

JUDICIARY COMMITTEE GUIDELINES

(Amended March 2016)

- 1.** The Judiciary Committee shall consist of four (4) members, including the J.C. Chairman, with no more than one person from any one club. The Chairman does not have a deliberate vote, however he/she will determine the sentence within the guidelines of the J.C. as determined by the BOD. The other members shall be selected from a roster of club committee person/s and/or members submitted to the Association, Sub Committee members, but not having any connection with the team involved in the match in which the send off occurred.
- 2.** The J.C. shall meet on Wednesday evenings or any other evening at a time and place notified by the J.C. Chairman. Should less than three (3) J.C. members be available to hear a challenged case, then that case shall be deferred to a later date, except when the offence is deemed by the Chairman to be of a serious or violent nature. If the J.C. Chairman is unable to officiate as J.C. Chairman, the Director of the Local Competition will nominate a member of the L.C.C. to officiate in his/her place.
- 3.** It shall be preferable for the referee who sent the player from the field of play to be present. A Referees Body representative should be present at the J.C. hearing if available to give technical evidence and written evidence of the offence. Should the referee be unable to attend the J.C. hearing, the J.C. Chairman at his/her discretion may contact the referee or a Referees' Association Executive member by telephone to obtain further information/clarification.
- 4.** For the purpose of defining suspensions, competition fixtures (matches) shall be deemed to be any premierships competition fixture or play-off and any cup tie fixture or play off actually controlled or organized by the Association.
- 5.** Suspensions and penalties of the Judiciary Committee of the Association shall also apply to any player, person or official registered within its jurisdiction by seeking to play in a competition recognized by the Association although not necessarily under its direct control.

Players Sent Off

6. A player shall be sent from the field for the following offences as prescribed for in the laws of the game.
 - R1 Guilty of serious foul play
 - R2 Guilty of violent conduct.
 - R3 Spits at an opponent or any other person.
 - R4 Denies the opposing team a goal or an obvious goal scoring opportunity by deliberately handling the ball (this does not apply to a goal keeper within his own penalty area).
 - R5 Denies an obvious goal scoring opportunity to an opponent moving towards the player's goal by an offence punishable by a free kick or a penalty kick
 - R6 Uses offensive or insulting or abusive language and/or gestures.
 - R7 Receives a second caution in the same match.

7. Players sent from the field shall incur a minimum one (1) match suspension. This one (1) match suspension is mandatory and is not subject to challenge, appeal or waiver by the Judiciary Chairman.

8. At the termination of a match, the referee must complete the match sheet indicating the send off offence for any player dismissed from the field.

9. All club Secretaries whose players are dismissed from the field of play are required to adhere to the following directions.
 - a. Each and every club Secretary whose player/s was/were dismissed from the field of play for any offence must contact the Judiciary Chairman, at a time notified by himself/herself to have the send off recorded, and heard by the Judiciary Committee. After the suspension has been advised to the Club Secretary, the said Club Secretary must advise the Judiciary Chairman, of any players wishing to challenge the suspension handed down by the Judiciary Committee. Such notifications of challenges must be forwarded to the Judiciary Chairman within 48 hours following the notification of the suspension.

 - b. Players may, no later than twenty four (24) hours prior to the hearing inform the Association in writing, via the club Secretary, that they consent to the hearing being heard ex-parte and submit written evidence in support of their defence or in mitigation of penalty.

 - c. Clubs shall be notified prior to the commencement of the season of the meeting day and place for the Judiciary Committee.

 - d. Players shall be deemed to have received notice from the club as to the meeting day of the Judiciary Committee.

- e. Players sent from the field of play on a charge of R2 assault or violent conduct and/or persons summoned to appear before the Judiciary Committee shall be suspended until such time that they will appear.
- f. Players failing to appear before the Judiciary Committee on the scheduled appointed date shall have the matter dealt with in their absence.

Players Dismissed from the Field of Play

10. A player who has been sent from the field will not participate in any other match on the same day.

10a. If it is alleged the incorrect player is sent off, both players will appear before the JC Chairman in the week after the send off or prior to the next scheduled match.

Suspended Players – Trial Games

11. A player under suspension for more than two (2) competition matches from the previous year shall not be permitted to play in trial games without the specific consent of the J C Chairman Board of Directors. A payment of a good behaviour surety as determined by the Board of Directors may be imposed which may be forfeited at the discretion of the Board of Directors.

Match Cautions.

12. A player shall be cautioned during the course of an Association match for any offence under the laws of Association football, which is deemed necessary by the referee.

13. The referee may reprimand a player during the course of play, without the showing of a yellow card.

14. An official booking (or caution) is administered by the referee recording a player's name and number and the offence committed on the Association Match Card at the conclusion of the match.

15. At the conclusion of the match the club shall collect the Association Match Card from the referee.

16. After an individual player has received five (5) official cautions (yellow cards), the player shall serve mandatory one (1) match suspension. The suspension shall be served in the competition match following notification of the fifth (5th) caution. There shall be no appeal against a one (1) match suspension after receiving five (5) official cautions.

17. Any player who accumulates a further three (3) official cautions (yellow cards), making a total of eight (8) shall serve a further mandatory two (2) match suspension.

The player must serve the two (2) matches following the match in which the eighth (8th) official cautions were received.

18. Any player who receives their ninth (9th) official caution (yellow cards) in any one season shall be called to appear before the Judiciary Committee who may apply a further penalty.

19. Cautions (yellow cards) shall not carry over from season to season. The termination of a competition season shall be at the conclusion of the last competition match of the season, or as determined by the L.C.C.

20. Any player who is dismissed from the field upon being cautioned for a second yellow card offence, the two (2) yellow cards issued during that game shall NOT be taken into account for the purpose of the accumulations of cautions for application of suspensions.

Any club who is found to have played a player who should have been stood down because of any breach of suspension rules may be fined an amount as determined by the L.C.C. and the match result will be determined by the LCC.

20a. An unofficial referee does not need yellow or red cards to caution or send off players. A verbal direction from the unofficial referee with regard to a yellow card caution or a red card send off offence shall be sufficient in this instance

Recidivist Offenders

21. In cases of repetition, that is, if the same player during the same season is reported for other offences, even if the infraction is not of the same nature, more severe sanctions may be taken. It should be noted that mandatory one (1) matches also apply in relation to this guideline.

Violence

22. All cases of violence will be severely punished

Appeals (Not "Challenges" as detailed above in Para 2)

23. Appeals to the General Purpose Committee against a determination of the Judiciary Committee following a "Challenge" must be lodged within 24 hours of the decision or finding being notified to the suspended player and/or club. Such appeals must include new evidence not previously presented at the Judiciary Hearing and such appeals must be lodged through the Club Secretary to the Association. A fee is applicable in the case of an appeal to the General Purpose Committee.

Finding of the Judiciary Committee

24. The Judiciary Committee has the power to:

- a. Consider the reports of referees, assistant referees and others.
- b. Decide if the offence is proven
- c. Have 48 hours to obtain further information if required before any decision.

Sentencing

25. If the Judiciary Committee considers that the offence is proved it must select the punishment from the following guidelines:

- a. The Judiciary Chairman is not empowered to set punishments outside these guidelines.
- b. Suspensions are calculated in matches or a time factor.
- c. The Judiciary Committee has the right to consider:
 1. The severity of the offence
 2. The player's past record
 3. Extenuating circumstances

If a player's first send off offence of any season is for an R6, the player shall have the option to enter an early guilty plea for their only if offered by the JC Chairman.

Penalties

26. The Judiciary Chairman shall impose penalties as per the Suspension Guidelines: