



FOOTBALL  
**ST GEORGE**

# DISCIPLINARY REGULATIONS

St George Football Association trading as  
Football St George (“Association”)

**#WEARESTGEORGE**

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# PART 1– ADMINISTRATION

## 1 INTRODUCTION

- (a) These Disciplinary Regulations (“the Regulations”) are made under the St George Football Association Incorporated trading as Football St George (“FSG”) Constitution. The FSG Board has the power under the FSG Constitution to amend, delete or add to these Regulations from time to time.
- (b) Football NSW (“FNSW”) has granted FSG a mandate to be responsible for the organisation, promotion, and regulation of football (including futsal) in the Region.
- (c) These Regulations are supplementary to the Football Australia (“FA”) and FNSW Statutes, including but not limited to, the National Disciplinary Regulations, the National Grievance Resolution Regulations, the FA Grievance Procedure By-Laws, the FNSW Grievance and Disciplinary Regulations, the FNSW By-Laws, and the FSG By-Laws.
- (d) For the purposes of these Regulations, a reference to FA in the FA Code of Conduct and the FA Spectator Code of Behaviour will also be a reference to FSG.
- (e) Where an incident may constitute a breach of these Regulations and a breach of the FA Rules and Regulations (for example, the FA Code of Conduct or the FA National Member Protection Framework), FSG may in its absolute discretion determine the appropriate governing document under which to investigate, process, and penalise (if necessary) any matter.
- (f) FSG reserves the right to deal with any Member in respect of any offences, complaints or concerns and other matters not specifically provided for in these Regulations, including, but not limited to taking steps, at FSG’s absolute discretion, to ensure safety as far as reasonably practicable.
- (g) In the case of a Regulation being interpreted in two or more different ways, FSG reserves the right to determine which interpretation is valid. Any such determination is final and not subject to appeal.
- (h) FSG may choose to not enforce a term of these Regulations in some cases, in its absolute discretion, without affecting its right to enforce that term in other cases.
- (i) If any part of these Regulations is void that part will be severable and will not affect the enforceability of the remaining sections of these Regulations.
- (j) In these Regulations, unless the context requires otherwise, capitalised terms will have the meaning set out in Schedule B: Definitions.
- (k) Headings and examples are for convenience only and do not affect interpretation.
- (l) In these Regulations:
  - (i) any use of the words “includes” or words such as “for example” or “such as” do not limit anything else that is included in general speech;
  - (ii) “working day” means a day when the offices of FSG are ordinarily open for business;
  - (iii) any reference to “\$” or “dollars” is to Australian dollars;
  - (iv) a reference to a singular includes the plural and vice versa; and
  - (v) a reference to any document is to that document as amended, supplemented, varied, or replaced from time to time except to the extent expressly prohibited by that document or these Regulations.
- (m) The Schedules form part of these Regulations.

## 2 OBJECTIVES

- (a) To ensure that the game of football is played in accordance with the Laws of the Game, the FSG Constitution, these Regulations and any other FSG rules and Regulations.
- (b) To ensure that the game of football is played competitively and fairly.
- (c) To provide an independent, fair, and effective system that sets out procedures for the administration and determination of all incidents, disciplinary, dispute, and conduct matters involving Members and Participants.
- (d) To ensure consistency and transparency of approach are evident and present in all aspects of handling all incidents, disciplinary, dispute, and conduct matters involving Members and Participants under these Regulations.

## 3 AUTHORITIES AND JURISDICTION

- (a) These Regulations will apply exclusively to facilitate the expeditious and fair resolution of:
  - (i) incidents, disciplinary, dispute, and conduct matters in relation to Competitions;
  - (ii) disciplinary matters in relation to any Competitions conducted by FSG including Winter and Summer Football Competitions;
  - (iii) appeals against disciplinary decisions in relation to any Competitions conducted by FSG; and
  - (iv) any matter the FSG Board or FSG Executive determines, in its absolute discretion, is important to the interests of football in the Region.
- (b) The Referee, Competition Administrator, Disciplinary Committee, and Appeals Committee have the authority given to them in the FA National Disciplinary Regulations.
- (c) For the purpose of these Regulations, the competition administrator is the FSG Executive.
- (d) Each Member, Participant, and Club submits exclusively to the jurisdiction of these Regulations and agrees that until it has exhausted the procedures set out in these Regulations, it will not attempt to resolve any incidents, disciplinary, dispute, and conduct matters by recourse to FNSW or a court of law, or any other government or regulatory authority or body.

## 4 ZERO TOLERANCE POLICY

FSG endorses a Zero Tolerance Policy in relation to violence, intimidation, and unsporting behaviour.

- (a) Clubs will be held responsible for the behaviour of their Players, Club Officials, and Spectators, including where;
  - (i) a member of a Team and/or associated Team and/or associated Club Official is found guilty of physical assault upon a Match Official; or
  - (ii) a member of a Team and/or associated Team and/or associated Team Official is found guilty of violence or unsporting behaviour or of bringing the game into disrepute, regardless of whether the game has been abandoned, or whether such behaviour is before, during, or after the game;
- (b) Members of a Team and/or Teams and/or Team Officials found guilty of more than one offence under the Zero Tolerance Policy in the same calendar year will be withdrawn from the competition for a period to be determined by the FSG Board or Executive.

- (c) Participants found guilty of submitting inaccurate, false, misleading, or vexatious reports to FSG will be subject to disciplinary action.
- (d) For any Team playing in a squad competition found guilty of an offence within the Zero Tolerance Policy, the punishment applicable to that Team will also be applicable to the other Team in the squad.
- (e) Clubs or Teams found guilty of unsporting behaviour, disobeying a directive of the Association, or Disciplinary or Appeals Committee, or of bringing the game into disrepute may be withdrawn from the competition for a period to be determined by the FSG Board and / or be relegated for the following season.

## 5 LAWS OF THE GAME

- (a) 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 FSG in accordance with any guidelines issued by FNSW or the FA from time to time.
- (b) A Referee, from the time of entering the field of play for a pre-match inspection for a Match until leaving the field of play after the Match ends (including kicks from the penalty mark), may take the following disciplinary action:
  - (i) in the case of a Player or Team Official, issue a Yellow Card (caution) in accordance with the Laws of the Game;
  - (ii) in the case of a Player or Team Official, issue a Red Card (expulsion) in accordance with the Laws of the Game;
- (c) Any Yellow Card or Red Card issued during a Match must be identified by the Referee on the Referee's Report for that Match, including the name and number of the Player or Team Official, the type of infringement by reference to the codes in Part 2 Clause 2 and 3, and the time that the infringement occurred in the Match.

# PART 2 – DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS

## 1 MATCH OFFICIAL REPORTS

- (a) In order to ensure the FSG Executive provides an efficient service to Members and Participants under these Regulations, Match Officials must submit their Match Official Reports to the FSG Executive as soon as possible, but no later than twenty-four (24) hours after the completion of the relevant Match. No Determination of the FSG Executive or a Judicial Body will be quashed or held invalid by reason only of the failure of any Match Official(s) to comply with this Part 2 Clause 1.
- (b) Failure to comply with the requirement set out in this Part 2 Clause 1 may result in the Match Official being demoted or suspended for one (1) or more Matches, in the absolute discretion of the FSG Executive, and in consultation with the St George football Referees Association (“SGFRA”)
- (c) Match Official Reports must set out the following:
  - (i) any Red Card Offences and/or Expulsion Offences issued during the Match including the categorisation of Offences (set out in a Match Official Send-Off/Expulsion Report); and
  - (ii) any serious incidents which took place (set out in a Match Official Incident Report);
- (d) Match Official Incident Reports should include details concerning any misbehaviour on the part of Spectators, Team Officials and Club Officials.
- (e) For the avoidance of doubt, the FSG Executive and a Judicial Body are not bound by the categorisation of any Offence by a Match Official.
- (f) In order to ensure the FSG Executive provides a fair and transparent system to Members and Participants under these Regulations and to assist the Judicial Bodies in arriving at their decisions, in completing Match Official Reports, Match Officials must:
  - (i) other than to verify Player or Team Official identity, complete their Match Official Report independent of any other Match Officials involved in the Match and of any potential witnesses;
  - (ii) as far as reasonably possible, clearly state what they actually saw and/or heard in relation to the incident(s) and clearly distinguish that from what others told them occurred;
  - (iii) as far as reasonably possible, in respect of words spoken by a Participant, record those in the first person using the words actually spoken; and
  - (iv) as far as reasonably possible, state how they identified the Participant.
- (g) A Match Official may seek assistance from a member of a Referees Body in completing a Match Official Report provided that member was not a Match Official involved in the Match and is not otherwise a witness to the incident(s) the subject of the Match Official Report.
- (h) The FSG Executive may, within a reasonable period of time following receipt of any Match Official Send-Off/Expulsion Report and/or Match Official Incident Report, provide a copy of same to the Participant’s Club (or to the Club, if the Offence was allegedly committed by a Club). The purpose of doing so is to:
  - (i) require the Club to submit to the FSG Executive the details of any Participant (including full name and FA ID number) referred to but not identified in the Match Official Report, to the extent that the Club is reasonably able to do so.



- (ii) where the Club believes that the person identified in the Match Official Incident Report is not the offender, provide the Club with the opportunity to advise the FSG Executive the details of the Participant.
- (iii) require the Club to provide any information requested by the FSG Executive in relation to an investigation.
- (i) Any Club in receipt of a Match Official Incident Report must provide any information requested or advise the details of the offender, as the case may be, to the FSG Executive by 4.00 pm on the next working day after issuance of the Match Official Incident Report to the Club by the FSG Executive, or such later time as notified by the FSG Executive.
- (j) Any Club that fails to comply will be deemed to have committed Misconduct and the FSG Executive may, in its absolute discretion, take any relevant action against the Club.

## 2 YELLOW CARDS:

- (a) A 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.

### 2.1 YELLOW CARD OFFENCES – PLAYERS

- (a) A Yellow Card is issued by the Referee for the following cautionable offences:

<b>Minor Infringements – Yellow Card (Caution) Codes</b>	
<b>Y1</b>	unsporting behaviour
<b>Y2</b>	dissent by word or action
<b>Y3</b>	persistent infringements of the Laws of the Game
<b>Y4</b>	delaying the restart of play
<b>Y5</b>	failure to respect the required distance when play is restarted with a corner kick, free kick, or throw-in
<b>Y6</b>	entering, re-entering or deliberately leaving the field of play without the Referee's permission

### 2.2 YELLOW CARD OFFENCES –TEAM OFFICIALS

- (a) A Yellow Card is issued by the Referee for the following cautionable offences:

<b>Minor Infringements – Yellow Card (Caution) Codes</b>	
<b>TO-Y1</b>	unsporting behaviour
<b>TO-Y2</b>	dissent by word or action
<b>TO-Y3</b>	persistent gesturing for a yellow or red card
<b>TO-Y4</b>	delaying the restart of play
<b>TO-Y5</b>	Entering the field of play
<b>TO-Y6</b>	Showing a lack of respect for the game

### 2.3 ACCUMULATION OF YELLOW CARDS – PREMIERSHIP

- (a) A Player or Team Official who accumulates three (3) Yellow Cards in the Premiership, irrespective of the age-grade in which they are received, must serve a Mandatory Match Suspension of one (1) Match. That Mandatory Match Suspension must be served immediately and, in the age and division in which the third (3<sup>rd</sup>) Yellow Card was received.
- (b) A Player or Team Official who accumulates an additional three (3) Yellow Cards (in total six (6) Yellow Cards) in the Premiership, irrespective of the age-grade in which they are received, must serve a Mandatory Match Suspension of two (2) Matches. That Mandatory Match Suspension must be served immediately and in the age and division in which the sixth (6<sup>th</sup>) Yellow Card was received.
- (c) Yellow Cards received during a Premiership Season that do not result in a Mandatory Match Suspension do not carry over into the Championship, Cup, the next Premiership Season, any Tournaments or any other matches or competitions. Mandatory Match Suspensions incurred as a result of the accumulation of Yellow Cards will not, however, be cancelled.
- (d) When a Player or Team Official is dismissed from the field upon being cautioned for a second yellow card offence, the yellow cards issued during that game shall not be taken into account for the purpose of the accumulation of cautions.

### 2.4 ACCUMULATION OF YELLOW CARDS – CHAMPIONSHIP

- (a) A Player or Team Official who accumulates two (2) Yellow Cards in the Championship, irrespective of the age-grade in which they are received, must serve a Mandatory Match Suspension of one (1) Match. That Mandatory Match Suspension must be served immediately and, in the age grade in which the second (2<sup>nd</sup>) Yellow Card was received.
- (b) Yellow Cards received during the Championship that do not result in a Mandatory Match Suspension do not carry over into the Championship, Cup, the next Premiership Season, any Tournaments or any other matches or competitions. Mandatory Match Suspensions incurred as a result of the accumulation of Yellow Cards will not, however, be cancelled.
- (c) When a Player or Team Official is dismissed from the field upon being cautioned for a second yellow card offence, the yellow cards issued during that game shall not be taken into account for the purpose of the accumulation of cautions.
- (d) A Temporary Dismissal is considered a Yellow Card for the purpose of accumulating Yellow Cards.

## 3 RED CARDS

- (a) A Red Card is issued for a serious infringement of the Laws of the Game and is the order given by the Referee to a Player (including a substitute) or Team Official to leave the vicinity of the field of play and the Technical Area, including the substitutes' bench, during a Match.

### 3.1 RED CARD OFFENCES – PLAYERS

(a) A Red Card is issued by the Referee for the following send-off offences:

Serious Infringements – Red Card (Expulsion) Codes	
<b>R1</b>	serious foul play
<b>R2</b>	violent conduct
<b>R3</b>	spitting at an opponent or any other person
<b>R4</b>	denying 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)
<b>R5</b>	otherwise denying a goal or an obvious goal scoring opportunity to an opponent as prescribed by Law 12 of the Laws of the Game
<b>R6</b>	using offensive, insulting, or abusive language and/or gestures
<b>R7</b>	receiving a second caution in the same Match

(b) A Red Card is regarded as a Direct Red Card if it sanctions serious unsporting behaviour (R1 to R6) and an Indirect Red Card (R7) if it is the result of the accumulation of two (2) Yellow Cards in the same Match.

### 3.2 RED CARD OFFENCES – REGISTERED TEAM OFFICIALS

(a) A Red Card is issued by the Referee for the following send-off offences:

Serious Infringements – Red Card (Expulsion) Codes	
<b>TO-R1</b>	serious foul play
<b>TO-R2</b>	violent conduct
<b>TO-R3</b>	spitting at any person
<b>TO-R4</b>	Throwing or kicking an object onto the field or towards the opposition technical area, Registered Team Officials, or substitutes
<b>TO-R5</b>	Entering the field of play during a match (including at half time and full time) without the referee's permission
<b>TO-R6</b>	using offensive, insulting, or abusive language and/or gestures
<b>TO-R7</b>	receiving a second caution in the same Match

### 3.3 ACCUMULATION OF RED CARDS

(a) A Player who accumulates two (2) Red Cards in the same season (Premiership and Championship combined), must serve the suspension issued in respect of the second (2<sup>nd</sup>) Red Card plus a further suspension of one (1) Match. The further suspension cannot be appealed.

(b) A Player who accumulates three (3) Red Cards in the same season (Premiership and Championship combined), must serve the suspension issued in respect of the second (3<sup>rd</sup>) Red Card plus a further suspension of two (2) Matches. The further suspension cannot be appealed.

- (c) The accumulation of three (3) Red Cards in a season will result in the player being charged with Misconduct and referred to the Disciplinary Committee for potential further suspension.

## **4 TEMPORARY DISMISSAL**

### **4.1 TEMPORARY DISMISSAL SYSTEM:**

- (a) The use of Temporary Dismissals (sin bins) for all or some cautions/yellow cards was approved by the International Football Association Board in 2017. A Competition may use one of the following;
  - (i) System A – for all cautions (YCs).
  - (ii) System B – for some but not all cautions (YCs).
- (b) System B is used for FSG Competitions.
- (c) The cautionable offence for which a Temporary Dismissal is applied is dissent during a Match.
- (d) A Player who commits an act of dissent during a Match may be sanctioned by an immediate Temporary Dismissal from participating in the next part of the Match.
- (e) A Player issued a Temporary Dismissal must leave the Field of Play and serve the Temporary Dismissal in the Technical Area occupied by the Player's Team.
- (f) Temporary Dismissals apply to all Players (including goalkeepers) on the Field of Play but not for cautionable offences committed by a substitute or substituted Player. This means a substitute or substituted Player in the Technical Area who is guilty of dissent may be sanctioned with a Yellow Card.
- (g) The Temporary Dismissal period is ten (10) minutes which begins when play restarts after the Player has left the Field of Play.
- (h) Temporary Dismissals will be in effect in the following Competitions:
  - (i) Premier League Men (1 and 2)
  - (ii) Premier League Women
  - (iii) All Age Women
  - (iv) All Age Men
  - (v) Over 30 Women
  - (vi) Over 35 Men
  - (vii) Over 45 Men

### **4.2 TEMPORARY DISMISSAL SUSPENSION**

- (a) A Player who receives a second Temporary Dismissal in the same Match will serve the Temporary Dismissal in that Match and then take no further part in it. The Player will be deemed to have received a Temporary Dismissal Suspension (TDS).
- (b) There is no appeal against a TDS by a Referee.
- (c) A Player who is given a second Temporary Dismissal will receive a mandatory one (1) Match suspension.

## 5 MISTAKEN IDENTITY AND OBVIOUS ERROR

- (a) Where the FSG Executive is satisfied that a Referee:
  - (i) issued in error a Yellow Card and/or Red Card during the Match to a Player instead of to another Player (being the Player who should have received the card as the Player who committed the offence attracting the card); or
  - (ii) Expelled in error a Team Official instead of another Team Official (being the Team Official who should have been Expelled) (Mistaken Identity),the FSG Executive may rectify that error, provided that any process imposed by the FSG Executive in cases of Mistaken Identity has been complied with.
- (b) Where there is sufficient verifiable evidence available, as determined by the FSG Executive in its sole and absolute discretion, that leads the FSG Executive to believe that an Obvious Error may have been made in a Referee's disciplinary decision, then the FSG Executive may refer the incident to a Disciplinary Committee for hearing and determination.

## 6 DISCIPLINARY SANCTIONS

- (a) The FSG Executive or Judicial Body:
  - (i) may impose the types of sanctions as specified in the FA Constitution; and
  - (ii) must determine the scope and duration of each sanction in accordance with the Range at the Table of Offences.
- (b) A Player or Team Official who receives a Red Card must serve at least a one (1) match Mandatory Match Suspension, plus any sanction issued by the Judicial Body or FSG Executive.
- (c) A Player or Team Official must serve a Mandatory Match Suspension for the accumulation of Yellow Cards and Red Cards in accordance with these Regulations.
- (d) A sanction outside of the Range at the Table of Offences may be imposed only in Exceptional Circumstances that must be detailed in the Disciplinary Infringement Notice provided always that the Mandatory Match Suspension must always be served.
- (e) If, in the case of a group of Participants involved in violent conduct, it is not possible to identify the instigators, the FSG Executive or a Judicial Body may sanction the Club to which the aggressors belong.

## 7 SANCTIONS FOR RED CARD OFFENCES

### 7.1 JURISDICTION

- (a) The FSG Executive has jurisdiction to:
  - (i) issue Suspensions in respect of Red Card Offences; and
  - (ii) adjudicate on any challenge to the attribution of a Yellow Card or Red Card on a team sheet or to a Suspension resulting from a Match Official Send-Off/Expulsion Report on the basis of mistaken identity.
  - (iii) determine whether any allegations of Obvious Error by Referees in issuing Red Cards should be referred to the Disciplinary Committee.
  - (iv) Refer matters to the Disciplinary Committee for determination at the FSG Executive's discretion.

## 7.2 INITIAL DETERMINATION

- (a) The FSG Executive must, within a reasonable time following the completion of a Match, review any Match Official Send-Off/Expulsion Report disclosing a Red Card Offence, the Participant's Disciplinary History, and any other material the FSG Executive determines, in its absolute discretion, is relevant to the matter.
- (b) The FSG Executive must determine Suspensions based on the Match Officials Report and by applying the Range at the Table of Offences as set out in Schedule A. For the avoidance of doubt, the FSG Executive must not impose Suspensions below the applicable Minimum Suspension.
- (c) The FSG Executive must, as soon as is practicable, set out any Suspension in a Notice of Suspension and issue same to the Participant's Club. That Club must, as soon as is practicable, advise the Participant of the Suspension and provide the Participant with a copy of the Notice of Suspension.

## 7.3 CHALLENGING A NOTICE OF SUSPENSION ISSUED BY THE FSG EXECUTIVE

- (a) A Participant may challenge the disciplinary sanction imposed by the FSG Executive (and set out in a Notice of Suspension) by lodging with FSG the online Challenge Form within two (2) days of the Club receiving the Notice of Suspension.
- (b) Challenges to a Notice of Suspension issued by the FSG Executive will be heard by the Disciplinary Committee.
- (c) Except in the case of Obvious Error, there is no challenge to a minimum match suspension.
- (d) An Obvious Error for the purpose of these regulations is a decision by a Referee to:
  - (i) Issue a Direct Red Card to a player when no card was warranted; or
  - (ii) Issue a Team Official Red Card to a Team Official when no card was warranted; and
  - (iii) it being a decision that no reasonable referee in the possession of all of the facts could reasonably have made.
- (e) A Participant (or the Participant's Club on the Participant's behalf) may in very limited circumstances seek to limit the disciplinary consequences of a suspension by demonstrating to the Disciplinary Committee that the circumstances of an incident leading to a suspension were exceptional, such that the suspension imposed would be clearly and demonstrably excessive.
- (f) When considering a challenge and determining any appropriate sanction, the DC may consider:
  - (i) the nature and severity of the offence;
  - (ii) the Participant's past record and whether or not it is a repeat offence;
  - (iii) the culpability of the Participant (including whether or not the infringement was intentional, negligent, or reckless);
  - (iv) any reasons prompting the Participant to commit the infringement; and
  - (v) Any extenuating circumstances.
- (g) If the FSG Executive does not receive a properly completed online Challenge Form, and any other evidence by the time specified, the Participant is deemed to have accepted the suspension and to have waived their right to challenge the suspension.
- (h) The Disciplinary Committee may, in its absolute discretion, request additional information from the Participant and/or from their Club prior to making a decision.

- (i) After considering the evidence, the Disciplinary Committee will decide whether the challenge is to be rejected or upheld (in whole or in part).
- (j) If the Disciplinary Committee rejects the challenge, the original decision set out in the Notice of Suspension applies.
- (k) If the Disciplinary Committee upholds the challenge (in whole or in part), it will impose such suspension, if any, as it deems appropriate taking into consideration the circumstances of the subject incident.
- (l) Unless otherwise specified in these Regulations, the imposition of a Suspension in accordance with Part 2 Clause 7 has immediate effect.
- (m) All such Suspensions remain in force unless reversed by a Judicial Body and a Participant must continue to serve any Suspension until the Suspension is served in full.
- (n) Subject to any legal requirements, any Suspension issued in accordance with this Part 2 Clause 7 may be published on the FSG website, the FSG online competition management software system and/or the FNSW and National Online Registration System.

#### 7.4 CLAIMS OF MISTAKEN IDENTITY

- (a) At the end of a Match, the relevant Team Official must confirm with the Referee that the attribution of Yellow Cards and Red Cards are correct.
- (b) If the Team Official believes that a Participant has been mistakenly identified by a Match Official as having received a Yellow Card or Red Card, the Team Official must inform the FSG Executive via their Club in writing no later than 24 hours after completion of the match, by submitting a statement from the Team Coach, player / guardian of the player alleged to have been mistakenly identified, and a statement from the player / guardian of the player who it is believed the sanction should have been attributed to.
- (c) Unless there are exceptional circumstances (to be determined by the FSG Executive in its absolute discretion), if a Team Official has failed to comply with the submission requirement, a Member cannot challenge the attribution of a Yellow Card or Red Card on a team sheet or a Suspension resulting from a Match Official Send-Off/Expulsion Report on the basis of mistaken identity.

## 8 CLUB RESPONSIBILITY FOR RECORDING ACCUMULATION OF YELLOW AND RED CARD OFFENCES

- (a) It is a Club's responsibility to keep accurate records of the Yellow and Red Cards received by its Players and Officials regardless of whether a Player or Official accumulated any Yellow or Red Cards while registered with a previous Club.
- (b) Club's must verify the status of Player's with FSG if they believe the player should be suspended however have not received a notice of suspension from FSG.
- (c) It is a Club's responsibility to ensure that any Participant who has incurred a Match Suspension serves that Match Suspension in full.
- (d) A Club in breach of this section will be deemed to have committed Misconduct and the FSG Executive may, in its absolute discretion, take any relevant action against the Club.

# PART 3 – JUDICIAL BODIES

## 1 AUTHORITY TO ESTABLISH JUDICIAL BODIES

- (a) The authority to establish Judicial Bodies is vested in the FSG Board pursuant to the FSG By-Laws.
- (b) These Regulations confirm the establishment of the following Judicial Bodies:
  - (i) Disciplinary Committee (“DC”); and
  - (ii) Appeals Committee (“AC”).

## 2 APPOINTMENT OF JUDICIAL BODY MEMBERS

- (a) The FSG Board must appoint people to the DC and AC, including;
  - (i) The Chairs of the respective Judicial Bodies; and
  - (ii) The committee members of the Judicial Bodies Panel; and
  - (iii) People to fill casual vacancies on the Judicial Bodies Panel.

## 3 COMPOSITION OF A BODY

- (a) The DC must comprise a minimum of three (3) and a maximum of four (4) members in order to make a valid decision.
- (b) The AC must comprise a minimum of three (3) and a maximum of four (4) Committee members in order to make a valid Determination.
- (c) The DC and the AC members shall not attend to matters involving clubs in which they have an affiliation with at the time.

## 4 QUALIFICATION OF JUDICIAL BODY MEMBERS

- (a) Each member of a Judicial Body must have:
  - (i) the ability to exercise independent judgment; and
  - (ii) the requisite knowledge and/or experience of football, FSG, FNSW, and FA Rules and Regulations appropriate for membership of the relevant Judicial Body.
- (b) The Chairperson(s) of the Appeals Committee must be either:
  - (i) a currently admitted or retired legal practitioner who has practiced continuously in New South Wales for at least five (5) years; or
  - (ii) a current or retired judicial officer of a New South Wales court or tribunal; or
  - (iii) suitably experienced and qualified as determined by the FSG Board.
- (c) Except where the FSG Board otherwise determines, a person must not be appointed to a Judicial Body if that person has served in the previous twelve (12) months as, or is currently:
  - (i) a member of the FSG Board;
  - (ii) a member of the executive committee or board of a Member Club;
  - (iii) a president, vice-president, or secretary of a Member Club.



## **5 TERM OF JUDICIAL BODY MEMBERS**

- (a) A member of a Judicial Body will be appointed for a term of twenty-four (24) months unless any such member resigns or is removed in accordance with these Regulations.

## **6 RESIGNATION AND REMOVAL OF JUDICIAL BODY MEMBERS**

- (a) A member of the Judicial Bodies Panel may resign by providing notice in writing to the FSG Executive.
- (b) The FSG Board may remove a member of the Judicial Bodies Panel; at any time in its absolute discretion.

## **7 CODE OF CONDUCT FOR JUDICIAL BODY MEMBERS**

- (a) Upon appointment by the FSG Board, a member of the Judicial Bodies Panel agrees to be bound by and to comply with the FSG Code of Conduct applicable to members of a Judicial Body.

## **8 CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

- (a) In the event that a member of the Judicial Bodies Panel has a conflict of interest in relation to a particular incident being decided by a Judicial Body, then it is the responsibility of that member to declare the interest in the determination of that incident and shall remove themselves from deliberations relating to that incident.
- (b) The Chair of a Judicial Body may exercise discretion to either allow a Judicial Body member to determine an incident or request that a Judicial Body member remove themselves from deliberations.
- (c) A Judicial Body member must comply with a request to remove themselves from deliberations if made.

## **9 FAILURE TO APPEAR AT A JUDICIAL BODY MEETING**

- (a) Persons who, after being required to attend a Judicial Body meeting, fail to appear at the relevant meeting or who fail to communicate with FSG will remain under compulsory suspension from all football activities until such time as they appear.
- (b) A person may request in writing to have their case heard in their absence.
- (c) A person, who has failed to attend when requested, may be forwarded a notice requesting them to appear at a specific time and place. If the person refuses to attend the nominated hearing, or fails to respond, the case may be heard in their absence.

## **10 MATTERS OF IMPORTANCE**

- (a) The FSG Board or FSG Executive, may refer any matter it determines, in its absolute discretion, to be important to the interests of football in the region or to FSG, to the Disciplinary Committee for determination. For the avoidance of doubt, such matters include (but are not limited to) those involving Members involved in football or futsal at any level in the region. For the further avoidance of doubt, any decision of the FSG Board or FSG Executive that a matter is important to the interests of football in the region, or to FSG, is final and may not be challenged.

## 11 PROCEDURES AT JUDICIAL BODY MEETINGS

### 11.1 MEETINGS GENERALLY

- (a) the FSG Executive must use its best endeavours to ensure a Judicial Body meeting is heard in a timely fashion to enable a Participant, Team, or Club to have the opportunity to be heard and to make submissions in relation to the issues of infringement and sanction.
- (b) A Judicial Body meeting is not bound by the rules of evidence that apply to proceedings in a court of law. However, all Judicial Body meetings must be conducted in accordance with the principles of natural justice, including that the parties:
  - (i) are treated with equality;
  - (ii) have reasonable and sufficient notice of the alleged Offence; and
  - (iii) have the opportunity to be heard and to make submissions in relation to the issues of merit and sanction.
- (c) A Judicial Body has the right to determine all procedures to be adopted in a Judicial Body meeting and may during the course of any meeting:
  - (i) grant or order an adjournment to provide parties with additional time or to consider additional evidence;
  - (ii) admit or request the production of documents or any relevant written evidence available to a Participant or any other person, including a Referee's Report, declarations from the parties and witnesses, expert opinion and video or audio recordings;
  - (iii) if admitting documents or relevant written advice, that is received by FSG after the required deadline, the Judicial Body should only admit it in if the committees discretion the document or advice is considered important, and that all parties before the committee are provided copies of the document/s or advice.
  - (iv) order the attendance of any person for the purpose of asking questions relevant to the alleged Offence.
- (d) Facts contained in a Referee's Report are presumed to be accurate.
- (e) At a Judicial Body meeting:
  - (i) a Participant or a representative of the Team or Club (as the case may be) may attend in person or by phone or video link;
  - (ii) FSG may be represented by an officer or employee of FSG;
  - (iii) a Judicial Body may in its sole and absolute discretion, refuse entry to any person who is not directly involved in the matter, including the media; and
  - (iv) any witness that a party intends to call to give evidence in a hearing must remain outside the hearing room or video conference until called to give evidence.
- (f) Hearings and deliberations by a Judicial Body must be held behind closed doors.
- (g) FSG reserves the right to file written submissions in reply to the material filed by the Participant (or their Club).

### 11.2 LEGAL ADVICE

- (a) a Judicial Body may, in its absolute discretion and with the prior written consent of the FSG Executive,

obtain legal advice during any proceedings and may adjourn proceedings for that purpose.

- (b) a party may be represented legally or by any other person provided the names of any representatives have been communicated to the other parties and the FSG Executive no less than forty-eight (48) hours in advance of the hearing.

### 11.3 ELECTRONIC DOCUMENTS

- (a) In order to ensure the efficiency of matters dealt with, all documents, statements, and submissions must be submitted using the prescribed form, and by the due date set by FSG.
- (b) FSG may from time to time request the parties to provide hard copies of documents, statements, submissions, and forms.
- (c) A party seeking to rely on photographic, video, or similar evidence must provide such evidence in the manner or form requested by FSG and at that party's own cost.

### 11.4 AFFECTED PARTY

- (a) For the purposes of these Regulations, an Affected Party means:
  - (i) a Member or Club who may be affected by a determination of the FSG Executive or a Judicial Body or by the outcome of a mediation based on the relief sought by the Member.
  - (ii) FSG, if the FSG Executive considers, in its absolute discretion, that the determination of a Judicial Body may affect the interests of football in the Region, or FSG, or it may bring the game into disrepute or damage the reputation or goodwill of the game.
- (b) The victim of an incident giving rise to disciplinary charges or proceedings is not an Affected Party for the purposes of these Regulations.
- (c) The FSG Executive, and/or a Judicial Body only may determine, in their absolute discretion, whether a Member or Club is an Affected Party and must notify the Affected Party accordingly.
- (d) An Affected Party provided with notice may participate in the hearing as an Affected Party and may make submissions and call evidence. An Affected Party is bound by any decision of the FSG Executive or a Judicial Body.
- (e) If an Affected Party provided with notice elects not to participate in a hearing, that Affected Party cannot subsequently lodge an appeal under these Regulations in relation to the same subject matter.

### 11.5 PARENT/GUARDIAN

- (a) A party or witness who is under the age of eighteen (18) years at the date of a Judicial Body meeting must be accompanied at that meeting by a parent, legal guardian, Club Official or Team Official.
- (b) In the case of a Match Official, this can also include if the Match Official is accompanied by a representative of the Match Official's Referees Body.

### 11.6 STANDARD OF PROOF

- (c) Unless the circumstances of a matter require otherwise, a Judicial Body must make a Determination on the balance of probabilities.

## 12 DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE

### 12.1 JURISDICTION

- (a) The DC has jurisdiction to hear and determine on any:
  - (i) eligible challenges to a Suspension issued in respect of a Red Card Offence;

- (ii) charges of Misconduct, including for but not limited to serious infringements that escaped the Match Official's attention and Offences disclosed in Match Official Reports;
- (iii) grievances between Members referred by the FSG Board or FSG Executive;
- (iv) disciplinary matters in relation to all FSG Competitions where the FSG Executive determines, in its absolute discretion.;
- (v) any other matter which the FSG Board or FSG Executive determines, in its absolute discretion, is important to the interests of football in the Region.

## 12.2 POWERS OF THE DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE

- (a) The DC has the power to:
  - (i) Receive and consider any report submitted to it in accordance with these Regulations;
  - (ii) Determine whether the Participant or Club subject of a report has a case to answer;
  - (iii) Inform itself in any matter of fact in any manner it deems suitable provided that such a manner is not prejudicial to the Participant or Club that is to appear before the Disciplinary Committee for any reason whatsoever;
  - (iv) Determine whether the Participant or Club has committed an offence;
  - (v) Determine and set punishments and/or sanctions that it considers appropriate in accordance with Schedule A.
  - (vi) Stand down any Participant or Club where it considers a case to answer exists, until they appear.
  - (vii) in accordance with these Regulations, rectify an Obvious Error in a Referee's disciplinary decision.
- (b) Except in the case of Obvious Error, the DC will have no power to remove a Red Card, a Mandatory Match Suspension or reduce a Minimum Suspension.
- (c) Where a Participant has challenged a Notice of Suspension issued by the FSG Executive, the DC may;
  - (i) make a finding that the Offence has not been proven, in which case it may remove or reduce any Suspension that may have been imposed; or
  - (ii) make a finding that an Offence has been proven, in which case the Disciplinary Committee may, in its discretion, increase the Additional Suspension or decrease the Additional Suspension (but not below the applicable Minimum Suspension); or
  - (iii) make a finding that the Player is guilty of a different Offence, in which case the applicable Minimum Suspension (at least) must be applied and, if the Disciplinary Committee, in its absolute discretion, sees fit, it may impose an Additional Suspension.

## 12.3 APPEARANCE FEE

- (a) The fee for a Participant or Club who submits a challenge to the Disciplinary Committee, or whose matter is referred to the Disciplinary Committee is \$100.
- (b) The appearance fee is non-refundable, though the DC has the power to award the fee to the Participant or Club in its Determination.
- (c) The appearance fee is due and payable when the Participant or Club submits the challenge form.

## 12.4 DECISIONS OF THE DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE

- (a) When determining any appropriate sanction, the DC may consider:
  - (i) the nature and severity of the infringement;
  - (ii) the Participant or Club's past record and whether or not the Offence committed is a repeated Offence;
  - (iii) the culpability of the Participant or Club (including whether or not the infringement was intentional, negligent, or reckless);
  - (iv) any reasons prompting the Participant or Club to commit the infringement;
  - (v) the remorse of the Participant or Club; and
  - (vi) any extenuating circumstances relevant to the commission of the Offence.
- (b) When making a decision the DC must not take into account the following circumstances:
  - (i) the significance or importance to the Player or their Team or Club of the Match in which the Offence was committed;
  - (ii) the significance or importance of any Match or tournament in which the Player will be ineligible to participate because of the imposition of a Suspension imposed;
  - (iii) the point in the Match at which the Offence was committed;
  - (iv) any disciplinary decision taken or failure to take a disciplinary decision by a Match Official during the Match.
- (c) All decisions of a DC remain in force unless varied by the AC.
- (d) A DC Determination will be in accordance with the majority opinion of the DC members hearing a matter.
- (e) The types of decisions that the DC may issue are set out in Schedule A: Table of Offences, and may include (but are not limited to) a finding, directive, Suspension, ban, fine, or such other action as reasonably determined by the DC.
- (f) The sanction imposed by the DC in respect of an Offence must not be below the applicable Minimum Sanction or Suspension and may only be greater than the applicable Maximum Suspension in Exceptional Circumstances which must be detailed in the Determination.
- (g) The DC is not obliged to give reasons for any decision it makes.
- (h) The DC will use its reasonable endeavours to issue a short-written summary of its Determination (Preliminary Determination) within two (2) working days of the completion of any hearing.
- (i) The DC may, in its absolute discretion, issue a full written Determination, with reasons for decision (Final Determination). The DC's decision in respect of whether it will issue a Final Determination must be communicated to FSG at the time of issuing the Preliminary Determination. If the DC has indicated it will issue a Final Determination, it will use its reasonable endeavours to issue a Final Determination within fourteen (14) working days of the completion of the hearing.
- (j) Unless otherwise specified in these Regulations or by the DC in a Determination, the imposition of a sanction has immediate effect.
- (k) All Determinations of the DC remain in force unless and until reversed by the AC.

- (l) Upon receipt of the DC's determination, FSG must, as soon as is practicable, notify in writing the Participant's Club and, if applicable, set out the revised Suspension in a Notice of Suspension and issue same to the Participant's Club. That Club must, as soon as is practicable, advise the Participant of the DC's determination and, if applicable, provide the Participant with a copy of the Notice of Suspension.

#### 12.5 APPEALING DECISIONS OF THE DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE

- (a) Subject to Part 3 Clause 13 of these Regulations, a Determination of the DC may be appealed to the AC.
- (b) If a Participant or Club wants to appeal a Determination of the DC to the AC, it must, within seven (7) working days of the issuance of the Preliminary Determination by FSG (or the Final Determination, where the DC has indicted one will be issued):
  - (i) pay to FSG the relevant Application Fee;
  - (ii) pay the fine subject of that Preliminary Determination or Final Determination, as the case may be, to FSG;
  - (iii) submit to FSG a completed Notice of Appeal of a decision of a DC;
  - (iv) submit to FSG all supporting material, including any additional evidence; and
  - (v) submit to FSG any written submissions the Participant or Club intends to rely on.
- (c) Where the documents to be provided exceed fifty (50) pages in total, the Participant or Club must deliver to the offices of FSG four (4) hard copies of those documents by the date prescribed therein.
- (d) Participants, and Clubs should note that the time limits set out above are strict. Unless there are exceptional circumstances (to be determined by the FSG Executive, in its absolute discretion), if FSG does not receive the documentation and payments by the time specified, the Participant or Club is deemed to have waived its right to appeal the Determination of the DC to the AC.

### 13 APPEALS COMMITTEE

#### 13.1 JURISDICTION

- (a) The AC will be responsible for hearing and determining appeals from decision of the DC pursuant to the Grounds of Appeal.

#### 13.2 STANDING TO APPEAL

- (a) Despite anything to the contrary contained in these Regulations and for the avoidance of doubt, only the Members, Participants, and Clubs set out in this section, and FSG, have standing to appeal matters to the AC.
- (b) An appeal from the DC in relation to Red Card Offences: the Participant who was issued the Red Card.
- (c) An appeal from the DC in relation to a charge(s) of Misconduct and/or disrepute: the Member(s), Club(s) or Participant(s) (including an Affected Party) who appeared before that DC.
- (d) An appeal from the DC in relation to a grievance: the Member(s) (including an Affected Party) who appeared before that DC.
- (e) An appeal from the DC in relation to a matter referred to the DC by the FSG Executive (Matters of Importance): FSG, the Member(s), Participant(s), or Club(s) (including an Affected Party) who appeared before that DC.

#### 13.3 APPEAL FEE

- (a) The appeal fee is \$250.

- (b) The appeal fee is non-refundable, though the AC has the power to award the fee to the appellant in its Determination.
- (c) The appeal fee is due and payable when the appellant submits the appeal form.

#### 13.4 GROUNDS OF APPEAL

- (a) The sole grounds of an appeal to the AC are:
  - (i) a party was not afforded a reasonable opportunity to present its case;
  - (ii) lack or excess of jurisdiction of the DC;
  - (iii) the decision of the DC was affected by actual bias;
  - (iv) the decision was one that was not reasonably open to a DC having regard to the evidence before the DC;
  - (v) severity, but only where the DC imposed one or more of the following:
    1. a Time Suspension of three (3) or more months; or
    2. a fine of three thousand dollars (\$3,000) or more; or
    3. a bond to be of good behaviour of three thousand dollars (\$3,000) or more; or
    4. a deduction, loss or ban on accruing six (6) or more competition points; or
    5. exclusion, suspension or expulsion of a Club or Team from a competition; or
    6. relegation to a lower division; or
    7. leniency, but only in the case of an appeal brought by FSG.

#### 13.5 DECISIONS OF THE APPEALS TRIBUNAL

- (a) An AC Determination will be in accordance with the majority opinion of the AC members.
- (b) In making its determination the AC;
  - (i) must consider all evidence presented at the original DC meeting.
  - (ii) cannot consider any new evidence that does not relate directly to the offence, incident, or matter.
- (c) The AC has the power to:
  - (i) dismiss, allow in whole or in part an appeal, or vary (whether by way of reduction or increase) a Determination, including any sanction or penalty, made by the DC subject to any applicable Minimum Suspension/Sanction and Maximum Suspension;
  - (ii) remit the matter to the DC from which the appeal originated, for rehearing and issue any directions or orders in relation to the rehearing of the matter that the AC deems appropriate.
- (d) The types of decisions that the AC may issue are set out in Schedule A: Table of Offences, and may include (but are not limited to) a finding, directive, Suspension, ban, fine, or such other action as reasonably determined by the AC.
- (e) No Determination of the DC will be quashed or held invalid by the AC by reason only of any defect, irregularity, omission, or other technicality, provided the AC is satisfied there has not been a miscarriage of justice.
- (f) The AC is not obliged to give reasons for any decision it makes.

- (g) The AC will use its reasonable endeavours to issue a short-written summary of its Determination (Preliminary Determination) within five (5) working days of the completion of any hearing.
- (h) The AC may, in its absolute discretion, issue a full written Determination, with reasons for decision (Final Determination). The AC's decision in respect of whether it will issue a Final Determination must be communicated to FSG at the time of issuing the Preliminary Determination. If the AC has indicated it will issue a Final Determination, it will use its reasonable endeavours to issue a Final Determination within twenty-one (21) working days of the completion of the hearing.

#### 13.6 ABANDONED APPEALS

- (d) An appellant may abandon an appeal prior to any hearing by giving written notice to FSG in which case the Application Fee may, in the Executive's absolute discretion, be refunded.

### 14 NO RECOURSE TO COURTS

- (a) Judicial Body meetings are conducted on a without prejudice basis.
- (b) Any Determination by an AC will be final and binding on the parties to the appeal and no person may institute or maintain proceedings in any court of law or tribunal in relation to such Determination or matters relating to the proceedings (other than the limited right of appeal to FNSW, the FA, subject to the FNSW and FA Statutes).

### 15 DISCLOSURE OF JUDICIAL BODY MEMBERS

- (a) In the interests of ensuring independence, FSG will not disclose the identity of Judicial Body members prior to a meeting to any party, any party's representatives, or to any witness.

### 16 COSTS GENERALLY

- (a) The parties must bear their own costs.
- (b) Judicial Bodies cannot award costs.

### 17 CONTEMPT AGAINST A JUDICIAL BODY

- (a) A person appearing before a Judicial Body or subject to a direction of a Judicial Body must not:
  - (i) insult a member of a Judicial Body;
  - (ii) repeatedly interrupt the proceedings of a Judicial Body meeting;
  - (iii) create a disturbance or take part in creating or continuing a disturbance in or near a place where a Judicial Body meeting is sitting;
  - (iv) fail to comply with an order or direction of a Judicial Body; or
  - (v) deliberately mislead a Judicial Body.
- (b) A person must not submit to FSG or to a Judicial Body a grievance, complaint, written statement, evidence of any kind or written submissions that the person knows or suspects to be untrue or that is intended to deliberately mislead FSG or a Judicial Body.
- (c) A Member, Participant, or Club must comply with a Determination of a Judicial Body.



- (d) Parties, their representatives, and all witnesses must not use or disclose to any third party any confidential information obtained during the course of any investigations or proceedings.
- (e) If a Judicial Body considers that a Member, Participant, or Club has breached this section, then it may impose sanctions as it sees fit in accordance with these Regulations or make recommendations to the FSG Executive to issue a Notice of Charge for Misconduct.
- (f) If the FSG Executive determines that a Member has breached this section, then it may, in its absolute discretion, investigate the matter and take any relevant action including issuing a Notice of Charge for Misconduct.

## **18 JUDICIAL BODY MAY HEAR PROCEEDINGS REGARDLESS OF RELATED CRIMINAL OR DISCIPLINARY ACTION**

- (a) The FSG Executive or a Body may issue Suspensions or make a Determination whether or not a Member, Club, or Participant:
  - (i) has been charged with, convicted of, or sentenced for an offence arising out of the contravention;
  - (ii) is the subject of pending disciplinary proceedings relating to the contravention; or
  - (iii) may be, or has been, subject to disciplinary action in relation to the contravention.

## **19 IMMUNITY**

- (a) Members involved in any way in any proceedings brought under these Regulations, their respective witnesses, and any other witnesses, agree not to institute or maintain any proceedings, or bring any claim against FSG, a Mediator, a Judicial Body or member of a Judicial Body, in respect of any act or omission during the course of a matter or hearing or arising out of any charge, Determination or findings made.

## **20 PUBLICATION AND CONFIDENTIALITY**

- (a) After the expiry of any relevant appeal period and subject to any term of a Determination imposing confidentiality or any other legal requirements, any Determination may be published by FSG on its website or elsewhere or by a third party (with FSG's written consent).
- (b) All evidence and information provided in FSG Notices of Suspension, FSG Notices of Charge, and proceedings of a Judicial Body must be treated in the strictest confidence. Parties, their representatives and all witnesses must not use or disclose to any third party any confidential information obtained during the course of any investigations or proceedings.
- (c) A breach of Part 3 Clause 20 is deemed to be contempt against a Judicial Body and the offender may be sanctioned accordingly.

# PART 4 – SERVING SUSPENSIONS

## 1 INTERIM SUSPENSION ORDERS AND INTERIM DIRECTION ORDERS

- (a) Where a Member is the subject of a Match Official Report or is being investigated by the FSG Board or the FSG Executive in relation to an alleged act of Misconduct or disrepute, the FSG Board or the FSG Executive may order that the Member be suspended, pending determination of the matter, from all or any specific Football Related Activity for such period and on such terms and conditions as the FSG Board or the FSG Executive determines, in its absolute discretion (an Interim Suspension Order).
- (b) Where a Club is being investigated by the FSG Board or the FSG Executive in relation to an alleged act of Misconduct or disrepute, the FSG Board or FSG Executive may impose on that Club, pending determination of the matter, any interim direction for such period and on such terms and conditions as the FSG Board or the FSG Executive determines, in its absolute discretion (an Interim Direction Order).
- (c) The period of an Interim Suspension Order or an Interim Direction Order will not be capable of lasting beyond the date upon which any investigation, or any subsequent disciplinary proceedings, are concluded.

## 2 SUSPENSION FOR CRIMINAL CHARGES AND OFFENCES

- (a) The FSG Executive will have the power to order that a Participant be suspended from all or any specific Football Related Activity for such period and on such terms and conditions as it considers fit where the Participant has been charged with a criminal offence or had a criminal offence proven against them and the FSG Executive determines, in its absolute discretion, that there is a risk of harm to another Member(s).

## 3 SUSPENSION FOLLOWING DISQUALIFICATION FROM WORKING WITH CHILDREN

- (a) Where a Participant is prohibited under child protection legislation from regulated activity relating to children, the FSG Executive may order that the Participant be suspended immediately from all or any specific Football Related Activity for such a period and on such terms and conditions as it determines, in its absolute discretion.

## 4 APPLICATION OF SUSPENSIONS AND DETERMINATIONS

- (a) Upon the issuance of a Suspension or Determination by FSG or a Judicial Body, the FSG Executive has the authority to ensure that the Suspension or Determination is applied correctly.
- (b) In the case of a Regulation being interpreted in two or more different ways, or in the case of any other ambiguity in the application of these Regulations to the serving of Suspensions, the FSG Executive reserves the right to determine how Suspensions will be served. Any such determination is final and not subject to challenge or appeal.

## 5 SUSPENSIONS TO BE SERVED IMMEDIATELY

- (a) Subject to these Regulations any Suspension must be served immediately. In serving a Suspension, a Participant and FSG must take into consideration any Matches or time already served while awaiting the issuance of the Notice of Suspension or Determination.

- (b) Club Officials or Team Officials expelled from the Technical Area during a Match are eligible to play as a Player in a separate Match unless otherwise determined by the FSG Executive or a Judicial Body.
- (c) A Player issued with a Red Card or expelled from the field of play or Technical Area during a Match is eligible to be a Club Official or Registered Team Official in the Technical Area in a Match scheduled in the same round unless otherwise determined by the FSG Executive or a Judicial Body.

## **6 CLUB RESPONSIBILITY ON SUSPENSIONS**

- (a) Clubs and Club Officials are responsible for ensuring their Participants correctly and fully serve any Suspension.
- (b) A Club and/or Club Official in breach of this section will be deemed to have committed Misconduct and the FSG Executive may, in its absolute discretion, take any relevant action

## **7 TYPES OF SUSPENSIONS**

- (a) The FSG Executive or a Judicial Body may issue a Suspension either in terms of the number of Matches for which a Participant will be suspended (Match Suspension) or the period of time for which a Participant will be suspended (Time Suspension).
- (b) A Participant does not need to be registered to serve a Time Suspension unless FSG has determined otherwise in its absolute discretion. A Participant must be registered to serve a Match Suspension.
- (c) A Participant subject to a Match Suspension as a Spectator only does not need to be registered to serve a Match Suspension.

### **7.1 TIME SUSPENSIONS**

- (a) A Time Suspension affects a Participant's participation in Winter Football, Summer Football, and Futsal, regardless of whether the infringement was committed during the Winter Football, Summer Football, or Futsal seasons.
- (b) Upon issuing a Time Suspension, the FSG Executive or a Judicial Body must provide a start date for the Suspension.
- (c) If, in the case of a Time Suspension, some or all of the suspension coincides with any non-playing period(s), then such non-playing period(s) must not be counted towards the satisfaction of that suspension, unless the suspension is for a period of 24 months or more, or the FSG Executive or Judicial Body finds there are exceptional circumstances that must be detailed in the Determination.
- (d) Unless the FSG Executive or a Judicial Body determines otherwise a Participant issued with a Time Suspension is ineligible to participate in all Football Related Activities for the duration of the Suspension.
- (e) Football Related Activities include, but are not limited to:
  - (i) taking to the Field of Play (or court) as a Player or Match Official in any match or competition sanctioned or administered by FSG;
  - (ii) taking a position or acting as a coach, Team Official or Club Official in any match or competition sanctioned or administered by FSG (in the case of a coach, this includes providing or attempting to provide coaching instructions or engaging or attempting to engage a third party to relay coaching instructions);
  - (iii) entering the Field of Play (or court), its surrounds, the Technical Area, players race, dressing

rooms or any other place within a venue on a match day where players, coaches or Officials are likely to assemble to prepare for a match;

- (iv) taking part as a player, coach, Team Official or Club Official in any training session conducted by or for a Team or Club participating in any Matches or Competitions sanctioned or administered by FSG;
- (v) acting in any way as a Team Official or Club Official, including, but not limited to, participating in, or carrying on any function as a member of a committee, sub-committee, or board of directors (whether paid, voluntary, or honorary) at any level (to the extent such a restraint is permissible by law);
- (vi) having any contact with the Host Broadcaster or any other media where the purpose of such contact is for it to be electronically broadcast to the public, including (but not limited to) participating in any post-match press conference and participating in television or radio interviews;
- (vii) attending any function, meeting, or event coordinated, conducted, or sanctioned by FSG; and/or
- (viii) entering a stadium, venue, ground or Centre during any Match, competition or training session sanctioned or administered by FSG.

## 7.2 MATCH SUSPENSIONS

- (a) A Match Suspension imposed on a Participant participating in:
  - (i) Winter Football, only affects that Participant's participation in Winter Football; or
  - (ii) Summer Football, only affects that Participant's participation in Summer Football; or
  - (iii) Futsal, only affects that Participant's participation in Futsal.
- (i) A Participant subject to a Suspension for the accumulation of Yellow Cards must serve that Suspension exclusively in the Competition (and age-grade) in which the Yellow Card giving rise to the relevant Mandatory Match Suspension was received.
- (b) A Participant subject to a Match Suspension resulting from or related to any Premiership, Championship, or Cup Match must serve that Suspension in the next Premiership, Championship, or Cup Match(s) in which that Participant's Team or Club plays in, whichever occurs first, until that Suspension is served in full. A Participant cannot serve such a Suspension in a Trial Match, Tournament, or Pre-Season Competition, or any competition, event or tournament conducted by another Competition Administrator or any other match/fixture.
- (c) A Participant subject to a Match Suspension resulting from or related to any Trial Match or any Tournament must serve that Suspension in the next consecutive Trial Match, Tournament, Premiership, Championship, or Cup o Match(s) in which the Participant's Team or Club plays in, whichever occurs first, until the Suspension is served in full.
- (d) A Participant must serve a Match Suspension in the same age-grade and division in which they received that Suspension and will not be eligible to participate in any Match of any Competition until that Suspension is served in full. If a Match Suspension extends over one (1) or more Seasons, that Suspension must be served in the age-grade and division in which the Participant would normally participate in the following Season(s).

- (e) While subject to a Match Suspension, a Participant may only participate in a Trial Match or Tournament if the Participant's Club has obtained written approval from FSG to do so. That approval is to be at FSG absolute discretion. To the extent any determination by a Judicial Body permits, or seeks to permit, a Participant to participate in a Trial Match or Tournament, that part of the Determination will not apply.
- (f) Unless FSG or a Judicial Body determines otherwise, a Match Suspension applies to the Participant in the capacity in which the Participant was acting when they committed the Offence giving rise to the Suspension.
- (g) While serving a Match Suspension, a Participant must not, on the day of a Match, act in any manner or role for which they have been suspended.
- (h) A Participant subject to a Match Suspension as a Player or Registered Team Official must not:
  - (i) enter the Field of Play, its surrounds, the Technical Area, players race or dressing rooms;
  - (ii) enter any other place within a stadium, venue, ground, or Centre where players and/or officials are likely to assemble;
  - (iii) be seated in an area in a stadium, venue, ground, or Centre normally reserved for players and/or officials;
  - (iv) have any contact with a Match Official;
  - (v) have any contact with the Host Broadcaster or any other media where the purpose of such contact is for it to be electronically broadcast to the public, including (but not limited to) participating in any post-match press conference and participating in television or radio interviews;
  - (vi) participate in any FSG awards presentation or ceremony;
  - (vii) attend any function, meeting, or event coordinated, conducted, or sanctioned by FSG; and
  - (viii) in the case of a coach, must also not:
    - a. provide or attempt to provide coaching instructions during the Match, at half-time and/or after the Match; or
    - b. engage or attempt to engage a third party to relay coaching instructions during the Match, at half-time and/or after the Match.
- (i) A Participant subject to a Match Suspension as a Spectator must not enter a stadium, venue, ground, or Centre during a Match until that Suspension is served in full.
- (j) Where a Participant the subject of a Match Suspension is unable to register with a Club participating in a Competition such that they would be otherwise able to serve the Match Suspension in accordance with these Regulations, that Participant may register with a club in another competition and FSG may, in its absolute discretion, allow that Participant to serve the Match Suspension in that other competition.
- (k) Where a Match Suspension extends over one (1) or more Seasons and the Participant does not return to participate in a Competition in the following Season(s), that Participant must serve that Suspension in whichever competition they subsequently participate in, if any. If FSG determines, in its absolute discretion, that the Participant joined that competition for the purpose (in whole or in part) of enabling the Participant to serve that Suspension in that other competition, any suspension served in that other competition may not be permitted to count towards the serving of the Suspension.

- (l) Where a Participant the subject of a Match Suspension incurred with one Club transfers to a new Club, that Participant will be required to serve the remainder of that suspension with the new Club and in the same age-grade unless otherwise approved by FSG in its absolute discretion.

## **8 EFFECT OF ABANDONED MATCHES / FORFEITURES / CANCELLED MATCHES**

- (a) Only those Matches actually played count towards the serving of any Match Suspension.
- (b) If a Match is abandoned, cancelled, or forfeited pursuant to FSG Regulations, a Suspension is only considered to be served if the Participant's Team is not responsible for the events that led to the abandonment, cancellation, or forfeiture of the Match.
- (c) FSG may decide, in its absolute discretion, whether a Suspension or part thereof may be served in an abandoned, cancelled or forfeited Match and any such decision is final and not subject to any appeal.
- (d) A Yellow Card issued during an abandoned Match will be annulled if that Match is replayed and upheld if that Match is not replayed.
- (e) Any Red Card issued during an abandoned Match will be upheld, regardless of whether the Match is replayed or not.

## **9 RECOGNITION OF SUSPENSIONS**

- (a) Any sanction imposed on a Participant by FNSW, FA, AFC, FIFA or any other confederation, national association, Member Federation, Club, Centre, Referees Body, Association Member, affiliated association or their clubs, may be endorsed and applied by the FSG Executive, in its absolute discretion, across the Region.
- (b) The FSG Executive reserves the right to notify any sanction imposed pursuant to these Regulations to FNSW, FA, AFC, FIFA or any other confederation, national association, Member Federation, Club, Centre, Referees Body, Association Member, affiliated association, or their clubs.

# PART 5 – MISCONDUCT AND DISREPUTE

## 1 MISCONDUCT AND DISREPUTE

Misconduct means any act or omission by a Member, Club, or Participant which:

- (a) constitutes a breach of the FIFA Statutes and Regulations;
- (b) constitutes a breach of the FA Rules and Regulations;
- (c) constitutes a breach of FNSW Rules and Regulations;
- (d) constitutes a breach of the Laws of the Game;
- (e) constitutes a breach of these Regulations including the Offences set out in Schedule 3: Table of Offences;
- (f) constitutes a breach of FSG Rules and Regulations;
- (g) brings or, in FSG's opinion may bring, the Member, FSG or the game of football into disrepute or adversely affect the image, reputation and goodwill of the Member, FSG or the game of football; or
- (h) in the opinion of FSG, is or may be prejudicial to the image, interests, or reputation of the game of football, FSG, its Members, or any of its partners or sponsors.

## 2 MISCONDUCT – CULPABILITY, ATTEMPT, AND INVOLVEMENT

- (a) Offences are punishable regardless of whether they have been committed deliberately, recklessly, or negligently.
- (b) Acts amounting to attempt are also punishable. A Judicial Body may, however, reduce the sanction envisaged for the actual Offence and determine any extent of mitigation as it sees fit within the applicable range.
- (c) Any Participant who knowingly takes part in committing an Offence, either as instigator or accomplice, is also punishable. A Judicial Body may take account of the degree of guilt of the party involved by reducing the sanction as it sees fit within the applicable range.

## 3 MISCONDUCT – CLUB LIABILITY

- (a) A Club is deemed to have committed an offence(s) under Part 5 of these Regulations where one of its Participants has committed any Offence(s) outlined Part 5 of these Regulations. The FSG Executive may, in its absolute discretion, take any relevant action against the Club.
- (b) For the avoidance of doubt, a Club may be charged with Misconduct notwithstanding the offender(s) have not been identified.
- (c) The Executive may, in its absolute discretion, elect not to proceed against a Club for the conduct of one of its Participants where:
  - (i) the Club is (for the relevant Match or event) compliant with Match protocols as published by FSG from time to time;
  - (ii) the Club cooperates with any investigation by FSG into the alleged conduct, including, without limitation, naming or identifying, upon request by FSG, the Club's Participants or individuals known to the Club in relation to the alleged conduct; and

- (iii) FSG, on review of the information available to it, forms the view that to proceed against the Club for the actions of its Participants is unduly harsh or unfair in the circumstances.
- (d) Matters that the FSG Executive may consider in forming its view under Part 5 of these Regulations include but are not limited to:
  - (i) the Club or individual's disciplinary history;
  - (ii) the co-operation of the Club;
  - (iii) the significance of the nature of the conduct;
  - (iv) whether the Club acted swiftly to counter the conduct and denounce the incident at the relevant time;
  - (v) whether the Club has taken any relevant action of its own regarding the conduct; and
  - (vi) whether the Club has taken any steps to minimise the risk of repetition of such conduct by those individuals involved and its other Participants.
- (e) Where a Club complies with all these matters, the FSG Executive nevertheless retains a discretion to proceed against the Club for the conduct where the FSG Executive is of the view that the relevant conduct is of a particularly egregious or significant nature. Where the FSG Executive does so proceed against the Club, the FSG Executive or the Judicial Body (as the case may be) may consider these factors in penalty mitigation.

#### **4 MISCONDUCT – REGISTRATION**

- (a) In the event of a Player registering for more than one Club in an FSG Competition, priority of registration will be accorded to the Club who earliest in time, all things being equal, obtained the Player's valid registration.
- (b) If a Player has self-registered through the National Online Registration System, the registration which earliest in time is recorded in that system will be granted priority.
- (c) A Player must not intentionally or recklessly register with, more than one (1) Club.
- (d) A Club (the second Club) must not intentionally or recklessly induce or attempt to induce, whether directly or indirectly, a Player who is registered with another Club (the current Club), to:
  - (i) register with the second Club; or
  - (ii) de-register from the current Club.
- (e) A Player or Club in breach of Part 5 Clause 4 will be deemed to have committed Misconduct and the FSG Executive may, in its absolute discretion, take any relevant action against the Player and or Club.

#### **5 MISCONDUCT – TRAINING/TRIALLING ACTIVITIES**

- (a) During a Season, a Player must not participate in any form of training or trialling activities with a Club (the second Club) other than the Club with which the Player is registered (the current Club), unless the current Club has provided prior written approval to the second Club for the Player to do so.
- (b) During a Season, a Club (the second Club) must not permit a Player registered to another Club (the current Club) to train or trial with the second Club unless the current Club has provided prior written approval to the second Club for the Player to do so.
- (c) A Player or Club in breach Part 5 Clause 5 will be deemed to have committed Misconduct and the FSG



Executive may, in its absolute discretion, take any relevant action against the Player and or Club.

## **6 TEAM MISCONDUCT**

- (a) Each Club must ensure that its Participants do not engage in Team Misconduct.
- (b) Team Misconduct in relation to a Club is where, in a Match:
  - (i) five (5) or more of its Participants are sanctioned during a Match (including Yellow Cards, Red Cards, or Expulsions);
  - (ii) three (3) or more of its Participants are issued with a Red Card or expelled during a Match;
  - (iii) its Players and/or Officials collectively show dissent towards a Match Official or collectively seek to intimidate, threaten, or exert pressure on a Match Official to make or alter a decision in a Match; or
  - (iv) its Participants engage in a Melee or brawl in a Match (regardless of whether or not it is possible to identify the instigators).
- (c) Any Club which engages in Team Misconduct will be deemed to have committed Misconduct and the Executive may, in its absolute discretion, take any relevant action against the Club.

## **7 UNREGISTERED PLAYERS**

- (a) Clubs must not field or list in team sheets unregistered Players, including individuals playing under false or assumed identities, in any Match. Unregistered Players include those Players who are not registered with FSG or are not registered for a Competition.
- (b) Any Club which fields or lists unregistered players will be deemed to have committed Misconduct and the FSG Executive may, in its absolute discretion, take any relevant action against the Club.

## **8 INELIGIBLE PLAYERS**

- (a) Clubs and Teams must not field or list in team sheets Ineligible Players in any Match.
- (b) Any Club or Team which fields or lists Ineligible Players will be deemed to have committed Misconduct and the FSG Executive may, in its absolute discretion, take any relevant action against the Club or Team.

## **9 TEAM OFFICIALS AND CLUB OFFICIALS**

- (a) The FSG Executive and Judicial Bodies have the jurisdiction to issue Suspensions based on Match Official Send-Off/Expulsion Reports and Match Official Incident Reports against Team Officials and Club Officials in accordance with Table of Offences.
- (b) A Team Official or Club Official who has been expelled from the Technical Area by a Match Official must immediately serve a Mandatory Match Suspension of one (1) Match in the next Premiership, Championship, Cup or FA Cup Fixture, whichever occurs first, and which may be taken as being included in any additional Suspension issued by the FSG Executive or a Judicial Body and which may apply across all Football Related Activities depending on the severity of the Offence.

## 10 REFUSAL TO TAKE THE FIELD OF PLAY AND MASS WALK-OFFS

- (a) Any Club which by the conduct of its Players, Registered Team Officials, Club Officials, or Spectators causes a Match to be terminated or abandoned as a result of refusing to take the field or as a result of a mass walk-off will be deemed to have committed Misconduct and as a result the FSG Executive may, in its absolute discretion, take any action against the Participant, Team, or Club.

## 11 SOCIAL MEDIA AND DETRIMENTAL PUBLIC COMMENT

- (a) Without limiting the FSG Social Media Policy, FNSW Social Media Policy, or FA Rules and Regulations, a Club or Participant must not make public or media comment (including via social media) which is detrimental to FSG, FNSW, the FA, their commercial partners, or to the interests of the game.
- (b) Without limitation, a Club or Participant will breach these Regulations and be deemed to be making comment detrimental to the interests of the game if, in making any public or media comment (including via social media), the Club or Participant:
  - (i) denigrates or criticises FSG (including any of its staff and Board), FNSW, or the FA, or any of their commercial partners;
  - (ii) denigrates or criticises another Club or Participant, whether in relation to incidents that have occurred in a Match or otherwise;
  - (iii) denigrates or criticises a Participant by inappropriately commenting on any aspect of their performance, abilities, or characteristics;
  - (iv) refers to the likely outcome of a matter being investigated by FSG or a matter or hearing before a Judicial Body;
  - (v) criticises an ongoing FSG investigation or the outcome of a FSG investigation;
  - (vi) criticises the decision of a Judicial Body;
  - (vii) criticises a Judicial Body or any of its members; or
  - (viii) criticises any evidence, submission, or other comment made by any person in relation to a matter under investigation by FSG and/or during a hearing before a Judicial Body.
- (c) The FSG Executive may, in its absolute discretion, deal with such matters under Part 5 of these Regulations.
- (d) Where there is evidence that a Club or Participant has made a public or media comment (including via social media) in breach of these Regulations, the FNSW Social Media Policy or the FA Rules and Regulations, that Club or Participant will be presumed to have made the comment and the onus will be on the Club or Participant to satisfy the FSG Executive or the Judicial Body, as the case may be, that the Club or Participant did not do so. For example, if the offending comment is made on the Club or Participant's social media account, that Club or Participant will be presumed to have posted the comment and the onus will be on that Club or Participant to satisfy the FSG Executive or the Judicial Body that the Club or Participant did not do so.
- (e) Clubs and Participants are responsible for their own social media and email accounts.

## 12 SPECTATORS

- (a) These Regulations, the FSG Terms of Club Affiliation, FNSW Terms of Admission Policy and the FA Spectator Code of Behaviour apply to all Spectators attending any Match or any training session conducted by or on behalf of a Club.
- (b) The FSG Executive and Judicial Bodies have jurisdiction to determine matters involving Spectators and to issue sanctions against:
  - (i) Spectators;
  - (ii) Players or Officials who are children or wards of any Spectator, in respect of the behaviour of that Spectator; and
  - (iii) Clubs, in respect of the behaviour of any Spectator.
- (c) In the event of an alleged breach of these Regulations, the FSG Terms of Club Affiliation, FNSW Terms of Admission Policy and/or the FA Spectator Code of Behaviour, the FSG Executive may refer the matter to a Judicial Body under Part 6 of these Regulations and seek an appropriate sanction including, but not limited to, banning a Spectator from attending Matches or suspending a Player (who is the child of a Spectator) from participating in Matches.
- (d) A Club is responsible, and liable, for the conduct and behaviour of its spectators, whether at home Match, away Match, any Premiership Match, Championship Match, Trial Match, Cup Match, or Tournament.
- (e) It is the Home Club's responsibility to ensure the FSG Terms of Club Affiliation, FNSW Terms of Admission Policy and the FA Spectator Code of Behaviour is implemented and enforced against all Spectators.
- (f) An Away Club is liable for improper conduct among its own group of spectators. Spectators occupying the away sector of a stadium, ground, or centre are regarded as the Away Club's spectators, unless proven to the contrary by the Away Club.
- (g) A Club is responsible for ensuring that sanctions imposed on its spectators are enforced and adhered to. Any Club which fails to do so will be deemed to have committed Misconduct and the FSG Executive may, in its absolute discretion, take any relevant action against the Club.

## 13 FINANCIAL DEFAULT AND PAYMENT OF INTEREST

- (a) In the event that a Club (except a Participant) fails to make payment of any amount payable to FSG by the due date (Financial Default) then that Club will be liable to pay interest on the amount outstanding from the date of such Financial Default until the date of actual payment at the existing Reserve Bank interest rate for each month or part of a month during which any such payment remains outstanding.

## 14 NON-FINANCIAL CONDUCT

- (a) Where any Club suffers Financial Default, in addition to Part 6 Clause 13, the following sanctions will apply unless the FSG Executive (or the FSG Board where the context provides otherwise), in its absolute discretion, determines otherwise.
- (b) if more than 30 days from the date the payment is due and payable:
  - (i) during the playing season, it will not be entitled to any points from any Premiership Match in which it participates in until the Financial Default is rectified;

- (ii) during a Championship or a Cup, it will forfeit any Match it participates in until the Financial Default is rectified; or
  - (iii) during the off-season, it will incur a three (3) points deduction from its highest graded Senior Women's and Men's teams which will be applied in the upcoming season.
- (c) if more than 60 days from the date the payment is due and payable:
- (i) during the playing season it will be suspended from participating in any current or future Competition until the Financial Default is rectified; or during the off-season, it will not be entitled to participate in any Trial Matches or in any future Competition until the Financial Default is rectified and, in addition to any previous points deduction under these Regulations, a further six (6) points deduction from its highest graded Senior Women's and Men's teams which will be applied in the upcoming season.

## **15 NON-FINANCIAL CONDUCT – PARTICIPANTS**

- (a) In the event that a Participant fails to make payment in full of any amount payable to FSG, a Member Club, or a Referees Body (the other party) by the due date, the FSG Executive may declare that Participant as "un-financial" and may suspend that Participant from any or all Football Related Activity until the amount payable is paid in full to the other party.

# SCHEDULE A – TABLE OF OFFENCES

## Section A - Red Card Offences

Offences by players and/or RTOs and/or Team or Officials against other players or any other person that result in the Match Official issuing a red card.

Code	Offence		Minimum	Maximum	
A	R1	<b>Serious Foul Play</b> <i>(Typically, but not limited to, tackles or challenges on an opponent with the ball)</i>			
		a) Serious foul play, tackle, or challenge	2 matches	24 months	
		b) Conduct that endangers the safety of an opponent in a contest for the ball or has the potential to cause injury	3 matches	24 months	
B	R2	<b>Violent Conduct</b> <i>(Typically, but not limited to, the use or attempted use of excessive force against a player, club official or spectator when not challenging for the ball)</i>			
		a) Violent conduct	4 matches	24 months	
		b) Serious and/or premeditated violent conduct	8 matches	Life suspension	
		c) Serious violent conduct that has caused bodily harm or responsibility for a melee	12 matches	Life suspension	
C	R3	<b>Spits at an Opponent or any other person</b>	8 matches	Life suspension	
D	R4	<b>Denying an Obvious Goal Scoring Opportunity (handball)</b>	1 match	1 match	
E	R5	<b>Denying an Obvious Goal Scoring Opportunity by an offence punishable by a direct free kick or penalty kick</b>	1 match	1 match	
F	R6	<b>Uses Offensive, Insulting, or Abusive Language or Gestures</b>	2 matches	20 matches	
		Expanded	i) Making offensive, insulting, or abusive gestures	4 matches	20 matches
		Expanded	ii) Indecent Actions	4 matches	20 matches
		Expanded	Making comments that are racially discriminatory or abusive	5 matches	20 matches
		Expanded	Threatening, intimidating, bullying, or insulting any other person	4 matches	20 matches
G	R7	<b>Second Caution</b>	1 match	1 matches	

Note: Section "A" also applies for offences by players against players or any other person after having been sent from the field and included in an Incident Report.

Note: The Mandatory Match Suspension for a player who receives their first red card during the Competition is 1 match. The Mandatory Match Suspension for a player who receives their second or subsequent red card during the Competition is 2 matches.

### Section B - Offences Against Officials - Offences by Players and Team Officials against Officials

Code	Offence	Minimum	Maximum
A	Threatening or intimidating an official by word/action	4 Matches	Life suspension
B	Striking an official with a ball or other objects	4 Matches	Life suspension
C	Striking, kicking, elbowing, tripping an official	20 Matches	Life suspension
D	Spitting	8 Matches	Life suspension
E	Using/making offensive, insulting or abusive language/gestures	4 Matches	Life suspension
F	Deliberately misleading an Official	6 Matches	Life suspension

The definition of Officials includes Referees, Assistant Referees, FSG Representatives, Ground Controllers and any person acting in an official capacity on behalf of an affiliated Club.

### Section C – Incident Reports and Charges of Misconduct

Offences by Clubs, Players, Team Officials, and Spectators reported in Incident Reports or who have been charged with Misconduct.

Code	Offence	Minimum	Maximum
A	Threatening or intimidating by word/action	4 Matches	Life suspension
B	Striking with a ball or other objects	4 Matches	Life suspension
C	Striking, kicking, elbowing, tripping	4 Matches	Life suspension
D	Spitting	8 Matches	Life suspension
E	Using/making offensive, insulting or abusive language/gestures	4 Matches	Life suspension
F	Deliberately misleading an Official	6 Matches	Life suspension
G	Letting off incendiary device(s) or fire(s)	2 years	Life suspension
H	Inciting the crowd	4 Matches	Life suspension
I	Attacking or fighting with spectators	4 Matches	Life suspension
J	Bringing the game into disrepute (individual)	10 Matches	Life suspension
K	Bringing the game into disrepute (club)	4 point deduction	Removal from the competition
		\$500 fine	\$5,000 fine

<b>Code</b>	<b>Offence</b>	<b>Minimum</b>	<b>Maximum</b>
<b>L</b>	Deliberately misleading the Judiciary Committee (individual)	6 Matches	Life suspension
<b>M</b>	Deliberately misleading the Judiciary Committee (club)	4 point deduction	20 point deduction
		\$200 fine	\$2,000 fine
<b>N</b>	Breach of Social Media & Detrimental Public Comment (individual)	4 Matches	Life suspension
<b>O</b>	Breach of Social Media & Detrimental Public Comment (club)	4 point deduction	Removal from the competition
		\$200 fine	\$2,000 fine
<b>P</b>	Playing as a “ring-in” player (i.e., a player who is not registered to the team or otherwise not permitted to be borrowed to play for the teams). (individual)	10 Matches	Life suspension
<b>Q</b>	Fielding a “ring-in” player (i.e., a player who is not registered to the team or otherwise not permitted to be borrowed to play for the teams). (Club)	12 point deduction	Removal of the Team from the Competition

## Section D – Zero Tolerance Sanctions and Charges of Misconduct

Points sanctions applicable to a team in addition to other sanctions imposed on Team's and Participant's per Sections A – C.

Code	Offence	Minimum	Maximum
<b>A</b>	Pitch invasion of 1 team member who engages in or promotes violent, offensive, or threatening conduct.	3 point deduction	12 point deduction
<b>B</b>	Pitch invasion of 2 or more team members who engage in or promote violent, offensive, or threatening conduct.	6 point deduction	Withdrawn from competition
<b>C</b>	A violent incident occurs on the field of play involving four (4) or more players engaging in violent conduct	6 point deduction	Withdrawn from competition
<b>D</b>	A violent incident occurs on the field of play involving eight (8) or more players engaging in violent conduct.	9 point deduction	Withdrawn from competition
<b>E</b>	An official is threatened or physically assaulted	12 point deduction	Withdrawn from competition

Notes:

Section "D" applies **Zero Tolerance Sanctions**.

- (a) *Minimum and Maximum Sanctions are points deductions and apply to the season in which the offence occurs.*
- (b) *Team Members includes Team Officials, substitute players and spectators. Further, Team officials comprise coaches, managers, trainers, and any other person permitted inside the ropes or in any recognised Technical Area.*
- (c) *One sanction to apply per team, per incident, with the most serious Code to be applied.*
- (d) *Where both teams are engaged in the violent conduct, but one team is determined to be the instigator, a more severe sanction will be applied to that team.*
- (e) *The definition of Officials includes Referees, Assistant Referees, FSG Representatives, Ground Controllers and any person acting in an official capacity on behalf of an affiliated Club.*



# SCHEDULE B - DEFINITIONS

<b>Additional Suspension</b>	means a Suspension in addition to a Mandatory Match Suspension.
<b>Affected Party</b>	has the meaning given to it under Part 3 of these Regulations.
<b>Appeals Committee</b>	means the Judicial Body responsible for hearing and determining appeals under Part 3 of these Regulations.
<b>Away Club</b>	means the Club appearing second on the match schedule.
<b>Judicial Body</b>	means a body established under Part 3 of these Regulations.
<b>Centre</b>	means an entity which conducts futsal competitions endorsed by FSG.
<b>Championship</b>	means the final series of a Competition held at the completion of a Premiership in accordance with the FSG Rules and Regulations.
<b>Chair / Chairperson</b>	means a chairperson of a Judicial Body appointed under Part 3 of these Regulations.
<b>Club</b>	means any club registered with FSG or admitted to participate in an FSG Competition. A reference to a Club in these Regulations includes a Team where that Team is not part of a Club but is accepted by FSG to register to competitions conducted by FSG (i.e., Summer Football and the St George Cup).
<b>Club Official</b>	means any person involved with the administration, management or organisation of a Club, Centre, Referees Body, including employees, contractors, directors, representatives and volunteers.
<b>Competition</b>	means any or all of the football Matches, Competitions, Premierships, Championships, Cups, Tournaments and events owned or conducted by FSG.
<b>Cup</b>	means a Competition in which Clubs/Teams compete in a series of knockout matches in accordance with the FSG Rules and Regulations.
<b>Determination</b>	means a decision made by the FSG Executive or a Judicial Body in accordance with these Regulations.
<b>Disciplinary Committee</b>	means the Body responsible for making determinations under Part 3 of these Regulations.
<b>Disciplinary History</b>	means a Participant's disciplinary record as held by FA, FNSW, FSG, a Member Federation or any other football association.
<b>Football Australia ("FA")</b>	means Football Australia Limited, the governing body for football in Australia.
<b>Field of Play</b>	means the field of play and any perimeter area between the line markings of the pitch and the spectator area.
<b>FIFA</b>	means Federation Internationale de Football Association, its successor or assignee.

<b>Football NSW (“FNSW”)</b>	means Football NSW Limited which is the governing body for football (including futsal) in the State.
<b>Football Related Activity</b>	has the meaning given to it under Part 4 of these Regulations.
<b>Football St George (“FSG”)</b>	means St George Football Association Incorporated which is the governing body for football (including futsal) in the St George Region, its Board, and Executive.
<b>FSG Board</b>	means the directors of FSG appointed or elected from time to time in accordance with the FSG Constitution.
<b>FSG Executive</b>	means the Chief Executive Officer of FSG.
<b>Football St George By-Laws</b>	means the by-laws of Football St George.
<b>Football St George Constitution</b>	means the constitution of Football St George.
<b>Football St George Rules and Regulations</b>	mean any rules, regulations, by-laws, policies, procedures, directives, codes of conduct and guidelines developed, promulgated, and implemented by FSG.
<b>Judicial Bodies Panel</b>	Means the people appointed by the FSG board to serve on the Disciplinary Committee or Appeals Committee as invited by the FSG Executive
<b>Match</b>	means a single meeting of two teams to play football in a Competition.
<b>Match Official</b>	means a referee, assistant referee, fourth official, assessor, match commissioner, any person in charge of safety or any other person appointed by FA, FNSW, FSG, a Referees’ Body, a Centre, a Club, to assume responsibility in connection with a match but does not include a Team Official or Club Official.
<b>Match Suspension</b>	has the meaning given to it under Part 4 of these Regulations.
<b>Maximum Suspension</b>	means the maximum suspension, if prescribed, for an Offence as set out in Schedule A: Table of Offences.
<b>Member</b>	has the meaning attributed to it in the FSG Constitution.
<b>Member Federation</b>	means a State, Territory or a regional association or federation that is a member or an interim member of FA from time to time.
<b>Minimum Sanction or Suspension</b>	means the minimum sanction or suspension, if prescribed, for an Offence as set out in Schedule A: Table of Offences.
<b>Misconduct</b>	has the meaning given to it under Part 6 of these Regulations.
<b>Notice of Charge</b>	means a notice issued by FSG setting out the charge(s) against a Participant or Club.
<b>Notice of Suspension</b>	means a notice issued by FSG to a Participant setting out the Suspension determined pursuant to these Regulations.
<b>Obvious Error</b>	has the meaning given to it under Part 2 of these Regulations.

<b>Offences</b>	means those offences set out in Schedule A: Table of Offences.
<b>Official</b>	means a Team Official, Club Official, or Match Official.
<b>Participant</b>	means a Player, Official, Spectator, an individual otherwise registered with FSG to participate in football in the Region or an individual issued with media accreditation by FSG.
<b>Player</b>	means any person who participates in a Match. For the avoidance of doubt, a reference to a Player during a Match includes a substitute and a substituted player.
<b>Premiership</b>	means a Competition in which Clubs/Teams compete in a series of Matches during a Season in accordance with the FSG Rules and Regulations.
<b>Red Card</b>	means a card issued to a Player for the commission of a Red Card Offence.
<b>Referees Body</b>	means a body made up of Match Officials who provide services to FSG.
<b>Regulations</b>	means these FSG Disciplinary Regulations.
<b>Season</b>	means from the commencement of a Competition to the conclusion of a Competition unless otherwise directed by FSG.
<b>Spectating</b>	means attendance at a stadium, venue, ground or Centre during any match, competition or training session sanctioned or administered by FSG, Clubs, or Centres.
<b>Spectator</b>	means a person in attendance at a stadium, venue, ground, or Centre during any match, competition or training session sanctioned or administered by FSG, Clubs, or Centres.
<b>State</b>	means the state of New South Wales with the exception of the northern regions of NSW which are identified by FA as “Northern NSW”.
<b>Summer Football</b>	means the Competition season that typically runs between October and December inclusive.
<b>Suspension</b>	means any suspension applicable under or issued pursuant to these Regulations.
<b>Table of Offences</b>	means the Offences as set out at Schedule A to these Regulations.
<b>Team</b>	means any team registered with FSG, any team admitted by FSG to participate in a Competition or any team registered with a Centre.
<b>Team Official</b>	means any person involved with the management, preparation, or participation of a Team (whether paid or unpaid), including the coaches, managers, medical staff, other support staff or any other person acting for or on behalf of a Team, Club, or Centre.
<b>Technical Area</b>	means the area, which may or may not be marked or designated, within which the substitute Players and the Team Officials are located during a match.
<b>Temporary Dismissal or TD</b>	has the meaning given to it under Part 2 of these Regulations.
<b>Time Suspension</b>	has the meaning given to it under Part 4 of these Regulations.

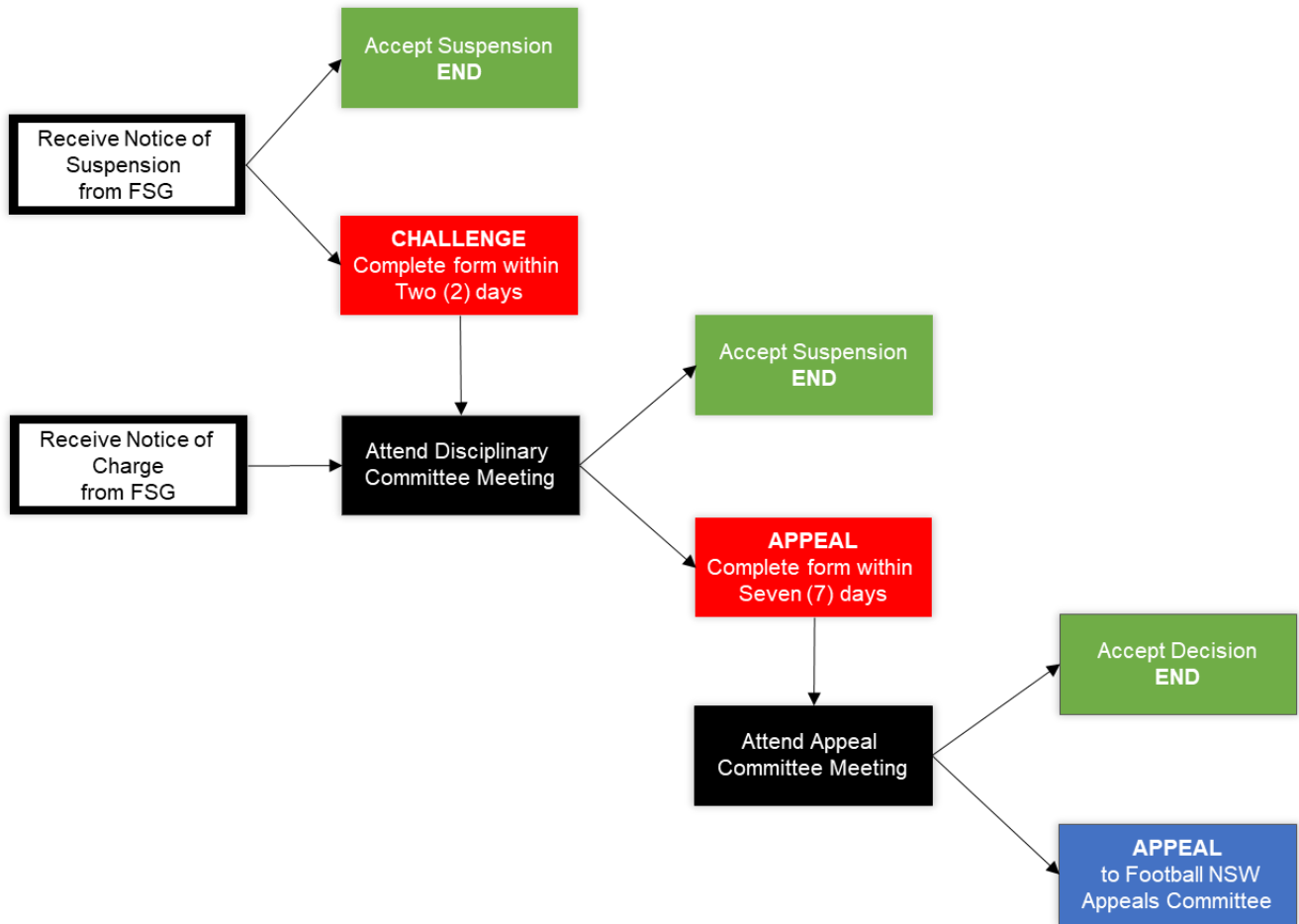
<b>Tournament</b>	means a Competition in which Clubs/Teams compete in a series of matches in accordance with the FSG Rules and Regulations.
<b>Trial Match</b>	means any match played by two Clubs/Teams which does not form part of a Competition, Premiership, Championship, Cup or other event or tournament.
<b>Winter Football</b>	means the Competition season that typically has a pre-season from January to March, followed by a Premiership that runs from April to August, and Championship from September to October.
<b>Yellow Card</b>	means a caution of a Player or Registered Team Official by a Match Official for an infringement set out under Part 2 of these Regulations.

# SCHEDULE C - REVISION HISTORY

Amendments to the Competition Regulations are set out in the following table;

Season	Amendments Approved By	Date Approved
2013 By-Laws	Meeting of Club Delegates	3 December 2012
2014 By-Laws	Meeting of Club Delegates	25 November 2013
2015 By-Laws	Meeting of Club Delegates	2 February 2015
2016 By-Laws	Meeting of Club Delegates	23 November 2015
2017 By-Laws	Meeting of Club Delegates	21 November 2016
2018 By-Laws	Meeting of Club Delegates	20 November 2017
2019 By-Laws	Meeting of Club Delegates	19 November 2018
2020 By-Laws	Meeting of Club Delegates	18 November 2019
2022 By-Laws	Meeting of Club Delegates	31 March 2022
2022 By-Laws	Meeting of Club Delegates	4 July 2022
2023 Disciplinary Regulations	Meeting of Club Delegates	17 January 2023
2023 Disciplinary Regulations	FSG Executive	3 April 2023
2024 Disciplinary Regulations	FSG Board	4 February 2024

# SCHEDULE D – DISCIPLINARY PROCESS FLOW CHART





**FOOTBALL  
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