

# South East Queensland Football



## Disciplinary Policy 2017

## 1. INTRODUCTION

All players are expected to behave in the best interests of the "game" and "fair play". Showing respect for not only one another, but the Referee, the opposition, Competition Managers and everyone else involved.

Inappropriate /aggressive player behaviour will not be tolerated and will result in disciplinary actions. This could include suspension, exclusion from the Competition or any other penalties deemed suitable by SEQ Football.

Unsatisfactory treatment of Referees will result in disciplinary actions. This could include suspension, exclusion from the Competition or any other penalties deemed suitable by SEQ Football.

Any player or team official displaying disrepute for the Competition before, during or after matches will result in disciplinary actions. This could include suspension, exclusion from the Competition or any other penalties deemed suitable by SEQ Football.

## 2. DEFINITION OF PENALTIES

Penalties fall into two categories:

- (i) Mandatory Match Suspensions
- (ii) Additional Disciplinary Sanctions

## 3. CAUTIONABLE OFFENCES

For Yellow Card Offences (fouling, abusive language, etc) and repeated general misconduct, the following card system applies:

- **Yellow Card** means that the player has been cautioned, however they do not need to leave the field of play
- **Blue Card** is issued at the discretion of the referee where in the opinion of the referee, they believe the player needs time off the field in order to "cool down", 10 minutes in the "sin bin" (sidelined), with a replacement player **not** permitted to take the field
- **Two Blue or Yellow Cards in any pattern**, (e.g two blue cards, two yellow card, or one yellow and one blue card) for the same player in the same game, means that the player must leave the field of play, and take no further part in the game. **NO REPLACEMENT PLAYER IS ALLOWED**. No Send-off Report is required for the accumulation of 2 Blue/Yellow Cards for the same player in the same game, and a mandatory one week suspension applies.
- **Accumulation of Yellow Cards** – A player who accumulates 4 yellow cards in one season will automatically receive a one game suspension immediately following the 4<sup>th</sup> Yellow Card. If the same player receives a further 3 yellow cards in the same season he will receive a further two game suspension immediately following the 7<sup>th</sup> Yellow Card.
- **Yellow Cards in Finals Series** – if a player receives more than 3 yellow cards in the Finals Series games they will serve a one game suspension in the next SEQ fixture game they are eligible to participate in.

## 3. RED CARD OFFENCES (Direct Send-offs)

A player, substitute or substituted player is sent off and shown the red card if they commit any of the following five offences:

- is guilty of serious foul play – P1
- is guilty of violent conduct – P2
- spits at an opponent or any other person – P3
- denies the opposing team a goal or an obvious goalscoring opportunity by deliberately handling the ball (this does not apply to a goalkeeper within his own penalty area) – P4
- uses offensive or insulting or abusive language and/or gestures – P6

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

All players who are sent off and shown the red card receive a mandatory match suspension, which is not appealable except in the case of alleged mistaken identity. They may be subject to additional disciplinary sanctions depending on the offence. Referees will submit a report on all player sent off, and a judgement will be made by SEQ Football regarding additional disciplinary suspensions. Team Managers will then be informed of player suspensions.

If a player receive a second Red Card within the same season an additional 2 game ban will apply. A third Red Card within the same season will result in an additional 4 game ban, and a fourth Red Card within the same season will result in the player being suspended for the remainder of the season, up to a 12 month period from the date of the send off.

The following Standard Suspensions shall apply for each offence (mandatory match suspension plus any additional disciplinary sanction):

Category	Level	Description	Compulsory Match Suspensions	Additional Disciplinary Suspension	Maximum Suspension
R1	1	2 yellow cards in the same match	1 Match	Nil	1 Match
R2	1	Denied opponents a clear goal scoring opportunity	1 Match	Nil	1 Match
R3	1	Displayed an action that involves serious foul play	1 Match	2 Matches	3 Matches
R4	1	Use of offensive / abusive / treating violence language or behaviour (social media suspensions are per comment)	1 Match	2 Matches	3 Matches
	2	Discriminatory language / behaviour (social media suspensions are per comment)	1 Match	4 Matches	5 Matches
	3	Inappropriate conduct towards an official	2 Matches	4 Matches	6 Matches
R5	1	Displayed an action that involved violent conduct	1 Match	1 Match	2 Matches
	2	Pushing with no punches	1 Match	1 Match	2 Matches
	3	Striking, throwing a punch (closed fist), kicking, elbowing or head-butting	2 Matches	6 Matches	8 Matches
	4	Intends to cause significant bodily harm to any person or spitting	4 Matches	8 Matches	2 Years / Life Ban
	5	Violent physical conduct towards an official	5 Matches	9 Matches	2 Years / Life Ban

#### 4. APPEALS

(a) A player or team official cannot appeal against a mandatory match suspension, except in the case of alleged mistaken identity. In the case of alleged mistaken identity, the alleged actual offender must be named.

(b) A player or team official may appeal the Additional Disciplinary Sanction imposed by notifying SEQ Football **within 7 days of the date on which the advice was received** using the Appeal Form attached, and signed by the player/official and team representative. **It must include all documentation relevant to the appeal (player's statement and any witness statements)**

(c) An independent Director (one who was not involved in making the original decision) will review the submitted documentation to assess the appeal. Documents supporting the charge, appeal conditions and notification of the date & time of any hearing will be forwarded to all parties as soon as is practical.

(d) If an appeal against the Additional Disciplinary Sanction is unable to be heard prior to the commencement of the suspension, the player or team official will be allowed to participate in the next match pending the hearing/outcome of the appeal. The fact of the player participating in that next match signifies that a lodged appeal will proceed. Should the appeal be withdrawn, then the result of such a match will be recorded as a 3-0 win in favour of the opposing team, unless the final result was of a greater margin in favour of the opposing team, and the points will be awarded to the opposing team.

(e) If a player or team official is found not guilty of the offence with which he has been charged (on the grounds of mistaken identity), then mention of this offence will be expunged from his record.

(f) In hearing an appeal, Directors have the power to overturn, confirm, increase or decrease the Additional Disciplinary Sanction against which an appeal is made.

(g) An appeal against a decision of the Competition Manager will not be allowed unless the person seeking to appeal satisfies SEQ Football that one or more of the following grounds of appeal are involved:

- (i) that significant new or additional evidence has become available
- (ii) that the penalty imposed by the Competition Manager is excessive and/or not in accordance with the provisions of this policy
- (iii) that the Competition Manager failed to follow procedures or requirements of this policy to the significant detriment of the person seeking to appeal.

**SEQ FOOTBALL APPEAL AGAINST ADDITIONAL DISCIPLINARY SANCTION**

<b>DATE</b>	
<b>PLAYERS NAME</b>	
<b>CLUB</b>	
<b>DATE OF MATCH</b>	
<b>DIVISION</b>	
<b>MATCH</b>	
<b>OFFENCE (EG P3 GRADE 2)</b>	
<b>ATTACHMENTS</b>	
<b>PLAYERS STATEMENT</b>	<b>MUST BE ATTACHED</b>
<b>WITNESS STATEMENT/S</b>	YES/NO
<b>OTHER STATEMENTS</b>	YES/NO
<b>PLAYERS SIGNATURE</b>	
<b>TEAM OFFICIAL SIGNATURE</b>	
<b>TEAM OFFICIAL NAME</b>	