



NATIONAL DISCIPLINARY REGULATIONS

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1. OBJECTIVES AND APPLICATION OF REGULATIONS

- 1.1 These National Disciplinary Regulations form part of the FFA Statutes and, subject to clause 1.5, apply to any infringement of the Laws of the Game by any Participant during a Match played in Australia or otherwise played under the direction or control of FFA.
- 1.2 These National Disciplinary Regulations are mandatory and are designed to ensure that appropriate standards of behaviour are upheld on the field of play in a consistent manner across Australia. The Regulations may be supplemented, but not varied, by Competition Rules.
- 1.3 These Regulations:
 - (a) apply to FFA, Member Federations, District Associations, Clubs, Players, Officials and Agents (**Members**);
 - (b) apply to all forms of organised football under FFA's jurisdiction, including eleven-a-side, modified football, futsal, indoor and beach football;
 - (c) comply with FIFA Statutes;
 - (d) continue to apply to a Member even after that Member's association, registration, employment or engagement has ended, if that Member breached these Regulations while a current Member;
 - (e) form part of the FFA Statutes to which all Members are bound; and
 - (f) do not limit or restrict the application of FIFA Statutes or FFA Statutes and, in particular, the Code of Conduct for conduct or behaviour of a Participant that occurs outside of the authority of the Referee.
- 1.4 All Matches must be conducted and officiated in accordance with the Laws of the Game. Any modifications, including for age appropriate or gender or disability specific requirements, must be approved by the Competition Administrator in accordance with any guidelines issued by FFA from time to time.
- 1.5 The A-League Disciplinary Regulations specify the rules and procedures that apply to the conduct of the A-League and in particular the prosecution of disciplinary matters arising during matches in the A-League including breaches of the Laws of the Game. These Regulations do not apply to the conduct of the A-League or the prosecution of disciplinary matters arising during matches in the A-League.

2. INFRINGEMENT OF THE LAWS OF THE GAME

- 2.1 A caution (or yellow card) is issued for a minor infringement of the Laws of the Game and is a warning from the Referee to a Player during a Match to sanction unsporting behaviour of a less serious nature.
- 2.2 An expulsion is for a serious infringement of the Laws of the Game and is the order given by the Referee to someone to leave the vicinity of the field of play and the technical area, including the substitutes' bench, during a Match. Expulsion takes the form of a red card for Players.
- 2.3 A red card is regarded as direct if it sanctions serious unsporting behaviour and indirect if it is the result of the accumulation of two (2) yellow cards in the same Match.
- 2.4 Any yellow card or red card issued during a Match is identified by the Referee on the Referee's Report for that Match, including the name and number of the Player, the Infringement and the time of commission of the Infringement.
- 2.5 For the purpose of these Disciplinary Regulations, an **Infringement** means an infringement of the Laws of the Game in accordance with the following codes:

A. *Minor infringements - Yellow Card (Caution) Codes*

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

B. *Serious Infringements - Red Card (Expulsion) Codes*

- R1** is guilty of serious foul play
- R2** is guilty of violent conduct
- R3** spits at an opponent or any other person
- R4** denies the opposing team a goal or an obvious goal scoring opportunity by deliberately handling the ball (this does not apply to a goalkeeper within his or her own penalty area)
- R5** denies an obvious goal scoring opportunity to an opponent moving towards the player's goal by an offence punishable by a free kick or a penalty kick
- R6** uses offensive or insulting or abusive language and/or gestures
- R7** receives a second caution in the same Match

3. AUTHORITIES AND JURISDICTION

- 3.1 Each Match is controlled by the Referee who has full authority to enforce the Laws of the Game in connection with the Match to which he or she has been appointed. The powers and duties of a Referee are as specified in the Laws of the Game and, in particular, Law 5. The Referee has the authority to make disciplinary decisions, as from the moment the Referee enters the field of play until he or she leaves the field of play after the final whistle.
- 3.2 During a Match, the Referee makes the disciplinary decisions and these decisions are final.
- 3.3 At the end of each Match, the Referee must submit the Referee's Report to the Competition Administrator who then determines if additional action needs to be undertaken in accordance with this clause 3 or clause 4.
- 3.4 A Competition Administrator may determine that the send off of a Player or the expulsion of a Team Official was of such a nature as to warrant a sanction greater than the mandatory match suspension, including additional match suspensions and/or a fine. In imposing an additional match suspension, a Competition Administrator must determine that a sanction additional to a mandatory match suspension is imposed in accordance with Annexure A and the Table of Offences.

4. CITING A PARTICIPANT

- 4.1 A Competition Administrator may cite a Participant to appear before its Disciplinary Committee in relation to:
 - (a) a red card; or
 - (b) a serious infringement that has escaped the Referee's attention.
- 4.2 A Disciplinary Committee may:
 - (a) sanction a red card;
 - (b) sanction a serious infringement that has escaped the Referee's attention; and
 - (c) on application from a Competition Administrator, rectify an obvious error in the Referee's disciplinary decision.

- 4.3 The following guidelines apply to determine whether a Referee's decision amounted to an obvious error under clause 4.2(c):
- (a) a disciplinary decision must have been made by the Referee to issue a yellow card or a red card;
 - (b) it clearly must have been a wrong decision (such as a right decision against a wrong player or mistaken identity); and
 - (c) it must not have been a discretionary decision by a Referee as to whether an action was a foul or a yellow or red card.

5. POSSIBLE DISCIPLINARY SANCTIONS

- 5.1 Mandatory match suspensions are incurred for the accumulation of yellow and red cards by a Player and for the expulsion of a Team Official in accordance with clauses 6, 7 and 8 respectively.
- 5.2 A Competition Administrator or a Disciplinary Committee:
- (a) may impose the types of sanctions as specified in Part V of the FFA Statutes; and
 - (b) must determine the scope and duration of each sanction in accordance with, subject to clause 5.4, the Range at the Table of Offences.
- 5.3 Competition Rules may provide an additional grading system for each Offence provided the grading system remains within the Range at the Table of Offences.
- 5.4 A sanction outside of the Range at the Table of Offences may be imposed only in Exceptional Circumstances that must be detailed in either the Competition Administrator's Disciplinary Infringement Notice or the Disciplinary Committee's Determination (as the case requires).
- 5.5 If, in the case of a group of people involved in violent conduct, it is not possible to identify the instigators, the Competition Administrator or the Disciplinary Committee may sanction the Club to which the aggressors belong.

6. ACCUMULATION OF YELLOW CARDS - MANDATORY MATCH SUSPENSIONS

- 6.1 Competition Rules must specify that a Player who accumulates a certain number of yellow cards during the course of a Competition must serve mandatory match suspensions as specified in those Competition Rules.
- 6.2 The number of yellow cards accumulated to incur a mandatory match suspension will depend on the number of Matches played in the Competition. By way of guidance, the mandatory match suspensions applying to the accumulation of yellow cards by Players playing in the A-League are as specified in the A-League Disciplinary Regulations.
- 6.3 If a Player receives two yellow cards during the same Match and therefore receives a red card, the two yellow cards are expunged from his or her record.
- 6.4 If a Player receives a yellow card and then a direct red card in the same Match, the yellow card will not be expunged and will be counted in the Player's accumulation of yellow cards.
- 6.5 The accumulation of yellow cards will be reset at the end of the last Match of the pre-season, the competition proper and any finals series respectively. This means that yellow cards accumulated in a pre-season competition do not carry over to the competition proper and yellow cards accumulated in a competition do not carry over to any finals series. Match suspensions incurred as a result of the accumulation of yellow cards will not, however, be cancelled.
- 6.6 Yellow cards are not accumulated for Friendly matches.

7. ACCUMULATION OF RED CARDS - MANDATORY MATCH SUSPENSIONS

- 7.1 A Player who receives a red card must serve a mandatory match suspension (unless successful application is made to the Disciplinary Committee in accordance with clause 11.3).
- 7.2 Competition Rules must specify that a Player who accumulates a certain number of direct red cards during the course of a Competition must serve mandatory match suspensions as specified in those Competition Rules.
- 7.3 The number of direct red cards accumulated to incur additional mandatory match suspensions will depend on the number of Matches played in the Competition. By way of guidance, the mandatory match suspensions applying to the accumulation of direct red cards by Players playing in the A-League are as specified in the A-League Disciplinary Regulations.

8. TEAM OFFICIALS - MANDATORY MATCH SUSPENSION

- 8.1 A Referee may take action against a Team Official who fails to conduct themselves in a responsible manner and may expel the Team Official from the field of play and its surroundings, including the substitute's bench.
- 8.2 A Team Official who has been expelled from the field of play by a Referee must serve a mandatory match suspension of one (1) match.

9. TEAM'S MISCONDUCT

- 9.1 A Competition Administrator may impose additional disciplinary sanctions on a Club for the misconduct of a Team, including when:
 - (a) five (5) Players are cautioned or sent-off during one (1) Match;
 - (b) three (3) Players are sent off during one (1) Match; or
 - (c) several Players together make threats or show force against a Match Official.
- 9.2 By way of guidance, the team misconduct provision for the A-League is as specified in the A-League Disciplinary Regulations.

10. NOTIFICATION AND TIMEFRAMES

- 10.1 The imposition of a mandatory match suspension is immediate. For completeness, a Competition Administrator will send a Disciplinary Infringement Notice notifying the Participant (through his or her Club) of the mandatory match suspension within the timeframes specified by the Competition Rules. For the avoidance of doubt, the mandatory match suspension is effective regardless of whether or not the notice was received.
- 10.2 If a Competition Administrator has determined under clause 3.4 that an Offence by a Participant was such as to warrant a sanction in addition to the mandatory match suspension, that Competition Administrator must send a Disciplinary Infringement Notice notifying the Participant (through his or her Club) of the details of the Offence and of the disciplinary sanction imposed.
- 10.3 If a Competition Administrator cites a Participant under clause 4 to appear before a Disciplinary Committee, that Competition Administrator will send a Disciplinary Hearing Notice to the Participant (through his or her Club) in accordance with its Competition Rules.
- 10.4 The Disciplinary Hearing Notice must provide:
 - (a) reasonable detail of the alleged Offence;
 - (b) notice of possible sanctions; and
 - (c) date, time and place of the disciplinary hearing.

10.5 The Competition Administrator must ensure a disciplinary hearing is heard in a timely fashion to enable a Player or Club to have the opportunity to be heard and to make submissions in relation to the issues of infringement and sanction before the next applicable Match.

11. DISCIPLINARY HEARING PROCEDURES

11.1 Each Member is bound by Part V of the FFA Statutes (Judicial Bodies and Disciplinary Sanctions), which dictate the independence and impartiality of a Disciplinary Committee, and the Grievance Resolution Regulations, which specify the rules and procedures that apply to the hearing and appeal of disciplinary infringements.

11.2 Subject to clause 11.3, a Participant may appeal the disciplinary sanction imposed in a Disciplinary Infringement Notice by notifying the Competition Administrator within the timeframe specified in the Competition Rules using the Application Form in accordance with the Grievance Resolution Regulations.

11.3 Except in the case of obvious error (the particulars of which are exclusively contained at clause 4.3), there is no appeal from a mandatory match suspension.

11.4 An appeal from a Competition Administrator's disciplinary sanction must be heard by the Disciplinary Committee. When determining any appropriate sanction, a Disciplinary Committee may consider:

- (a) the nature and severity of the infringement;
- (b) the offender's past record and whether or not this is a repeated Offence;
- (c) the culpability of the offender (including whether or not the infringement was intentional, negligent or reckless);
- (d) any reasons prompting the offender to commit an infringement;
- (e) the remorse of the offender; and
- (f) any extenuating circumstances.

11.5 If a Participant disputes a Disciplinary Committee's Determination, that Participant must notify the Competition Administrator within the timeframe specified in the Competition Rules using the Application Form in accordance with the Grievance Resolution Regulations.

11.6 All decisions of a Disciplinary Committee remain in force unless reversed by the Appeals Committee.

12. IMPLEMENTATION OF DISCIPLINARY SANCTIONS

Fines

12.1 All fines imposed under these Regulations must be paid within 14 days after the date on which the fine is imposed unless otherwise specified in Competition Rules or agreed to in writing by the Competition Administrator.

12.2 The Player or the Team Official cannot take part in any Match until the fine is paid in full. This means that if a match suspension is combined with a fine, the suspension is prolonged until the fine is paid in full.

12.3 A fine cannot be issued against an Amateur and in the case of a Professional, cannot exceed one half of the Total Payments that Participant would have received over the duration of the sanction. For the avoidance of any doubt, nothing in these Regulations prevents a Competition Administrator from implementing Competition Rules that authorise it to sanction a Club in accordance with the FFA Statutes.

12.4 A Club is jointly and severally liable for a fine imposed on one of its Participants (even if that Participant subsequently leaves that Club).

Effect of Suspension

- 12.5 A match suspension means a ban from taking part in the Match to which the ban relates or to attend it in the area immediately surrounding the field of play and as otherwise specified by the Competition Administrator in its Competition Rules.
- 12.6 Unless otherwise specified by a Competition Administrator or a Disciplinary Committee, a Participant who receives a suspension for an Offence in a Match forming part of a Competition must serve that suspension in the next following Match(es) forming part of any Competition (i.e. the Competition in which the relevant Offence was committed, or another Competition) in which his or her Team participates. For the avoidance of doubt, suspensions do carry over from one round to the next in the same competition, including from the pre-season to the regular season to the finals series and to the following season.
- 12.7 A Participant, who receives a mandatory match suspension in a Friendly, must serve that suspension in the next Friendly. A Participant who receives a match suspension in addition to a mandatory match suspension for an Offence that occurs in a Friendly, may be required by the Competition Administrator or the Judicial Body to serve the suspension in the next Matches (forming part of a Competition) in which his or her Club participates (rather than the next Friendly).
- 12.8 A suspension imposed in terms of Matches on a Player participating in:
- (a) eleven-a-side football only affects that Player's participation in eleven-a-side football; or
 - (b) futsal only affects that Player's participation in futsal.
- 12.9 Subject to clause 13.8, a suspension imposed in terms of time (such as days, weeks or months) affects a Participant's participation in both eleven-a-side and futsal Teams, regardless of whether the infringement was committed in eleven-a-side football or futsal.

Suspended Sanctions

- 12.10 In respect of sanctions of less than 6 months where the sanction is given in terms of a period of time, or less than 6 matches where the sanction is given in terms of matches, a Competition Administrator or Judicial Body may order that part of the match suspension or period of time suspension:
- (a) comes into immediate effect; and
 - (b) the other part does not come into effect unless and until an additional Offence (excluding an indirect red card) is committed during a specified probationary period (i.e. is suspended). The Offences (excluding an indirect red card) bringing this suspended portion of the sanction into effect should be outlined by the Competition Administrator or Judicial Body in accordance with clause 12.12(a).
- 12.11 If a Competition Administrator or Judicial Body imposes a match suspension where part is suspended, the part of the sanction that comes into immediate effect must be at least one half of the total sanction to be imposed.
- 12.12 If, in accordance with clause 12.10, where a sanction partly takes immediate effect and is partly suspended for a probationary period, the sanction must specify:
- (a) the types of Offences (excluding indirect red cards) which, if committed, activate the suspended part of the ban; and
 - (b) the length of the probationary period which must be a period between 6 months and 24 months.
- 12.13 Where a Competition Administrator or Judicial Body imposes a match suspension where part is suspended, if the Participant within the specified probationary period commits an Offence (excluding an indirect red card) that triggers the suspended part, that suspended part is then to be served in addition to any sanction that is imposed for the new Offence.

- 12.14 Where a Judicial Body or Competition Administrator imposes a sanction involving a suspension from participating as a Participant (whether by reference to a number of matches or period of time), the sanction must:
- (a) impose a continuous suspension; and
 - (b) not be structured in more than one (1) part or in any way that allows the Participant to serve the suspension in a fragmented way by participating in a certain match or matches (in whatever competition) and then resuming the suspension.

13. TRANSFERS AND OFF-SEASON

13.1 The objective of these Regulations is that:

- (a) a Participant serves his or her suspension in his or her Club's next official Match(es) forming part of a Competition (being the Competition in which the Offence was committed and suspension incurred, or another Competition);
- (b) where an Offence is committed and suspension incurred by a Participant with one Club and that Participant transfers to a new Club, that Participant will be required to serve the remainder of that suspension with the new Club;
- (c) where an Offence is committed and suspension incurred in one Competition and a Participant transfers to a new Club participating in another Competition for the purpose (in whole or in part) of enabling the Participant to serve that suspension in that other Competition, a determination may be made as to whether any suspension served with the new Club be counted towards satisfaction of the suspension;
- (d) during the period in which a Participant is suspended, a Participant subject to a suspension may not participate in any Match, but may participate in Friendly Matches unless determined otherwise by the Competition Administrator or Judicial Body;
- (e) sanctions operate so that the full quantum of the sanctions imposed by applying the Range at the Table of Offences is actually served in Matches forming part of a Competition; and
- (f) in relation to serving suspensions, the timing of when a sanction is imposed and the time period where the relevant Participant's Club is not participating in Matches forming part of a Competition should not produce a different result for Participants committing like Offences.

Eligibility and suspensions

- 13.2 A Participant who is suspended must serve his or her suspension in his or her Club's next official Match(es) forming part of a Competition (being the Competition in which the Offence was committed and suspension incurred, or another Competition).
- 13.3 Subject to clause 12.7 (Friendly matches), a Participant who is suspended may not participate in any Match until he has served his suspension in Matches forming part of a Competition, provided that a Participant may participate in Friendly Matches during the period of suspension unless the Competition Administrator or Judicial Body determines otherwise.
- 13.4 A suspended Participant transferring to a new Club will be required to serve the remainder of that suspension with the new Club and will not be permitted to play or act in an official capacity (such as coach) until the suspension has been served in its entirety with his or her new Club in Matches forming part of a Competition.
- 13.5 Where an Offence is committed and suspension incurred in one Competition (Competition A) and the Competition Administrator of Competition A determines that a Participant has transferred to a new Club in another Competition (Competition B) for the purpose (in whole or in part) of enabling the Participant to serve that suspension in Competition B, the Competition Administrator of Competition A may determine that any suspension served with the new Club in Competition B not be counted towards satisfaction of the suspension outstanding from Competition A.

- 13.6 If a Participant is under suspension and transfers to a new Club, that suspension must be disclosed on any applicable registration forms under the National Registration Regulations.

Sanctions Imposed in Terms of Time & Effect of Sanction Coinciding with Non-playing Period

- 13.7 Where a suspension is to be imposed in terms of a period of time, and some or all of the suspension coincides with any Non-playing Period(s), then such Non-playing Period(s) shall not be counted towards the satisfaction of that suspension.

- 13.8 Subject to clauses 13.9 and 13.10, a Non-playing Period in relation to a Club means any time period between a Club's final Match in a League Competition and the Club's next Match:

- (a) in the following season of that Competition; or
- (b) in another League Competition,

(whichever comes first). If the Participant is also participating in a form of football other than eleven-a-side football (such as futsal or social football), a Judicial Body may determine that the Participant may participate for a team in such other form of football during the Non-playing Period.

- 13.9 Where a Club's final Match in a League Competition (Competition A) coincides with a period when that Club is still participating in another League Competition (Competition B), any time period between that Club's final Match in Competition A and the Club's next Match in Competition B does not constitute a Non-playing Period.

- 13.10 Where a Participant serves a suspension in a Competition which only comprises knock-out Matches (***Knock-out Cup***) during a Non-playing Period, a period of ten (10) days prior to that Knock-out Cup Match to the day of that Knock-out Cup Match will be counted towards satisfaction of that Participant's suspension provided that, for the avoidance of doubt:

- (a) any of those days which overlap with a period during a League Competition in which that Club is participating (Competition B) (i.e. after that Club's first Match in Competition B but before that Club's final Match in Competition B) shall not be counted towards the satisfaction of that Participant's suspension; and
- (b) any of those days which overlap with another ten (10) day period in respect of another Knock-out Cup Match shall not be counted towards the satisfaction of that Participant's suspension.

- 13.11 By way of illustration of clauses 13.7 and 13.8 only, if:

- (a) a Competition Administrator, applying the Range at the Table of Offences determines a six (6) month suspension is warranted for a Participant and such sanction is delivered on 1 June;
- (b) that sanction is delivered while the Club is participating in the regular season of a League Competition (Competition A) and that Participant's Club's final Match in that Competition is on 31 October; and
- (c) that Participant's Club's next official match is in another League Competition (Competition B) on 1 March,

then the period between 1 November and 28 February is a Non-playing Period and accordingly, in accordance with clauses 13.7 and 13.8, the period between 1 November and 28 February shall not be counted towards the satisfaction of that Participant's suspension.

13.12 By way of illustration of clause 13.9 only, if:

- (a) a suspended Participant's Club's final Match in a Competition (Competition A) is on 1 October and that final Match is during another Competition (Competition B) (i.e. after that Club's first Match in Competition B but before that Club's final Match in Competition B); and
- (b) that Club's next official Match is on 10 October in Competition B,

then the period between 2 October and 9 October does not constitute a Non-playing Period.

13.13 By way of illustration of clause 13.10 only, if:

- (a) a suspended Participant's Club's final Match in a League Competition (Competition A) is on 31 August; and
- (b) that Club's next official Matches are in a Knock-out Cup on 15 September and 15 October,

then:

- (c) the periods from 1 September to 5 September and 16 September to 5 October will be Non-playing Periods and will not be counted towards the satisfaction of the Participant's suspension; and
- (d) the periods from 6 September to 15 September and 6 October to 15 October will be counted towards the satisfaction of a Participant's suspension.

14. EFFECT OF ABANDONED MATCHES

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

14.2 A yellow card issued during an abandoned Match will be annulled if that Match is replayed and upheld if that Match is not replayed.

14.3 A direct red card issued during an abandoned Match will be upheld, regardless of whether the Match is replayed or not.

15. ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS

In accordance with the Laws of the Game, the use of electronic communication systems between Participants during a Match is prohibited. A Competition Administrator may sanction a Club whose Participants use electronic communication systems during a Match.

16. COMPETITION RULES

Subject to clause 1.5, if there is any inconsistency between a term of these Regulations and a term of any Competition Rules, the term of these Regulations will govern to the extent of that inconsistency and the inconsistent term is void and of no effect.

17. PROVISIONS FOR TOURNAMENTS

These Regulations apply equally to Competitions that are staged as tournaments (such as national or state championships) except that the Competition Rules may specify:

- (a) procedures to ensure all hearings are heard on an urgent basis given the structure of a tournament; and
- (b) the appointment of ad hoc arbitrators who are present at the tournament.

18. DEFINITIONS AND INTERPRETATION

18.1 In these Regulations:

A-League means the senior men's national competition staged in Australia and New Zealand by FFA, known as the Hyundai A-League competition or such other name as notified by FFA from time to time and includes any pre-season, regular season and finals matches.

A-League Disciplinary Regulations means the rules and procedures that apply to the conduct of the A-League and in particular the prosecution of disciplinary matters arising during matches in the A-League including breaches of the Laws of the Game.

Club means any club registered with FFA in accordance with the National Registration Regulations from time to time. A reference to Club includes a club admitted by:

- (a) a Competition Administrator to field a team in a Competition; or
- (b) FFA to field a team in a National League or a National Championships.

Competition means any competition, cup, tournament or league conducted by FFA, or by the Competition Administrator and registered with FFA in accordance with the National Registration Regulations, including a League Competition, a Knock-out Cup, any pre-season competition and finals series and age specific championships but excluding a Friendly.

Competition Administrator means the entity responsible for the conduct and staging of a Competition.

Competition Rules mean the rules and regulations governing the administration and conduct of a Competition.

Disciplinary Committee means the disciplinary committee constituted in accordance with the Grievance Resolution Regulations that has jurisdiction over a Competition.

Disciplinary Hearing Notice means the notice issued by a Competition Administrator to a Participant citing him or her to appear before a Disciplinary Committee to be heard in relation to an alleged Offence and possible disciplinary sanction, which contains the content as prescribed in Prescribed Form 03.

Disciplinary Infringement Notice means the notice issued by a Competition Administrator to a Participant notifying of the disciplinary sanction imposed for the Offence committed by that Participant, which contains the content as prescribed in Prescribed Form 02.

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 on the Participant. Without limitation, the following are not Exceptional Circumstances:

- (a) the significance or importance to the Participant or his Club of the Match in which the Offence was committed;
- (b) 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 at the Table of Offences;
- (c) the point in the Match at which the Offence was committed;
- (d) the conduct, including actions, words or gestures of any Participant of the opposing team during or related to the Match; and
- (e) any disciplinary decision taken or failure to take a disciplinary decision by a Match Official during the Match.

FFA Statutes means FFA's statutes as promulgated by FFA from time to time, including its constitution and by-laws and rules and regulations and policies and procedures.

Friendly means any match participated in by a Club as sanctioned by FFA or a Member Federation, which is not part of a Competition.

Grievance means any dispute or grievance that arises in relation to the FFA Statutes, including a dispute about the infringement, enforcement or subject matter of these National Disciplinary Regulations.

Grievance Resolution Regulations means the national procedure that applies exclusively to facilitate the expeditious and fair resolution of a Grievance, as promulgated by FFA from time to time (a current version of which can be obtained on www.footballaustralia.com.au or on request).

Infringement has the definition contained at clause 2.5.

Knock-out Cup has the meaning given in clause 13.10.

Laws of the Game means the official Laws of the Game and the Futsal Laws of the Game as promulgated by FIFA from time to time.

League Competition means a Competition that is not a Knock-out Cup.

Match means any match played in Australia under the auspices of FFA, a Member Federation or a Competition Administrator or otherwise played under FFA's direction or control.

Match Official means a referee, assistant referee, fourth official, match commissioner, referee inspector, selector, any person in charge of safety or any other person appointed by FFA, a Member Federation or a Competition Administrator to assume responsibility in connection with a Match.

Non-playing Period has the meaning given in clause 13.8.

Offence means:

- (a) an offence listed in the Table of Offences at paragraph 6 of Annexure A;
- (b) an indirect red card.

Participant means a Player or a Team Official.

Player means any person who is, from time to time, registered to a Club or is selected as a member of a National Team, whether that person is male or female, junior or senior or an amateur or professional. For the avoidance of doubt, a reference to a Player during a Match includes a substitute and a substituted player.

Professional means a Player employed by a Club to play football under a professional player contract in accordance with the FFA Statutes.

Range (at the Table of Offences) means, in relation to each Offence, the range bounded by the minimum sanction prescribed in the Table of Offences and the maximum prescribed at Annexure A.

Referee means the referee appointed by the Competition Administrator or who is otherwise approved in accordance with article 13 of the National Registration Regulations (Match Official) to assume responsibility in connection with a Match.

Referee's Report means the report to be completed by a Referee at the end of each Match and submitted to the Competition Administrator, which contains the content as prescribed in Prescribed Form 01.

Table of Offences means the various offences that can be committed by a Participant contained at Annexure A.

Team means the team within a Club to which a Participant is usually a member of.

Team Official means any personnel involved with the management, preparation or participation of a Team or Club (whether paid or unpaid), including the coaches, managers, medical staff (including team or match doctor), physiotherapists, gear persons and other support staff.

Total Payments means the gross salary (including superannuation but not match bonuses) a Player is entitled to receive under his employment contract with the Club for the period corresponding to the period when he is subject to suspension.

18.2 In these Regulations:

- (a) any term used but not defined has the meaning given to it in the FFA Statutes;
- (b) any use of the word 'includes' or words such as 'for example' or 'such' do not limit anything else that is included in general speech; and
- (c) all notices must be in writing and in English.

18.3 These Regulations will be interpreted, varied and reviewed in accordance with Part IX of the FFA Statutes.

ANNEXURE A - TABLE OF OFFENCES

1. This Annexure specifies the Offences sanctionable in accordance with these Regulations and the Range of sanctions that applies to each of these Offences. In respect of Players, the Table in Column 1 also references the relevant sending-off offences R1 to R7 under the Laws of the Game.
2. A Participant who has committed an Offence must receive a sanction within the Range at the Table of Offences.
3. Subject to clause 5.4 (**Exceptional Circumstances**) the Range for each Offence is bounded at one end by the minimum sanction set out in the Table of Offences that must be applied and at the other end by the maximum sanction that may be applied.
4. Subject to clause 5.4 (**Exceptional Circumstances**), the maximum sanction that may be applied for each Offence is suspension for a period of 24 months, except for Offence No. 11 (**Assault of a match official**) where the maximum sanction is suspension for life.
5. A Participant who commits an Offence is subject to the minimum sanction set out below in relation to each Offence. In respect of Offences 4, 6, 7, 8, 10, 11 and 12, the minimum sanction is a combination of the mandatory match suspension applicable in accordance with these Regulations and an additional match or matches suspension as specified in the Table of Offences. For example, where a Player receives his second direct red card in the regular season and under Competition Rules attracts a two (2) match mandatory match suspension:
 - a) for committing Offence No. 2 of the Table of Offences, he must receive at least the applicable mandatory match suspension of two (2) matches and any additional match suspension appropriate in the circumstances up to a total sanction of 24 months;
 - b) for committing Offence No. 4 of the Table of Offences, he must receive at least the applicable mandatory match suspension of two (2) matches plus the additional match suspension (which must be a minimum of one (1) additional match) appropriate in the circumstances up to a total sanction of 24 months.

6. TABLE OF OFFENCES

Offence No.	Offence	Minimum Sanction
1 (R4 or R5 for Players)	Denying the opposing team an obvious goal-scoring opportunity	The Mandatory Match Suspension
2 (R6 for Players)	Use of offensive, insulting or abusive language and/or gestures	The Mandatory Match Suspension
3 (R1 for Players)	Serious Foul Play (e.g. when challenging for the ball)	The Mandatory Match Suspension
4 (R2 for Players)	Assault on a Player (e.g. violent conduct when not challenging for the ball)	1 additional match plus the Mandatory Match Suspension
5 (R6 for Players)	Serious Unsporting Conduct	The Mandatory Match Suspension
6 (R6 for Players)	Use of discriminatory language and/or gestures, including racist, religious, ethnic or sexist	4 additional matches plus the Mandatory Match Suspension
7 (R3 for Players)	Spitting at a player	5 additional matches plus the Mandatory Match Suspension
8 (R2 or R6 for Players)	Inciting a brawl	5 additional matches plus the Mandatory Match Suspension
	Specific Offences Against a Match Official	
9 (R6 for Players)	Use of offensive, insulting or abusive language and/or gestures against a match official	The Mandatory Match Suspension
10 (R6 for Players)	Unsporting conduct toward a match official	3 additional matches plus the Mandatory Match Suspension
11 (R2 for Players)	Assault of a match official	6 months including the Mandatory Match Suspension
12 (R3 for Players)	Spitting at a match official	12 months Including the Mandatory Match Suspension

ANNEXURE B - NDR PRESCRIBED FORM 01: REFEREE REPORT

ANNEXURE C - NDR PRESCRIBED FORM 02: DISCIPLINARY INFRINGEMENT NOTICE

ANNEXURE D - NDR PRESCRIBED FORM 03: DISCIPLINARY HEARING NOTICE