



JUDICIARY COMMITTEE GUIDELINES

(Amended February 2011)

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, but only he will determine the sentence within the guidelines of the J.C. as determined by the Board of Directors. 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, 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 premiership competition fixture or play-off and any cup tie fixture or play off actually controlled or organised 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 recognised 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 by the Monday 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 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.

Suspended Players – Trial Games

- 11. A player under suspension for one or more competition matches from the previous year shall not be permitted to play in trial games without the specific sanction of the 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 a 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 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 accumulates more than eight (8) official cautions (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 may be awarded to the opponents with the score reading three goals to Nil (3-0).

Persistent 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 a mandatory one (1) match also applies in relation to this guideline.

Violence

22. All cases of violence will be severely punished.

Appeals (Not “Challenges” as detailed above in Paragraph 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. Determine and set whatever punishments or sanctions that the Chairman considers appropriate in accordance with the guidelines

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:
 - i. The severity of the offence
 - ii. The player's past record
 - iii. Extenuating circumstances

Suspended Sentences

26. A suspended sentence of up to four (4) matches shall apply at the discretion of the Judiciary Chairman for players who have committed offences where a full suspension is not considered appropriate.

Reasons for granting a suspended sentence could, but may not always, include cases where the referee has recommended leniency, cases where there is doubt that the circumstances stated in the reports are true or additional information has been received from independent witnesses concerning the game in question.

- a. A suspended sentence handed down by the Judiciary Chairman will remain in force until the end of the season, this also includes Champion of Champions matches (if applicable). After the last match of the season, the suspended sentence will lapse.



- b. If a player who is on a suspended sentence is sent off for a second time for any reason, the suspended sentence previously handed down will be enforced and the player will have to serve the suspended sentence before any further sentence handed down for the second offence. This is regardless of whether the player is found guilty or not guilty of the second offence.
- c. No player is entitled to a suspended sentence for a second or subsequent offence.

Penalties

27. The Judiciary Chairman shall impose penalties within the following:

For all R1, R2 and R6 first offences, a player shall have the option to enter an early guilty plea for their first offence of a season only.

Should a player have been previously charged with any offence and this offence was proven or a suspension imposed as a result of those offences, the early guilty plea shall not apply. (i.e. If a player has received an R7 as their first offence of a season, that player is not entitled for consideration of an early guilty plea for any further offences as this would be considered that players second offence in a season)

Upon a player entering an early guilty plea, the Judiciary Chairman shall reduce the minimum sentence and impose the early guilty plea sentence.

In the event a player chooses to enter a not guilty plea, the Judiciary Chairman shall hear the player's challenge through the appropriate procedures. In the event a player chooses to plead not guilty and is subsequently found guilty, the Judiciary Chairman shall impose at least the minimum sentence allowed as per the following table:

**Section "A"****Offences by Players against other Players or any other Person****Sending Off Offences (In accordance with the Guidelines FIFA Law 12)**

Includes the mandatory one match (FFA rule)

OFFENCE CODES		MINIMUM	MAXIMUM
R1	Guilty of serious foul play <i>Early guilty plea – 2 matches</i>	4 matches	12 matches
R2	Serious Violent Conduct <i>Early guilty plea – 2 matches</i>	4 matches	12 matches
R3	Spit at an opponent or any other person	8 matches	1 year
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 penalty area)	1 match automatic	
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	2 matches	12 matches
R6	Uses offensive or insulting or abusive language and/or gestures <i>Early guilty plea – 2 matches</i>	4 matches	12 matches
R7	Receives a second caution in the same game	1 match automatic	
R8	Deliberately misleading the Judiciary Committee	12 matches	2 years

Note: Section "A" applies also for offences by players against players or any other person after having been sent from the field of play.

**OFFENCES IN RELATION TO CITATIONS (Special Purpose Committee)****Section "B"****Offences by Players and Team Officials against Match and Macarthur Officials**

Note: Players include named substitutes. Teams officials comprise coaches, managers, trainers and any other person permitted within the Technical Area.

OFFENCE CODES	MINIMUM	MAXIMUM
Threatening or intimidating a referee, assistant referee or a Macarthur official by word or action	12 matches	Life
Tripping a referee, assistant referee or a Macarthur official	1 year	Life
Pushing with an open hand, shoulder or hip	1 year	Life
Striking with the ball or other object	1 year	Life
Striking, kicking or elbowing	Life	
Spitting	1 year	Life
Uses offensive, insulting or abusive language	4 matches	1 year
Making offensive, insulting or abusive gestures	4 matches	1 year

Note: Section "B" applies also for "Offences by players and team officials against match and Macarthur officials after being sent from the field"



Section "C"

Other Offences by Players and Team Officials

OFFENCE CODES	MINIMUM	MAXIMUM
Inciting the crowd	10 matches	10 years
Attacking or fighting with spectators	1 year	Life
Bringing the game into disrepute	6 matches	Life
Spitting at or onto spectators	12 matches	Life

Note: Players include named substitutes. Team officials comprise coaches, managers, trainers and any other person permitted in the Technical area.



CAUTIONABLE OFFENCES (YELLOW CARDS)

A player is cautioned and shown the yellow card if he/she commits any of the following seven offences.

Y1	Is guilty of unsporting behaviour
Y2	Shows dissent by word or action
Y3	Persistently infringes the Laws of the game
Y4	Delays the restart of play
Y5	Fails to respect the required distance when play is restarted with a corner kick, free kick or throw in
Y6	Enters or re enters the field of play without the referee's permission
Y7	Deliberately leaves the field of play without the referee's permission

A substitute or substituted player is cautioned and shown the yellow card if he/she commits any of the following three (3) offences:

1. Is guilty of unsporting behaviour
2. Shows dissent by word or action
3. Delays the restart of play



SENDING OFF OFFENCES (RED CARDS)

A player, substitute or substituted player is sent off and shown the red card if he/she commits any of the following seven offences:

R1	Is guilty of serious foul play
R2	Is 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 within the same match

A player, substitute or substituted player who has been sent off and shown the red card must leave the vicinity of the field of play and the technical area.