspension and the loss of more competition points.

The loss of Competition Points in such circumstances is as a result of the official clearly setting a poor example for the team.

Accumulation of Red Cards by Officials of any one team. Clause 24.2.c) ii).

Where the Team Officials (i.e. all team officials) of any one team accumulate three or more Red Cards (Expulsions), for the third and any subsequent occasions the Team will be deducted Competition Points.

Again, this is introduced to sanction a failure of leadership in setting an appropriate example.

2. Abuse of Match Officials Clause 24.6

This remains a significant issue and FSC is determined to ensure that repeated offenders will be Sanctioned.

The major change implemented in this review is:

- Where players or Team Officials of any one team accumulate Four (4) Red Cards for abuse of Match Officials (R6d, R6e or TRC 7), the Team will be deducted one (1) competition point and the club will be fined \$200 - any subsequent offence of the same nature will lead to further Sanctions of the same type.

3. Melees/Mass Confrontations Clause 23 Definitions and Schedule of Offences and Clause 24.8 Offence Codes M11-01 through to M14-02

This issue was raised last season, and a number of Sanctions were introduced. Unfortunately, the incidence of such actions is still prevalent and FSC is determined to ensure:

- strong action is taken and
- referees report the occurrence of any melee/mass confrontation of players occurring in a game in addition to any action they may take on:
 - The individuals involved in any incident triggering the melee/confrontation and/or
 - The individuals rushing inappropriately to involve themselves in such confrontations.

Melees/Mass confrontations are a blight on the Game. Players rushing in often claim they were "trying to settle" the incident but their actions more often than not inflame the situation and create a situation that escalates the issue with others thinking "well if they can I should."

FSC has varied the definition of "melee/mass confrontations" to clarify the difference between one containing violent behaviour (e.g. punching, kicking, fighting, etc) as opposed to one where the inappropriate behaviour does not contain violent actions but (pushing, shoving holding etc). Neither are acceptable behaviour; however, differentiation is accompanied by applicable sanctions.

Each action of this nature inhibits the referee being able to restore control and deal with an incident that initially generally only involves two people. Those rushing in assume the right to "take the law into their own hands". This is unacceptable and FSC will be taking strong action. Sanctions will include the loss of competition points:

- when the melee involves any violence (i.e. any behaviour that might constitute violent conduct) or
- on the second occasion when no violent conduct is evident.

This responsibility is squarely on the players should competition points be lost.

Fines

In addition to the areas above, FSC has determined to increase fines imposed for Red Cards and other offences. The level of fines has been in place for many years without adjustment. Fines on Clubs have also increased for those players accumulating multiple cautions in Premiership Competitions.

Biting

The minimum additional sanction to the Mandatory one (1) match red card offence sanction for the offence of biting another has been increased to 12 matches (a total of 13).

Should you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact FSC.