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# FFA NATIONAL FUTSAL CHAMPIONSHIPS 2017 DISCIPLINARY REGULATIONS AND PROCEDURES

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Version 1, issued 8 December, 2016

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## 1. OBJECTIVES AND APPLICATION OF REGULATIONS

- a) Football Federation Australia (**FFA**) has granted Football NSW (**FNSW**) a mandate to be responsible for the organisation, promotion and regulation of the FFA National Futsal Championships (**the Competition**).
- b) FNSW has established a Local Organising Committee (**LOC**) to deliver the Competition.
- c) In accordance with clause 1.2 of the FFA National Disciplinary Regulations (**NDRs**), the 2017 FFA National Futsal Championship Disciplinary Regulations and Procedures (**Regulations**) are supplementary to the **NDRs**.
- d) In accordance with clause 17 of the NDRs, the LOC provides the Regulations to supplement the NDRs.
- e) These Regulations exist in conjunction with the FFA National Grievance Resolution Regulations and the FFA Grievance Procedure By-Law (**FFA Grievance Resolution Regulations**).
- f) Where these Regulations are silent on any particular aspect, then all teams, affiliated bodies and organisations shall first have regard to the FFA rules and regulations and, where applicable, the rules and regulations of the Asian Football Confederation and FIFA.
- g) The LOC will interpret and apply all articles of these Regulations and, subject to section 2(b) of these Regulations, any such interpretation or application will be final and binding on all parties.
- h) All capitalised terms used but not defined have the meaning given to them in the NDRs, the FFA Grievance Resolution Regulations or FFA Statutes.

## 2. AUTHORITY AND JURISDICTION

- a) These Regulations will apply exclusively to facilitate the expeditious and fair resolution of incidents, disciplinary, dispute and conduct matters relating to the Competition.
- b) Each Participant, Team and spectator shall submit exclusively to the jurisdiction of these Regulations and agrees that unless it has exhausted the procedures set out in these Regulations, the NDRs and the FFA Grievance Resolution Regulations, it will not attempt to resolve any incident, disciplinary, dispute, conduct or grievance matters by recourse to a court of law.
- c) The LOC will establish the Disciplinary Committee to determine sanctions for any expulsions or incidents that occur during or in connection with the Competition.
- d) The LOC will establish the Appeals Tribunal to hear any appeals against the decisions of the Disciplinary Committee.
- e) The Disciplinary Committee may issue sanctions for any expulsion or incident reported to it that occurred during or in connection to the Competition.
- f) The Appeals Tribunal can uphold, reduce or quash a sanction issued by the Disciplinary Committee.
- g) The LOC may, in its absolute discretion, stand down a Participant the subject of an Incident Report from participating in any Match of the Competition until the Disciplinary Committee has been convened and a decision has been made.
- h) Any appeal against a decision of the Appeals Tribunal can only be made to the relevant FFA appeal body as detailed in the FFA Grievance Resolution Regulations.

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- i) Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in these Regulations, the LOC may forward a Send-Off Report or Incident Report to FNSW for further investigation and determination. FNSW may determine, in its absolute discretion, how such matters are to be dealt with, including but not limited to, referring the matter to the FNSW General Purposes Tribunal. FNSW may, in its absolute discretion, stand down a Participant the subject of a Send-Off Report or Incident Report being investigated by FNSW from participating in any Match of the Competition until the matter has been finalised.

### **3. POSSIBLE DISCIPLINARY SANCTIONS**

- a) Possible Disciplinary Sanctions are as outlined in the NDRs.
- b) A table of offences and applicable minimum sanctions are set out in Annexure 1 to these Regulations (**Table of Offences**).

### **4. ACCUMULATION OF YELLOW CARDS**

- a) Any player that accumulates 3 yellow cards in the Group Stage must serve a mandatory 1 match suspension.
- b) Any player that accumulates 2 yellow cards in the Championship Stage must serve a mandatory 1 match suspension.
- c) Yellow cards earned in the Group Stage do not accumulate through to the Championship Stage.
- d) Yellow cards that do not result in a match suspension do not carry over into any other competition.
- e) If a player receives 2 yellow cards during the same match and therefore receives a red card, the 2 yellow cards are expunged from his or her record and are not accumulated.
- f) If a player receives a yellow card and then a direct red card in the same match, the yellow card will not be expunged and will be counted in the player's accumulation of yellow cards.

### **5. ACCUMULATION OF RED CARDS**

- a) A player that receives a straight red card must serve the Mandatory Match Suspension of 1 match plus any additional suspension as determined by the Disciplinary Committee or, in the case of an appeal, the suspension imposed by the Appeals Tribunal or the relevant FFA appeal body, as the case may be.
- b) A player that receives any subsequent straight red card in the Competition will be required to serve the Mandatory Match Suspension of 2 matches plus any additional suspension as determined by the Disciplinary Committee, or, in the case of an appeal, the Appeals Tribunal or the relevant FFA appeal body, as the case may be.

### **6. TEAM OFFICIALS**

- a) A Team Official that is sent from the Technical Area is required to serve a minimum 1 match suspension in addition to any further sanction applicable and determined by the Disciplinary Committee or, in the case of an appeal, the suspension imposed by the Appeals Tribunal or the relevant FFA appeal body, as the case may be.

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## 7. REPORTS

- a) In order to ensure the efficiency of disciplinary and conduct matters, a Match Official must provide to the LOC a Match Official Report immediately at the completion of a Match. Match Official Reports are to be provided for:
  - i. any Red Card Offences issued during the Match including the categorisation of Offences (set out in a **Match Official Send Off Report) (Prescribed Form 01)**); and
  - ii. any serious incidents which took place (set out in a **Match Official Incident Report) (Prescribed Form 02)**).
- b) The nominated Member Federation contact and the LOC Head of Competitions may submit incident reports immediately following a match using **Prescribed Form 03**.
- c) Prescribed forms 01, 02 and 03 are online forms accessible on the Competition website <http://nationalfutsalchampionships.com.au>

## 8. DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES

### 8.1 Claims of Mistaken Identity

- a) As soon as is practicable after the completion of each Match, a Team Official from each Team must sign the team sheet for that Match.
- b) Prior to signing a team sheet, the Team Official must ensure that any yellow or red cards attributed to players on their Team have been done so correctly.
- c) If a Team Official believes that a player has been mistakenly identified on the team sheet by a Match Official as having received a yellow or red card, the Team Official must advise, in person, the Competition Coordinator of the relevant venue prior to signing the team sheet.
- d) The Competition co-ordinator shall then liaise with the Team Official, the Match Officials, the relevant Participants and any other witnesses the Competition Coordinator deems relevant and determine against whom the yellow or red card should have been issued.
- e) A determination made by a Competition Coordinator pursuant to section 8.1(d) is final and binding on all parties.
- f) For the avoidance of doubt and notwithstanding anything to the contrary in these Regulations, a Participant cannot appeal, on the basis of mistaken identity, a suspension resulting from a Match Official Send-Off Report.
- g) In the case of Incident Reports, prior to submitting an Incident Report, the author of the Incident Report must confirm the identity of the Participant with the Participant or with the Team Official of the Participant's Team.
- h) For the avoidance of doubt and notwithstanding anything to the contrary in these Regulations, a Participant cannot appeal, on the basis of mistaken identity, a suspension resulting from an Incident Report unless the LOC Disciplinary Coordinator determines, in his or her absolute discretion, that section 8.1(g) was not complied with and that the non-compliance was not substantially the fault of the Participant concerned or with the Team Official of that Participant's Team.

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## 8.2 Suspensions Resulting from Match Official Send-Off Reports

- a) Subject to section 2(i), the Disciplinary Committee will issue suspensions solely based on the Match Official Send-Off Report received from the Match Officials and in accordance with the Table of Offences.
- b) The Disciplinary Committee must set out any suspension in a Notice of Suspension which will be issued to the Participant's nominated Member Federation contact as soon as is practicable after completion of the Match.

## 8.3 Suspensions Resulting from Match Official Incident Reports

- a) Subject to section 2(i), the Disciplinary Committee will issue suspensions solely based on the Incident Report received from the Match Officials and in accordance with the Table of Offences.
- b) The Disciplinary Committee must set out any suspension in a Notice of Suspension which will be issued to a Participant's nominated Member Federation contact as soon as is practicable after completion of the Match.

## 8.4 Suspensions Resulting from Other Incident Reports

- a) Subject to section 2(i), the Disciplinary Committee may consider Incident Reports submitted by the nominated Member Federation contact and the LOC Head of Competition.
- b) The Disciplinary Committee will issue suspensions based on such Incident Reports and in accordance with the Table of Offences.
- c) The Disciplinary Committee may request additional information when considering such cases.
- d) The Disciplinary Committee must set out any suspension in a Notice of Suspension which will be issued to a Participant's nominated Member Federation contact as soon as is practicable after completion of the Match.

## 8.5 Appealing a Notice of Suspension

- a) Subject to section 8.1, a Participant may appeal the disciplinary sanction imposed by the Disciplinary Committee (and set out in a Notice of Suspension) by lodging with the LOC Disciplinary Coordinator **Prescribed Form 04** within 4 hours of the nominated Member Federation contact receiving the Notice of Suspension.
- b) The appeal fee is \$750 which must be paid into the bank account of the LOC (as nominated by the LOC Disciplinary Coordinator) at the time of lodging **Prescribed Form 04**. A copy of the receipt confirming payment of the appeal fee must accompany the lodgment of **Prescribed Form 04**. No appeal fee is payable in circumstances where the appeal is on the basis of mistaken identity and the suspension resulted from an Incident Report (section 8.3 or 8.4).
- c) Except in the case of obvious error, there is no appeal from a minimum match suspension.
- d) The following guidelines apply in determining whether a Match Official's decision amounted to obvious error:
  - i. a disciplinary decision must have been made by the Match Official to issue a yellow or red card;
  - ii. it clearly must have been a wrong decision (such as mistaken identity); and
  - iii. it must not have been a discretionary decision by a Match Official as to whether an action was a foul or a yellow or red card.

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- e) A Participant (or the Participant's nominated Member Federation contact on the Participant's behalf) may, in very limited circumstances, seek to limit the disciplinary consequences of a suspension by demonstrating to the Appeals Tribunal that the circumstances of an incident leading to a suspension were exceptional, such that the suspension imposed would be clearly and demonstrably excessive.
- f) An appeal against a decision of the Disciplinary Committee will be heard by the Appeals Tribunal. When determining any appropriate sanction, the Appeals Tribunal 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 a Participant wishes to appeal a suspension, the Participant must submit the following:

**WHAT:**

COMPULSORY: A signed written statement by the Participant setting out the grounds upon which he or she believes the suspension set out in the Notice of Suspension should not be applied; **AND**

Pay the appeal fee of \$750 into the bank account of the LOC (as nominated by the LOC Head of Competition);  
**AND**

A copy of the receipt confirming payment of the appeal fee; **AND**

OPTION 1: video or photo evidence; **AND/OR**

OPTION 2: signed written statements by other witnesses.

**WHEN:**

Within 4 hours of the nominated Member Federation contact receiving the Notice of Suspension.

**HOW:**

Complete **Prescribed Form 04** and provide it to the LOC Disciplinary Coordinator.

- h) If the LOC does not receive a properly completed and signed written statement, any other evidence and confirmation of payment of the appeal fee by the time specified, the Participant is deemed to have accepted the suspension and to have waived his or her right to appeal the suspension.
- i) The Appeals Tribunal may, in its absolute discretion, request additional information from the LOC, from the Participant and/or from his or her nominated Member Federation contact prior to making a decision.
- j) After considering the evidence, the Appeals Tribunal will decide whether the appeal is to be rejected or upheld (in whole or in part).
- k) If the Appeals Tribunal rejects the appeal, the original decision set out in the Notice of Suspension applies.
- l) If the Appeals Tribunal upholds the appeal (in whole or in part), it shall impose such suspension, if any, as it deems appropriate taking into consideration the circumstances of the subject incident, which revised suspension shall not be subject to any further challenge or appeal.

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## 9. DISCIPLINARY HEARING PROCEDURES

- a) The LOC will establish and appoint members to the following two bodies:
  - i. The Disciplinary Committee which shall consist of a minimum of 1 and a maximum of 3 members; and
  - ii. The Appeals Tribunal which shall consist of a minimum of 2 and a maximum of 3 members.
- b) Given the nature of the Competition:
  - i. The Disciplinary Committee will comprise a minimum of 1 member in order to make valid decisions.
  - ii. The Appeals Tribunal will comprise of a minimum of 2 members in order to make a valid decision.

## 10. IMPLEMENTATION OF DISCIPLINARY SANCTIONS

- a) Any suspension issued under these Regulations will apply in accordance with the Notice of Suspension.
- b) Should a Participant receive a match suspension under these Regulations, that match suspension shall be served in the next consecutive Match/s which that Participant's team plays in, until the match suspension is served in full.
- c) Regardless of whether they receive a Notice of Suspension prior to their next Match, players that are expelled from the court must serve a mandatory 1 match suspension at their next Match. Should a player take the court in the Match following an expulsion, that Participant's team will be deemed to have fielded an ineligible player and will forfeit the Match.
- d) Regardless of whether they receive a Notice of Suspension prior to their next Match, any Team Official expelled from the Technical Area must serve a mandatory 1 match suspension at their next Match.
- e) If a Participant in the Competition plays under the jurisdiction of another Member Federation then the LOC may inform that Member Federation of that Participant's remaining Suspension and the Member Federation may, in its absolute discretion, apply the Suspension to its competitions.



# Annexure 1: Table of Offences

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

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



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