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# **DISPUTES & DISCIPLINARY REGULATIONS SECTION 1:**

## **REGULATION OF FOOTBALL DISCIPLINARY MATTERS AND DISPUTES IN THE Southern Tablelands Football Association**

1. Football is a global sport. It is governed and regulated internationally by the Federation Internationale de Football Associations (FIFA). Football operates in accordance with Laws of the Game published by the International Football Association Board (IFAB).
2. For the purposes of these Regulations, 'Football' refers to all forms of outdoor football and to Futsal.
3. The Australian Member of FIFA is Football Australia (FA).
4. Southern Tablelands Football Association (STFA) is the governing body within the Southern Tablelands region which is current made up with clubs from Goulburn, Crookwell, Marulan and Gunning. With the purpose to govern, administer and regulate Football within the STFA region.
5. The STFA has been accepted by Football NSW and Southern Branch Football as a Member and granted it a mandate to govern, administer and regulate Football in the region.
6. Under Section its Constitution, STFA must promulgate and enforce IFAB's Laws of the Game.
7. The STFA is governed under its Constitution by a Board of Directors (now known as the STFA Executive or STFA Board). The Board is given the authority and power to manage STFA business under its Constitution. This power includes the regulation and governance of Football and of Football Related Activities.
8. Under its Constitution, STFA Board may delegate powers to a person or persons, or to a Committee or Committees consisting of persons it thinks fit.
9. Persons and Committees to whom powers are delegated by STFA Board include managers and administrators employed by the Board to manage its Football business on its behalf (Management) and disciplinary and appeal committees (Tribunals) appointed to assist with and administer the governance and regulation of Competitions and Participants.
10. In approving and promulgating these Regulations, the STFA Board delegates to Management the administration and enforcement of the Regulations, including the authority to issue Notices of Suspensions, Charges and Proceedings.
11. These Disputes and Disciplinary Regulations (Regulations) are promulgated under the STFA's Constitution.
12. These Regulations apply to Football and Football Related Activities under the jurisdiction of the STFA, and cover:

- 12.1. All STFA Competitions, Tournaments, Cup Competitions and Matches, and to Competitions and programs administered by the STFA.
  - 12.2. Infringements of IFAB's Laws of the Game for Football and FIFA's Futsal Laws of the Game.
  - 12.3. Disciplinary, dispute and conduct matters in Football and Football Related Activities.
  - 12.4. Breaches of FA Statutes and of STFA Statutes, including these Regulations.
  - 12.5. Other matters which the Board and the Football Manager deem, in their absolute discretion, to be important to the interests of Capital Football and/or Football as a sport.
13. These Regulations are supplementary to FA's Statutes.
14. These Regulations must be read in conjunction with STFA Competition Regulations in place from time to time.
15. For the purposes of these Regulations, STFA adopts the FA Code of Conduct and the FA Spectator Code of Behaviour as part of the governance and regulation of its Competitions and its Participants. A reference to FA in those Codes is taken to be a reference to STFA.
16. Where an incident may constitute a breach of these Regulations and/or a breach of FA Statutes, Management may in its absolute discretion determine the appropriate governing document under which to investigate, process, penalise or issue a charge relating to any matter.
17. In the case of a Regulation being interpreted in two or more different ways, STFA delegates through these Regulations to Tribunals its right to determine which interpretation is valid.
18. Each Member of the STFA, and each club who participates in Football Competitions or activities that the STFA organises or approves, submits exclusively to the jurisdiction of these Regulations when they join the STFA or participate. They agree that, until they have exhausted the procedures set out in these Regulations, they will not attempt to resolve any grievances, incidents, disciplinary, dispute or conduct matters by going to FA or a court of law.
19. Management may choose to enforce a Section, Sub-Section or Article of these Regulations in some cases, in its absolute discretion, without affecting its right to enforce that Section or Sub-Section in other cases.
20. The STFA reserves the right to deal with any Member or Participant and determine any conduct, complaint or other matter not specifically covered in these Regulations.

# **DISPUTES & DISCIPLINARY REGULATIONS – SECTION 2:**

## **TEMPORARY DISMISSALS**

Section 2 of the STFA's Disciplinary and Disputes Regulations deals with Temporary Dismissal during a Football Match and with Temporary Dismissal Suspensions.

### **1 TEMPORARY DISMISSAL**

1.1 A Player who commits an act of dissent towards a Match Official during a Match may be sanctioned by an immediate Temporary Dismissal from participation in the next part of the Match.

1.2 A Player issued a Temporary Dismissal must serve the Temporary Dismissal in the Technical Area occupied by the Player's team.

1.3 Temporary Dismissals apply to all Players (including goalkeepers) but not for cautionable offences committed by a substitute or substituted Player.

1.4 For the purposes of these Regulations, a 'substitute player' referred to in Section 2 Article 1.3 above does not include interchange Players participating in Competitions allowing unlimited interchange of Players.

1.5 The Temporary Dismissal period is five (5) minutes for Junior football and ten (10) minutes for senior football, which begins when the Player has left the Field of Play.

1.6 Temporary Dismissals will be in effect in the following Competitions:

All Age Men's Competition Division

All Age Women's Competition Division

Youth League or Colts Competition Division

All Junior Competition Division (Boys, Girls and Mixed) from Under 12's to Under 16's

### **2 TEMPORARY DISMISSAL SUSPENSION**

2.1 A Player who receives a second Temporary Dismissal in the same Match will serve the Temporary Dismissal in that Match and then take no further part in it. The Player will be deemed to have received a Temporary Dismissal Suspension (TDS).

2.2 There is no appeal against a TDS by a Referee.

2.3 A Player who is given a second Temporary Dismissal or TDS:

a) Must leave the vicinity of the Field of Play and the Technical Area, and

b) Will receive a mandatory one (1) Match suspension.

c) A Player who receives a TDS is ineligible to play in any further Matches on that day until

### **3 APPLICATION OF TEMPORARY DISMISSALS**

3.1 If a Player receives:

a) Two (2) Temporary Dismissals and one (1) Yellow Card in a Match, resulting in a Temporary Dismissal Suspension, then the two (2) Temporary Dismissals will be expunged from the Player's record and neither Temporary Dismissal will be considered when accumulating Temporary Dismissals with regard to Section 2 Article 4.5 below, but the Yellow Card will be included in the accumulation of Yellow Cards with regard to Section 3 Article 2.3 below.

b) One (1) Temporary Dismissal and two (2) Yellow Cards in a Match resulting in a Red Card, then the two (2) Yellow Cards will be expunged from the Player's record and neither Yellow Card will be considered

when accumulating Yellow Cards with regard to Section 3 Article 2.3, but the Temporary Dismissal will be included in the accumulation of Temporary Dismissals with regard to Section 2 Article 4.5 below.

c) If a Player receives one (1) Yellow Card or one (1) Temporary Dismissal in a Match and then receives a direct Red Card in the same Match, the Yellow Card or Temporary Dismissal will not be expunged from the Player's record and must be considered when accumulating Yellow Cards or Temporary Dismissals with regard to Section 2 Article 4.5 and Section 3 Article 2.3 below.

d) If a Player receives one (1) Temporary Dismissal and one (1) Yellow Card in a Match and then receives a direct Red Card in the same Match, the Temporary Dismissal and the Yellow Card will not be expunged from the Player's record and must be considered when accumulating Yellow Cards or Temporary Dismissals with regard to Section 2 Article 4.5 and Section 3 Article 2.3 below.

#### **4 ACCUMULATION OF TEMPORARY DISMISSALS**

4.1 If a Player receives two (2) Temporary Dismissals in a Match, resulting in a Temporary Dismissal Suspension, then the two (2) Temporary Dismissals are expunged from the Player record and do not contribute to the accumulation of Temporary Dismissals.

4.2 If a Player receives one (1) Temporary Dismissal in a Match and then receives a direct Red Card in the same Match, the Temporary Dismissal will not be expunged from the Player's record and must be considered when accumulating Temporary Dismissals.

4.3 After a Player has received four (4) Temporary Dismissals, irrespective of the age grade in which they are received, the Player must serve a Minimum Mandatory Suspension (MMS) one (1) Match. The MMS of one (1) Match must be served in the age grade or Competition in which the accumulated Temporary Dismissals are accrued. There is no appeal against the MMS after receiving four (4) Temporary Dismissals.

4.4 Where no Matches are scheduled in the week following the Match in which the Player has received (4) Temporary Dismissals, the MMS is to be served in the next week in which Matches are scheduled. The Player remains ineligible to participate in any Match in any age grade until the suspension is served in full.

4.5 The following table sets out the penalties for the accumulation of Temporary Dismissals:

<b>Number of Accumulated Temporary Dismissals during the Premiership</b>	<b>Mandatory Suspension</b>
4	1 Round
7	2 Rounds
10	3 Rounds
11	Appear before the Disciplinary Tribunal

## **DISPUTES & DISCIPLINARY REGULATIONS SECTION 3:**

### **YELLOW AND RED CARDS**

Section 3 of the STFA's Disciplinary and Disputes Regulations deals with Yellow and Red Cards issued by a Referee under the Laws of the Game (Laws) and with suspensions arising from the receipt and accumulation of Yellow and Red Cards.

#### **1 PLAYER YELLOW CARD OFFENCES**

1.1 A Player Yellow Card issued as a caution by a Referee for a cautionable Offence under the Laws will be issued under the following codes: Code Description

<b>Code</b>	<b>Description</b>
Y1	The player was guilty of unsporting behaviour
Y2	The player showed dissent by word or action
Y3	The player persistently infringed the Laws
Y4	The player delayed the restart of play
Y5	The player failed to respect the required distance when play was to restart with a dropped ball, corner kick, free kick or throw-in
Y6	The player entered, re-entered or deliberately left the Field of Play without the Referee's permission

1.2 There is no appeal against the issuing of a Yellow Card from a Referee except in the case of mistaken identity.

1.3 If a Player receives two (2) Yellow Cards in a Match, resulting in a Red Card (RC), then the two (2) Yellow Cards will be expunged from the Player's record and do not contribute to an accumulation of Yellow Cards.

1.4 If a Player receives one (1) Yellow Card in a Match and then receives a direct Red Card in the same Match, the Yellow Card will not be expunged from the Player's record and must be considered when accumulating Yellow Cards.

#### **2 ACCUMULATION OF YELLOW CARDS –PREMIERSHIP MATCHES**

2.1 After an individual Player has received four (4) Yellow Cards, irrespective of the age grade in which they are received, the Player must serve a Minimum Mandatory Suspension (MRS) of one (1) Match. The one (1) Match suspension must be served in the age grade or Competition in which the accumulated Yellow Card is accrued. There is no appeal against the MMS after receiving four (4) Yellow Cards.

2.2 Where no Matches are scheduled in the week following the Match in which the Player has received (4) Yellow Cards, the MRS is to be served in the next week in which Matches are scheduled in the current or subsequent Competition season.

2.3 The following table sets out the penalties for the accumulation of Yellow Cards: Number of Accumulated Yellow Cards during the Premiership Mandatory Suspension

<b>Number of Accumulated Yellow Cards during the Premiership</b>	<b>Mandatory Suspension</b>
5	Additional 1 ROUND
7	Additional 2 ROUNDS
10	Additional 3 ROUNDS
11	Appear before the Disciplinary Tribunal

### **3 ACCUMULATION OF YELLOW CARDS –CHAMPIONSHIP SERIES MATCHES**

3.1 There is no accumulation of Yellow Cards in the Final Series in any STFA Competition.

3.2 Any Player who accumulates their 4th, 7th or 10th Yellow Card in their last Match of the Premiership must serve the applicable suspension in the Final Series of the age grade or Competition in which they accrued their 4th, 7th or 10<sup>th</sup> Card. The Player remains ineligible to participate in any Match in any age grade until the suspension is served in full.

3.3 Accumulation of Yellow Cards acquired in Premiership Matches will carry over into the Championship Series.

### **4 ACCUMULATION OF YELLOW CARDS–CUP COMPETITIONS AND TOURNAMENTS**

4.1 Yellow Cards issued in Cup Competitions and Tournaments will not count towards the accumulation of Yellow Cards issued in Premiership Matches or Championship Series Matches and vice versa.

4.2 The accumulation of Yellow Cards for all other Cup Competitions and Tournaments are as per the relevant Cup Competition or Tournament Regulations.

### **5 TEAM OFFICIAL YELLOW CARDS**

5.1 A Team Official Yellow Card issued by a Referee to a Team Official for a cautionable Offence will be issued under the following codes:

<b>Code</b>	<b>Description</b>
TO-Y1	The official was guilty of dissent by word or action, including throwing/kicking drink bottles or other objects, and/or any other action that shows disrespect to the Match Official (e.g. sarcastic clapping)
TO-Y2	The official was guilty of gesturing or acting in a provocative, derisory or inflammatory manner
TO-Y3	The official was guilty of gesturing for a red card or yellow card to be shown
TO-Y4	The official was guilty of clearly/persistently not respecting the confines of the team's Technical Area
TO-Y5	The official was guilty of deliberately entering the Technical Area of the opposing team (non-confrontational)
TO-Y6	The official was guilty of delaying the restart of play by their team
TO-Y7	The official was guilty of showing a lack of respect for the game
TO-Y8	The official was guilty of persistent unacceptable behaviour (including repeated warning offences)

5.2 A Team Official who receives two (2) Team Official Yellow Cards in one ROUND will receive an indirect Red Card and the two (2) Team Official Yellow Cards will count towards any accumulation tally.

5.3 If a Team Official receives one (1) Yellow Card and then receives a direct Red Card in the same Match, the Yellow Card will not be expunged from the Official's record and must be considered when accumulating Yellow Cards.



## 6 ACCUMULATION OF TEAM OFFICIAL YELLOW CARDS

6.1 After a Team Official has received four (4) Yellow Cards, irrespective of the age grade in which they are received, the Team Official must serve an MRS of one (1) Match. The MRS must be served in the age grade or Competition in which the accumulated Yellow Card is accrued. There is no appeal against the MRS after receiving four (4) Yellow Cards.

6.2 Where no Matches are scheduled in the week following the Match in which the Team Official has received four (4) Yellow Cards, the MRS is to be served in the next week in which Matches are scheduled.

6.3 The following table sets out the penalties for the accumulation of Yellow Cards for Team Officials:

Number of Accumulated Yellow Cards during the Premiership	Mandatory Suspension
5	Additional 1 ROUND
7	Additional 2 ROUNDS
10	Additional 3 ROUNDS
11	Appear before the Disciplinary Tribunal

## 7 PLAYER RED CARD OFFENCES

7.1 A Player Red Card issued to a Player by a Referee under the Laws directing them to cease participation in a Match and to leave the Field of Play, will be given under the following codes:

Code	Description
R1	The player was guilty of serious foul play
R2	The player was guilty of violent conduct
R3	The player was guilty of biting or spitting at an opponent or any other person
R4	The player denied the opposing team a goal or an obvious goal scoring opportunity by a handball offence (not applicable to a goalkeeper within their own penalty area)
R5	The player denied a goal or an obvious goal scoring opportunity to an opponent whose overall movement was towards the offender's goal by an offence punishable by a free kick or penalty kick
R6	The player was guilty of using offensive, insulting or abusive language and/or gestures
R7	The player received a second Yellow Card in the same Match

7.2 There is no appeal against the receiving of a Player Red Card from the Referee except in the case of mistaken identity or obvious error.

7.3 Obvious error means a decision by the Referee:

- To issue a Red Card when no card was warranted, or
- To expel a Team Official when no expulsion was warranted

7.4 A Player who is given a Red Card:

- Must leave the vicinity of the Field of Play and the Technical Area during the remainder of the Match,
- Will receive from the STFA an MRS and the relevant Sanction for the Offence, and
- Depending on the coding of the Offence, may be referred to a Tribunal.

7.5 A Player who receives a Red Card is ineligible to play in any further Matches until such times as they have been issued a Notice of Suspension, participated in disciplinary Proceedings where required, and served their suspension in full.

7.6 A Player who receives a Red Card must serve an MRS of one (1) ROUND.

7.7 The MRS referenced in Section 3 Article 7.7 above, must be served in the age grade or Competition in which the Red Card is issued and can not play in any other teams they maybe registered or affiliated with.

## 8 ACCUMULATION OF RED CARDS

8.1 A Player who, during the course of a Premiership and/or Championship Series, accumulates more than one Red Card, regardless of the Competition in which it is received, must serve additional MMS as follows:

Number of Red Cards issued during the Premiership/Championship Series	Mandatory Suspension
2	Additional 1 ROUND
3	Additional 2 ROUNDS
4	Additional 3 ROUNDS
5	Additional 4 ROUNDS

## 9 TEAM OFFICIAL RED CARDS

9.1 A Team Official Red Card is an order given by a Referee to a Team Official to leave the vicinity of the Field of Play and the Technical Area. This order can be given at any time that a Referee is on the Field to conduct pre-Match inspections or until they leave the Field at the completion of the match.

9.2 A Red Card issued by a Referee to a Team Official under the Laws will be given under the following codes:

Code	Description
TO-R1	The official was guilty of violent conduct
TO-R2	The official was guilty of physical or aggressive behaviour towards an opposing Player, substitute, Team Official, Match Official, Spectator or any other person (e.g. ball boy/girl, security or STFA official)
TO-R3	The official was guilty of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Using offensive, insulting or abusive language and/or gestures</li> <li>• Intimidatory or threatening words or actions</li> </ul>
TO-R4	The official was guilty of biting and/or spitting at a Participant
TO-R5	The official was guilty of entering the Field of Play to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Confront a Match Official (including half time and full time)</li> <li>• Interfere with play or an opposing Player or a Match Official</li> </ul>
TO-R6	The official was guilty of deliberately leaving the Technical Area to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Show dissent towards or remonstrate with a Match Official</li> <li>• Act in a provocative or inflammatory manner</li> </ul>
TO-R7	The official was guilty of entering the opposing Technical Area in an aggressive or confrontational manner
TO-R8	The official was guilty of deliberately throwing/kicking an object onto the Field of Play
TO-R9	The official was guilty of 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
TO-R10	The official received a second Yellow Card in the same Match
TO-R11	The official was guilty of using unauthorised electronic or communication equipment and/or behaving in an inappropriate manner as a result of using electronic or communication equipment

9.3 A Team Official who, during the course of a Premiership and/or Championship Series, accumulates more than one Red Card, regardless of the Competition in which it is received, must serve additional MRS as follows:

<b>Number of Red Cards issued during the Premiership/Championship Series</b>	<b>Mandatory Suspension</b>
2	Additional 1 ROUND
3	Additional 2 ROUNDS
4	Additional 3 ROUNDS
5	Additional 4 ROUNDS

9.4 A medical Team Official (for example, a doctor or physiotherapist) who commits a send-off Offence may remain in the immediate surrounds of the Field of Play, including on the substitutes' bench, if the Team has no other medical person available, and may act if a Player needs medical attention.

9.5 A Team Official who receives a Red Card must serve an MRS of one (1) Match.

9.6 The MRS referenced in Section 3 Article 9.5 above, must be served in the age grade or Competition in which the Red Card is accrued.

## **10 AGGREGATION OF PLAYER AND OFFICIAL CARDS**

10.1 Where a person is both a Player and Team Official, Cards received in both their Player or Team Official Role will be aggregated for the purpose of applying suspensions relating to accumulation of Yellow and/or Red Cards.

## **11 MISTAKEN IDENTITY**

11.1 The STFA has jurisdiction to adjudicate challenges to Yellow or Red Cards on the basis of mistaken identity and delegates authority to do so to Management.

11.2 At the end of a Match, a Team Official for each Club must sign the team sheet confirming that all details on the team sheet, including the attribution of Temporary Dismissals, Temporary Dismissal Suspensions, Yellow Cards, and Red Cards are correct, in accordance with STFA's Competition Regulations.

11.3 If a Team Official believes that a Player or Team Official has been mistakenly identified on the team sheet by a Match Official as having received a Temporary Dismissal, Temporary Dismissal Suspension, Yellow Card, or Red Card, the Team Official must write the word 'dispute' in the relevant section of the team sheet.

11.4 Unless there are exceptional circumstances, to be determined by Management in its sole and absolute discretion, if a Team Official has failed to comply with the requirements set out in Section 3 Article 11.2 above and the Competition Regulations, a Club cannot challenge the attribution of a Temporary Dismissal, Temporary Dismissal Suspension, Yellow Card, or Red Card on a team sheet, or a suspension resulting from a Match Official send-off report, on the basis of mistaken identity.

11.5 If a Player, Team Official, or their Club believe that they have been mistakenly identified on the team sheet by a Match Official, the Club must notify the Competition Admin Officer by written submission Challenging Referee Sanction before the close of business for the next working day after the conclusion of the Match (e.g., where a Match has occurred on a weekend, the form must be sent by 5.00pm on the Monday directly following that same weekend).

11.6 When submitting the form, the Club must advise which Player or Team Official should have been issued with the Sanction and attach a letter from that person confirming they in fact received or should have received the Sanction.

11.7 Failure to comply with Section 3 Articles 11.4 and 11.5 above may result in Management's confirmation of the original identification in the team sheet or send-off report and the imposition of the suspension on the Player or Team Official identified in those documents.

11.8 Where there is sufficient evidence that leads Management to believe that an obvious error may have been made by a Match Official in a Match, including acknowledgement from the Match Official and confirmation by a Club of the relevant Participant for the Offence, then Management may expunge the record of the Participant mistakenly identified and apply the Card and suspension to the relevant Participant.

## **12 OBVIOUS ERROR**

12.1 The STFA has jurisdiction to adjudicate challenges to Red Cards on the basis of obvious error and delegates authority to do so to Management.

12.2 If a Club believes that there has been an obvious error in a decision by the Match Official, they must notify Management by submitting the Challenging Referee Sanction form and attaching appropriate evidence before the close of business for the next working day after the conclusion of the Match (e.g., where a Match has occurred on a weekend, the form must be sent by 5.00pm on the Monday directly following that same weekend).

12.3 Where there is sufficient evidence that leads Management to believe that an obvious error may have been made by a Match Official in a Match, then Management will refer the matter to a Tribunal.

12.4 If the Tribunal determines that an obvious error has been made, Management will expunge the Red Card from the individual's Disciplinary History.

12.5 If the Tribunal determines that no obvious error has been made, the Match Official's original decision will stand, and Management will apply the relevant sections of the Regulations.

## **13 NOTICE OF SUSPENSION**

13.1 Management must, within 72 hours of the receipt of team sheets and send-off reports, set out any suspension in a Notice of Suspension and issue the Notice to the Player or Team Official's Club.

13.2 The Club must, within 24 hours of receipt of the Notice of Suspension, provide the Player or Team Official with a copy of the Notice.

13.3 A Player or Team Official who receives a Temporary Dismissal Suspension or Red Card must serve an MRS of one (1) ROUND, regardless of whether a Notice of Suspension is received by the Club or not.

13.4 Should the Player or Team Official have served the MRS and the Club still not received a Notice of Suspension from Management, the Club must contact Management.

13.5 Suspensions will be issued in terms of either the number of Matches for which a Player or Team Official will be suspended (Match suspension) or the period of time for which they will be suspended (time suspension).

## **14 MATCH SUSPENSIONS**

14.1 Except in cases of serious misconduct, as determined by Management or a Tribunal at their sole and absolute discretion, a Match suspension affects a Player's or Team Official's participation in the form of the game they received the suspension.

14.2 A Notice of Suspension will specify to which Football activities a ROUND suspension applies (e.g. as a Player, and/or as a Team Official and/or as a Referee).

14.3 A Player or Team Official who receives a Match suspension cannot partake in any other STFA Matches during the period of the suspension.

14.4 A Player or Team Official who is serving a ROUND suspension, is not permitted to enter the Field of Play, the Technical Area, the players' race or dressing rooms on a Match Day.

14.5 Club/Team Officials must list in the appropriate place on the team sheet that a Player is serving a suspension at the time the team sheet is completed.

14.6 ROUND suspensions must be served in the Player's or Team Official's next Competition Matches, which include Premiership, Championship Series and Cup Competition Matches, until the suspension is served in full.

14.7 Match suspensions must be served in the age grade or Competition/division in which they were issued. The Player or Team Official remains ineligible to participate in any Match in any age grade until the suspension is served in full.

14.8 Match suspensions issued for Offences committed in Premiership, Championship Series and Cup Competition Matches cannot be served in Tournaments, and vice versa.

14.9 Match suspensions issued for Offences committed in Trial Matches must be served in the Player's or Team Official's next Trial Matches, Premiership Matches, Championship Series and Cup Competition Matches until such time as the suspension is served in full.

14.10 A Player or Team Official serving a Match suspension remains ineligible throughout the Match Day or round in which they serve their last Match suspension.

14.11 Match suspensions from one (1) season carry over to the next season and apply to the Player's or Team Official's new team in the league in which they are competing regardless of the league in which they were issued.

14.12 A Player or Team Official who has a Match suspension carry over from one (1) season to the next is eligible to participate in Trial Matches. No more than one (1) carried over suspension can be served in STFA sanctioned Trial Matches.

## **15 TIME SUSPENSIONS**

15.1 A time suspension affects a Player's or Team Official's participation in Eleven-aside Football, Futsal and Social Football Competitions in a scheduled STFA season.

15.2 Players or Team Officials issued with a time suspension are ineligible to undertake any Football activities for the duration of the suspension, which includes:

- a) Taking the field as a Player or Match Official in any Match sanctioned or administered by the STFA.
- b) Taking a position as a Team or Club Official in any Match or Competition sanctioned or administered by the STFA.
- c) Entering the Field of Play, Technical Area, players race, dressing rooms or other place within a venue on a Match day in a Competition sanctioned or administered by the STFA.
- d) Entering any venue or ground used for a Competition sanctioned or administered by the STFA.
- e) Attending any course, function or event sanctioned or coordinated by the STFA.
- f) Fulfilling any duty as a Standing Advisory Committee Member or Zone Council Representative within STFA's organisational structures.

## **16 EFFECT OF POSTPONED AND ABANDONED MATCHES**

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

16.2 A Yellow Card issued during a postponed Match will be annulled if that Match is replayed and upheld if that Match is not replayed.

16.3 A Red Card issued during an abandoned Match will be upheld, regardless of whether the Match is replayed or not.

## **17 CLUB RESPONSIBILITY FOR RECORDING AND IMPLEMENTING SUSPENSIONS**

17.1 It is each Club's responsibility to keep accurate records of Yellow Cards, Red Cards and Temporary Dismissals received by its Players and Team Officials regardless of whether a Player or Team Official accumulated any Yellow Cards, Red Cards and Temporary Dismissals while registered with a previous Club.

17.2 It is each Club's responsibility to ensure that any Player or Team Official who has incurred a suspension serves that suspension correctly and in full. Where there is uncertainty regarding a Player's or Team Official's status, a Club must check that status with Management before allowing the Player or Team Official to participate in a Match.

17.3 A Club in breach of Section 3 Article 18.2 above, will be deemed to have played an ineligible Player in accordance with STFA's Competition Regulations and to have breached STFA's Statutes as a result and be open to any additional fines or suspensions.

## **18 CHALLENGING SUSPENSIONS**

18.1 A Match Official's decision to issue a Red Card cannot be reviewed by Management or a Tribunal, except in the case of mistaken identity or obvious error, and a Red Card and an MRS cannot be expunged once confirmed.

18.2 A Participant is permitted to challenge the Notice of Suspension:

- a) On the basis of the Offence Code applied by Management.
- b) Where the suspension issued is greater than the minimum Sanction for the Offence.

19.3 To challenge a suspension, a Club must submit in writing a Challenge of Notice of Suspension before the close of business for the next 48 hours after receiving the Notice of Suspension.

19.4 A suspension imposed by Management stands and must be served until reviewed by a Tribunal notwithstanding that it is subject to a formal challenge.

19.5 A Tribunal hearing a challenge to a suspension:

- a) Cannot expunge a Red Card.
- b) May confirm or otherwise determine the appropriate Offence Code for the Offence.
- c) Having determined the appropriate Offence Code, cannot reduce the minimum Sanction specified in the Schedules for the Offence.
- d) May lower a suspension imposed by Management to the Minimum Suspension specified in the Schedules or increase the suspension.

## **SECTION 4: MISCONDUCT**

Section 4 of STFA's Disciplinary and Disputes Regulations deals with the conduct of the STFA's Members and Participants in Football and Football Related Activities.

### **1 'MISCONDUCT' DEFINED**

1.1 Misconduct, for the purposes of these Regulations, includes:

- a) A breach of FIFA Statutes.
- b) A breach of the Laws of the Game.
- c) A breach of FA Statutes.
- d) A breach of STFA Statutes.
- e) Actions, behaviour, Public Statements, legal charges, or relationships that bring the game into Disrepute.
- f) Actions, behaviour, Public Statements, legal charges, or relationships that are against the interests of, or prejudicial to the image and reputation of the STFA and its Surrounding Region.
- g) Contempt of a Tribunal under Section 5 Articles 6.1 and 6.2.

1.2 Misconduct is punishable whether an Offence has been committed deliberately, recklessly or negligently.

1.3 An act or conduct amounting to an attempt is also punishable.

1.4 Any Participant who knowingly takes part in misconduct is also punishable.

### **2 'BRINGING THE GAME INTO DISREPUTE' DEFINED**

2.1 Bringing the Game into Disrepute, for the purposes of these Regulations, includes:

- 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 them to violate FIFA, FA or the STFA Statutes.
- i) Abuse of position to obtain personal benefit.
- j) Commission or charge of a criminal offence.
- k) Any other conduct, behaviour, statement or posting that materially injures the reputation and goodwill of Football generally or FA, FNSW or the STFA specifically.

### **3 'AGAINST THE INTERESTS OR PREJUDICIAL' DEFINED**

3.1 Actions, behaviour, Public Statements, legal charges or associations that may be deemed to be against the interests of, or prejudicial to the image or reputation of the STFA and its Surrounding Region include but are not limited to:

- a) Detrimental Public Statements about Match Officials.
- b) Detrimental Public Statements about the STFA decisions, processes, policies, or Management, including processes, decisions and members of Tribunals.
- c) Detrimental Public Statements about other Clubs, Club Officials, teams or Players.
- d) Detrimental Public Statements about the STFA sponsors or sponsorship.
- e) Adoption or approval of sponsorships in Competition with STFA sponsorships.
- f) Wearing of logos or images that are Detrimental to the public image or reputation of the STFA and/or its sponsors.
- g) Association with or support of racist, extremist or criminal groups or media sites.
- h) Disobeying the reasonable directions of Match Officials, ground officials, public officials and/or of STFA officials.
- i) Inducement to breach or act contrary to FA, FNSW or STFA Statutes.
- j) Any other action, statement or behaviour deemed by the STFA in its discretion as against the interests of, or prejudicial to the image or reputation of the STFA.

3.2 These Regulations are not intended to apply to private activities engaged in by a Participant that are not in the public domain.

### **4 CLUB LIABILITY**

4.1 A Club is liable for the misconduct of its Participants.

4.2 A Club's liability for team misconduct includes situations in Matches where:

- a) Five (5) or more Players in a team are sanctioned during a Match by a Yellow or Red Card.
- b) Three (3) or more Players and/or Officials receive a Red Card or are expelled during a Match.
- c) Players and/or Officials collectively show dissent towards a Match Official or collectively intimidate or threaten a Match Official.
- d) A team's refusal to take the field or abandonment of a Match as a result of Player walk-offs.
- e) A Club's Players, Officials and/or Supporters participate in a melee.

4.3 A Club is liable for the misconduct of Spectators at grounds under its control or acting as their supporter group.

4.4 A Club may be held liable for misconduct by its officials, teams, Players, Supporters or Spectators notwithstanding that the offenders cannot be identified.

4.5 A Club will be deemed to have committed the Offence and misconduct for which it is liable and may be charged accordingly.

4.6 Management may, in its absolute discretion, decide not to charge a Club over the misconduct of its Participants where:

- a) The Club was compliant for the relevant Match or event with security policies, standards or protocols published by FA, FNSW or the STFA from time to time.
- b) The Club cooperates with any investigation by the STFA into the alleged misconduct, including, without limitation, naming or identifying upon request the Participants known to the Club involved in the alleged misconduct.
- c) Management, on the information available to it, forms the view that to proceed with a charge would be harsh or unfair in the circumstances.



4.7 Matters that Management may consider in forming its view under Section 4 Article 4.6 c) above include:

- a) The Club or Participant's Disciplinary History.
- b) The cooperation of the Club.
- c) The nature and significance of the alleged misconduct.
- d) The diligence and speed with which the Club acted to deal with the alleged misconduct.
- e) Whether the Club took relevant action of its own to investigate and sanction the alleged misconduct.
- f) Any actions the Club has taken to prevent the repetition of the alleged misconduct.

4.8 Notwithstanding Section 4 Article 4.7 above, Management may at its sole and absolute discretion, charge a Club where the alleged misconduct is, in its view, serious in nature, extent or consequence.

## **5 BRINGING CHARGES**

5.1 Management may bring charges of misconduct against a Participant based on Match Official Reports, Club Official reports, reports from STFA Officials, or complaints received by STFA Officials.

5.2 A charge of misconduct and/or a charge against a Club based on its liability for the misconduct of its Spectators, officials, teams, Players or Supporters may be referred to a Tribunal for Determination.

5.3 A Notice of Charge will specify:

- a) The alleged Offence, and/or
- b) The alleged breach of statute(s), and
- c) Whether the Offence and/or breach is also deemed to have Brought the Game into Disrepute or damaged the interests, image or reputation of the STFA or its affiliates, resulting in an additional charge under those categories.

5.4 A Notice of Charge must be brought by Management no later than 10 working days after a report, complaint or incident information is received.

5.5 A Notice of Charge will include directions to the Respondent to provide a written Notice of Response and specify the date and time and means by which the Notice of Response must be received by Management.

5.6 A Notice of Charge may be amended as part of Proceedings based on information arising in the Proceedings.

5.7 Management must provide parties to Proceedings with a Notice of Proceedings at least one (1) business day prior any to proposed hearing.

5.8 A Notice of Proceedings may be amended by Management in consultation with a Tribunal Chair.

5.9 A charge or charges against a Club's Participants involves a charge against the Club in terms of its liability and a Club is entitled to make submissions regarding potential Sanctions to be imposed on the Club to the Tribunal hearing the charge(s).

## **6 MEDIATION**

6.1 In relation to any alleged misconduct, Management may require a Participant to attend a meeting with Management and an independent person (who has no formal ties to the STFA) shall act as a mediator for the purpose of attempting to reach agreement as to how such allegations are to be dealt with.

6.2 Mediation under Section 4 Article 6.1 above shall be conducted on a 'without prejudice' basis and the mediator shall have no power to impose any decision on any of the parties.

6.3 Failure by a Participant to attend Mediation when requested without reasonable excuse shall amount to misconduct.

6.4 Unless agreement is reached at such a meeting and recorded in writing and signed by the parties, Management may, in its absolute discretion, decide to bring a charge of misconduct to a Tribunal.

## **SECTION 5:**

### **DISCIPLINARY, DISPUTE AND APPEALS TRIBUNALS AND PROCEEDINGS**

Section 5 of STFA's Disciplinary and Disputes Regulations deals with the establishment, powers and functioning of Disciplinary, Appeal and Special Tribunals.

#### **1 DELEGATIONS AND JURISDICTION**

1.1 These Regulations:

a) Delegate to Management authority to:

i) Administer the Regulations.

ii) Impose suspensions specified in Sections 2, 3 and 6 of these Regulations.

iii) Convene Tribunals to determine challenges to suspensions, to determine charges relating to Offences and misconduct, to deal with disputes or complaints, and to hear appeals against Tribunal Determinations.

iv) Impose Sanctions determined by Tribunals.

b) Establish a process for the appointment, convening and operation of Disciplinary and Special Tribunals.

c) Establish a process for the appointment, convening and operation of Appeal Tribunals.

d) Detail the delegations and authority of Tribunals and Tribunal Chairs.

1.2 Management has authority to convene Tribunals from time to time as it deems necessary. 1.3 A

Disciplinary Tribunal convened by Management has authority to:

a) Hear and determine challenges to suspensions imposed under these Regulations.

b) Hear and determine charges brought by Management against Participants.

c) Require from Management and Participants the production of any document, information or evidence in any form it deems necessary to make a Determination.

d) Require attendance of Management and Participants to give evidence at hearings.

e) Inform itself on any matter or thing in order to properly carry out its functions in accordance with these Regulations.

f) Upon a Determination of a charge, impose Sanctions in accordance with these Regulations.

#### **2 APPOINTMENT OF TRIBUNAL MEMBERS**

2.1 The Board must appoint persons to the positions of Chair, Disciplinary Tribunals and Chair, Appeal Tribunals and for terms the Board specifies at the time of appointment.

2.2 Management has authority to request that a Tribunal Chair convene a Tribunal to determine a particular matter from time to time and to appoint persons, in consultation with the Chair, to serve as Members of the Tribunal.

2.3 Persons appointed as Tribunal Chairs or Members must have:

- a) An ability to exercise independent judgment, and
- b) Ideally, the requisite knowledge and/or experience of Football and of FA, FNSW and STFA Statutes.

2.4 Persons appointed as Tribunal Chairs must, ideally, not be appointed if they hold or have held in the previous two (2) years a position as a STFA Board Member.

2.5 Tribunal Chairs and Members are subject to any organisational or employee Code of Conduct and related procedures in place within the STFA from time to time.

2.6 A person may resign from the position of Tribunal Chair by doing so in writing to the Management.

### **3 DISPUTES AND SPECIAL TRIBUNALS**

3.1 The Board and/or CEO may from time to time, at their absolute discretion, establish Special Tribunals to investigate and arbitrate disputes involving Members and/or Participants that, in their view, could not be resolved through mediation.

3.2 A dispute under Section 5 Article 3.1 above may involve a complaint.

3.3 Disputes will not be considered for referral to a Special Tribunal that involve disputation of the STFA Statutes in place from time to time.

3.4 The Board may from time to time, at its absolute discretion, establish Special Tribunals to address matters it considers important to the interests of the STFA and with remits and delegations it determines.

3.5 The Chair of a Disputes or Special Tribunal will be either of the Chairs of the Disciplinary or Appeals Tribunals, or such other person as the Board or, where the CEO is establishing the Tribunal, the CEO appoint for the specific matter.

3.6 The Board or, where the CEO is establishing the Tribunal, the CEO will appoint the members of any Special Tribunal.

3.7 A Determination by a Special Tribunal is not subject to appeal.

### **4 TRIBUNAL or SPECIAL CLUB MEETING PROCEEDINGS**

4.1 Tribunals must comprise a minimum of two (2) and a maximum of three (3) members, one of whom must be the relevant Chair appointed by the Board, in order to make valid decisions.

4.2 If, after a Tribunal has been convened by Management, a member is unavoidably unable to attend a scheduled hearing, the Tribunal's decisions and Determination will only be valid if all of the following conditions are satisfied:

- a) The Tribunal comprises two (2) members, and
- b) One of those members is the relevant Chair, and
- c) The Tribunal's decisions and Determination are unanimous.

4.3 Hearings may be convened either in a single physical location determined by Management in consultation with the Tribunal Chair, or by telephone and videoconferencing, or by a combination of physical location, telephone and videoconferencing.

4.4 A Tribunal Chair may issue directions for the conduct of any matter or hearing.

4.5 Tribunal Proceedings:

- a) Include the identification and production of information and evidence by Management and the Tribunal.
- b) Include hearings which are inquisitorial in nature.

c) Must be conducted with as little formality and technicality, and with as much expedition, as proper consideration of the matters permit.

4.6 Tribunal Chairs may conduct hearings in any manner they see fit provided that:

a) A Respondent to a charge has been provided with sufficient detail of the charge(s) and alleged Offence.

b) They are conducted in accordance with principles of Procedural Fairness, including that Respondents are given a reasonable opportunity to present their cases.

c) Questioning of witnesses is through the Chair, unless the Chair determines otherwise.

d) A Respondent to a charge is present while the Tribunal receives any evidence against the Respondent.

4.7 An Affected Party for the purposes of these Regulations means:

a) A Participant who may be affected by a Determination of a charge or matter, and/or

b) STFA, if Management considers in its sole and absolute discretion, that a Determination may affect the interests of the STFA and Surrounding Region.

4.8 A Respondent, in submitting a Notice of Response or an Appeal, may nominate whether in their opinion any other Participant is an Affected Party.

4.9 A victim in an incident giving rise to disciplinary charges or Proceedings is not an Affected Party for the purposes of these Regulations.

4.10 Management and/or a Tribunal may determine whether a Participant is an Affected Party to a matter or hearing and notify them accordingly.

4.11 An Affected Party may make submissions and provide evidence as part of Tribunal Proceedings.

4.12 An Affected Party is bound by a decision of any Tribunal.

4.13 An Affected Party who chooses not to participate in Proceedings cannot subsequently lodge an appeal or complaint in relation to the Proceedings and Determination.

4.14 Tribunals are not bound by the rules of evidence usually applicable to Proceedings in a court of law but may, in accordance with general legal practice and principle, have regard to rules of evidence.

4.15 Any Send-off Report or Incident Report provided by a Match Official in relation to any matter stands as the Match Official's statement of evidence in Proceedings.

4.16 The facts stated in a Send-Off or Incident Report from a Match Official are presumed to be accurate and stand as the facts of an alleged incident.

4.17 The onus to challenge the facts in a Match Official's report to the required standard of proof rests with the Respondent.

4.18 A Respondent must include any request to have a Match Official participate in a hearing in a Notice of Response and provide reasons why the Match Official's participation is necessary.

4.19 The ordinary position in Tribunal Proceedings is that, unless a Respondent provides prior notification requesting that a Match Official attend a hearing to give evidence with reasons, a Match Official is not required to participate in a hearing and the Match Official's report(s) stands as a statement of facts.

4.20 Where a Respondent requests that a Match Official attend a hearing to give evidence, the Tribunal Chair, in their sole and absolute discretion, will determine whether the Match Official needs to attend, the nature and extent of testimony required and the questions to be addressed by the Match Official.

4.21 The ordinary position is that, provided that a Match Official is available by telephone or video conference, their physical attendance is not required at a hearing.

4.22 Management may seek to participate in a hearing, make submissions relating to the charge(s), ask for questions to be put to witnesses, and make submissions on the question of Sanctions to be imposed.

4.23 A Respondent may challenge a Tribunal's jurisdiction and/or competence but must do so in any Notice of Response or at the start of a hearing.

4.24 A Tribunal has the power to rule on challenges to its jurisdiction or competence and if the challenge is overruled must provide reasons in its final Determination.

4.25 The onus to produce witness statements and witnesses at a hearing in support of their case rests with a Respondent.

4.26 A party, witness or Match Official who is under the age of eighteen (18) years at the time of a hearing must be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian, or such other person as a parent or legal guardian authorises in writing as a support person.

4.27 A Tribunal may, at its absolute discretion, approve the attendance of a support person for any Participant over the age of eighteen attending a hearing.

4.28 A Respondent seeking to have legal advice or representation at a hearing must notify a Tribunal in any Notice of Response.

4.29 A Tribunal Chair will determine the extent and terms under which a legal representative will participate in a hearing and a Respondent may be expected to provide testimony and answer questions notwithstanding the presence of legal representation.

4.30 A Tribunal may, at its absolute discretion, obtain legal, Management, procedural or other advice during Proceedings and adjourn Proceedings for that purpose.

4.31 If any Participant has been properly notified of a Tribunal hearing and fails to attend without establishing exceptional circumstances for such failure to the satisfaction of the Tribunal, the Tribunal, in its absolute discretion, may:

- a) Proceed with the hearing without that Participant.
- b) Make findings and a Determination, including with regard to any Sanction(s).
- c) Impose a Sanction for the non-attendance.

4.32 The Chair may adjourn a hearing to ensure that parties are able to present their cases and/or to allow for a Respondent to prepare a submission as to the nature and extent of any Sanction to be imposed.

4.33 Tribunals may have regard to, but will not be bound by, previous Tribunal Determinations, but are bound by Determinations of Appeal Tribunals.

4.34 Unless the circumstances of a matter require otherwise, a Tribunal must make a Determination on the Balance of Probabilities.

4.35 A Determination by a Tribunal must be a majority decision of the Tribunal members.

4.36 If a Tribunal is not satisfied to the required standard that a charge(s) before it has been proved but is satisfied that a different charge(s) has been proved, then provided the Respondent has been given an opportunity to address the Tribunal in relation to the different charge(s), the Tribunal may find the Respondent guilty of the different charge(s) and impose a Sanction it deems appropriate.

4.37 Where a Tribunal is hearing a charge or charges with multiple alleged breaches or Offences, it need not make a finding of guilt for all Offences or breaches in order to find guilt and impose a Sanction for one or more of the Offences or breaches.

4.38 A Tribunal must record its findings and communicate its Determination and reasons to Management in writing as soon as practicable but no later than 10 working days after the completion of any hearings.

4.39 The imposition of a Sanction by a Tribunal has immediate effect from the date of the final Determination, or such date as is specified by the Tribunal within the final Determination.

4.40 Determinations of Disciplinary Tribunals remain in force unless and until reversed or amended by an Appeal Tribunal.

## **5 GROUNDS TO APPEAL A DISCIPLINARY TRIBUNAL DETERMINATION**

5.1 The sole grounds for an appeal against a Determination or Sanction by a Disciplinary Tribunal are:

- a) A Respondent was not afforded Procedural Fairness.
- b) The Disciplinary Tribunal did not have the jurisdiction to make the Determination it made.
- c) A Determination was affected by actual bias.

- d) A Determination was not reasonably open to the Disciplinary Tribunal having regard to the evidence before it.
- e) The Disciplinary Tribunal failed to have regard to a Relevant Consideration or had regard to an Irrelevant Consideration.
- f) Severity of the Sanction, but only where the Sanction exceeds:
  - i) 6 Matches.
  - ii) 3 months.
  - iii) \$3,000.00.
  - iv) A loss of 6 Competition points or more.
  - v) Exclusion of a Club or team from a Competition.

5.2 No Determination of a Disciplinary Tribunal will be quashed or held invalid by an Appeal Tribunal by reason only of any defect, irregularity, omission or other technicality, provided the Appeal Tribunal is satisfied there has not been a miscarriage of justice.

5.3 No appeal against a Disciplinary Tribunal Determination will be heard except with leave granted by the Chair of the Appeal Tribunal.

5.4 The Chair of the Appeal Tribunal has authority to grant or deny leave to bring an appeal.

5.5 The Chair of the Appeal Tribunal must determine whether leave will be granted to bring an appeal within 10 business days of receipt of the appeal by the Chair.

5.6 In determining whether leave to bring an appeal should be granted, the Chair of the Appeal Committee must have regard to:

- a) Whether the appeal was lodged within the specified time period under these Regulations.
- b) The consistency of the grounds of appeal with Section 5 Article 5.1 above.
- c) The nature and significance of the subject of the initial Determination and the appeal.
- d) The prospect of success of the appeal.

5.7 If leave to appeal is not granted, the Chair of the Appeal Tribunal may, in their absolute discretion, recommend whether any appeal fee is refunded in whole or in part.

5.8 Except in Exceptional Circumstances to be determined by the Appeal Tribunal in its sole and absolute discretion, an Appeal Tribunal must not consider evidence which was not before the Disciplinary Tribunal whose Determination is being appealed.

## **6 CONTEMPT AGAINST TRIBUNALS**

6.1 A Participant who appears at or are given permission to attend a hearing shall:

- a) Fully cooperate with the Tribunal and the Chair's conduct of the hearing.
- b) Act in a courteous and polite manner.
- c) Answer truthfully any questions put to them.
- d) Not withhold information known to them that the Tribunal considers relevant to its Proceedings and requests.

6.2 If a Tribunal finds that:

- a) A challenge to a suspension or to a Determination, or lodgement of a dispute, had no prospects of success and amounted to an abuse of process,
- b) A dispute is Vexatious,
- c) A Participant's behaviour in a Tribunal hearing was uncooperative, disruptive or abusive, offensive or insulting,
- d) A Participant knew or ought reasonably to have known that their submission, evidence or testimony was untrue, wholly or in part, or was intentionally misleading,

e) A Participant failed to attend a hearing when required and without an explanation to the satisfaction of the Tribunal,

f) A Participant sought to interfere with the Proceedings or with witnesses to the Proceedings, or

g) A Participant made a Public Statement(s) during or after the Proceedings Detrimental to STFA, the Tribunal or other parties

6.3 the Tribunal may recommend to Management that a charge of misconduct be issued against the Participant.

## **7 IMMUNITY**

7.1 Participants involved in any way in Proceedings under these Regulations agree not to institute or maintain any Proceedings, or bring any claim against STFA, STFA employees, or Tribunal members in respect to any act or omission during the Proceedings or arising from findings or a Determination.

## **SECTION 6:**

## **SUSPENSIONS, SANCTIONS, FEES AND COSTS**

Section 6 of STFA's Disciplinary and Disputes Regulations deals with Sanctions for Offences and misconduct, including suspensions; with the awarding of costs for Proceedings as part of Tribunal Determinations; and with fees to be paid for hearings.

### **1 Definitions**

#### **1.1 Round Suspension**

A suspended player is not permitted to play in any competition rounds until their suspension is fully served. This includes any other competition team within their club above or below their registered age group or chosen divisions. A suspension is considered served after the round of football is completed for all age groups within an STFA game day.

### **2 SUSPENSIONS IMPOSED BY MANAGEMENT**

2.1 Management has authority to issue reprimands and/or warnings and/or to impose minimum suspensions specified in the Schedules.

2.2 Suspensions imposed by Management arising from Match Official reports take effect immediately and remain in place until overturned or varied by a Tribunal.

2.3 A Participant receiving a Red Card will be subject at least to a Minimum Round Suspension (MRS) of one (1) Round.

2.4 Management has authority to suspend a Participant from all or specific Football Related Activities for such period and on such terms and conditions as it considers appropriate where a Participant has been charged with or convicted of a criminal offence and where Management, at its sole and absolute discretion, determines that there is a risk of harm to other Participants.

2.5 Where a Participant is prohibited under child protection legislation from regulated activity related to children, Management must direct that the Participant be suspended immediately from all Football Related Activity for such a period and on such terms as it determines, at its sole and absolute discretion.

### **3 RECOGNITION OF SUSPENSIONS**

3.1 Any sanction imposed on Participant by FA, AFC, FIFA or any other confederation, national association, Member Federation, Club, Centre, or referees' body may be endorsed and applied by Management, in its sole and absolute discretion.

3.2 STFA reserves the right to notify any Sanction imposed under these Regulations to FA, AFC, FIFA or any other confederation, national association, Member Federation, Club, Centre, or referees' body.

### **4 TYPES OF SANCTIONS**

4.1 Consistent with Section 21.5 of the FA Constitution, the types of Sanctions that may be imposed by a Tribunal on either a legal entity or an individual person where a finding of misconduct is made are set out in Schedule 1.

4.2 A Tribunal may impose a Sanction for a finding of misconduct in addition to the minimum Sanction specified for Offences in the Schedules.

4.3 When determining an appropriate Sanction, a Tribunal may take into account:

- a) The nature and significance of the alleged Offence or misconduct.
- b) The extent of the Participant's culpability for the Offence, and any mitigating circumstances.
- c) A Participant's remorse for their conduct.
- d) A Participant's Disciplinary History.
- e) The cooperation of a Participant in the Proceedings.
- f) The diligence and speed with which the Participant acted to deal with the alleged misconduct.
- g) Whether the Participant took relevant action of its own to investigate and Sanction the alleged misconduct.
- h) Any actions a Participant has taken to prevent the repetition of the alleged misconduct.

4.4 Suspensions imposed by a Tribunal must not be less than the minimum suspension applicable to the most serious Offence for which a Participant has been found guilty.

4.5 In the case where a Participant has been found guilty of multiple Offences, a Tribunal may impose entirely cumulative or partly or wholly concurrent suspensions.

4.6 Where a Participant has been found guilty of an Offence and then commits the same Offence on a second or subsequent occasion within two (2) years of the expiration of the Sanction issued in respect of the previous Offence, the second or subsequent Offence will be considered a Second or Subsequent Offence for the purposes of sanctioning under the Schedule 3 and a Tribunal must impose no less than any applicable minimum suspension.

4.7 In the case of Red Card Offences, Section 6 Article 4.6 above will apply only where the second or subsequent Offence is the same send-off Code as the previous Red Card Offence.

4.8 A Tribunal may order that part of a Sanction:

- a) Comes into immediate effect, and
- b) The other part does not come into effect unless and until an additional Offence (excluding indirect Red Card) is committed during a specified probationary period.

4.9 Where a Tribunal imposes a Sanction where a part is suspended, if the Participant within the specified probationary period commits an Offence (excluding an indirect red card) that triggers the suspended part, that suspended part must then be served in addition to any Sanction that is imposed for the new Offence.

4.10 Where a Tribunal imposes a suspension, the Sanction must:

- a) Impose a continuous suspension, and
- b) Not be structured in any way that allows the Participant to participate in a fragmented way by participating in certain Matches and then resuming the suspension.



## **5 COSTS**

5.1 A Participant against whom a charge is upheld, whose dispute is not upheld, or who loses an appeal may be directed to pay the costs of Proceedings, in addition to any lodgement fees.

5.2 Costs which may have to be met include Management costs, including cost of employee hours allocated; venue costs for hearings; legal costs required or incurred as a result of Proceedings; and sitting fees paid to Tribunal members.

5.3 A Tribunal may award costs to be met that it considers appropriate on:

- a) The application of Management.
- b) The application of a party to the Proceedings.
- c) The application of a witness.
- d) Its own initiative.

5.4 In deciding to award costs to be met and the amount of those costs, a Tribunal may have regard to the following:

- a) The outcome of the matter or hearing.
- b) The conduct of the parties before and during the Proceedings.
- c) The nature and complexity of the matter.
- d) Costs incurred by parties required to participate by the Tribunal.
- e) The relative merits of claims made by parties involved in the Proceedings.
- f) Any costs incurred in repairing or replacing physical property damaged or destroyed in an incident.
- g) Any application fee already paid.
- h) Anything else the Tribunal considers relevant (including a Participant's capacity to meet the payment).

5.5 A party to Proceedings is not entitled to costs or reimbursement of fees only because the Tribunal made an order or Determination in that party's favour.

5.6 A Tribunal may award costs to be met even in circumstances where a matter does not proceed to a hearing.

## **6 PAYMENT OF FINES AND COSTS**

6.1 Any award of costs or fine imposed under these Regulations must be paid within thirty (30) days after the date on which the Determination is issued unless otherwise specified in the Determination.

6.2 A Participant who wants to appeal any matter must pay any award or fine payable as a consequence of the decision which is the subject of appeal prior to the due date for lodgement of the appeal, unless there are Exceptional Circumstances, to be determined by Management, in its sole and absolute discretion.

6.3 A Participant cannot take part in any Match until any fine imposed under these Regulations is paid in full.

6.4 If a suspension is combined with a fine in any Sanction, the suspension is prolonged until the fine is paid in full.

6.5 A fine cannot be issued against an individual who is an Amateur and in the case of an individual who is a Professional, cannot exceed one half of the total payments that Professional would have received over the duration of the Sanction.

6.6 A Club is jointly and severally liable for any award or fine imposed under these Regulations on one of its Participants, even if that Participant subsequently leaves that Club.

## **SECTION 6 – SCHEDULE 1:**

### **TYPES OF SANCTIONS**

<b>Legal Entity</b>	<b>Person</b>
1. Reprimand	1. Reprimand
2. Warning	2. Warning
3. Fine	3. Caution
4. Return of award(s)	4. Fine
5. Forfeit of Match(es)	5. Return of award(s)
6. Replaying of Match	6. Bond
7. Bond	7. Ban on registration of Player with any Club for a specified period of time
8. Deduction or loss of Competition points	8. Annulment of registration of Player
9. Ban on registration or transfer of any Players for a specified period of time	9. Suspension from participation in Match(es)
10. Annulment of registration of a Player	10. Suspension or expulsion from a Competition
11. Suspension from participation in Match(es)	11. Termination of registration or playing contract
12. Exclusion, suspension or expulsion from a Competition	12. A ban from the dressing room and/or the substitutes bench
13. Playing a Match(es) without Spectators or on neutral territory	13. A ban from entering a particular stadium, park or venue
14. A ban on playing in a particular stadium, park or venue	14. Ban on taking part in any Football Related Activity
15. Annulment of the result of a Match	15. Community or social work
16. Relegation to a lower division or Competition	16. Such other disciplinary sanction(s) or measure(s) as is appropriate in all the circumstances, including as prescribed in FA and STFA Statutes
17. Such other disciplinary sanction(s) or measure(s) as is appropriate in all the circumstances, including as prescribed in FA and STFA Statutes	

## **SECTION 6 – SCHEDULE 2:**

### **ACCUMULATED DISMISSALS AND COSTS**

<b>Number of Accumulated Temporary Dismissals during the Premiership</b>	<b>Mandatory Suspension</b>
4	1 ROUND
7	2 ROUNDS
10	3 ROUNDS
11	Appear before the Disciplinary Tribunal

<b>Number of Accumulated Yellow Cards during the Premiership For Players</b>	<b>Mandatory Suspension</b>
4	Additional 1 ROUND
7	Additional 2 ROUNDS
10	Additional 3 ROUNDS
11	Appear before the Disciplinary Tribunal

<b>Number of Accumulated Yellow Cards during the Premiership For Team Officials</b>	<b>Mandatory Suspension</b>
4	Additional 1 ROUND
7	Additional 2 ROUNDS
10	Additional 3 ROUNDS
11	Appear before the Disciplinary Tribunal

<b>Number of Red Cards issued during the Premiership/Championship Series for Players</b>	<b>Mandatory Suspension</b>
2	Additional 1 ROUND
3	Additional 2 ROUNDS
4	Additional 3 ROUNDS
5	Additional 4 ROUNDS

<b>Number of Red Cards issued during the Premiership/Championship Series for Team Officials</b>	<b>Mandatory Suspension</b>
2	Additional 1 ROUND
3	Additional 2 ROUNDS
4	Additional 3 ROUNDS
5	Additional 4 ROUNDS

## **SECTION 6 – SCHEDULE 3:**

### **RED CARD PLAYER OFFENCES**

Offence Code	Offence Description	Incidence	Minimum Sanction including MRS	Maximum Sanction including MRS
	<b>Serious Foul Play – R1</b>			
R1-01	Tackle endangering an opponent, e.g. over the ball tackle or tackle from behind not playing the ball	First	2 ROUNDS	
		Second +	3 ROUNDS	6 ROUNDS
R1-02	Tackle endangering an opponent coming from a distance: involving speed or brutality	First	2 ROUNDS	
		Second +	3 ROUNDS	6 ROUNDS
R1-03	Tackle causing injury on an opponent	First	3 ROUNDS	
		Second +	5 ROUNDS	24 months
R1-04	Accidental elbow to the face in contest for the ball	First	1 ROUND	
		Second +	2 ROUNDS	
R1-05	Intentional elbow to the face in contest for the ball	First	4 ROUNDS	
		Second +	5 ROUNDS	10 ROUNDS
R1-06	Other more serious offence	First	5 ROUNDS	
		Second +	8 ROUNDS	24 months
	<b>Violent Conduct – R2</b>			
R2-01	Attempts to kick, strike or stomp an opponent, team official, match official or spectator	First	3 ROUNDS	
		Second +	4 ROUNDS	8 ROUNDS
R2-02	Grabs, pushes or throws to the ground an opponent, team official, match official or spectator	First	3 ROUNDS	
		Second +	4 ROUNDS	8 ROUNDS
R2-03	Excessive or violent charge or body contact of an opponent, team official, match official or spectator	First	3 ROUNDS	
		Second +	4 ROUNDS	8 ROUNDS
R2-04	Strikes with the ball or other object to an opponent, team official, match official or spectator	First	4 ROUNDS	
		Second +	5 ROUNDS	10 ROUNDS
R2-05	Kicks, strikes, elbows, stomps object	First	5 ROUNDS	
		Second +	6 ROUNDS	10 ROUNDS
R2-06	Holds throat or genitals of an opponent, team official, match official or spectator	First	5 ROUNDS	
		Second +	6 ROUNDS	10 ROUNDS
R2-07	Other more serious offence an opponent, team official, match official or spectator	First	6 ROUNDS	
		Second +	7 ROUNDS	24 months

R2-08	Participating in mêlée against an opponent, team official, match official or spectator	First	3 ROUNDS	
		Second +	4 ROUNDS	8 ROUNDS
<b>Biting or Spitting – R3</b>				
R3-01	Spit at or towards an opponent, team official, match official or spectator	First	5 ROUNDS	
		Second +	6 ROUNDS	10 ROUNDS
R3-02	Bite or spit on an opponent, team official, match official or spectator	First	5 ROUNDS	
		Second +	6 ROUNDS	10 ROUNDS
<b>Denying Goal-Scoring Opportunity – R4</b>				
R4-01	Denying opposition goal-scoring opportunity by deliberate hand-ball	First	1 ROUND	
		Second +	1 ROUND	3 ROUNDS
<b>Denying Goal Scoring Opportunity – R5</b>				
R5-01	Denying goal-scoring opportunity to opponent moving towards goal by offence punishable by free or penalty kick	First	1 ROUND	
		Second +	1 ROUND	3 ROUNDS
<b>Offensive, Insulting, Abusive Behaviour – R6</b>				
R6-01	Offensive, insulting, abusive language or gestures NOT directed at Match Official	First	1 ROUND	
		Second +	1 ROUND	3 ROUNDS
R6-02	Discriminate on the basis of ethnicity, religion, sex, or sexual orientation by word or gesture	First	4 ROUNDS	
		Second +	5 ROUNDS	10 ROUNDS
R6-03	Intimidate or threaten by word or action	First	4 ROUNDS	
		Second +	5 ROUNDS	10 ROUNDS
R6-04	Inciting violent conduct	First	5 ROUNDS	
		Second +	6 ROUNDS	10 ROUNDS
<b>Second Yellow Card – R7</b>				
R7-01	Second Yellow Card	First	1 ROUND	
		Second +	1 ROUND	

## **SECTION 6 – SCHEDULE 4:**

### **OFFENCES AGAINST MATCH OFFICIALS**

<b>Offence Code</b>	<b>Offence Description</b>	<b>Incidence</b>	<b>Minimum Sanction including MRS</b>	<b>Maximum Sanction including MRS</b>
S4-01	Failure to comply with direction(s)	First	1 ROUND	
		Second +	2 ROUNDS	24 months
S4-02	Dissent	First	1 ROUND	
		Second +	2 ROUNDS	5 Match
S4-03/ R6-01	Offensive, insulting or abusive language or gestures	First	3 ROUNDS	
		Second +	3 ROUNDS	24 months
S4-04/ R6-01	Use of discriminatory language on the basis of ethnicity, religion, sex, or sexual orientation	First	3 ROUNDS	
		Second +	3 ROUNDS	24 months
S4-05/ R6-03	Intimidatory or threatening words or actions	First	5 ROUNDS	
		Second +	6 ROUNDS	24 months
S4-06/ R6-03	Threat(s) to Match Official, or their property or family	First	8 ROUNDS	LIFE
		Second +	8 ROUNDS	LIFE
S4-07	Inappropriate contact	First	4 ROUNDS	
		Second +	5 ROUNDS	24 months
S4-08/ R2-02	Deliberate Tripping	First	8 ROUNDS	
		Second +	9 ROUNDS	24 months
S4-09/ R2-02	Grabbing or Pushing	First	12 months	
		Second +	12 months	LIFE
S4-10/ R2-04	Striking with ball or other object	First	12 months	
		Second +	12 months	LIFE
S4-11/ R2-05	Kicking, elbowing, striking	First	24 months	LIFE
		Second +	LIFE	

S4-12/ TO-R4	Spitting at	First	6 months	
		Second +	6 months	24 months
S4-13/ TO-R4	Biting or spitting on	First	12 months	
		Second +	12 months	LIFE

## **SECTION 6 – SCHEDULE 5:**

### **GENERAL OFFENCES BY A SPECTATOR, TEAM OFFICIAL OR CLUB**

OFFENCE CODE	OFFENCE DESCRIPTION	INCIDENCE	INDIVIDUAL SANCTION		CLUB SANCTION	
			MIN	MAX	FINE	OTHER
STO -01	Unauthorised entry to the Field of Play	First	1 ROUND	24 months	Tribunal Discretion	
		Second +	2 ROUNDS			
STO-02	Breaches of Technical Area rules	First	1 ROUND	24 months	Tribunal Discretion	
		Second +	2 ROUNDS			
STO-03	Deliberately throwing/kicking an object onto the Field of Play	First	1 ROUND	3 Matches	Tribunal Discretion	
		Second +	2 ROUNDS	5 Matches		
STO-04	Unauthorised electronic or communication equipment and/or behaving in an inappropriate manner as a result of using electronic or communication equipment	First	1 ROUND	6 months	Tribunal Discretion	
		Second +	2 ROUNDS	24 months		
STO-05	Failure to comply with request or direction of an official	First	1 ROUND	24 months	Tribunal Discretion	
		Second +	2 ROUNDS			
STO-06	Interfering with or delaying the restart of play	First	1 ROUND	3 months	Tribunal Discretion	
		Second +	2 ROUNDS	24 months		
STO-07	Offensive, insulting or abusive language or gestures	First	1 ROUND	3 months	1 mths	Tribunal Discretion
		Second +	2 ROUNDS	6 months	3 mths	
STO-08	Use of discriminatory language on the basis of ethnicity, religion, sex, or sexual orientation	First	3 ROUNDS	3 months	Tribunal Discretion	
		Second +	5 ROUNDS	LIFE		
STO-09	Intimidatory or threatening language or actions	First	2 ROUNDS	24 months	3 mths	Tribunal Discretion
		Second +	3 ROUNDS			
STO-10	Threat(s) to Match Official, or their property or family	First	12 ROUNDS	LIFE	Tribunal Discretion	
		Second +				



STO-11	Inciting or instigating hatred or violence	First	12 ROUNDS	24 months	Tribunal Discretion + \$500
		Second +	12 months	LIFE	
STO-12	Physical or Aggressive behaviour towards a Player, substitute, Team Official, Match Official, Spectator or any other person	First	2 ROUNDS	24 months	Tribunal Discretion
		Second +	3 ROUNDS	LIFE	
STO-13	Biting or Spitting at/on another Participant (other than a Match Official)	First	5 ROUNDS	24 months	Tribunal Discretion + \$500
		Second +	6 ROUNDS		
STO-14	Participating in a Melee or crowd violence	First	12 Months	LIFE	Tribunal Discretion + \$1000
		Second +	24 Months		
STO-15	Violent conduct	First	12 Months	LIFE	Tribunal Discretion + \$1000
		Second +	24 Months		
STO-16	Damaging property or equipment	First	3 ROUNDS + Cost of Repairs		3 Months + Cost of Repairs
		Second +	24 months + Cost of Repairs		
STO-17	Possessing a Prohibited Item at a Match or event	First	12 Months	LIFE	Tribunal Discretion + Loss of 3 Competition points
		Second +			
STO-18	Throwing missiles, including but not limited to, onto the Field of Play or at other Spectators	First	12 Months	LIFE	Tribunal Discretion + Loss of 3 Competition points
		Second +			
STO-19	Attempting to or bringing national, political, religious, offensive or extremist signs or symbols to a Match or event	First	3 ROUNDS	24 months	Tribunal Discretion + Loss of 9 Competition points
		Second +	4 ROUNDS	LIFE	
STO-20	Letting off flare or incendiary device	First	3 ROUNDS	24 months	Tribunal Discretion + Loss of 9 Competition points
		Second +	4 ROUNDS	LIFE	
STO-21	Betting, Match fixing or corruption	First	Tribunal Discretion		
		Second +			

STO-22	Use of illegal or banned substances	First	Tribunal Discretion		
		Second +			
STO-23	Detrimental Public Statement	First	Warning	24 months	Tribunal Discretion +\$200
		Second +			
STO-24	Failure to provide a safe environment, public order, or organisational or venue legal or regulatory compliance	First	N/A		Tribunal Discretion
		Second +			
STO-25	Failure to comply with or enforce a Determination or Sanction	First	2 ROUNDS	24 months	Tribunal Discretion +\$250
		Second +	3 ROUNDS	LIFE	
STO-26	Failure to participate in mediation as directed and/or contempt of a Tribunal	First	2 ROUNDS	24 months	Tribunal Discretion +\$250
		Second +	3 ROUNDS	LIFE	
STO-27	Bringing the Game into Disrepute	First	Tribunal Discretion		
		Second +			
STO-28	Behaviour or actions Detrimental to the interests of and/or prejudicial to the image and reputation of STFA and Football NSW	First	Tribunal Discretion		
		Second +			

## **SECTION 6 – SCHEDULE 6:**

### **FEES**

<b>MATTER</b>	<b>FEE</b>
Challenge Mistaken Identity or Obvious Error	NIL
Challenge a Suspension	\$250
Seek to have a matter arbitrated by a Special Tribunal (STFA)	\$500
Seek to have a matter arbitrated by a Special Tribunal (Southern Branch)	Southern Branch Nominated Fee
Appeal a Disciplinary Tribunal Determination (STFA)	\$500
Appeal a Disciplinary Tribunal Determination (FNSW)	FNSW Nominated Fee
Appeal a Disciplinary Tribunal Determination (FA)	FA Nominated Fee