

# NORTH COAST FOOTBALL

## By-law 8

# Disciplinary and Disputes Procedure

September 2017

## Status

This By-law is made by the Zone Committee under the powers conferred on it by the Constitution of North Coast Football Zone. It is to be known as By-law 8.

## Interpretation

Words and phrases defined in the Constitution have the same meanings in this By-law, which is to be read in conjunction with (and subject to) the Constitution.

## Purpose

This By-law provides rules for the conduct of Disciplinary and Dispute proceedings unique to events within the Zone that are not covered in Football Federation Australia's National Disciplinary Regulations and must form part of the FFA Statutes to which all Members are bound. Additionally, it does not limit or restrict the application of FIFA Statutes or FFA Statutes and, in particular, the Code of Conduct for conduct or behaviour of a Participant that occurs outside of the authority of the Referee.

In any instance where this By-Law is silent, reference must therefore be made to the National Disciplinary Regulations (excerpt follows) and Football Federation Australia Statutes and associated Policies and documents.

### **16. COMPETITION RULES**

*Subject to clause 1.5, if there is any inconsistency between a term of these Regulations and a term of any Competition Rules, the term of these Regulations will govern to the extent of that inconsistency and the inconsistent term is void and of no effect.*

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## 8.1 INFRINGEMENT OF LAWS OF THE GAME

The following procedures shall operate in all matches played under the jurisdiction of North Coast Football.

- a. An expulsion is for a serious infringement of the Laws of the Game and is the order given by the Referee to someone to leave the vicinity of the field of play and the technical area, including the substitutes' bench, during a Match.
- b. Any expulsion or conduct reported may be deemed serious enough to warrant additional actions and therefore may require an appearance before the Disciplinary Committee at a time and date set by North Coast Football.
- c. As per 3.4 in the National Disciplinary Regulations, a Competition Administrator or the appointed Judiciary Chair (or their delegate) may determine that the send-off of a Player or the expulsion of a Team Official was of such a nature as to warrant a sanction greater than the mandatory match suspension, including additional match suspensions and/or a fine. In imposing an additional match suspension, a Competition Administrator or the appointed Judiciary Chair (or their delegate) must determine that a sanction additional to a mandatory match suspension is imposed in accordance with Annexure A and the Table of Offences.

## 8.2 CITING PARTICIPANTS

- a. A player may be cautioned by a Referee during a match for any of the cautionable offences contained in the Laws of the Game (as published and amended from time to time by FIFA and/or FFA).
- b. In the event that a Match Official is not appointed by the Competition Administration and a Club Referee takes control of a match, that person has all the same authority and responsibilities of an officially appointed Referee.
- c. A player shall be considered to have been cautioned by the showing of a yellow card by an official referee, or, in the case of an unofficial or 'Club' referee, by an oral caution having been given. In each case, the caution must be recorded on the official Match Card or Sheet, with the appropriate caution code by the Referee of that match.
- d. A Referee may take action against a Team Official who fails to conduct themselves in a responsible manner and may expel the Team Official from the field of play and its surroundings, including the substitute's bench. The Referee must complete a Conduct Report for any such event and submit it to the Competition Administrator no later than the second working day following the day on which the match took place.
- e. A Club may lodge an objection against a player's caution or Team Official's expulsion on the grounds of mistaken identity only. An objection must be lodged at North Coast Football's office by noon on the second working day following the day on which the match took place. The objection must come either on Club letterhead or if electronically, from the Club's designated email address. Any communication other than these two accepted methods will not be accepted.

- f. The match referee issuing a caution to a player shall confirm the fact in the appropriate place(s) on the official match card, identifying the player by name and shirt number and caution code.
- g. The match referee taking action against a Team Official shall confirm the fact in the appropriate place(s) on the official match card / sheet and in a Conduct Report, identifying the person by name if at all possible and listing the events which led to the expulsion.
- h. Each of the following competitions conducted by North Coast Football:
  - i. Pre-season
  - ii. Premiership
  - iii. Finals series
  - iv. Championships and others
 shall be regarded as separate in relation to the accumulation of cautions by players.
- i. A player accumulating **3 cautions during a pre-season competition** shall serve a one-match suspension with no right of appeal against that one-match suspension. The suspension shall be served in the next pre-season match or (if that competition has ended) in the first Premiership competition match that follows the match in which the third caution was received.
- j. A player accumulating **4 cautions during a Premiership competition** shall serve a one-match suspension with no right of appeal against that one-match suspension. The suspension shall be served in the next Premiership competition match or (if that competition has ended) in the first finals series match that follows the match in which the fourth caution was received.
- k. A player accumulating **6 cautions during a Premiership competition** shall serve a two-match suspension with no right of appeal against that two-match suspension. The suspension shall be served in the next two Premiership competition matches and/or (if that competition has ended) in the first finals series match(s) that follows the match in which the sixth caution was received.
- l. A player accumulating **2 cautions during a Finals Series** competition shall serve a one-match suspension with no right of appeal against that one-match suspension. The suspension shall be served in the next Finals series match if there is one, but failing this the suspension shall carry over to in the first Premiership competition match in the following season.
- m. A player accumulating sufficient cautions during a Championship or Special Competition to warrant a mandatory suspension shall serve that suspension in that competition's next match or (if that the team's participation in that Championship or Special Competition has ended) shall serve the suspension in the next Premiership Competition match or finals series match (as appropriate) that follows.
- n. Notwithstanding any of the foregoing, a player **accumulating 7 cautions** shall serve a three match suspension with no right of appeal against that three match suspension. Additionally, the player may be required to appear before the Disciplinary Committee, which may, at its discretion, impose a further suspension as it deems appropriate for every subsequent caution received by the player, without right of appeal.

- o. It is the responsibility of the club concerned to ensure that a player who has accumulated sufficient cautions to warrant mandatory suspension does not play in any match until the suspension has been properly served.
- p. Any team failing to comply with this requirement shall forfeit any points gained from any match in which that offending player took part.
- q. In addition, the club concerned shall be called to account to the Disciplinary Committee which may, at its discretion, apply such other sanctions, bonds, fines or suspensions to either the club, or the player, or both as it sees fit.
- r. A club shall have a right of appeal to the Appeal Board against any such penalties imposed.
- s. **Cautions shall not carry over** from one season to the next and shall expire after the end of a season's final fixture.
- t. **Suspensions shall carry over** from one season to the next, until fully served.

### 8.3 ALTERNATIVE ARRANGEMENTS FOR APPEALS 'REMOTE' CLUBS

In the case of clubs located more than 100km from the usual venue for the Disciplinary Committee meetings, alternative arrangements may be made in order to reduce what is deemed to be excessive travel.

### 8.4 UNFORESEEABLE CIRCUMSTANCES

Nothing in this or any other By-law shall prevent the Zone Committee of North Coast Football from approving whatever action(s) may be required to meet unforeseen or other circumstances not covered by its By-laws. The Zone Committee wherever possible will provide reasonable consideration and notice to all interested parties at its sole discretion.

### 8.5 DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE PROCEDURES

The following procedure shall be the basis for conducting Disciplinary Committee Hearings in respect of any charges against persons arising from a Referee's Conduct or send-off report and the calling of any other Disciplinary Hearing:

- a. The following officials, players and other persons may be directed by the Chairman of the Disciplinary Committee or Appeals Committee (The Committee) to attend and give evidence at any Hearing:
  - i. The Referee and a representative of his/her Referees' Advisory Committee or a guardian if a Junior.
  - ii. The assistant referee(s) and a representative of their Referees' Advisory Committee or a guardian if a Junior..
  - iii. The person charged and his/her Club representative.
  - iv. Any other player or person mentioned in the match correspondence or report(s), together with their club representatives.
  - v. Any other person(s) as deemed necessary.

- b. At the start of proceedings the Chairman shall read the charge(s) against the person and shall outline the Committee's intended procedure for conducting the Hearing. The Chairman shall also advise all interested parties represented of their rights and entitlements under the Constitution and By-laws of North Coast Football and all FFA Statutes and Policies. Refer to section 11 of the National Disciplinary Regulations.
- c. The charged person, the match Referee and each of their representatives at the discretion of the Chairman, may be allowed to remain during the Hearing, but are not entitled to address the meeting or ask questions unless given permission by the Chairman. Other persons are asked to retire until called upon to give evidence and be questioned, after which they shall immediately leave the Hearing.
- d. All appropriate reports and correspondence will be issued to each party involved for review prior to the Hearing and may be read aloud by the Chairman.
- e. The Chairman asks the person charged to confirm that he/she was the named member of the particular Football team during the match in question; and asks the same question of any other persons identified in correspondence related to the event(s).
- f. The Chairman will invite each person involved in the case to address the Committee, usually in the following order (although the Chairman may vary this at his/her discretion):
  - i. Match Referee and/or his/her official representative.
  - ii. Assistant Referee and/or his/her official representative.
  - iii. Charged person and his/her representative.
  - iv. Any other persons identified in the correspondence and/or their representative(s).
  - v. Any other person(s) as deemed necessary by the Chairman.
- g. Each person so called will be invited to give their personal account of the incident(s) in question. Having done so each person called may be questioned, by permission from the Chairman – **through the Chairman only**
- h. The Chairman and members of the Committee may ask questions, as they desire, at any time during the proceedings.
- i. After all evidence has been given, and when the Committee decides that it has all the evidence needed to make a decision, all parties other than the members of the Committee shall retire.
- j. The Committee will consider the case and make a determination of findings based on what it believes to be the facts.
- k. A decision having been reached, the person charged and his/her representative will be notified of the Committee's findings. This decision will be confirmed, in writing, to the Club of the person charged as soon as is reasonably practical.

## 8.6 PARTICIPANT UNDER SUSPENSION

- a. A period of suspension imposed on a participant ends at midnight of the day on which that participant's team completes its match in the last round of fixtures during the suspension period.
- b. A period of suspension of a participant will apply in the competition grade of the match in which the participant was playing or involved when the offence that gave rise to the suspension was committed.
- c. Should a period of suspension not be completed by the end of a season it carries forward to the next season. The participant shall not be eligible to participate in any grade until the relevant grade in which he/she was originally sent off has completed the number of matches specified in the suspension.
- d. As per the National Disciplinary Regulations, 13.3 Subject to clause 12.7 (Friendly matches), a Participant who is suspended **may not participate in any Match until he has served his suspension in Matches forming part of a Competition**, provided that a Participant may participate in Friendly Matches during the period of suspension unless the Competition Administrator or Judicial Body determines otherwise