

QUEENSLAND MASTERS FOOTBALL

Disciplinary Policy 2017

March 2017

1. DEFINITION OF PENALTIES

Penalties fall into two categories:

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

2. CAUTIONABLE OFFENCES

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

One Blue Card means that the player spends 10 minutes in the “sin bin” (sidelined), with a replacement player permitted to take the field

Two Blue Cards (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.** A Send-off Report is required for the accumulation of 2 Blue Cards for the same player in the same game, as a mandatory one match suspension applies.

3. RED CARD OFFENCES (Direct Send-offs)

- (a) A player, substitute or substituted player is sent off and shown the red card if they commit any of the following seven offences:

R1 is guilty of serious foul play

R2 is guilty of violent conduct

R3 spits at an opponent or any other person

R4 denies the opposing team a goal or an obvious goalscoring opportunity by deliberately handling the ball (this does not apply to a goalkeeper within his own penalty area)

R5 denies an obvious goalscoring 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 Blue Card in the same match

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

- (c) 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 an additional disciplinary sanction depending on the offence.

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

OFFENCE	GRADE	MANDATORY MATCH SUSPENSION (Non-appealable)	ADDITIONAL DISCIPLINARY SANCTION (appealable)	TOTAL (STANDARD) SUSPENSION
R1		1 match	1 match	2 matches
R2	Grade 1	1 match	1 match	2 matches
	Grade 2	2 matches	1 match	3 matches
	Grade 3	2 matches	3 matches	5 matches
	Grade 4	2 matches	+ Committee Review	2 matches + Committee Review
R3	Grade 1	2 matches	5 matches	7 matches
	Grade 2	2 matches	+ Committee Review	2 matches + Committee Review
R4		1 match		1 match
R5		1 match		1 match
R6	Grade 1	1 match	1 match	2 matches
	Grade 2	2 matches	4 matches	6 matches
	Grade 3	2 matches	1 match	3 matches
R7		1 match	-	1 match

GRADING OF OFFENCES

R2	Grade 1	Pushing with no punches thrown
	Grade 2	Striking, kicking, elbowing or head-butting (including attempting these offences)
	Grade 3	Intends to cause significant bodily harm to any person, involvement in a brawl
	Grade 4	Against a match official
R3	Grade 1	At a player or other person
	Grade 2	At a match official
R6	Grade 1	Against a player or other person
	Grade 2	Discriminatory language
	Grade 3	Against a match official

- (e) Any player who uses offensive, insulting or abusive language and/or gestures towards any match official after being sent off will incur **at least an additional one (1) match suspension.**
- (f) Any player who fails to leave the field of play and the technical area and return to the dressing room after being sent off will incur **at least an additional one (1) match suspension.**
- (g) If a referee omits to show the appropriate card when taking action against the player, this does not nullify the sending off offence.

4. SUSPENSIONS

- (a)** A match suspension means a ban from taking part in a match, either as a player, a team official or a match official, or to attend it in the area immediately surrounding the field of play.
- (b)** A suspension can either be for a number of matches or for a specified period. If the suspension is for a number of matches, the number of matches specified in the suspension relate to the division of the competition in which the player or official incurred the suspension. Therefore a player or official under suspension is not allowed to play or be involved in that or any other division, until the day after the team in which they were playing in or involved in when they incurred the suspension has played the relevant number of matches for which they were suspended.
- (c)** Any match suspensions incurred by players or team officials in any QMF competition shall be served consecutively, until such time as those suspensions are completed. If, at the conclusion of the competition season, a player or team official was still under suspension, then that suspension will carry over and shall be served in the next fixture(s) that player or team official would normally be eligible to play in or be involved in.

5. EFFECT OF ABANDONED/CANCELLED/FORFEITED MATCHES

- (a)** Only those matches actually played count towards the execution of a suspension. If a match is abandoned, cancelled or forfeited (this does not include postponed matches), a suspension is only considered to be served if the team to which the suspended player or official belongs is not responsible for the facts that led to the abandonment, cancellation or forfeiture.
- (b)** A direct red card issued during an abandoned match will be upheld, regardless of whether the match is replayed or not.

6. EFFECT OF A TEAM WITHDRAWING FROM FIXTURES

- (a)** Any red cards incurred in fixtures that were played prior to the team's withdrawal will stand.
- (b)** If the team is withdrawn during the first round, then the remaining fixtures in that round will be classed as "cancelled" and 5 (a) above will apply, while the fixtures in any subsequent round will not be classed as "cancelled".
- (c)** If the team is withdrawn during the second round, then the remaining fixtures in that round will be classed as "cancelled" and 5 (a) above will apply, while the fixtures in any subsequent round will not be classed as "cancelled"

7. 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 in a Disciplinary Infringement Notice by notifying Qld Masters Football **within 7 days of the date on which the Disciplinary Infringement Notice 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) The Committee will review the submitted documentation to assess whether the appeal has sufficient grounds to be heard. Documents supporting the charge, appeal conditions and notification of the date & time of the hearing will be forwarded to all parties as soon as the appeal is scheduled.
- (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 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, the Committee has the power to overturn, confirm, increase or decrease the Additional Disciplinary Sanction against which an appeal is made.
- (g) A party may appeal the decision of the Committee by notifying Qld Masters Football **within 7 days of the date on which the decision of the Committee was received** - such appeal must be in writing, and signed by the player/official and team representative. **It must include all documentation relevant to the appeal.**
- (h) An appeal against a decision of the Committee will not be allowed unless the person seeking to appeal satisfies Qld Masters 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 Committee is excessive and/or not in accordance with the provisions of this policy
 - (iii) that the Committee failed to follow procedures or requirements of this policy to the significant detriment of the person seeking to appeal.

**QUEENSLAND MASTERS FOOTBALL
APPEAL AGAINST ADDITIONAL DISCIPLINARY SANCTION**

DATE	_____ / _____ / _____
PLAYER'S NAME	
CLUB	
DATE OF MATCH	_____ / _____ / _____
DIVISION/GRADE	
MATCH	_____ v _____
OFFENCE (eg R6 Grade 3)	R ____ Grade _____

ATTACHMENTS:	
PLAYER STATEMENT	MUST BE ATTACHED
WITNESS STATEMENT(S)	YES/NO
OTHER STATEMENT(S)	YES/NO

PLAYER'S SIGNATURE	
TEAM OFFICIAL SIGNATURE	
TEAM OFFICIAL NAME (printed)	

An appeal against an **Additional Disciplinary Sanction** imposed in a Disciplinary Infringement Notice must be submitted **within 7 days of the date on which the Disciplinary Infringement Notice was received** and **it MUST include all documentation relevant to the appeal** (player's statement and any witness or other statements).

The Committee will review the submitted documentation to assess whether the appeal has sufficient grounds to be heard. Documents supporting the charge, appeal conditions and notification of the date and time of the hearing will be forwarded to all parties as soon as an appeal is scheduled.