

OVER 35's FOOTBALL

Disciplinary Policy 2016



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:

- **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.

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 six 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
- 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 – P5
- uses offensive or insulting or abusive language and/or gestures – P6

(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 additional disciplinary sanctions depending on the offence.

OFFENCE	GRADE	MANDATORY MATCH SUSPENSION (Non-appealable)	ADDITIONAL DISCIPLINARY SANCTION (appealable)	TOTAL (STANDARD) SUSPENSION
P1		1 match	1 match	2 matches
P2	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
P3	Grade 1	2 matches	5 matches	7 matches
	Grade 2	2 matches	+ Committee Review	2 matches + Committee Review
P4		1 match		1 match
P5		1 match		1 match
P6	Grade 1	1 match	1 match	2 matches
	Grade 2	2 matches	4 matches	6 matches
	Grade 3	2 matches	1 match	3 matches

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

GRADING OF OFFENCES

- | | | |
|----|---------|---|
| | Grade 1 | Pushing with no punches thrown |
| | Grade 2 | Striking, kicking, elbowing or head-butting (including attempting these offences) |
| R2 | Grade 3 | Intends to cause significant bodily harm to any person, involvement in a brawl |
| | Grade 4 | Against a match official |
| P3 | Grade 1 | At a player or other person |
| | Grade 2 | At a match official |
| P6 | 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. 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 Over 35's 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 Over 35's 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 Over 35's 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.

OVER 35's APPEAL AGAINST ADDITIONAL DISCIPLINARY SANCTION

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

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.