

PART J: DISCIPLINARY

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74. REPORT PROCESS

73.1. Reports can be made by the following groups;

- 73.1.a. Umpires
- 73.1.b. Umpire Coaches
- 73.1.c. Competition Officials
- 73.1.d. League Administrators

73.2. All reports are to be received by the League by **9am Monday** after the match is played.

73.3. The League will assess all reports and potential Reportable Offences. They will gather the required information relevant to deciding whether a charge is made.

73.4. Following the review of each report or referral, the League will determine whether the charge is appropriate and make alterations to the charge if required. This includes;

- 73.4.a. Issuing yellow and red cards
- 73.4.b. Upgrading yellow cards to a red card
- 73.4.c. Downgrading a red card to a yellow card
- 73.4.d. Altering the reported offence to a more appropriate offence
(*eg changing a striking charge to an attempted striking charge etc*).

73.5. The League will inform the relevant Club President whether a reported or referred player/official has been charged, and the corresponding base sanction for that charge by **5pm Monday** after the match is played.

73.6. All timelines mentioned in 73.2 and 73.5 may be adjusted at the discretion of the League under exceptional circumstances.

75. REPORTABLE OFFENCES

A Reportable Offence occurs where a Player or Official commits any of the Offences set out in the current AFL Laws of the Game, or any superseding Rules as provided by the AFL. There are three types of Reportable Offences:

- A low-level offence
- A classifiable offence
- A Direct to Tribunal Offence

Any Offence defined in the current AFL Laws of the Game but not specified in this handbook will be categorised by the League.

The offences covered in this section are bound by the Tribunal process as per the *National Community Football Policy handbook*. These guidelines are adopted by WA Football and Country Junior Competitions to provide Clubs, Players and Officials with clear guidelines for any Player or Team Official involved in a reportable incident.

Reportable Offences span both Players and Team Officials in Year 3 to Year 12 Competitions.

Note: Due to their young age, Modified Players in Year 3 to 6 will not appear at the Community Football Tribunal.

LOW LEVEL OFFENCES	
75.1	Low Level Offences cannot be contested at the Community Football Tribunal. Any request to contest a Low Level Offence must be submitted as an Appeal, which must be lodged by 12:00pm on the day following notification.
75.2	The offences listed below in 74.4 do not require classification and may be addressed by the League through the issuing of a Yellow or Red card.
75.3	In the case of a Red Card for a Low Level Offence, the Player will receive an automatic one (1) match suspension.
75.4	<p>List of Low Level Offences;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attempt to Strike / Kick / Trip • Careless Contact with an Umpire • Disputing a Decision • Instigator of a Melee / Wrestle • Engaging in a Melee / Wrestle • Interfering with a Player Kicking for Goal • Unreasonable or Unnecessary contact with an Injured Player • Unreasonable or Unnecessary contact with an Umpire • Not Leaving the Playing Surface • Obscene Gesture • Pinching • Prohibited Boots, Jewellery or Equipment • Scratching • Shaking, Climbing or Interfering with Goal or Behind Posts • Spitting at another Player • Staging • Striking • Time Wasting • Tripping • Using Abusive, Insulting or Obscene Language • Any Other Act of Low-Level Misconduct which is not a Classifiable Offence or Direct to Tribunal Offence. <p><i>Note: as per National Community Football Policy Handbook, any Misconduct deemed not to be Low-Level may attract a 3 match penalty reduced to 2 with the submission of an Early Guilty Plea.</i></p>
CLASSIFIABLE OFFENCES	
75.6	<p>The determination of a base sanction for a Classifiable Offence will be made based on an assessment of whether:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Conduct is Intentional or Careless; - The Impact is Severe, High, Medium or Low; and - The Contact with the other Person is High/Groin/Chest or to the Body. <p><i>Note: Interpretation provisions for these determinations can be found in the National Community Football Policy Handbook.</i></p>
75.7	All Classifiable and Verbal Offences will be graded in accordance with the tables listed in section 76 .
75.8	At the discretion of the League, all penalties (Base Sanction and Early Guilty Plea) may be doubled if the player or official has been found guilty of a reportable offence in either the current season or the immediately preceding season.

75.9	<p>The base sanction for Classifiable Offences can, in many instances be decreased where a Player or Official submits an Early Guilty Plea.</p> <p>Where no reduction is available, the Player or Official will receive an automatic one (1) match suspension.</p>
75.10	<p>A Player or Official charged with a Classifiable Offence may:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Accept the Early Guilty Plea offered. - Contest the charge at the Community Football Tribunal using evidence to show they are not guilty of the Classifiable Offence or are guilty of a lesser charge. <p>The Player or Official charged must submit their option by 12pm Tuesday after the match is played.</p>
75.11	<p>List of Classifiable Offences;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Striking • Kicking • Kneeing • Charging • Rough Conduct • Tripping • Unreasonable or Unnecessary Contact to the Face or Eye Region • Forceful Front-On Contact • Headbutt or Contact Using Head • Using Abusive, Insulting, Threatening or Obscene Language towards or in relation to an Umpire • Behaving in an Abusive, Insulting, Threatening or Obscene manner towards or in relation to an Umpire
DIRECT TO TRIBUNAL OFFENCES	
75.12	<p>Direct to Tribunal Offences are sent directly to the Community Football Tribunal to determine an appropriate penalty within the Standard Range of Penalties.</p> <p>No Early Guilty Plea is offered for these offences.</p>
75.13	<p>Due to their young age, Modified Players in Year 3 to 6 will not appear at the Community Football Tribunal. The Grading and Penalty Ranges specified in section 75 will be used to determine an appropriate penalty.</p>
75.14	<p>List of Direct to Tribunal Offences;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attempting to Strike an Umpire • Behaving in an Abusive, Insulting, Threatening or Obscene manner towards or in relation to an Umpire • Intentional Contact with an Umpire • Spitting at or on an Umpire • Spitting on Another Person • Stomping • Striking an Umpire • Any classifiable or low-level offence which attracts a base sanction that WA Football Competitions Match Committee finds inappropriate • Any other act of serious misconduct
75.15	<p>The League and Community Football Tribunal reserve the right to apply penalties beyond the Standard Range of Penalties in circumstances that are deemed necessary.</p> <p>Any such penalty must be endorsed by the relevant WA Football Executive.</p>

76. GRADING AND PENALTY RANGES

GRADING OF CLASSIFIABLE OFFENCES

Conduct	Impact	Contact	Base Sanction	Early Guilty Plea
Intentional	Severe	All	6+ Matches (or Tribunal)	Not Applicable
	High	High / Groin / Chest	5+ Matches (or Tribunal)	Not Applicable
		Body	4 Matches	3 Matches
	Medium	High / Groin / Chest	3 Matches	2 Matches
		Body	2 Matches	1 Match
	Low	High / Groin / Chest	2 Matches	1 Match
Body		1 match	Not Applicable	
Careless	Severe	All	4+ Matches (or Tribunal)	Not Applicable
	High	High / Groin / Chest	3 Matches	2 Matches
		Body	2 Matches	1 Match
	Medium	High / Groin / Chest	2 Matches	1 Match
		Body	1 Match	Not Applicable
	Low	High / Groin / Chest	1 Match	Not Applicable
Body		1 Match	Not Applicable	

Note: Chest applies to Female Football only

GRADING OF SOCIAL MEDIA OFFENCES

Conduct	Directed At	Base Sanction
Threatening	Umpire	8 Matches +
	Another Person or Club	7 Matches +
Abusive / Obscene	Umpire	5 - 7 Matches
	Another Person or Club	3 - 6 Matches
Insulting	Umpire	2 - 4 Matches
	Another Person or Club	1 - 3 Matches

GRADING OF VERBAL ABUSE OFFENCES

Conduct	Directed At	Volume	Base Sanction	Early Guilty Plea
Threatening	Umpire	Any	6+ Matches (or Tribunal)	Not Applicable
	Another Person	Loud	5+ Matches (or Tribunal)	Not Applicable
		Low	4 Matches	3 Matches
Abusive / Obscene	Umpire	Loud	4 Matches	3 Matches
		Low	3 Matches	2 Matches
	Another Person	Loud	3 Matches	2 Matches
		Low	2 Matches	1 Match
Insulting	Umpire	Loud	3 Matches	2 Matches
		Low	2 Matches	1 Match
	Another Person	Loud	2 Matches	1 Match
		Low	1 Match	Yellow Card

Definitions:

Threatening	Any verbal communication or gesture that intimidates, harasses, causes fear, or implies harm or aggression towards another individual. This includes direct or implied threats of physical violence, verbal abuse, emotional harm, or any form of aggressive behaviour that creates a hostile or unsafe environment .
Obscene / Abusive	Any verbal communication or gesture that is offensive, vulgar, or demeaning. This includes the use of profanity, personal insults, slurs, or any form of verbal abuse intended to humiliate, insult or belittle another individual, disrupting a positive game day environment.
Insulting	Any verbal communication or gesture that is disrespectful, derogatory or intended to provoke or demean another person. This includes mocking, belittling, or ridiculing others based on their abilities, appearance, skill level or other personal characteristics, undermining the principles of fair play and mutual respect.
Loud	Could be heard more than 50 metres
Low	Could be heard less than 50 metres

Note: For auditory offences, if the individual is unrepentant, one (1) match may be added to the Base Sanction and Early Guilty Plea at the discretion of the Match Review Panel or Tribunal

For the avoidance of doubt, as specified in the National Community Football Policy Handbook - Vilification offences are treated as Code of Conduct breaches and do not use the above Auditory table

**STANDARD RANGE OF PENALTIES
FOR DIRECT TO TRIBUNAL OFFENCES OR OFFENCES OUTSIDE OF GRADING MATRIX**

Intentionally or carelessly; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Striking another person; - Kicking another person; - Kneeing another person; - Charging an opponent; - Engaging in Rough Conduct against an opponent; - Bumping or making forceful contact to an opponent from front-on when that Player has their head down over the football; - Head-butting or making contact to another person using the head; - Making unreasonable or unnecessary contact to the eye region of another person; - Making unreasonable or unnecessary contact to the face of another person; - Tripping another person whether by hand, arm, foot or leg; 	4 – 16 matches
<i>Carelessly</i> eye-gouging another person	2 – 10 matches
<i>Intentionally</i> eye-gouging another person	4 – 16 matches
Stomping on another person	4 – 16 matches
Intentionally <i>making contact with</i> an Umpire	4 matches – 2 years
Intentionally <i>striking</i> an Umpire	2 – 10 years
Attempting to strike an Umpire	5 matches – 2 years
Spitting <i>at</i> an Umpire	10 matches – 2 years
Spitting <i>on</i> an Umpire	1 – 5 years
Behaving in an <i>insulting</i> manner towards or in relation to an Umpire	2 – 6 matches
Behaving in an <i>abusive or obscene</i> manner towards or in relation to an Umpire	4 – 10 matches
Behaving in a <i>threatening</i> manner towards or in relation to an Umpire	6 matches – 10 years
Spitting <i>on</i> another person	5 – 10 matches
Using <i>threatening</i> language	4 – 16 matches
Engaging in any other act of <i>misconduct</i>	2 – 5 matches
Engaging in any other act of <i>serious misconduct</i>	6 matches – 5 years

Note: If this is the second offence within the last twelve months, then penalty range above is to be doubled.

77. POLICY AND CODE OF CONDUCT VIOLATIONS

- 77.1. All Clubs, players, parents, spectators, officials and volunteers are bound by WA Football's Rules, Regulations, Policies and Code of Conduct.
- 77.2. All individuals are subject to penalties at the discretion of WA Football for any breach of 76.1.
- 77.3. If a League is made aware of a Club or Individual who is in breach of its Rules, it may, if it considers appropriate and in exercising its independent discretion, conduct an investigation and make a determination based upon its own investigations.
- 77.4. When the League makes a determination and imposes a penalty (if any), it must immediately inform the Club in writing detailing:
 - 77.4.a. The alleged conduct and its findings in relation to it;
 - 77.4.b. The penalty; and
 - 77.4.c. The Club's right to appeal.
- 77.5. Penalties handed down by the League for breaches of its Rules, Regulations, Policies and Code of Conduct can only be applied and served in competitions within the scope of these rules.
- 77.6. Should any dispute or objection arise as to the meaning or interpretation of any of WA Football Rules, Regulations, Polices or Code of Conduct, WA Football shall settle such dispute or objection by making a determination in its absolute discretion. That determination is final and binding.

78. SUSPENSION

- 78.1. Any Individual suspended by either a Tribunal or Prescribed Penalty in a WA Football affiliated competition for a Law of the Game, will not be permitted to play, coach, or participate in any capacity, in any WA Football affiliated competition including schools, senior metropolitan community football or regional football, for the duration of the penalty unless otherwise stated by WA Football.
- 78.2. Any Individual suspended by either a Tribunal or Prescribed Penalty in a WA Football affiliated competition for a Bylaw or Code of Conduct breach will only be permitted to play, coach, or participate in any capacity, in another WA Football affiliated competition including schools, senior metropolitan community football or regional football, for the duration of the penalty at the discretion of the other competition, in consultation with WA Football.
- 78.3. Any Individual reported or in receipt of a Prescribed Penalty notice, is not to play or act in any official capacity in a WA Football affiliated competition until such time as the charge has been dealt with.
- 78.4. Any Individual who chooses to contest a Red Card, Report or Prescribed Penalty is deemed suspended until such time as the charge or report is dealt with to the satisfaction of WA Football.
- 78.5. Any Individual found guilty of an Offence who has been given a suspension, fine or any other sanction, shall not be permitted to enter the Arena on Match Days while the penalty remains unserved.
- 78.6. Any Player who is suspended throughout the season will be deemed ineligible for fairest and best awards.

79. TRIBUNAL HEARING

All Tribunal Hearings will be heard via WA Football Community Football Tribunal which operates as per WA Football Community Football Tribunal Guidelines. The below points provide a summary for participants.

- 79.1. The Tribunal will hear charge/s for which a Player or Official has;
 - 79.1.a. Plead not guilty;
 - 79.1.b. Plead guilty to a lesser charge;
 - 79.1.c. Been charged with a direct to tribunal offence.
- 79.2. The Tribunal may find the Individual;
 - 79.2.a. Guilty of the original charge;
 - 79.2.b. Guilty of a different charge; or
 - 79.2.c. Not Guilty of any charge.
- 79.3. If the Individual is found guilty, the Tribunal will determine the appropriate sanction within the **Standard Range of Penalties** for the Offence.
- 79.4. Unless requested for attendance by the Tribunal Chair, Umpires or Victims may provide written or video evidence prior to the Tribunal Hearing however, must be available to be contacted by the Tribunal Chair during the Hearing period if required.
- 79.5. Players, Officials and Umpires are permitted to be accompanied by an Advocate.
- 79.6. An Advocate may not be a legal practitioner and is only to act in the role of providing support.
- 79.7. An Advocate will not be permitted to provide evidence.
- 79.8. An Advocate will not be permitted to pose questions to Umpires, Victims or Witnesses.

80. MELEES

- 80.1. A melee is defined as an incident involving three or more Players and/or Officials who are grappling or otherwise struggling with one another and which, in the opinion of the field Umpire or League Official, is likely to bring the game of Australian Football into disrepute or prejudice the interests or reputation of WA Football / Country Football WA or the competition(s) conducted by the League.
- 80.2. The League will assess all melees, and the maximum penalties may be applied to teams who engage in a melee as per the following table.

OFFENCE	MATCH E-POINTS AWARDED	FINE
1 st Melee for the season	0	\$500
2 nd Melee for the season	0	\$750
3 rd and any further Melee for the season	0	\$1,000

81. INVESTIGATIONS

- 81.1. The League Administrator may, in its discretion, investigate any matter it deems necessary to ensure compliance with its rules, regulations, policies and ethical standards.
- 81.2. Any Club or Person requesting an investigation of an alleged breach of these Rules and Regulations, must notify the League Administrator within forty-eight (48) hours of becoming aware of the alleged breach. A Club or Person must not knowingly submit a complaint that is untrue, vexatious or malicious.
- 81.3. As soon as practicable after the League Administrator receives a written complaint, they must undertake a preliminary assessment of the allegation and following its assessment, must either;
 - 81.3.a. Investigate the matter in accordance with these rules and regulations;
 - 81.3.b. Refer the matter to WA Football Integrity Department; or
 - 81.3.c. Refer the matter to an external government agency (ie WA Police).
- 81.4. All Clubs and individuals must cooperate fully and in a timely manner with any investigation carried out by the League or it's representative. Clubs and Individuals must act in good faith by providing truthful and complete information to support the investigation.
- 81.5. Failure to cooperate with an investigation may result in penalties, including reprimand, suspension, fines, removal from competition or any other disciplinary action as determined by WA Football at its full discretion.
- 81.6. All individuals involved in the investigation and decision-making process must act with integrity, fairness, and impartiality. Any conflicts of interest or bias must be disclosed, and those with conflicts may be excluded from the investigation.
- 81.7. The League Administrator may, in its full discretion, stand down any individual subject to any investigation from participating or in connection with a Competition.
- 81.8. The Investigation Team will facilitate the collection and review of evidence including;
 - 81.8.a. Reviewing the request for investigation and any submitted evidence;
 - 81.8.b. Collection of additional evidence as required, including records, video footage, photographs, witness statements or other documentation.
 - 81.8.c. Maintaining confidentiality of all information gathered during the investigation, except where disclosure is required by law or league policy.
 - 81.8.d. A determination of whether a breach has occurred.
- 81.9. At the conclusion of any investigation, any penalties will be determined in accordance with the provisions outlined in this Rules and Regulation document.