



Football South Coast

Disciplinary and Dispute Regulations

Abstract: Football South Coast is a member of Football NSW and is responsible for the administration of the game of Association football for the Illawarra region.

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TABLE OF AUTHORITIES

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30 th November 2012	Bill Kostandas	Football South Coast	CEO
February 2014	Ann-Marie Balliana	Football South Coast	CEO

DISTRIBUTION LIST FOR THIS VERSION

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March 2014	Mens Football Council	Football South Coast	Mens Football
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1 INTRODUCTION

Football South Coast is a member of Football NSW and is responsible for the administration of the game of Association football for the Illawarra region.

These Regulations are made under clause 3(g) of the Objects of the Constitution of Football South Coast. Any capitalised terms not defined in Schedule 1 of these Regulations shall have the meaning given to them by Football South Coast.

2 CONTACTS

All correspondence in relation to any disciplinary matter under these Regulations must be in writing and directed to FSC, PO Box 105 Fairy Meadow or by email to davidware@footballsouthcoast.com.

3 OBJECTIVES

- a) To ensure that the game of football is played competitively and fairly in accordance with principles of true sportsmanship and within the guiding principles from time to time promulgated by FIFA, FFA, FNSW or FSC.

These currently include:

A. FIFA

- i. Respect
- ii. Fair Play
- iii. Eliminate Racism
- iv. Protect the Skilful Player
- v. Eliminate destructive negative tactics
- vi. Encourage attacking play

B. Football South Coast

- i. Ensure a Family Friendly Environment;
 - ii. Code of Conduct Requirements for Players, Coaches, Spectator and Match Officials as per FSC approved requirements;
 - iii. Ensure that the game of football is played competitively and fairly in accordance with principles of true sportsmanship.
- b) To provide a system that sets out procedures, requirements and guidelines for the administration of disciplinary and conduct matters relating to Football South Coast Competitions and programs as well as Offences, Suspensions and Sanctions for those who breach these Regulations.
- c) To ensure consistency and transparency of approach are evident and present in all aspects of handling conduct and disciplinary matters in respect of Competitions.

4 JURISDICTION

- a) These Regulations shall apply exclusively to facilitate the expeditious and fair resolution of:
- Incidents;
 - Disciplinary and conduct matters,
 - Grievances involving Members within the jurisdiction of Football South Coast,
- subject only to any further appeal right to Football NSW & FFA.
- b) Each Member shall submit exclusively to the jurisdiction of these Regulations and agrees that unless it has exhausted the disciplinary procedures set out in these Regulations, it will not attempt to resolve a Grievance under the FFA Grievance Resolution Regulations or a court of law.

5 AUTHORITY TO ESTABLISH COMMITTEES AND TRIBUNALS

- a) The authority to establish committees and tribunals is vested in the Board pursuant to clause 3(g) of Football South Coast's Constitution.
- b) These Regulations shall confirm the establishment of the following Bodies:
 - i. Disciplinary Commission(er) (DC);
 - ii. Match Review Committee (MRC);
 - iii. General Purpose Tribunal (GPT); and
 - iv. Appeal Committee (AC).
- c) The membership, jurisdiction, responsibilities and procedures of each of the abovementioned Bodies are set out in these Regulations.
- d) In addition to the establishment of the abovementioned Bodies, Football South Coast shall generally be responsible for administering the procedures of the Committees and Tribunals including:
 - i. Where necessary or appropriate, establishing and maintaining a conflict of interest register of persons sitting on each of the Bodies;
 - ii. Collating all submissions, documents and evidence received by the parties or relevant to an incident, Grievance;
 - iii. Providing copies of Notices and Determinations to Members;
 - iv. Convening all hearings and appeals for the Tribunals;
 - v. Providing reports for the Tribunals;
 - vi. Ensuring that any Application Fees are received in good time by Football South Coast;
 - vii. Ensure that all timeframes and requirements are met; and
 - viii. Performing any incidental tasks necessary to ensure the smooth and efficient operation of these Regulations.

6 MEMBERSHIP OF BODIES

6.1 APPOINTMENT OF DISCIPLINARY COMMISSION(ER) (DC)

- a) The Board may appoint between one (1) and three (3) people as Disciplinary Commissioner(s) to:
- Advise it on the appropriateness of these regulations;
 - Carry out regular review of the performance of the Regulations in meeting the needs of Football South Coast and its constituent stakeholders, making appropriate recommendations for change to the Board;
 - Ensure proper consultation with all major stakeholders affected by the regulations in any development or review;
 - Provide recommendations on prospective appointments to FSC to the respective committees and tribunals or, where delegated by the Board, consult with the Executive in appointing Members;
 - Determine jurisdiction for any hearing and participate in any determination that may be made prior to the convening of any Tribunal or Hearing
 - Provide advice and interpretations for implementation or action as required.
- b) At least one (1) member of the Commission (if more than one) should be conversant with the Laws of the Game and current interpretations as promulgated by FIFA and the International Board and one member familiar with procedural fairness and natural justice principles.

6.2 APPOINTMENT OF MATCH REVIEW COMMITTEE MEMBERS

- a) The Executive in consultation with the Disciplinary Commissioner shall appoint the Match Review Committee(s) consisting of at least three (3) members who are appointed and/or engaged by Football South Coast.
- b) Upon the appointment of a Match Review Committee member, he or she must disclose to Football South Coast the Clubs which they are current active members of or affiliated to.
- c) A Match Review Committee member shall not be involved in matters in which his or her own Club is an interested party or any matter where a conflict of interest may reasonably exist.
- d) At least one (1) member of the Committee should be conversant with the Laws of the Game and current interpretations as promulgated by FIFA and the International Board and (1) member familiar with procedural fairness and natural justice principles. The Executive shall appoint the Match Review Committee consisting of at least three (3) members who are appointed and/or engaged by Football South Coast.

6.3 APPOINTMENT OF TRIBUNAL MEMBERS

Football South Coast Board or its Delegate may, from time to time, appoint Tribunal Members to sit on the Tribunals.

6.4 TRIBUNAL COMPOSITION

- a) A validly constituted Tribunal shall consist of:
 - i. A Chairperson; and
 - ii. A panel of Tribunal Members.
- b) Each Tribunal Member shall have:
 - i. The ability to exercise sound and fair judgment and to make objective and independent decisions; and
 - ii. Sufficient knowledge of football and Football South Coast Rules and Regulations, where appropriate, Football NSW and/or FFA Rules and Regulations, and, where necessary, the Laws of the Game.
- c) Persons appointed to the roles in sections 6.4(a)(i) and 6.4(a)(ii) may be rotated from hearing to hearing across the Tribunals due to availability as determined by the DC/Executive in their absolute discretion, except where a Tribunal Member who has sat on the GPT hearing of a matter may not then sit on any AC hearing into the same matter.
- d) The Executive may, in consultation with the DC, appoint person(s) to sit on a Tribunal hearing who are not Tribunal Members appointed under section 6.4(a) if, in its opinion, it believes a matter requires special attention or expertise.
- e) All Tribunals shall comprise a minimum of three (3) and maximum of five (5) Tribunal members.

6.5 QUALIFICATION OF TRIBUNAL MEMBERS

Except where FSC Board of Directors or otherwise determines, a person shall not be appointed to a Tribunal if that person in the twelve (12) months preceding appointment:

- a) Is currently under suspension from FSC or has been suspended by the MRC or GPT in the last 2 competition years;
- b) Is currently a club Official;
- c) Is currently a club coach in any competition in which parties in the Tribunal are a part.

6.6 RESIGNATION AND REMOVAL OF TRIBUNAL MEMBERS

- a) A Tribunal Member may resign by providing notice in writing to the Executive.
- b) The Executive, in consultation with the Board and/or the DC may remove a Tribunal Member at any time in its absolute discretion.

7 MATCH REVIEW COMMITTEE

7.1 JURISDICTION

The Match Review Committee has jurisdiction to issue Sanctions/Suspensions against Participants based on Match Official Reports or, as a result of a finding by a GPT referred for consideration in accordance with the Table of Offences.

7.2 MATCH OFFICIAL REPORTS

- a) Within two (2) days of a Competition Match, a Match Official must provide to Football South Coast a Match Official Report setting out the following:
 - i. Any Yellow Card Offences and Red Card Offences issued during the Match including the categorisation of Offences (set out in a Match Official Send Off Report); and
 - ii. Any serious incidents that took place (set out in a Match Official Incident Report or written correspondence);
- b) Match Official Reports must be sent to FSC via email.
- c) For the avoidance of doubt, facts contained in Match Official Reports are presumed to be accurate.
- d) In any case where the match official provides a report to the Club, the Club must ensure its submission to Football South Coast by midday Wednesday following the match.
- e) The Disciplinary Commission(er)(DC) may determine that any reports submitted be referred to a GPT for Determination.
- f) The DC may, in consultation with the Executive and MRC Chairperson, after consideration of all reports, recommend standard sanctions from the Table of Offences for application which a Club may be invited to accept. Clubs will have the right to request the matter be dealt with through a GPT process.

7.3 DETERMINATION

- a) The Match Review Committee must issue Sanctions and/or Suspensions based on the Match Official Reports and applying the Table of Offences by the Thursday midday following the match.
- b) The Match Review Committee must set out the Determination in a Notice of Suspension and send a copy to a Player's Club via electronic means through FSC.
- c) The Match Review Committee may, at its discretion, consider the case may necessitate it holding a hearing or that it should be heard by a General Purpose Tribunal and make such a referral.

7.4 CHALLENGING DETERMINATION

The sole grounds for a Participant to challenge a Notice of Suspension are as follows:

- a) Mistaken identity pursuant to section 7.5; and
- b) Truly exceptional circumstances pursuant to section 7.6.

7.5 MISTAKEN IDENTITY

- a) An application under Mistaken Identity may be made in either of two ways:
- A Club on behalf of a participant may submit an application on the appropriate form to FSC by 5.00 pm on the Tuesday following the match.
 - If a Participant who has been issued with a Notice of Suspension pursuant to section 7.3 claims that he or she was the victim of mistaken identity, he or she may appeal to the Match Review Committee in accordance with this section 7.5, through their respective club.

The Club on behalf of the Participant must, by 1pm the next working day following receipt of the Notice of Suspension, notify Football South Coast in writing that it wishes to lodge a claim. The Club must submit a Notification Form and the claim will not proceed if the deadline has not been met.
- b) By 1pm the next working day following submission of a Notification Form of mistaken identity to Football South Coast, the Participant or Club must submit in writing the evidence upon which the claim is founded. Where possible, a written statement from the Participant responsible for the Offence should be supplied. The details must, however, include:
- A signed statement by the Participant reported by the Match Official that he or she was not responsible for the Offence reported in the Notice of Suspension and identifying specifically the name of the person responsible; and
 - Any other evidence which may support the claim.
- c) After considering the evidence, the Match Review Committee will decide whether the claim should be rejected or successful.
- d) If the Match Review Committee considers that the rejected claim had no prospect of success and/or amounts to an abuse of process, it shall impose a mandatory two (2) Match Suspension in addition to the amount set out in the Notice of Suspension. In all other cases in which the claim is rejected, the Participant reported by the Match Official shall serve the Suspension as set out in the Notice of Suspension.
- e) If the Match Review Committee's decision is that the claim is successful, the Suspension set out in the Notice of Suspension is transferred from the record of the Player reported by the Match Official to the appropriate identified offender, who will serve the Suspension transferred by the Match Review Panel.
- f) In the event that a Participant has been issued with a Yellow Card that has not resulted in a Notice of Suspension being issued and claims that he or she was the victim of mistaken identity, he or she may appeal to the Match Review Committee.
- g) By 1pm on the third working day following the issue of the Yellow Card to the Participant, the Participant or Club must submit in writing to Football South Coast the evidence upon which the claim is founded. Where possible, a written statement from the Participant responsible for the Yellow Card Offence should be supplied. The details must, however, include:
- A signed statement by the Participant reported by the Match Official that he or she was not responsible for the Offence and identifying specifically the name of the person responsible; and
 - Any other evidence which may support the claim.

- h) After considering the evidence, the Match Review Committee will decide whether the claim should be rejected or successful.
- i) If the Match Review Committee considers that the rejected claim had no prospect of success and/or amounts to an abuse of process, it shall impose a mandatory two (2) Match Suspension on the Participant.
- j) If the Match Review Committee's decision is that the claim is successful, the Yellow Card shall be transferred from the record of the Player reported by the Match Official to the appropriate identified offender.
- k) The decision made by the Match Review Committee will be conveyed to the Club via email within two (2) business days from the evidence provided by the Participant or Club pursuant to section 7.5(c) or (h), whichever is relevant.
- l) A Club failing to lodge a claim for mistaken identity may be charged with Misconduct by Football South Coast if there is evidence that the Club sought to gain an advantage by remaining silent on the matter.
- m) The decision of the Match Review Committee in relation to claims for mistaken identity is final and binding on all parties and not subject to appeal.
- n) The Participant and Club should note that the time limits set out above are strict. Only completed claims submitted in writing on the appropriate documentation through their Club before the relevant deadlines will be considered by Football South Coast.

7.6 TRULY EXCEPTIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES

- a) This section 7.6 is intended to apply only in truly exceptional circumstances. It is envisaged that, in the vast majority of matters, the standard Suspensions set out in a Notice of Suspensions will be appropriate and will be applied. They are not intended to encourage or lead to the systematic, regular review of standard Suspensions and are reserved for truly exceptional cases.
- b) A Participant or Club may in very limited circumstances seek to limit the disciplinary consequences of a Suspension by demonstrating to the Match Review Committee that the circumstances of a particular Suspension were truly exceptional, such that the standard Suspension applicable would be clearly excessive.
- c) Truly exceptional circumstances means circumstances operating at the time of the Offence and relating to the commission of the Offence and not to the impact a sanction may have. The following do not constitute exceptional circumstances:
 - i. The significance or importance to the Participant or his or her Club of the Match in which the Offence was committed;
 - ii. The significance or importance of any match or tournament in which the Participant will be ineligible to participate because of the imposition of a sanction within the range in the Table of Offences;
 - iii. The point in the Match at which the Offence was committed;
 - iv. The conduct, including actions, words or gestures of any Player or Team Official of the opposing team during or related to the Match; and
 - v. Any disciplinary decision taken or failure to take a disciplinary decision, by a Match Official during the Match.

- d) Any Participant or Club bringing a claim under this section 7.6 accepts that the sending off was correct according to the Laws of the Game and may not challenge that sending off via mistaken identity or by any other means whatsoever.
- e) In considering a claim of this type, the Match Review Committee is concerned with only the question of whether the Suspension should not be imposed in view of the circumstances of the case. The Match Review Committee is not to usurp the role of the Match Official and the correctness of the decision to issue a Red Card shall not be subject to any scrutiny by the Match Review Committee.
- f) The Club on behalf of the Participant must, by 1pm the next working day following receipt of the Notice of Suspension, notify Football South Coast in writing that it wishes to lodge a claim. The Club must submit a Notification Form and the claim will not proceed if the deadline has not been met.
- g) By 1pm the next working day following submission of a Notification Form of a claim of exceptional circumstances, the Participant or Club must submit in writing, together with the Application Fee, to Football South Coast the evidence upon which the claim is founded. Where possible, a written statement from the Participants involved in the subject incident should be supplied.
- h) After considering the evidence, the Match Review Committee will decide whether the claim is to be rejected or is successful.
- i) A claim will only be successful under this section 7.6 where a it satisfies the Match Review Committee that:
 - i. The circumstances of the Suspension under review are truly exceptional; and
 - ii. As a result of the truly exceptional circumstances the Suspension would be clearly excessive.
- j) If the Match Review Committee considers that the rejected claim had no prospect of success and/or amounts to an abuse of process, it shall impose a mandatory two (2) Match Suspension in addition to the amount set out in the Notice of Suspension. In all other cases, the Participant shall serve the Suspension as set out in the Notice of Suspension.
- k) For the sake of expediency, applications under Mistaken Identity or Truly Exceptional Circumstances may be made prior to receipt of the Notice of Suspension but, if so made, must be received by FSC through the Club with the appropriate documentation and the applicable fee by 5.00pm on the Tuesday following the match. In such cases the match Review Committee will determine at its discretion whether it will consider the application at its next meeting prior to issue of the Notice of Suspension.
- l) If the Match Review Committee's decision is that the claim is successful, it shall impose such Suspension, if any, as it deems to be appropriate taking into consideration the circumstances of the subject incident.
- m) The decision made by the Match Review Committee will be conveyed to the Club via email.
- n) The decision of the Match Review Committee in relation to claims for exceptional circumstances made by a Participant or Club is final and binding on all parties and not subject to appeal.
- o) In addition to the right of the Participant or Club to seek to limit the disciplinary consequences of a Suspension, the Football Council or its nominated delegate may also seek to have the sanction prescribed under the Table of Offences set aside or adjusted by demonstrating to the Match Review Committee that the Offence is of such a nature that the prescribed Suspension is manifestly inadequate under the circumstances.

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- p) The Football Council or Delegate must, by 1pm the next working day following the issue of the Notice of Suspension, notify Football South Coast in writing it wishes to lodge a claim. The Council must submit a Notification Form and the claim will not proceed if the deadline has not been met.
 - q) By 1pm the next working day following submission of a Notification Form of a claim of exceptional circumstance, the Football Council or Delegate must submit in writing to Football South Coast the evidence upon which the claim is founded.
 - r) After considering the evidence, the Match Review Committee will decide whether the claim is to be rejected or is successful.
 - s) A claim will only be successful under this section 7.6 where a claim satisfies the Match Review Committee so that it is sure that:
 - i. The circumstances of the Suspension under review are truly exceptional such that the standard punishment should not be applied; and
 - ii. As a result of the truly exceptional circumstances the standard punishment would be clearly inadequate.
 - t) In considering the matters at section 7.6 above, the Match Review Committee shall have regard to:
 - i. The applicable Law(s) of the Game and any relevant FFA Rules and Regulations and Football South Coast Rules and Regulations;
 - ii. The nature of the Offence, and in particular any intent, recklessness, negligence or other state of mind of the Participant;
 - iii. Where applicable, the level of force used;
 - iv. Any injury to an opponent caused by the dismissal Offence;
 - v. Any other impact on the game in which the dismissal occurred;
 - vi. The prevalence of the type of Offence in question in football generally;
 - vii. The wider interests of football in applying consistent punishments for dismissal offences.
 - u) If the Match Review Committee's decision is that the claim is successful, it shall impose such Suspension as it deems to be appropriate taking into consideration the circumstances of the subject incident.
 - v) The decision made by the Match Review Committee will be conveyed to the Club via email.
 - w) In arriving at a decision on applications for consideration under this section, the Match Review Committee may convene a hearing of parties and witnesses of its choosing to clarify aspects of the claim.
 - x) The decision of the Match Review Committee in relation to claims for exceptional circumstances made by a Council pursuant to section 7.6(o) may be appealed by the affected Participant or Club to the Appeals Committee.
 - y) The Participant, Club and Football Council should note that the time limits set out above are strict. Only complete claims submitted before the relevant deadlines will be considered by Football South Coast.

8 GENERAL PURPOSES TRIBUNAL (GPT) PROCEDURES

8.1 JURISDICTION

- a) The GPT will be responsible for hearing and determining in accordance with these Regulations:
 - i. Complaints of Misconduct and Disrepute, a breach of the FFA Rules and Regulations and Football South Coast By Laws, Rules and Regulations referred to it from the Board of Football South Coast, the Executive, Boards of Football Councils or the Match Review Committee;
 - ii. Grievances between Members as set out in section 8.2;
 - iii. Any other matter that the Disciplinary Commissioner or Match Review Committee deems appropriate to be referred to the GPT as it may bring Football South Coast or football into Disrepute.
- b) The applicable fees for matters set out in section 8.1 are set out in Schedule 2 and a matter will not proceed unless the relevant Application Fee has been lodged with Football South Coast.
- c) A Member may be jointly and severally liable and/or vicariously liable for the actions of a Participant who is an official or a member of the Member.

8.2 GRIEVANCES

- a) Subject to this clause 8.2 and clause 13, if a Member wishes to file a Grievance with Football South Coast against a Member pursuant to these Regulations it must complete and submit in writing to Football South Coast on the appropriate Grievance Form.
- b) Before referring any Grievance to Football South Coast any Member making a Claim (Claimant) or a Complaint (Complainant) must write to the other Member involved in the subject matter of the Grievance (Respondent) with details of the Claim or Complaint (as the case may require) allowing the Respondent at least seven (7) business days to respond. The Respondent's reply must include reasons for any disagreement with the details of the Claim or Complaint (as the case may require).
- c) If a response is received within ten (10) business days of receipt of the notice from the Claimant or Complainant referred to in section 8.2(b), the Claimant or Complainant must write again to the Respondent within a further period of seven (7) business days of receipt of that response from the Respondent either accepting the explanation or advising that copies of correspondence will be referred to Football South Coast.
- d) If a response is not received within ten (10) business days of the notice from the Claimant or Complainant referred to in section 8.2(b), the Claimant or Complainant may in writing refer the Grievance to Football South Coast.
- e) The Executive may, on behalf of Football South Coast, either refer the matter to Mediation under section 13 or make a Complaint involving a Member in accordance with these Regulations.
- f) Written notice of a Grievance to Football South Coast must be lodged within six (6) months after the last of the events giving rise to the Grievance with the Application fee and notices specified in the Grievance Form.

8.3 RESPONSIBILITIES

- a) Where a GPT is required pursuant to section 8.1, Football South Coast must ensure that it has considered as a part of this process all matters regarding impartiality and independence. Football South Coast shall:
 - i. Set a date for the hearing;
 - ii. Issue a Notice of Proceedings; and
 - iii. Convene a GPT in accordance with these Regulations.
- b) The Notice of Proceedings must contain the following information:
 - i. The date, time and place at which the GPT hearing will take place;
 - ii. Sufficient details of the allegations against the party or parties to enable the party or parties to prepare a response to the allegations;
 - iii. Details of previous cases involving the party(parties) and formal counselling or sanctions if any;
 - iv. Details of any documents or other evidence which has been received by Football South Coast;
 - v. References to any alleged breaches;
 - vi. Person(s) required to attend; and
 - vii. Any other information relevant to the hearing.
- c) Football South Coast must ensure it issues the Notice of Proceedings to the party or parties within a reasonable period of time following the initial referral, incident or complaint.

8.4 NOTICE TO ATTEND

The GPT may request other Members to attend the hearing. If that is the case then Football South Coast must issue a Notice to attend as soon as possible.

8.5 DETERMINATION

- a) At the conclusion of the hearing, the chairperson will ask all persons present to leave the hearing room while the GPT considers its findings.
- b) The Determination of the GPT will be in accordance with majority opinion.
- c) The types of sanctions that the GPT may impose are as follows:
 - i. For disciplinary sanctions against a Club, or any other Incorporated or Unincorporated Body Member:
 - A. A reprimand;
 - B. A fine or costs;
 - C. Placing the Club, or Body on a bond;
 - D. A deduction or loss of competition points;

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- E. A ban on the registration or transfer of any Players for a specified period of time;
 - F. Annulment of registration of a Player;
 - G. Suspension from participation in a Match or Matches;
 - H. Exclusion, suspension or expulsion from a Competition;
 - I. Playing a match without spectators or on neutral territory;
 - J. A ban on playing in a particular stadium;
 - K. Annulment of the result of the match;
 - L. Relegation to a lower division; or
 - M. Such other disciplinary sanctions or measures as is appropriate in all the circumstances, including as prescribed in the FIFA Statutes, FFA Rules and Regulations and Football NSW Rules and Regulations.
- ii. For disciplinary sanctions against a Participant:
 - A. A reprimand;
 - B. A fine or costs;
 - C. Requiring the return of an award;
 - D. Placing the individual on a bond;
 - E. Ban on registration of Player with any Club for a specified period of time;
 - F. Annulment of registration of a Player;
 - G. Suspension from participation in a Match or Matches;
 - H. Suspension or expulsion from a Competition;
 - I. Termination of registration or playing contract;
 - J. A ban from the dressing rooms, field of play and/or the Technical Area (within 50 metres);
 - K. A ban from entering a stadium or any number of stadiums or grounds;
 - L. A ban on taking part in any football related activity; or event
 - M. Such other disciplinary sanctions or measures as is appropriate in all the circumstances, including as prescribed in the FIFA Statutes, FFA Rules and Regulations and Football NSW Rules and Regulations.
- d) If a fine is imposed, the GPT determines the terms and time limits for payment.
 - e) A Club is jointly and severally liable for a fine imposed on one of its Participants (even if that Participant subsequently leaves that Club).
 - f) The sanctions imposed under this clause 8.5 may be combined. If a suspension is combined with a fine, it is prolonged until the fine is paid in full.
 - g) A failure to comply with a Determination of the GPT is itself a breach of these Regulations and will be considered in contempt of a Tribunal pursuant to section 12.12.

- h) A Determination must be made as soon as practicable but no later than fourteen (14) days after the hearing. A GPT Determination will be sent to the Club or Association Member via electronic means within two (2) business days of the GPT's findings being delivered.

8.6 CHALLENGING DETERMINATION

A GPT Determination may be appealed by a party to the AC in accordance with section 9.

9 APPEAL COMMITTEE PROCEDURES

9.1 JURISDICTION

The Appeal Committee will be responsible for hearing and determining in accordance with these Regulations any appeals of decisions made by a MRC or a GPT.

9.2 GROUNDS OF APPEAL

- a) A party was not afforded a reasonable opportunity to be heard on the issues or merit and/or sanction made by a MRC or a GPT;
- b) Lack of jurisdiction;
- c) The decision was one that was not reasonably open to a Body having regard to the evidence before the MRC or the GPT; or
- d) Severity only where the MRC or the GPT Determination imposed a sanction of at least:
 - i. A Suspension of four (4) or more Matches;
 - ii. A fine of one thousand dollars (\$1,000);
 - iii. A loss of three (3) or more competition points; or
 - iv. Expulsion from a Competition.

9.3 NOTICE TO APPEAL

- a) If a party wishes to appeal a decision of the MRC or the GPT, it must lodge a Notice to Appeal to Football South Coast, together with the Application Fee within five (5) business days of receiving the decision of the MRC or the GPT.
- b) The Notice to Appeal must contain the following information:
 - i. The name of the party wishing to appeal a decision of the MRC or the GPT; and
 - ii. The grounds upon which the party seeks to rely.
- c) A party must not submit any new material which was not before the MRC or GPT.
- d) Any timeframes specified in this section 9 may be altered by Football South Coast where it would be just and reasonable.

9.4 COMMENCEMENT OF PROCEEDINGS

- a) Upon receipt of the Notice to Appeal and where an AC is required pursuant to section 9.1, Football South Coast must ensure that it has considered as a part of this process all matters regarding impartiality and independence. Football South Coast shall:
 - i. Set a date for the hearing;
 - ii. Issue a Notice of Proceedings; and
 - iii. Convene an AC in accordance with these Regulations.

- b) The Notice of Proceedings must contain the following information:
 - i. The date, time and place at which the AC hearing will take place;
 - ii. Sufficient details of the grounds of appeal to enable the party or parties to prepare a response to the appeal;
 - iii. Details of any documents or other evidence which has been received by Football South Coast;
 - iv. References to any alleged breaches;
 - v. Person(s) required to attend;
 - vi. Any other information relevant to the hearing.
- c) Football South Coast must ensure it issues the Notice of Proceedings to the party or parties within seven (7) days unless there are extenuating circumstances.

9.5 NOTICE TO ATTEND

The AC may request other Members to attend the hearing. If that is the case then Football South Coast must issue a Notice to attend as soon as possible.

9.6 DETERMINATION

- a) At the conclusion of the hearing, the chairperson will ask all persons present to leave the hearing room while the AC considers its findings.
- b) The AC Determination will be in accordance with majority opinion.
- c) The AC has the power to:
 - i. Dismiss, allow in whole or part, or vary (whether by way of reduction or increase) any sanction or penalty imposed by the MRC or GPT;
 - ii. Impose any sanction or make any order or Determination that the MRC or GPT could have imposed or made under section 8.
- d) A failure to comply with a Determination of the AC is itself a breach of these Regulations and will be considered in contempt of a Tribunal pursuant to section 12.12.
- e) A Determination must be given as soon as possible but no later than fourteen (14) days following the hearing and the result will be advised by FSC to the appropriate parties within two (2) business days of receipt of the Determination from the AC.
- f) In making its determination the Appeal Committee may have in mind whether the Appeal had any chance of success and may at its discretion increase any sanction or suspension if, as a result of its considerations, it determines the parties ought to have been reasonably aware that the appeal had, on the balance of probabilities, little chance of success.

10 NO RECOURSE TO COURTS

The AC Determination will be final and binding on the parties to the appeal and no person may institute or maintain proceedings in any court of law or tribunal (other than the limited right of appeal to the Football NSW or FFA (subject to the FFA Statutes)).

11 SERVING OF SUSPENSIONS

11.1 SUSPENSIONS TO BE SERVED IMMEDIATELY

- a) Any Suspension imposed by the Match Review Committee or a Tribunal shall be served immediately or in accordance with the specificity of the determination. Any Suspension imposed by the Match Review Committee shall apply in respect of those Football Activities listed in the Notice of Suspension.
- b) A Participant who receives a Red Card in a trial or friendly Match shall serve any Suspension in the next Match(s) that the Club plays. Any player sent off shall incur a mandatory one match suspension plus any additional matches based on level of offence as determined by the MRC from schedule 2.
- c) A Participant who receives a Red Card in a Competition Match shall serve any Suspension in the next FSC Competition Match that the Club plays. For the avoidance of doubt, trial or friendly Matches are not considered towards the serving of such a Suspension. A first Red Card received during a Competition Match shall be deemed to be a First Offence for the purposes of calculating a Suspension pursuant to the Table of Offences at Schedule 2 to these Regulations.

11.2 FIXTURE SUSPENSIONS AND TIME SUSPENSIONS

- a) The Match Review Committee or a Tribunal may issue Suspensions either in terms of the number of fixtures for which a Participant shall be suspended (Fixture Suspension) or the amount of time for which a Participant shall be suspended (Time Suspension).
- b) When issuing a Time Suspension the Match Review Committee or Tribunal shall take into consideration the amount of time spent in the off season and adjust the length of the Suspension accordingly so that consistency of duration ineligible for actual football involvement is consistent across Determinations.
- c) A Participant sanctioned with a Time Suspension shall be ineligible to participate in any Football Activity as directed in his or her Notice of Suspensions and until such time as the Suspension has been served. For the avoidance of doubt, this includes participating in any Football South Coast Competition or Football NSW Competitions.
- d) A Participant sanctioned with a Fixture Suspension is ineligible to participate in any Football Activity as directed in his or her Notice of Suspensions and until such time as the Suspension has been served. For the avoidance of doubt, this includes participating in any Football South Coast Competition or any Football NSW Competition for the period of time that it takes that team to play the number of matches set out in the Notice of Suspension.
- e) Special consideration may be given by FSC to applications in writing from Clubs for participation by a suspended player, in pre-season trials or friendlies for the purposes of contract or trial negotiations in FSC sanctioned matches.

In granting permission, the suspended player will be subject to playing under a 'two match good behaviour bond' which will be added to any suspension handed down by the Match Review Committee or Tribunal should this suspended player be sent off in the pre-season and found guilty of an R1, R2, R3 or R6 offence as well as any carry over suspension.

- f) Applications under Clause (e) above must be made in writing to Football South Coast in adequate time for appropriate consideration – (no less than 7 days). Each case will be determined on its merits by the Executive in consultation with the DC whose decision shall be final.

11.3 ABANDONED OR FORFEITED MATCHES

- a) Only those Matches actually played count towards the completion of any Suspension.
- b) Notwithstanding section 11.4(a), if a Match is abandoned or forfeited that Match can only be considered in relation to serving a Suspension if the suspended Player's team did not contribute to the facts that led to the abandonment or forfeiture of a Match.
- c) Football South Coast shall have the final decision on whether a Suspension or part thereof may be served in an abandoned or forfeited match.

11.4 NON SUBMISSION OF SUSPENSIONS

- a) A Player shall still be required to serve any Suspension regardless of any non-submission of any Match Official Reports to Football South Coast in a timely fashion.
- b) Clubs shall not list a Player on a team sheet either as a player or named substitute who should be serving a suspension at that time, regardless of whether the facts surrounding that suspension have been reported to Football South Coast or not.
- c) No suspended player or official shall be allowed in the Technical Area in any match during the period of suspension.

11.5 SUSPENDED SANCTIONS

A Tribunal or MRC may suspend all or any portion of a Sanction as a part of a Determination under these Regulations.

12 ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES OF TRIBUNALS

12.1 NOTICES

- a) A party giving notice under these Regulations must notify the other parties and Football South Coast in writing and in English.
- b) A notice will be taken to have been received:
 - i. If delivered by hand to the recipient's address, on the date of delivery, as long as delivery is acknowledged in writing by the recipient;
 - ii. If sent by post, 3 days after the posting; and
 - iii. If sent by email or facsimile on a working days at the recipient's, on the date of transmission or if sent on a non-working day at the recipient's, on the next working day (in both cases as long as the sender's email or facsimile machine records a successful transmission).

12.2 LOCATION OF TRIBUNALS

- a) Hearings of Tribunals will be conducted at Football South Coast's headquarters in Fairy Meadow, New South Wales, unless otherwise determined by Football South Coast.
- b) Hearings may be conducted by teleconference.

12.3 SUBMISSIONS BY A PARTY

- a) The terms of this section 12.3 apply to ensure each party is provided with an opportunity to consider the other party's evidence before the hearing in order that it may appropriately respond.
- b) A party must provide to Football South Coast a copy of any written submissions, materials, documents or other evidence it intends to rely on in the hearing at least two (2) business days before the start of that hearing. If it fails to do so it is not, without the leave of a Tribunal, allowed to submit same into evidence at the hearing.
- c) All written submissions, materials, documents or other evidence supplied to Football South Coast must be via email.
- d) All written submissions, materials, documents or other evidence supplied to Football South Coast by one party must at the same time be provided by that party to the other parties.
- e) A party must provide advance notice about who will represent it at a hearing, including any witnesses, whom a party intends to present together with at least the subject matter on which the witness will testify. This must be provided to the other parties and Football South Coast at least two (2) business days before the start of that hearing.
- f) Legal representation is not permitted at any MRC, GPT or AC hearing.
- g) Any timeframes specified in these Regulations may be altered by Football South Coast where it would be just and reasonable.
- h) Where a Football Council or Referees' Council is not a directly affected Party to the hearing but may have an interest, it may seek leave from the Chairperson to have an observer in attendance. The granting of such leave shall be entirely at the discretion of the Chairperson and may be withdrawn at any time throughout the Hearing.

12.4 PARENT/GUARDIAN

A party must be accompanied at a hearing before a Tribunal by a parent or guardian or an appropriate Club Official if he or she is under the age of 18.

12.5 NON-ATTENDANCE

- a) If a party, parties or witnesses fail to attend a Tribunal hearing without showing sufficient cause for such failure, the hearing can be heard ex parte and determined in that party's absence, including as to Determination on the merits and/or sanction. An ex parte Determination of a Tribunal has the same force and effect as if it was made after a full hearing before that Tribunal.
- b) If the party or witness that fails to attend is a Member, that Member shall have committed Misconduct. The Tribunal shall determine the appropriate sanction for such Misconduct on the night of the hearing, unless there is a compelling reason why it is unable to do so.

12.6 ADJOURNMENT

A party may apply to a Tribunal at least two (2) business days before the start of that hearing to have the hearing adjourned if there are compelling circumstances which warrant such steps to be taken to avoid costs, hardship or significant inconvenience to the party. This will be at the absolute discretion of Football South Coast.

12.7 GENERAL CONDUCT OF TRIBUNAL HEARINGS

- a) A Tribunal will not be bound by the rules of evidence usually applicable to proceedings in courts of law, but all hearings must be conducted in accordance with the principles of natural justice.
- b) A Tribunal may conduct the hearing in any matter as it sees fit provided that:
 - i. All parties are given a reasonable opportunity to be heard;
 - ii. The hearing is conducted with as little formality and technicality and with as much expedition as proper consideration of the matters before it permits.
- c) Any Member who appears before the hearing and who in the opinion of the Tribunal has:
 - i. Failed to fully co-operate with a Tribunal;
 - ii. Failed to truthfully answer any questions asked by a Tribunal;
 - iii. Failed to provide any document in that person's possession or control relevant to the matter to be determined by a Tribunal following a request by either Football South Coast or a Tribunal; and/or,
 - iv. Made any false or misleading statement or has made a statement or acted in a manner calculated to or which is likely to be misleading, that Member shall have committed Misconduct. The Tribunal shall determine the appropriate sanction for such Misconduct preferably on the night of the hearing, unless there is a compelling reason why it is unable to do so.
- d) A Tribunal is empowered to:
 - i. Conduct its hearings in the manner in which it sees fit, subject to the requirements of these Regulations;
 - ii. Take evidence;

- iii. Require the attendance of any party Member or Participant to give evidence;
 - iv. Require the production of any document, information or other material in whatever form held by any party under the jurisdiction of Football South Coast;
 - v. Inform itself on any matter or thing in order to properly carry out its function in accordance with these Regulations.
- e) To the extent that a matter about the procedures of a Tribunal is not provided for by these Regulations, the Chairperson for a Tribunal may issue directions about its procedures.
- f) Where a determination is required prior, the Disciplinary Commission(er) will make such a determination which will be final.

12.8 EVIDENCE

The admissibility and weight to be given to evidence, including electronic, audio, visual material, i.e. video, DVD recordings in a hearing shall be at the discretion of a Tribunal.

12.9 CHALLENGE OF JURISDICTION OR OF A TRIBUNAL

- a) If a Member wants to allege that the Tribunal does not have jurisdiction, it must raise this objection in submissions in writing to Football South Coast at least two (2) business days before the hearing date. A Tribunal has the power to rule on objections that it has no jurisdiction.
- b) In general, the Tribunal should rule on a plea concerning its jurisdiction as a preliminary question. However, the Tribunal may proceed with the hearing and rule on such an objection in its final Determination. The Tribunal Chair may seek advice or discuss jurisdiction with the Disciplinary Commission(er).

12.10 ONUS OF PROOF

A Body shall make Determinations on the balance of probabilities.

12.11 EX PARTE

If a party fails to attend a hearing, a Tribunal shall determine the matter ex parte. An ex parte decision of a Tribunal has the same force and effect as if the Determination was made after a full hearing before that Tribunal.

12.12 CONTEMPT IN THE FACE OF A TRIBUNAL

- a) A person before a Tribunal must not:
- i. Insult a member of a Tribunal in or in relation to the exercise of the powers or functions of a member;
 - ii. Repeatedly interrupt the proceedings of a Tribunal;
 - iii. Create a disturbance or take part in creating or continuing a disturbance in or near a place where Tribunal is sitting;
 - iv. Obstruct or hinder the Tribunal or a member in the performance of the functions of the Tribunal;
 - v. Fail to comply in full with an order of the Tribunal; or

- vi. Do any other act or thing that would, if a Tribunal were a Court of record, constitute a contempt of Court.
- b) If a Tribunal considers that a person has breached this section 12.12, then it may impose sanctions as it sees fit in accordance with these Regulations.

12.13 TRIBUNAL MAY HEAR PROCEEDINGS REGARDLESS OF RELATED CRIMINAL OR DISCIPLINARY ACTION

A Body may issue Suspensions or make a determination whether or not a Member:

- a) Has been charged with, convicted of or sentenced for an offence arising out of the contravention;
- b) Is the subject of a pending disciplinary proceedings relating to the contravention; or
- c) May be, or has been, subject to disciplinary action relation to the contravention.

12.14 IMMUNITY

The parties, and its respective witnesses, agree to not institute or maintain any proceedings, or bring any claim against Football South Coast, a Tribunal or a Tribunal Member, in respect of any act or omission during the course of a hearing or arising out of any Determination or findings made.

12.15 LIMITATION PERIOD ON SUSPENSIONS

- a) These Regulations do not apply and Football South Coast will not accept any applications for Determinations, if more than one (1) year has elapsed.
- b) The limitation period starts:
 - i. From the day on which the perpetrator committed the infringement;
 - ii. If the infringement is recurrent, from the day on which the most recent infringement was committed; or
 - iii. If the infringement lasted a certain period, from the day on which it ended.
- c) Notwithstanding the above, a prosecution for corruption has no limitation period.

12.16 CORRECTION OF A DETERMINATION

- a) Within five (5) business days of receipt of a Determination by a Tribunal, either party may with written notice to Football South Coast request a Tribunal to correct in the Determination any errors in computation, any clerical or typographical errors or any other error of a similar nature.
- b) If the Tribunal considers the request to be justified, it will make the correction and reissue to the parties.

13 MEDIATION

- a) In relation to any Grievance between Members, Football South Coast may require a Member or Members to attend a meeting with Football South Coast and an independent person who shall act as a mediator for the purpose of attempting to reach agreement as to how such allegations are to be dealt with.
- b) Such a meeting shall be conducted on a without prejudice basis and the mediator shall have no power to impose any Suspension, decision or sanction on any of the parties.
- c) A failure by a Member to attend such a meeting when requested without reasonable excuse shall amount to Misconduct. Football South Coast may refer such matters to the GPT for hearing as to sanction.
- d) Unless agreement has been reached in such a meeting, Football South Coast may, in its absolute discretion, refer the matter to the GPT in accordance with these Regulations.

14 PUBLICATION, CONFIDENTIALITY AND PUBLIC COMMENT

- a) Football South Coast must keep a central register of all Determinations made by a Body and will make those decisions available subject to any term confidentiality or any legal requirements imposed by or on Football South Coast or Football NSW.
- b) No person shall publicly comment (including via social media) where such comment:
 - i. Is disparaging or derogatory of a Match Official, opposition team or any Player or Official;
 - ii. Is disparaging or critical of Football South Coast, any Football South Coast Rules and Regulations, or any Football South Coast policy decision, without reasonable basis or justification;
 - iii. Is with respect to a matter the subject of proceedings currently before a Body; or
 - iv. Is disparaging of a Determination without reasonable basis or justification.
- c) No Member shall make any unfair, unreasonable or excessive public criticism (including via social media) of a decision made by a Body or any other matter touching or concerning a Tribunal.
- d) Any breach of (b) or (c) of this section may be treated as Misconduct.

15 ON-FIELD MISCONDUCT

15.1 YELLOW CARD OFFENCES

- a) A Yellow Card Offence is a warning from a Match Official to a Player in respect of unsporting behaviour of a less serious nature (pursuant to Law 12 of the Laws of the Game) and shall be given as follows in accordance with the Laws Of the Game from time to time and currently:

Code	Description
Y1	The player is guilty of unsporting conduct.
Y2	The player shows dissent by action or word.
Y3	The player persistently infringes the Laws of the Game.
Y4	The player delays the restart of play.
Y5	The player fails to respect the required distance when play is restarted with a corner kick, free kick or throw in.
Y6	The player re-enters the field of play without the Referee's permission.
Y7	The player deliberately leaves the field of play without the Referee's permission.

Table 1 – Yellow Card Offence Codes

- b) Yellow Card Offences issued during an abandoned Match will be:
- Void if that Match is replayed at a later time; or
 - Upheld if that Match is not replayed at a later time.
- c) For the avoidance of doubt, if a Player receives two (2) Yellow Card Offences in a Match, resulting in a Red Card Offence, then neither caution shall be considered when accumulating cautions.

15.2 ACCUMULATION OF YELLOW CARD OFFENCES

- a) A Player who accumulates five (5) Yellow Cards Offences in a Football South Coast Competition in any one (1) Competition Season shall serve a mandatory one (1) Match Suspension. The Match Suspension shall be served immediately and shall apply in respect of those Football Activities listed in the Notice of Suspension.
- b) A Player who accumulates an additional three (3) Yellow Card Offences (in total eight (8) Yellow Card Offences) in a Football South Coast Competition in any one (1) Competition Season shall serve a mandatory 2 (two) Match Suspension as per the Table of Offences. The two (2) match suspension shall be served immediately and shall apply in respect of those Football Activities listed in the Notice of Suspension.

- c) A Player who accumulates ten (10) Yellow Card Offences in a Football South Coast Competition in any one (1) Competition Season shall serve a mandatory three (3) Match Suspension as per the Table of Offences. The three (3) match suspension shall be served immediately and shall apply in respect of those Football Activities listed in the Notice of Suspension.
- d) A Player who accumulates more than ten (10) Yellow Card Offences in Football South Coast Competitions in any one (1) Competition Season shall be required to appear before a MRC hearing in accordance with these Regulations. The MRC may impose such sanctions as it sees fit in accordance with these Regulations. A Player who is to appear before a MRC shall not be eligible to participate in any Match after receiving his or her tenth (10th) Yellow Card Offence and until he or she has appeared before the MRC and served the sanction.
- e) Yellow cards incurred in trial or friendly matches do not accumulate for the purposes of this section.
- f) In the case of finals series of any competition, two yellow cards received will result in a one match suspension and yellow cards accumulated prior to the finals series will not count in the finals series unless the player has totalled 5, 8, or 10 yellow cards in the final competition round.

15.3 CLUB RESPONSIBILITY FOR ACCUMULATION OF YELLOW CARD OFFENCES

- a) It is a Club's responsibility to keep accurate records of the Yellow Card Offences received by its Players regardless of whether a Player may have accumulated same while registered with a previous Club.
- b) It is a Club's responsibility to ensure that any Player who has incurred a Match Suspension serves that sanction in full.
- c) A Club must not list a Player on a team sheet as a player or named substitute who is subject to a Match Suspension.

15.4 RED CARD OFFENCES

- a) A Red Card may be issued by a Referee during a Match to expel from the match, a Participant who engages in any one of the offences listed at the Table of Offences at Schedule 2 to these Regulations.
- b) A Participant sent from the field of play during a Match shall receive Sanctions/Suspensions in accordance with the Table of Offences.
- c) Suspensions shall be served immediately and in accordance with section 11 of these Regulations.
- d) Red Cards issued during an abandoned Match will be upheld regardless of whether the Match is replayed or not.

15.5 ACCUMULATION OF RED CARDS

A Participant who accumulates more than three (3) Red Cards in Football South Coast and Football NSW Competitions in any one (1) Competition Season may be required to appear before a MRC hearing in accordance with these Regulations. The MRC may impose such sanctions as it sees fit in accordance with these Regulations. A Participant who is to appear before a MRC shall not be eligible to participate in any Match after receiving his or her fourth (4th) Red Card Offence and until he or she has appeared before the MRC and served the sanction.

15.6 CLUB RESPONSIBILITY FOR ACCUMULATION OF RED CARDS OFFENCES

- a) It is a Club's responsibility to keep accurate records of the Red Card Offences received by its Players and Officials regardless of whether a Participant may have accumulated same while registered with a previous Club.
- b) It is a Club's responsibility to ensure that any Participant who has incurred a Match Suspension serves that sanction in full.
- c) A Club must not list a Player on a team sheet who is subject to a Match Suspension.

15.7 TEAM MISCONDUCT

- a) Football South Coast will impose additional Sanctions/Suspensions on a Club for the misconduct of a team, including when:
 - i. Five (5) Players are given Yellow Cards or Red Cards during one (1) Match;
 - ii. Three (3) Players are given Red Cards during one (1) Match;
 - iii. Several Players together make threats or show force against a Match Official.
 - iv. In the case of any Football Council in accordance with its policy for team and club discipline.
- b) The relevant sanctions for team misconduct are set out at Schedule 2 to these Regulations.

16 UNREGISTERED, "RING-IN" AND INELIGIBLE PLAYERS

16.1 UNREGISTERED PLAYERS

- a) Clubs must not field or list unregistered Players, including "ring-in" Players, in any Match. Unregistered Players means those Players who have not registered with FFA through Football South Coast for the competition season.
- b) Football South Coast may, in its absolute discretion, issue Suspensions in accordance with the Table of Offences against Clubs, Team Officials or Club Officials who knowingly field or list unregistered Participants knowingly or in situations where they ought to reasonably have known that the Participant was not registered.

16.2 INELIGIBLE PLAYERS

- a) Clubs must not field or list ineligible Players in any Match. Ineligible Players means those Players who have been issued with Suspensions by FFA, Football South Coast, Football NSW, a Club or a Football Council.
- b) The Match Review Committee may, in its absolute discretion, issue Suspensions in accordance with the Table of Offences against Clubs, Team Officials or Club Officials who field or list ineligible Participants knowingly or in situations where they ought reasonably have known that the Participant was ineligible.

17 PROHIBITION ON DUAL REGISTRATION

- a) Section 4.9 of the FFA National Registration Regulations shall apply in relation to the registration of players except as modified within Football South Coast's Jurisdiction and by agreement between Councils. A copy of the FFA National Registration Regulations can be located at www.footballaustralia.com.au.
- b) The Match Review Committee has jurisdiction to issue Suspensions based on the Match Official Reports and in accordance with the Table of Offences against Clubs if they breach section 4.9 of the FFA National Registration Regulations or the Football South Coast Rules and Regulations.

18 TEAM OFFICIALS AND CLUB OFFICIALS

- a) The Match Review Committee has jurisdiction to issue Sanctions based on the Match Official Reports and in accordance with the Table of Offences against Team Officials and Club Officials.
- b) A Team Official or Club Official who has been expelled from the field of play including the technical area by a Match Official must serve the Suspensions issued as part of any Sanction by the Match Review Committee immediately and the Suspension may apply across all Football Activities.

19 REFUSAL TO TAKE THE FIELD OF PLAY AND MASS WALK-OFFS

Any Club which by its conduct caused a Match to be terminated or abandoned shall be deemed to have brought the game into Disrepute and as a result the Match Review Committee may, in its absolute discretion, refer the matter to the GPT for determination as to sanction.

20 INTERFERENCE WITH FIXTURES

- a) Clubs shall not arrange other fixtures until after the Football South Coast Competition fixtures are settled.
- b) Clubs shall not improperly interfere with another Club's home fixtures.
- c) Clubs in breach of this section 20 shall be deemed to have brought the game into Disrepute and as a result the Match Review Committee may, in its absolute discretion, refer the matter to the GPT for determination as to sanction.

21 SCHEDULE 1: DEFINITIONS

In these Regulations, unless the contrary interpretation appears:

Term	Meaning
“Appeal Committee Determination or AC Determination”	A decision or Determination made by the AC pursuant to section 9.
“Appeal Committee or AC”	The Body responsible to hear and determine decisions appealed from the MRC or GPT with its terms of reference set out in section 9.
“Application Fees”	The applicable fees to appear before a GPT or AC pursuant to Schedule 4.
“Association Member”	Those admitted from time to time as Members of Football South Coast under the Football South Coast Constitution.
“Bodies”	One of the following bodies established by Football South Coast under its By-Laws or these Regulations:
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Disciplinary Commission (DC); 2. Match Review Committee (MRC); 3. General Purpose Tribunal (GPT); and 4. Appeals Committee or AC;
“Claim”	A claim or disagreement by, against or between Members.
“Club”	An entity (whether incorporated or otherwise) formed for the purpose of playing football in Competitions conducted by Football South Coast or Association Members.
“Club Official”	Any person involved with the administration, management or organisation of a Club (whether paid or unpaid), including employees, contractors, consultants, officers and directors and representatives.
“Competition Match”	A match or game between Clubs or Associations who are playing in a Competition owned and conducted and sanctioned by Football South Coast.
“Competitions”	Any or all of the football matches or competitions owned, sanctioned or conducted by Football South Coast or an Association Member.
“Complaint”	Involves the allegation that a Member’s conduct is unethical and/or in breach of FFA Rules and Regulations and/or Football South Coast Rules and Regulations.

"Determination"	A decision or Determination made by a Body in accordance with these Regulations.
"Disrepute"	Any conduct, statement or appearance in public that is damaging to reputation.
"Bringing the Game into Disrepute"	<p>A Member will be taken as having brought football into Disrepute if any of the following occurs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 him or her to violate FIFA Statutes or FFA Statutes; i) Abuse of position to obtain personal benefit; j) commission or charge of a criminal offence; or k) Any other conduct, behaviour or statement that materially injures the reputation and goodwill of FFA or football generally. <p><i>(continued next page)</i></p>

	<p>A Club is deemed to have committed an offence under this section where its crowd or its spectators have engaged in any of the conduct outlined in clause 2.2.</p> <p>Players and Officials are entitled to have their privacy respected and this Code is not intended to apply to private activities engaged in by a Player or an Official that are not in the public domain.</p> <p>Regulations and reference to FFA in the FFA Code of Conduct and FSC right of entry conditions shall also be a reference to Football South Coast.</p>
“Executive”	The Chief Executive Officer of Football South Coast or his or her nominee appointed from time to time by the Board of Football South Coast.
“FFA”	Football Federation Australia Limited, the governing body for Association football (soccer) in Australia.
“FFA Statutes”	The statutes and any accompanying standing orders, by-laws and regulations governing football in Australia as promulgated by FFA from time to time.
“FFA Rules and Regulations”	The FFA Statutes and any other rules, regulations, policies, procedures, codes of conduct and guidelines developed, promulgated and implemented by FFA from time to time, as they apply to Football South Coast, the Members, supporters or spectators as amended from time to time.
“FIFA”	Federation Internationale de Football Association, its successor or assignee.
“Football Activity”	Has its meaning given to it under the Football South Coast By-Laws.
“Football South Coast Rules and Regulations”	The Football South Coast Constitution, Football By-Laws and any other rules, regulations, policies, procedures, codes of conduct and guidelines developed, promulgated and implemented by Football South Coast from time to time applying to Football South Coast, the Members, supporters or spectators as amended from time to time.
“Football NSW”	Football NSW Limited, a company limited by guarantee, which is the governing body for Association football (soccer) in the State.
“Football South Coast” or “FSC”	Football South Coast Ltd. a company limited by guarantee which is the Governing body for Association football (soccer) in the Illawarra area.
“General Purpose Tribunal or GPT”	The Body responsible to hear and determine decisions referred to it from the MRC, and/or in accordance with its terms of reference set out in section 8.

“General Purpose Tribunal Determination or GPT Determination”	A decision or Determination made by the GPT pursuant to section 8.
“Grievance”	Either a Claim or Complaint as the case requires.
“Grievance Form”	The prescribed form for raising a Grievance with Football South Coast which can be found at www.footballsouthcoast.com
“Laws of the Game”	The official laws of the game of football as promulgated by FIFA from time to time.
“Match Review Committee or MRC”	The Body established under these Regulations with its terms of reference set out in section 7.
“Match”	Any match played in the State under the auspices of Football South Coast or an Association Member or otherwise played under Football South Coast’s direction or control, including a Competition Match.
“Match Official”	A referee, assistant referee, referees’ inspector, match commissioner, any person in charge of safety or any other person appointed by Football South Coast, an Association Member or a Club to assume responsibility in connection with a Match. This may include an official of Football South Coast or a Football Council member in attendance at a game in a non-appointed capacity.
“Match Official Report”	A Team Sheet, Match Official Send Off Report or a Match Official Incident Report prepared and submitted by Match Officials to Football South Coast in relation to a Football South Coast Competition Match.
“Match Official Incident Report”	The report prepared and submitted by a Match Official to Football South Coast which sets out any incidents which occurred prior to, during or after Football South Coast Competition Match.
“Match Official Send Off Report”	The report prepared and submitted by a Match Official to Football South Coast which sets out any Yellow Card Offences and Red Card Offences that occurred during a Football South Coast Competition Match.
“Members”	A Football Council a Club, a Referee’s Body and/or Participants.
“Misconduct”	Where a Member, Football Club and/or Participant acts in any manner that is not in the best interests of the Game and/or which: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Is unsportsmanlike or unprofessional; b) Brings or may bring the Game into Disrepute or damage the Goodwill of the Game;

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> c) Is violent; d) Is improper, threatening, abusive, indecent, insulting, or discriminatory, whether by words or behaviour of persons of ethnical origin, colour, race, nationality, religion, sex, sexual orientation or disability or any other reason; e) Directly or indirectly offers, agrees to give, gives, solicits, agrees to accept or accepts any gift or award or consideration of any nature which is or is to be related in any way to influencing the outcome or conduct of a match; f) Directly or indirectly bets or instructs, permits or enables any Person for the other Person's benefit to bet on the result, progress or conduct of a match or competition; g) Directly or indirectly induces or attempts to induce a Player to leave the Football Club for which that player is registered; h) Knowingly or wilfully engages in the "ring in" of a Player or players in any match; i) Is disrespectful or abusive of Match officials, Football South Coast or Football Council officials, other Member Officials or of their decisions; j) Hinders the proceedings of a Tribunal/Commission, in any matter defined in these regulations; or k) Is a breach of any obligations imposed by these Regulations, Football South Coast Constitution and any By Laws, Regulations or Policies (or their equivalent from time to time, however entitled, of Football South Coast or its Football Councils.
"National Registration Regulations"	The National Registration Regulations contained in the FFA Statutes.
"Notice of Proceedings"	A Notice submitted by Football South Coast to parties subject to a GPT hearing which shall contain information in accordance with section 8.3(b).
"Notice of Suspension"	A Notice submitted by Football South Coast to a Member who has breached these Regulations and has been issued with a Suspension or Suspensions pursuant to these Regulations.
"Notice to Appeal"	A Notice submitted by a party to Football South Coast wishing to appeal a decision of the GPT.

“Notice to Attend”	A Notice submitted by Football South Coast to a Member requiring them to attend a MRC, GPT, AC or Mediation session.
“Notification Form”	The prescribed form notifying Football South Coast of a Participant’s intention to not accept a Suspension issued by the MRC. The Notification Form can be located at www.footballsouthcoast.com.au .
“Notice”	A notice issued by Football South Coast and includes (but not limited to) the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Notice to Attend; b) Notice of Suspension; c) Notice of Proceedings; and d) Notice to Appeal
“Offences”	Includes those offences committed by a Member set out in the Table of Offences;
“Official”	A Club Official, Match Official or Team Official.
“Participant”	A Player, Official (including referees) or Spectator.
“Player”	Any person who is, from time to time, registered with FFA, Football South Coast or a Club, whether that person is male or female, junior or senior or an amateur or professional.
“Red Card Offence”	One of the sending-off offences set out in in the Table of Offences at Schedule 1 to these Regulations;.
“Referees Body”	A body made up Match Officials who provide services to Football South Coast or an Association Member. For the avoidance of doubt, a Referees Body which may be an entity in its own right or the FSC Referees’ Council shall be considered a Member of Football South Coast together with its members and shall be bound by these Regulations.
“Regulations”	The Football South Coast Disciplinary Regulations adopted by Football South Coast in accordance with the Objects of its Constitution.
“Sanctions”	The sanctions issued by FSC through these Regulations by the MRC, GPT or AC.
“Season”	From the commencement of a Football South Coast Competition or Association Competition to the conclusion of a Football South Coast Competition or Association Competition unless otherwise directed by Football South Coast.

“Spectator”	A person who attends a Match.
“State”	The state of New South Wales with the exception of the northern regions of NSW (the governing body for which is Northern New South Wales Football)
“Suspensions”	The suspensions issued by the MRC based on Match Official Reports.
“Table of Offences”	The Offences as set out at Schedule 1 to these Regulations.
“Team Official”	Any person involved with the management, preparation or participation of a Club or Association Member’s team (whether paid or unpaid), including the coaches, managers, medical staff, physiotherapists, gear persons and other support staff or any other person acting as an employee, contractor or volunteer at a Club or an Association Member.
“Tribunal Members”	Those persons appointed by Football South Coast to sit on the GPT or AC pursuant to section 6 of these Regulations.
“Tribunals”	The general Purpose tribunal and the Appeal Committee.
“Yellow Card Offence”	A caution of a Player by a Match Official for an infringement set out in section 14.1.

Table 2 – Table Of Definitions

22 SCHEDULE 2: TABLE OF OFFENCES

22.1 OFFENCES RELATED DIRECTLY TO PLAYER AND TEAM/CLUB OFFICIAL EXPULSIONS DURING A MATCH

All players and officials sent from the Field of Play or Technical Area will be subject to a Mandatory match suspension plus any additional matches determined by the Match Review Committee based on the seriousness of the offence.

In addition Team Points will be accumulated by Teams in competitions conducted by the Men's Council for Amateurs, Junior Football Council and Women's Football Council in accordance with the following:

- a) At the start of each season, all junior amateur and women's teams will be allotted a number of "team points" as determined and communicated by the relevant Football Council.
- b) Nominated offences as outlined below carry a number of demerit points which are accumulated to the team.
- c) Demerit points will be awarded for offences by players, team officials and spectators.
- d) When a team accumulates half of their demerit points they are:
 - i. Given a first formal warning including what may constitute further action in regulation to (e);
 - ii. Deducted one (1) competition point.
- e) When a team accumulates three – quarters of their demerit points they are given a second formal warning, including the possibility of being withdrawn from the competition, and
 - i. a second formal warning, including the possibility of being withdrawn from the competition
 - ii. will be stood down from their next competition match; not including a bye.
- f) When a team accumulates the nominated number of demerit points they are withdrawn from the competition / season. Team expulsion will only occur after the team and its Club has appeared before a GPT and failed to show reasonable cause as to why they should not be expelled.
- g) Where it is noted that a club has persistent offenders, the FSC Junior Football Council may cite the club, if, in its opinion, the Club is not performing its role of Club discipline.
- h) The above procedure does not supersede other procedures whereby the penalty for such demands team withdrawal.

Team points are also included in the tables below:

Mandatory Suspensions will be:

First Send Off in a season:	1 Match
Second Send Off in a season:	2 Matches
Third Send Off in a season:	3 matches plus appearance before MRC

Table 3 – Mandatory Suspensions

Table of Additional Matches based on Seriousness Determined by MRC

Offence Number	Description	Comment	Range	Team Points
R1	Serious Foul Play (Excessive force or brutality in challenging for a ball)	According to seriousness	Minimum 1	3 points
R2	Violent Conduct (Excessive force or brutality when not challenging for ball – striking, kicking, elbow)	Includes head butting, brawling	1 – 4 matches	3 points
R2	Violent Conduct of the most seriousness nature – intends significant bodily harm to any person	Can include inciting violent conduct	4 matches – 24 months	5 points
R3	Spitting at a player or any other person		8 matches – 18 months	5 points
R4/R5	Denying a Goal Scoring Opportunity		0	0 points
R6	Use of Offensive, Insulting or Abusive Language or Gestures		1 – 2 matches + 1 each occurrence	3 points
R6	Use of Discriminatory Language and/or Gestures – including racist, religious, ethnic or sexist		8 – 12 matches + 1 each occurrence	3 points
R7	Two yellow cards in a match		0	0 points
R2 or R6	Incites a brawl or melee		12 months	5 points

Table 4 – Red Card Offence Codes

22.2 SPECIFIC OFFENCES AGAINST A MATCH OFFICIAL

Offence Number	Description	Comment	Range	Team Points
R2	Violent Conduct towards a match official: pushing, elbowing		1 year to life	10 points
R2	Violent Conduct towards Match Official – Head Butting, Striking or Kicking		Life	10 points
R3	Spitting at a match official		1 – 5 years	10 points
R6	Use of Offensive, Insulting or Abusive Language or Gestures		2 – 3 matches + 1 each occurrence	3 points
R6	Use of Discriminatory Language and/or Gestures – including racist, religious, ethnic or sexist		9 – 12 matches + 1 each occurrence	3 points

Table 5 – Specific Offences against a Match Official

The Following Fines will be applied to the Club in Men's Premiership Competition Matches in addition to any suspension for Player and Club Official Expulsions during a match or otherwise reported for behaviour on match day.

First Offence:	\$45.00
Second Offence:	\$55.00
Third Offence:	\$110.00

Table 6 – Club Fines

22.3 CAUTION FINES

The following yellow card fines will be applied to the club in Men's Premiership Competition Matches in addition to any suspension for a Player accumulating a certain number of yellow cards.

1-2 Yellow Cards	\$0
3 or More Yellow Cards	\$15 per card

Table 7 – Caution Fines

22.4 MULTIPLE YELLOW CARD OR RED CARD OFFENCES IN A MATCH

The following fines will be applied to Clubs in men's Premiership Competitions following the award of multiple yellow card and red card offences in any one match in a season. The other actions following the third offence will apply to all Clubs in all competitions

5 or More Players receiving Yellow/Red Cards in a Match

1 st Offence	Warning Letter
2 nd Offence	\$200; 2 nd Warning Letter
3 rd Offence	\$300, Meet with DC and Executive
4 th Offence onwards	\$500, GPT

3 or More Players receiving Red Cards in a Match

1 st Offence	Warning Letter
2 nd Offence	\$200; 2 nd Warning Letter
3 rd Offence	\$300, Meet with DC and Executive
4 th Offence onwards	\$500, GPT

22.5 OFFENCES BY OFFICIALS AND OTHERS ON MATCH DAY AND OTHER MISCELLANEOUS ISSUES

Suspensions generally in Accordance with those listed above. This Table Specifies some other offences not listed. Where an Official is removed from the Bench/Technical Area:

1. he or she must move from, and
2. The period of Suspension must be served outside the fenced area of the field and the Technical Area and, must remain at all times at least 50 metres from the Technical Area.

Offence Number	Description	Comment	Range	Team Points
01	Intimidation to pressure the match official to take or omit certain action. Harassment (including sexual harassment) of a verbal nature against a match official	According to seriousness	3 matches – 12 matches	5 points
02	Breaches of Codes of Conduct by Players and right of entry, Team Officials, Parents and Spectators		MRC/GPT determination	5 points
03	Breach of Alcohol Policy of Football Council		MRC/GPT determination	10 points
04	Accumulation of Cautions 1. 5 Cards 2. 8 Cards 3. 10 Cards		1 Match 2 Matches 3 Matches	1 Point 2 Points 3 Points
05	Excessive Cautions – team exceeds five (5) in a match		0	1 point
06	Accumulation of Send Offs – more than one send-off per annum		As per offence R1 – R7 above	1 additional point
07	Excessive red Cards – Three (3) or more players are shown Red Cards in the One Match		MRC/GPT determination	1 additional point

Table 8 – Offences By Officials

22.6 OTHER OFFENCES

Offence Number	Description	Minimum Sanction	Maximum Sanction
M1	Misconduct of any nature	1 Match suspension if applicable and/or a \$250 fine	5 years suspension and/or a \$2500 fine and/or deduction of a maximum 3 competition points from the current season in the relevant grade and/or any other provision as referred to in these Regulations.
M2	Misconduct against Football South Coast or any appointed Football South Coast	2 Matches suspension if applicable and or a \$500 fine	10 years suspension and/or a \$5,000 fine and/or deduction of a maximum 9 competition points from the current season in the relevant grade and/or any other provision referred to in these Regulations.
M3	Gross Misconduct against Football South Coast or any Football South Coast Officer	4 Matches suspension if applicable and/or a \$1000 fine	Life suspension and / or \$10,000 fine and/or deduction of a maximum 15 competition points from the current season in the relevant grade and/or deduction of a maximum 9 competition points from the following season in the relevant grade and/or removal from competition and / or any other provision referred to in these Regulations.
M4	Deliberately misleading any Body	10 Matches Suspension if applicable and/or \$2000 fine	Life Suspension and/or any other provision referred to in these Regulations.

Table 9 – Other Offences

23 SCHEDULE 3: BREACHES OF SECTIONS 16 AND 17

Section	Description of Breach	Fine for an Association / Club	Fine for Club/ Team Official
16.1	Listing an unregistered Player	\$200.00	\$100.00
16.1	Fielding an unregistered Player	\$400.00	\$200.00
16.2	Playing ineligible players	\$500.00	\$150.00
17	Dual Registration	\$500.00	\$150.00

Table 10 – Breaches of Section 16 & 17

Note:

1. The fines are inclusive of GST.
2. An Association Member or Club is jointly and severally liable to FSC for payment of any fine imposed of a Club or Team Official.
3. An unpaid fine shall constitute outstanding monies owed by a Club to FSC.

24 SCHEDULE 4: APPLICATION FEES

MRC		
Application for Truly Exceptional Circumstances Clause 7.6		\$150.00
GPT		
Application for a Grievance Section 8.2		\$250.00
Appeal Fee (Association Appeal) Section 8.1		\$500.00
AC		
Appeal Fee Section 9		\$500.00

25 PROCESS FLOW CHART

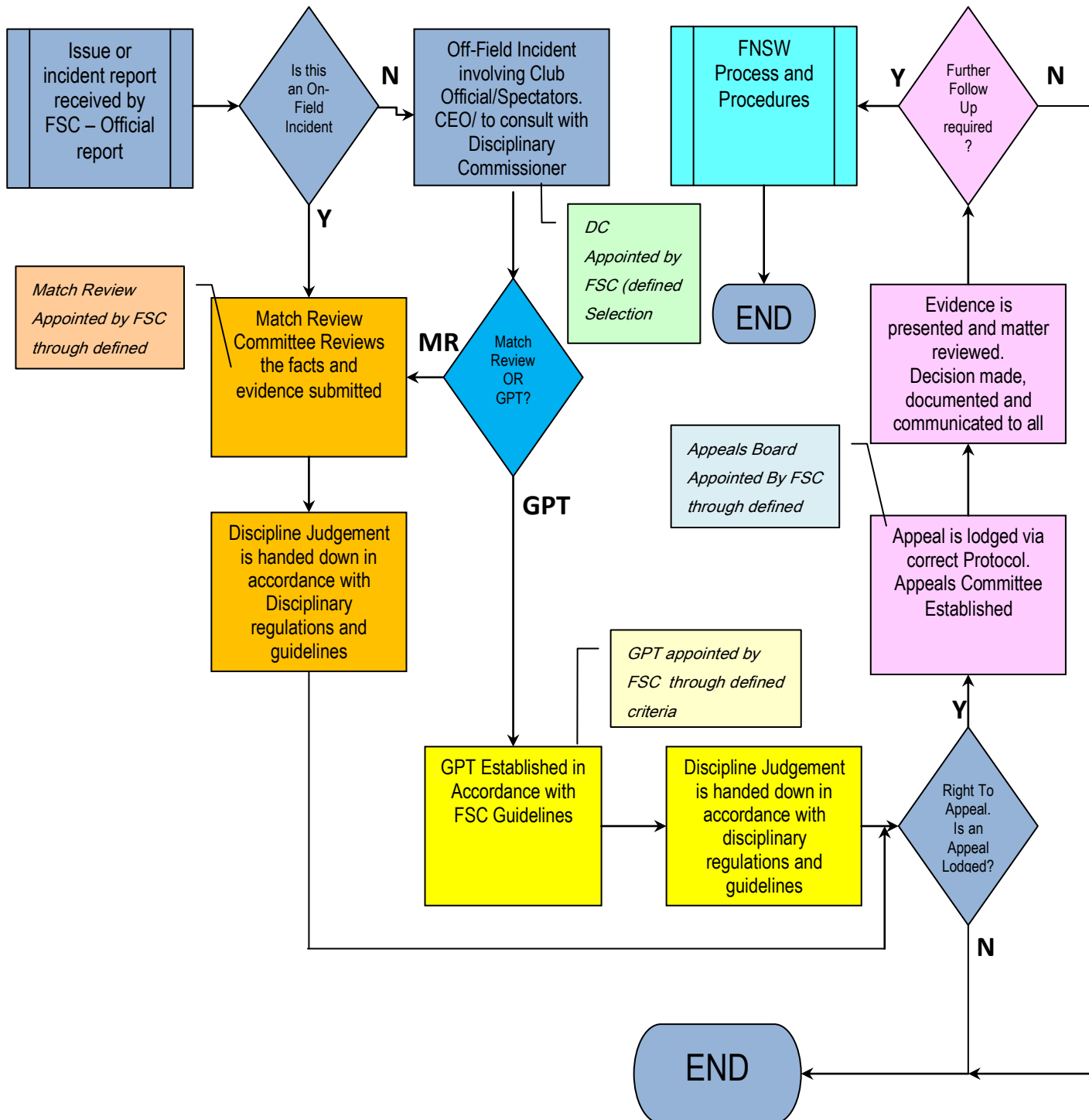


Figure 1 – Disciplinary Process Flow Chart

26 SCHEDULE 5: FORMS

26.1 NOTICE OF GRIEVANCE FORM

CLAIMANT / COMPLAINANT DETAILS			
Name		Club	
Address			
Email		Phone	
RESPONDANT DETAILS			
Name		Club	
Email If known		Phone If known	
AFFECTED PARTY (attach additional list if there are more parties)			
Is there another party potentially directly affected by your application?			
If your answer is yes, please name that party			
Name		Club	
Email		Phone	
DETAILS OF GRIEVANCE (attach additional papers if required)			
Date(s) of Incident(s)			
Subject Matter (tick)	<input type="checkbox"/> Registration <input type="checkbox"/> Rules of Competition <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify)		
Statement of facts (attach additional information if necessary)			
Desired Outcome			
FEES			
\$250.00 must be lodged to Football South Coast with the application notice: <input type="checkbox"/> Cheque/Money Order made out to Football South Coast <input type="checkbox"/> Direct Credit: BSB 802409, Account No 26440874 Reference: Grievance -Surname <i>Please Tick Box of method</i>			
ADDITIONAL PAPERWORK			
Copy of correspondence to and from the Respondent as per 8.2 (b) of the FSC Disciplinary and Dispute Regulations.			
Copy of any mediation reports, if applicable, 8.2 (e) of the FSC Disciplinary and Dispute Regulations.			
SIGNATURE			
CLAIMANT/COMPLAINANT Signature	Print Name of Signatory	Date	

26.2 NOTICE OF SUSPENSION FORM

12 February 2013

Mr Andrew Smith
Secretary
Anonymous Mens Football Club

Dear Andrew

NOTICE OF SUSPENSION: Player B.Jones (12345678)

Football South Coast advises that in accordance with Disciplinary and Disputes Regulations of Football South Coast, the abovementioned player has been sanctioned for the following infringement as follows:

Details of the Alleged Incident and Offence

Competition: Illawarra Credit Union, Reserve Grade
Round: One
Date: 6/02/2013
Match: Anonymous v Serpents
Venue: Bushvale Oval
Details of the Offence: R5 - Denies an obvious goal scoring opportunity punishable by a penalty or free kick

Sanction Imposed

In accordance with Schedule 2 of the Disciplinary and Disputes Regulations, you are advised that:

- The abovementioned player is suspended for one (1) competition match(es) / round commencing from 13 February 2013
- Zero team demerit point(s) have been recorded against the team.
- The club is fined \$50.00

It is the responsibility of the Club for ensuring that the player concerned:

- Is informed of the suspension
- Is informed that he/she is not permitted on any part of the field of play, including the Technical Area in any match during the Course of his/her suspension.
- Serves his/her suspension in accordance with the Disciplinary and Disputes Regulations
- His/Her name is recorded on the back of the team sheet (Player Stood Down section) during the course of the suspension.

Challenging the Determination:

Your club has the right to apply to the Match Review Committee in accordance with Regulation 7.4, 7.5, 7.6 of the Football South Coast Disciplinary and Disputes Regulations.

Yours Sincerely

David Ware
David Ware
FSC Junior Competition Coordinator

26.3 NOTICE OF APPEAL FORM

CHARGED PARTY			
Name of Appellant		Club	
Status	<input type="checkbox"/> Player <input type="checkbox"/> Team Official <input type="checkbox"/> Club Official <input type="checkbox"/> Spectator <input type="checkbox"/> Other <i>Please tick one</i>		
Email or Fax of Appellant			
Email of Club			
<i>Official correspondence will be sent to your Club via Email</i>			
DETAILS OF DISPUTE			
Nature of Dispute <i>(Misconduct, game protest, suspension, other please be specific)</i>			
Parties to Dispute <i>(e.g. John Smith & Club)</i>			
Date of Hearing or Tribunal			
GROUND OF APPEAL			
<input type="checkbox"/> A party was not afforded a reasonable opportunity to be heard on the issues of merit and/or sanction made that Tribunal. <input type="checkbox"/> Lack of Jurisdiction. <input type="checkbox"/> The decision was one that was not reasonably open to a Body having regard to the evidence before that Tribunal. <input type="checkbox"/> Severity <i>Please Tick Box</i> You must attach additional papers outlining the reasons for selecting your ground of appeal in accordance with 9.3 of the FSC Disciplinary and Dispute Regulations.			
APPEAL FEE			
\$500.00 must be lodged to Football South Coast with the application notice: <input type="checkbox"/> Cheque/Money Order made out to Football South Coast <input type="checkbox"/> Direct Credit: BSB 802409, Account No 26440874 Reference: Appeal -Surname <i>Please Tick Box of method</i>			
DEADLINE			
This form and appeal fee must be lodged with Football South Coast within five (5) business days of receiving a decision of the Tribunal.			
SIGNATURE			
Club Secretary / President Signature	Print Name of Signatory	Date	