



3.3.08

## **DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES FOR SEND OFFS**

### **REVISED PROCEDURES AND APPLICATION OF PENALTIES FOR 2008**

The Disciplinary Procedures applying to “send offs” (red cards) have been revised for the 2008 season. The FFA recommendations covering send offs and appropriate penalties have been adopted and appear in the attached Chart headed “Recommended Range of Suspensions for Send offs”.

The Chart is based on the seven (7) send off Codes, R1 to R7, adopted by FFA and the definitions shown for each Code. The range of suspensions is generally in accordance with the FFA guidelines.

Referees will be applying the FFA codes for all send offs.

To assist Club Officials and Team Managers to understand the revised procedures, the changes are briefly listed below but this paper should be read in conjunction with the complete By Law A. included in the 2008 Rule Book.

The important changes can be summarised as follows:

1. In all cases the word “Judiciary” has been replaced by “Disciplinary” in accordance with the principal purpose of the penalties imposed and in line with procedures followed by the majority of other football organisations.
2. A new disciplinary sub-committee has been formed to be known as the “Disciplinary Panel” comprising the two (2) Association Vice Presidents, John Jones and Rob Rivett, and a standby member of the Executive as required, generally Barry Jones – (By Law A.1)
3. In the first instance ALL referees send off reports will be considered by the Disciplinary Panel – (By Law A. 4.1 (a) )
4. The send off reports will quote the FFA code for the send off in accordance with the FFA chart for send off offences – (By Law A. 6.2)
5. Based on the referee’s report the Panel will determine the “Level” of the offence committed by the player. A referee may indicate the Level for the offence but the panel will, in all cases, decide the appropriate “Level” based entirely on the wording of the report. The Levels under R1 to R7 are shown on the chart in By Law A. 6.2.





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6. Based on the Level of offence, the Panel will impose a penalty of from two (2) to six (6) matches on the player – (By Law A. 4.3 (b) (i) ).
7. If the Panel determines that the offence merits a suspension in excess of six (6) matches the matter will be referred to a Disciplinary Committee for determination – (By Law A. 4.3 (b) (ii) ).
8. The Panel may cite or request persons to appear before the Committee for the hearing – (By Law A. 4.3 (b) (iii) ).
9. Following the Panel’s decision to impose a suspension, the player may:
  - (i) Challenge the Panel’s decision by requesting a Disciplinary Committee hearing by advising the Association in writing or by email by 3.00 pm Thursday of the same week. A player challenging a Panel decision retains the right to appeal the D.C. decision – (By Law A. 4.4 (i) to (iv)

Or

  - (ii) Accepting the penalty (suspension) imposed by the Panel - (By Law A. 4.4 (b) (i) to (iii) ).
10. Mandatory one (1) match suspensions applying to R4, R5 and R7 send offs cannot be challenged or reduced except on the basis of mistaken identity - (By Law A. 4.8)
11. If a player does NOT challenge the Panel’s decision, the penalty imposed will automatically be reduced by one match, but the player loses the right of appeal – (By Law A. 4.4 (b) (i) to (iii) ).
12. The “Recommended Range of Suspensions for Send Offs” Chart in By Law A. 6.2 and the descriptions and definitions shown under R1 to R7, the FFA send off Codes, will be used in all cases to determine appropriate penalties.

Only in exceptional circumstances will the Disciplinary Panel or Committee make decisions contrary to the Chart’s recommendations.
13. The appeals procedures for decisions of the Disciplinary Committee are unchanged from 2007.

JOHN JONES  
D. C. CHAIRMAN AND D.C. PANEL

BOB RIVETT  
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