



**Blacktown & Districts Soccer Football
Association Incorporated**

**Grievance and Disciplinary Regulations
2019**

Contents

1. INTRODUCTION	6
2. OBJECTIVES	6
3. JURISDICTION	7
4. AUTHORITY TO ESTABLISH COMMITTEES AND TRIBUNALS	7
5. MEMBERSHIP OF BODIES.....	7
5.1 Appointment of Body Members	7
5.2 Composition of a Body.....	7
5.3 Qualification of Body Members	8
5.4 Term	8
5.5 Resignation and Removal of Body Members.....	8
5.6 Code of Conduct for Body Members	8
6. CORRESPONDENCE, PRESCRIBED FORMS AND MATCH OFFICIAL REPORTS	9
6.1 Correspondence and Prescribed Forms.....	9
6.2 Match Official Reports	9
7. DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE	10
7.1 Jurisdiction	10
7.2 Determination.....	10
7.3 Challenging a decision on the basis of mistaken identity in a Match Official Send-Off/Expulsion Report	11
7.4 Challenging a Notice of Suspension.....	12
7.5 Appealing a decision of the Disciplinary Committee in respect of a challenge	14
7.6 Contempt against the Disciplinary Committee.....	15
8. GENERAL PURPOSES TRIBUNAL	15
8.1 Jurisdiction	15
8.2 Charges of Misconduct and Disrepute.....	15
8.3 Grievances.....	16
8.4 Referral from the Disciplinary Committee.....	17
8.5 Offences disclosed in Match Official Reports	17
8.6 Matters of Importance.....	18
8.7 Decisions of the General Purposes Tribunal	19
8.8 Appealing a decision of the General Purposes Tribunal	19
9. APPEALS TRIBUNAL.....	20

9.1	Jurisdiction	20
9.2	Standing to Appeal.....	20
9.3	Grounds of Appeal	21
9.4	Decisions of the Appeals Tribunal.....	21
9.5	Appeal from a General Purposes Tribunal in relation to a Grievance	22
9.6	Appeals against a decision of a Member Appeals Committee	22
9.7	Abandoned Appeals.....	23
10.	NO RECOURSE TO COURTS	23
11.	MEDIATION	23
12.	ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES OF TRIBUNALS.....	24
12.1	Electronic Documents	24
12.2	Responsibility of BDSFA	24
12.3	Submissions by a party.....	25
12.4	Affected Party	25
12.5	Legal Representation	26
12.6	Parent/Guardian	26
12.7	Non-attendance	26
12.8	Adjournment.....	26
12.9	Stay of proceedings.....	27
12.10	General conduct of Tribunal hearings.....	27
12.11	Disclosure of Tribunal members	28
12.12	Challenge of jurisdiction of a Tribunal or of a Tribunal member.....	28
12.13	Standard of proof.....	28
12.14	Costs generally	28
12.15	Contempt against a Tribunal.....	30
12.16	Tribunal may hear proceedings regardless of related criminal or disciplinary action.....	30
12.17	Immunity.....	30
12.18	Correction of a Determination.....	30
12.19	Publication and Confidentiality.....	30
12.20	Legal advice.....	31
12.21	BDSFA Staff.....	31
12.22	Fines	31
12.23	BDSFA Representative.....	31
13.	SUSPENSION ORDERS.....	31

13.1 Interim Suspension Orders	31
13.2 Suspension for criminal charges and offences	31
13.3 Suspension following disqualification from working with children	32
14. SERVING OF SUSPENSIONS	32
14.1 Application of Suspensions and Determinations	32
14.2 Suspensions to be served immediately	32
14.3 Club Responsibility on Suspensions and Team Sheets	32
14.4 Types of Suspensions	32
14.5 Time Suspensions.....	33
14.6 Fixture Suspensions	33
14.7 Non-selection of BDSFA representative teams.....	34
14.8 Effect of Abandoned Matches	35
14.9 Recognition of Suspensions	35
15. CONDUCT	35
15.1 Financial Default and Payment of Interest	35
15.2 Non-Financial Conduct.....	35
15.3 Non-Financial Conduct - Participants.....	36
15.4 Misconduct and Disrepute.....	36
15.5 Misconduct – Culpability, Attempt and Involvement	36
15.6 Misconduct – Club Liability	36
15.7 Misconduct – Registration	37
16. ON-FIELD MISCONDUCT.....	37
16.1 Yellow Card Offences	37
16.2 Accumulation of Yellow Cards - Premiership.....	38
16.3 Accumulation of Yellow Cards – Finals Series.....	38
16.4 Red Card Offences.....	39
16.5 Accumulation of Red Cards.....	39
16.6 Club responsibility for recording accumulation of Yellow and Red Cards Offences.....	40
16.7 Team Misconduct.....	40
16.8 Unregistered Players.....	40
16.9 Ineligible Players	41
16.10 Team Officials and Club Officials.....	41
16.11 Refusal to take the field of play and mass walk-offs	41
17. SOCIAL MEDIA AND DETRIMENTAL PUBLIC COMMENT	41

18. SPECTATORS.....	42
Schedule 1: DEFINITIONS	43
Schedule 2: PRESCRIBED FORMS AND EMAIL ADDRESSES	48
Schedule 4: APPLICATION FEES.....	55
PLEASE TYPE THE PARTICIPANT’S OR CLUB’S NAME AS THE REFERENCE WHEN MAKING THE TRANSFER	55

1. INTRODUCTION

- (a) These Regulations are made under paragraph 5 of the BDSFA By-Laws and came into operation on 21 February 2013. The Executive has the power under the BDSFA By-Laws to amend, delete or add to these Regulations from time to time.
- (b) BDSFA has granted BDSFA a mandate to be responsible for the organisation, promotion and regulation of football within our defined boundary.
- (c) These Regulations are supplementary to the FFA National Disciplinary Regulations and Grievance Resolution Regulations and BDSFA Disciplinary Regulations and Grievance Resolution Regulations.
- (d) For the purposes of these Regulations, a reference to FFA or FNSW in their Codes of Conduct and the Spectator Codes of Behaviour will also be a reference to BDSFA.
- (e) Where an incident may constitute a breach of these Regulations and a breach of the FFA Rules and Regulations (for example, the FFA Code of Conduct or the FFA National Member Protection Policy), BDSFA may in its absolute discretion determine the appropriate governing document under which to investigate, process, and penalize (if necessary) any matter.
- (f) BDSFA reserves the right to deal with any Member in respect of any offences or complaints and other matters not specifically provided for in these Regulations.
- (g) In the case of a Regulation being interpreted in two or more different ways, BDSFA reserves the right to determine which interpretation is valid. Any such determination is final and not subject to appeal.
- (h) BDSFA 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 1: Definitions.
- (k) 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 BDSFA 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.
- (l) 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.
- (b) To ensure that the game of football is played competitively and fairly in accordance with the principles of true sportsmanship.
- (c) To provide an independent, fair and effective system that sets out procedures for the administration and determination of all Grievances, incidents, disciplinary, dispute and conduct matters involving Members.

- (d) To ensure consistency and transparency of approach are evident and present in all aspects of handling all Grievances, incidents, disciplinary, dispute and conduct matters involving Members under these Regulations.

3. JURISDICTION

- (a) These Regulations will apply exclusively to facilitate the expeditious and fair resolution of:
- i. Grievances, incidents, disciplinary, dispute and conduct matters in relation to Competitions;
 - ii. Grievances, incidents, disciplinary, dispute and conduct matters in relation to competitions conducted by BDSFA under a mandate from Football NSW.
 - iii. Grievances between Members within the BDSFA;
 - iv. Incidents, disciplinary, dispute and conduct matters in relation to competitions conducted by Clubs where the Executive determines, in its absolute discretion, that the matter has not been appropriately dealt with by the Club;
 - v. any matter the Executive determines, in its absolute discretion, is important to the interests of football in the State; and
 - vi. Appeals from a Member Appeals Committee (once its internal procedures have been exhausted).
- (b) Each Member 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 Grievances, incidents, disciplinary, dispute and conduct matters by recourse to FNSW or a court of law.

4. AUTHORITY TO ESTABLISH COMMITTEES AND TRIBUNALS

- (a) The authority to establish committees and tribunals is vested in the Board of BDSFA pursuant to article 20 of the BDSFA Constitution.
- (b) These Regulations confirm the establishment of the following Bodies:
- i. Disciplinary Committee (**DC**);
 - ii. General Purposes Tribunal (**GPT**); and
 - iii. Appeals Tribunal.

5. MEMBERSHIP OF BODIES

5.1 Appointment of Body Members

- (a) The Board must appoint the Chairperson(s) and Vice-Chairperson(s) of the General Purposes Tribunal and the Appeals Tribunal.
- (b) The Executive may, from time to time, appoint person(s) (other than the Chairperson(s) and Vice-Chairperson(s)) to the General Purposes Tribunal and the Appeals Tribunal.
- (c) The Executive may, from time to time, appoint members of the Appeals Tribunal (other than the Chairperson or Vice-Chairperson(s)) to hear matters before the General Purposes Tribunal.
- (d) The Executive may, from time to time, appoint person(s) to the Disciplinary Committee.

5.2 Composition of a Body

- (a) The Disciplinary Committee must comprise a minimum of two (2) and a maximum of three (3) Disciplinary Committee members in order to make a valid decision under section 7 (Disciplinary Committee).
- (b) Subject to section 5.2(c) and section 8.5(d), a Tribunal must comprise a minimum of three (3) and a maximum of five (5) Tribunal members (including at least one of either the Chairperson(s) or

Vice-Chairperson(s)) in order to make a valid Determination under sections 8 (General Purposes Tribunal) and 9 (Appeals Tribunal).

- (c) If a Tribunal member is unexpectedly unable to attend a scheduled hearing, the Tribunal's Determination will only be valid if all of the following conditions are satisfied:
- i. the Tribunal comprises two (2) Tribunal members; and
 - ii. one of those Tribunal members is a Chairperson or Vice-Chairperson of the Tribunal; and
 - iii. the parties to the hearing (including any Affected Party) consent to the matter proceeding in this manner; and
 - iv. the Determination is unanimous.

5.3 Qualification of Body Members

- (a) Each member of a Body must have:
- i. the ability to exercise independent judgment; and
 - ii. the requisite knowledge and/or experience of football, FFA and FNSW Rules and Regulations and the BDSFA Rules and Regulations appropriate for membership of the relevant Body.
- (b) Except where the Executive otherwise determines, a person must not be appointed to a Body if that person has served in the previous twelve (12) months or is currently:
- i. a member of the Board of BDSFA;
 - ii. a member of the executive committee or board of a Club;
 - iii. a president or vice-president of a Club;
 - iv. a coach of a Club;

5.4 Term

A member of a Body will be appointed for a term of twelve (12) months unless any such member resigns or is removed pursuant to section 5.5 (Resignation and Removal of Body Members)

5.5 Resignation and Removal of Body Members

- (a) A member of a Body may resign by providing notice in writing to the Executive.
- (b) The Executive may remove a member of a Body (but not a Chairperson) at any time in its absolute discretion.
- (c) The Board may remove a Chairperson of a Tribunal at any time provided it has received a written recommendation from the Executive which outlines the reason(s) for the removal and the relevant Chairperson has had an opportunity to respond in writing to such a recommendation.

5.6 Code of Conduct for Body Members

Upon appointment by the Executive, a member of a Body agrees to be bound by and to comply with the BDSFA Code of Conduct applicable to members of a Body.

6. CORRESPONDENCE, PRESCRIBED FORMS AND MATCH OFFICIAL REPORTS

6.1 Correspondence and Prescribed Forms

- (a) All correspondence in relation to any matter under these Regulations must be made electronically and directed to the relevant email addresses set out in Schedule 2: Prescribed Forms and Email Addresses.
- (b) All prescribed forms can be located on the BDSFA website by clicking here.

6.2 Match Official Reports

- (a) In order to ensure BDSFA provides an efficient service to Members under these Regulations, Match Officials must submit their Match Official Reports to BDSFA matchreports@bdsfa.com as soon as possible, but no later than 4pm the following Tuesday of the relevant Match. No Determination of a Body will be quashed or held invalid by reason only of the failure of any Match Official(s) to comply with this section 6.2(a).
- (b) Failure to comply with the requirement set out in section 6.2(a) may result in the Match Official being demoted for one (1) or more Matches, in the absolute discretion of BDSFA.
- (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 (Prescribed Form 02 - [click here](#))**); and
 - ii. any serious incidents which took place (set out in a **Match Official Incident Report (Prescribed Form 03 - [click here](#))**);
- (d) Match Official Incident Reports should include details concerning any misbehaviour on the part of Spectators.
- (e) For the avoidance of doubt, a Body is not bound by the categorisation of any Offence by a Match Official.
- (f) In order to ensure BDSFA provides a fair and transparent system to Members under these Regulations and to assist the Bodies in arriving at their decisions, in completing Match Official Reports, Match Officials must:
 - i. 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) BDSFA will, 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 BDSFA the details of any Participant (including full name and FFA 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 BDSFA the details of the Participant; or
 - iii. require the Club to provide any information requested by BDSFA in relation to an investigation pursuant to section 8.2 (Charges of Misconduct and Disrepute).
- (i) Any Club in receipt of a Match Official Incident Report pursuant to section 6.2(h) must provide any information requested or advise the details of the offender, as the case may be, to BDSFA by 4.00pm on the next working day after issuance of the Match Official Incident Report to the Club by BDSFA, or such later time as notified by BDSFA.
 - (j) Any Club that fails to comply with section 6.2(i), will be deemed to have committed Misconduct (section 15.4) and the Executive may, in its absolute discretion, charge the Club accordingly and refer the matter to the General Purposes Tribunal for determination pursuant to section 8.2 (Charges of Misconduct and Disrepute).

7. DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE

7.1 Jurisdiction

- (a) Subject to section 7.1(b), the Disciplinary Committee has jurisdiction to:
 - i. issue Suspensions in respect of Red Card Offences (section 7.2);
 - ii. adjudicate on any challenge to a Suspension issued in respect of a Red Card Offence on the basis of mistaken identity (section 7.3(e)); and
 - iii. adjudicate on any challenge to a Suspension issued in respect of a Red Card Offence pursuant to section 7.4.
- (b) The Disciplinary Committee must not deal with a matter where the Red Card Offence disclosed in any Match Official Send-Off/Expulsion Report carries a Minimum Suspension of twelve (12) months or greater.

7.2 Determination

- (a) Subject to section 7.2(b) and section 8.5, BDSFA must, within a reasonable time following the completion of a Match, refer any Match Official Send-Off/Expulsion Report disclosing a Red Card Offence, the Participant's Disciplinary History and any other material BDSFA determines, in its absolute discretion, is relevant to the matter, to the Disciplinary Committee for its consideration.
- (b) Where any Match Official Send-Off/Expulsion Report discloses a Red Card Offence which carries a Minimum Suspension of twelve (12) months or greater, or the Executive determines that, in its absolute discretion, the Red Card Offence is too serious to be dealt with by the Disciplinary Committee, the matter will not be referred to the Disciplinary Committee and must instead be investigated by the Executive in accordance with section 8.2 (Charges of Misconduct and Disrepute) and, if appropriate, referred to the General Purposes Tribunal for determination in accordance with section 8.
- (c) The Disciplinary Committee must determine Suspensions based on the material provided by BDSFA pursuant to section (a) and by applying the Range at the Table of Offences as set out in Schedule 3.
- (d) The Disciplinary Committee must determine Suspensions and notify BDSFA of same within a reasonable time following referral from BDSFA.
- (e) Upon receipt of a Suspension from the Disciplinary Committee, BDSFA 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. Failure by the Club to do so is deemed to be a breach of these Regulations.
- (f) A Participant may only challenge a Suspension issued by the Disciplinary Committee on the following bases:

- i. in accordance with section 7.3 (Challenging a decision on the basis of mistaken identity in a Match Official Send-Off/Expulsion Report); or
 - ii. in accordance with section 7.4.
- (g) Notwithstanding sections 7.2, 7.3 and 7.4, the Disciplinary Committee may, in its absolute discretion, refer any matter to the Executive pursuant to section 8.4 (Referral from the Disciplinary Committee).
 - (h) Unless otherwise specified in these Regulations, the imposition of a Suspension by the Disciplinary Committee has immediate effect.
 - (i) All Suspensions issued by the Disciplinary Committee remain in force unless reversed by a Body and a Participant must continue to serve any Suspension until the Suspension is served in full.
 - (j) Where a Participant has a right of challenge or appeal pursuant to sections 7.3, 7.4 and/or 7.5, that challenge or appeal may be brought by the Participant's Club on the Participant's behalf and any obligations imposed on a Participant in terms of compliance with those sections apply equally to the Participant's Club.
 - (k) Subject to any legal requirements, any Suspension issued by the Disciplinary Committee may be published on the BDSFA website, the BDSFA online competition management software system and/or the National Online Registration System.

7.3 Challenging a decision on the basis of mistaken identity in a Match Official Send-Off/Expulsion Report

- (a) At the end of a Match, the relevant Team Official must sign the team sheet confirming that all details on the team sheet, including the attribution of Yellow Cards and Red Cards, are correct.
- (b) If the Team Official believes that a Participant has been mistakenly identified on the team sheet by a Match Official as having received a Yellow Card or Red Card, the Team Official must indicate same (with brief reasons) on the team sheet prior to signing it.
- (c) Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in these Regulations, unless a Team Official has complied with the requirement set out in section 7.3(b), a Member cannot challenge a Suspension resulting from a Match Official Send-Off/Expulsion Report on the basis of mistaken identity.
- (d) Provided section 7.3(b) has been complied with, if a Participant believes that he or she was mistakenly identified in a Match Official Send-Off/Expulsion Report, the Participant **must** notify BDSFA by submitting the following:

WHAT:

COMPULSORY: a signed written statement by the Participant who was reported by the Match Official in any Match Official Send-Off/Expulsion Report stating that he or she was not responsible for the offence and identifying, to the best of his or her knowledge, the name of the Participant responsible (**Prescribed Form 04 - [click here](#)**); **AND**

OPTION 1: a signed written statement by the Participant who was responsible for the offence (**Prescribed Form 05 - [click here](#)**); **OR**

OPTION 2: a signed written statement from the Participant's Club identifying, to the best of its knowledge, the name of the Participant who was responsible for the offence (**Prescribed Form 06 - [click here](#)**).

OPTIONAL: any other evidence which may support the claim for mistaken identity including, but not limited to, any video or photo evidence.

WHEN:

By 4.00pm the next working day following the completion of the Match.

HOW:

Complete **Prescribed Form 04** (compulsory) and **Prescribed 05** or **Prescribed Form 06** via JotForm and submit.

- (e) Participants should note that the time limit set out above is strict. Unless there are exceptional circumstances (to be determined by the Executive in its absolute discretion), if a Participant fails to comply with the requirements prescribed under section 7.3(d) by the time specified therein, the Participant identified in the Match Official Send-Off/Expulsion Report is deemed to have been responsible for the Offence and may, subject to the Disciplinary Committee's consideration of the matter, be issued with a Notice of Suspension. Further, that Participant is deemed to have waived his or her right to challenge under this section 7.3.
- (f) After considering the written statements and any other evidence provided, the Disciplinary Committee will, subject to section 7.2(g) (Referral to the Executive), decide whether the claim for mistaken identity should be rejected or upheld.
- (g) If the Disciplinary Committee rejects a claim for mistaken identity and:
 - i. a Notice of Suspension in relation to the matter has already been issued to the Participant, the original decision set out in the Notice of Suspension continues to apply; or
 - ii. a Notice of Suspension in relation the matter has **not** already been issued to the Participant, the Disciplinary Committee will determine the Suspension, and BDSFA will issue a Notice of Suspension to the Participant's Club, pursuant to section 7.2 (Determination).
- (h) If the Disciplinary Committee upholds any mistaken identity claim, any Notice of Suspension issued to the original Participant will be rescinded by BDSFA.
- (i) If the Disciplinary Committee upholds any mistaken identity claim and makes a finding in respect of the identity of the actual offender, the Disciplinary Committee must determine or re-determine the matter, as the case may be, as if it were dealing with a fresh matter, pursuant to section 7.2 (Determination).
- (j) The Disciplinary Committee must notify BDSFA of its decision within a reasonable time following referral from BDSFA.
- (k) Upon receipt of the Disciplinary Committee's determination, BDSFA must, as soon as is practicable, notify in writing the Participant's Club and, if applicable, set out the Suspension imposed on the actual offender in a Notice of Suspension and issue same to that 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. Failure by the Club to do so is deemed a breach of these Regulations.

7.4 Challenging a Notice of Suspension

- (a) Members acknowledge that a Match Official's decision to issue a Red Card **cannot** be reviewed by BDSFA or by a Body and, except in the case of mistaken identity, a Red Card and a Mandatory Match Suspension **cannot** be expunged.
- (b) A Player who has received a Notice of Suspension in respect of a Red Card Offence (other than in respect of R4, R5 or R7, or in circumstances where the Suspension is equal to the Mandatory Match Suspension) may choose to challenge the Suspension in accordance with this section 7.4.
- (c) A challenge pursuant to this section 7.4 is to be dealt with by the Disciplinary Committee. However, the Disciplinary Committee members dealing with a matter pursuant to this section 7.4 must not be the same members who determined the Suspension the subject of the challenge.
- (d) The Disciplinary Committee must not expunge a Red Card (except in the case of mistaken identity).
- (e) The Disciplinary Committee must not expunge a Mandatory Match Suspension (except in the case of mistaken identity).

- (f) In dealing with a challenge under this section 7.4, subject to this section 7.4(f), the Disciplinary Committee will have no power to remove a Red Card, a Mandatory Match Suspension or reduce a Minimum Suspension but may:
- i. make a finding that the Offence has not been proven, in which case it may remove any Additional Suspension that may have been imposed; or
 - ii. make a finding that the Offence has been proven, in which case the Disciplinary Committee may, in its discretion, increase the Additional Suspension, decrease the Additional Suspension (but not below the applicable Minimum Suspension) and/or impose any additional sanctions on the Player as it sees fit; or
 - iii. make a finding that the Player is guilty of a different Offence, or the same Offence but at a different grading, 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 any additional sanctions on the Player.
- (g) Subject to section 7.4(h), when determining a challenge in accordance with section 7.4(f), the Disciplinary Committee may consider:
- i. the nature and severity of the Offence, including whether it was intentional, negligent or reckless;
 - ii. the Player's past record and whether or not this is a repeated Offence;
 - iii. the remorse of the Player; and
 - iv. any extenuating circumstances relevant to the commission of the Offence.
- (h) When determining a challenge in accordance with section 7.4(f), the Disciplinary Committee must **not** take into account the following circumstances:
- i. the significance or importance to the Player or his or her Club of the Match in which the Offence was committed;
 - ii. the significance or importance of any Match, Fixture or tournament in which the Player will be ineligible to participate because of the imposition of a Suspension imposed within the range in Schedule 3: Table of Offences;
 - iii. the point in the Match at which the Offence was committed;
 - iv. the conduct, including actions, words or gestures of any Participant or Spectator during or related to the Match; and
 - v. any disciplinary decision taken or failure to take a disciplinary decision by a Match Official during the Match.
- (i) If the identity of the Participant is at issue, prior to bringing a challenge under this section 7.4, the Participant must first challenge the Match Official Send-Off/Expulsion Report or the Notice of Suspension, as the case may be, in accordance with section 7.3 (Challenging a decision on the basis of mistaken identity in a Match Official Send-Off/Expulsion Report).
- (j) If a Participant wishes to lodge a challenge to a Suspension under this section 7.4, the Participant **must** notify BDSFA by submitting the following:

WHAT:

COMPULSORY: a signed written statement by the Participant (or his or her Club) setting out the grounds upon which he or she relies (**Prescribed Form 7** - [click here](#)); AND

Pay to BDSFA the relevant Application Fee (as per Schedule 4: Application Fees); AND

OPTION 1: video or photo evidence; AND/OR

OPTION 2: signed written statements from relevant witnesses.

WHEN:

By 4.00pm on the second (2nd) working day after the issuance of a Notice of Suspension by BDSFA.

HOW:

Email a signed **Prescribed Form 07** to dc@bdsfa.com

- (k) Participants should note that the time limit set out above is strict. Unless there are exceptional circumstances (to be determined by the Executive in its absolute discretion), if a Participant fails to comply with the requirements prescribed under section 7.4(j), including payment of the Application Fee, by the time specified therein, the Participant is deemed to have accepted the Suspension and waived his or her right to challenge the Suspension under this section 7.4.
- (l) The Disciplinary Committee may in its absolute discretion request additional information from BDSFA or the Participant prior to making a decision.
- (m) After considering the evidence, the Disciplinary Committee will decide whether the challenge is to be rejected or is successful.
- (n) The Disciplinary Committee must notify BDSFA of its decision within a reasonable time following referral from BDSFA.
- (o) Upon receipt of the Disciplinary Committee's determination, BDSFA 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 Disciplinary Committee's determination and, if applicable, provide the Participant with a copy of the Notice of Suspension. Failure by the Club to do so is deemed to be a breach of these Regulations.

7.5 Appealing a decision of the Disciplinary Committee in respect of a challenge

- (a) Subject to section 9 (Appeals Tribunal), the decision of the Disciplinary Committee to reject, in part or in full, a challenge brought in accordance with section 7.3 (Challenging a decision on the basis of mistaken identity in a Match Official Send-Off/Expulsion Report) or section 7.4 may be appealed to the Appeals Tribunal.
- (b) The right of appeal under this section 7.5 is limited to:
 - i. BDSFA; and
 - ii. the Participant who challenged the Disciplinary Committee's Suspension in accordance with section 7.3 or section 7.4.
- (c) If a Participant wants to appeal a decision of the Disciplinary Committee to the Appeals Tribunal pursuant to this section 7.5, the Participant must, within seven (7) working days of the issuance of the decision of the Disciplinary Committee to the Club by BDSFA:
 - i. pay to BDSFA the relevant Application Fee (as per Schedule 4: Application Fees);
 - ii. submit to BDSFA a completed and signed Notice of Appeal of a decision of a Disciplinary Committee (**Prescribed Form 08** – [click here](#));
 - iii. submit to BDSFA all supporting material, including any additional evidence; and
 - iv. submit to BDSFA any written submissions the Participant intends to rely on.
- (d) Participants should note that the time limits set out above are strict. Unless there are exceptional circumstances (to be determined by the Executive in its absolute discretion), if BDSFA does not receive the material **and** the Application Fee prescribed under section 7.5(c) by the time specified therein, the Participant is deemed to have waived his or her right to appeal the decision of the Disciplinary Committee to the Appeals Tribunal.

7.6 Contempt against the Disciplinary Committee

If the Disciplinary Committee considers that:

- (a) a challenge pursuant to section 7.3 (Challenging a decision on the basis of mistaken identity in a Match Official Send-Off/Expulsion Report) or section 7.4 had no prospects of success and amounted to an abuse of process; and/or
- (b) a Participant submitted to the Disciplinary Committee a Prescribed Form, evidence of any kind, a written statement or submission that the Participant knew or ought reasonably to have suspected to be untrue (wholly or in part) or that was intended to deliberately mislead the Disciplinary Committee, the Disciplinary Committee may refer the matter to the Executive which may investigate the matter and take any relevant action pursuant to section 8.2 (Charges of Misconduct and Disrepute).

8. GENERAL PURPOSES TRIBUNAL

8.1 Jurisdiction

- (a) The General Purposes Tribunal has jurisdiction to hear and determine:
 - i. charges of Misconduct and Disrepute (section 8.2);
 - ii. Grievances between Members (section 8.3);
 - iii. any challenge on the basis of mistaken identity (section 7.3) or any challenge to a Suspension issued in respect of a Red Card Offence pursuant to section 7.4 referred to the Executive by the Disciplinary Committee (section 8.4);
 - iv. Offences disclosed in Match Official Reports (section 8.5); and
 - v. any other matter which the Executive determines, in its absolute discretion, is important to the interests of football in the State (section 8.5).
- (b) Where applicable, the relevant Application Fees for matters referred to in section 8.1(a) are set out in Schedule 4: Application Fees.

8.2 Charges of Misconduct and Disrepute

- (a) The Board or the Executive may investigate any matter which in its opinion is relevant to whether or not a charge of Misconduct or Disrepute ought to be laid. Such investigation may be initiated on the basis of a written report or complaint of a Member, a Match Official Report, referral from the Disciplinary Committee pursuant to section 8.4 or on the basis of any other evidence which in the opinion of the Board or the Executive, is credible.
- (b) Such investigation may be carried out by the Board or the Executive as it sees fit and Members are required to cooperate fully with BDSFA in the conduct of that investigation and must do so within the timeframe specified in any correspondence issued by BDSFA. A Member agrees that any information provided to BDSFA may be used as evidence in bringing a charge under this section 8.2 and may be provided to any party so charged.
- (c) A Member who fails to comply with section 8.2(b) will be deemed to have committed Misconduct (section 15.4) and the Executive may, in its absolute discretion, charge the Member accordingly and refer the matter to the General Purposes Tribunal for determination pursuant to this section 8.2.
- (d) At any time, the Board or the Executive may determine whether any charge of Misconduct or Disrepute is to be laid and in relation to such charge whether:
 - i. it is to be referred to the General Purposes Tribunal; or
 - ii. it is to be dealt with in any other manner which the Board or the Executive deems appropriate,

and such determination will be at the absolute discretion of the Board or the Executive and not be capable of review.

- (e) If the Board or the Executive determines that a charge of Misconduct or Disrepute is appropriate, BDSFA will issue a Notice of Charge against the Member. The Notice of Charge will set out, amongst other things, details of the charge and, if necessary, the requirement for the Member to stand down (section 13.1 (Interim Suspension Order)). A Member so charged must submit a completed and signed Notice of Response (section 8.2), any other supporting evidence and written submissions (**Prescribed Form 09** - [click here](#)) to tribunal@bdsfa.com by the due date specified in the Notice of Charge.
- (f) A Notice of Response (section 8.2) enables the Member to, amongst other things:
 - i. indicate whether the Member is pleading guilty or not guilty to the charge(s);
 - ii. indicate whether the Member accepts the reports attached to the Notice of Charge;
 - iii. provide written statements or other such evidence the Member wishes to rely on;
 - iv. provide written submissions; and
 - v. advise whether the Member will be represented by a lawyer and/or accompanied by a support person.
- (g) A Member who pleads guilty in a Notice of Response (section 8.2) may be eligible for leniency by a Tribunal in respect of the sanction imposed.
- (h) Members should note that the time limits set out above are strict. Unless there are exceptional circumstances (to be determined by the Executive, in its absolute discretion), if BDSFA does not receive a properly completed and signed Notice of Response (section 8.2) together with supporting evidence and written submissions by the time specified in the Notice of Charge then the Member is deemed:
 - i. to have pleaded guilty to the charge(s) set out in the Notice of Charge;
 - ii. to have accepted the reports set out in the Notice of Charge; and
 - iii. to be in contempt of a Tribunal and may be sanctioned pursuant to section 12.15 (Contempt against a Tribunal).

8.3 Grievances

- (a) BDSFA will only accept a Grievance if sections 8.3(c) and 8.3(d) have been satisfied. In addition to this, a Member cannot refer a Grievance to BDSFA if the subject matter has been, or would ordinarily be, dealt with by BDSFA under section 8.2 (Charges of Misconduct and Disrepute) or section 9.6 (Appeals against a decision of an Associations Appeals Committee) or where BDSFA has declined to hear the matter due to jurisdictional issues.
- (b) The Executive may dismiss any Grievance it determines, in its absolute discretion, to be a Vexatious Claim.
- (c) Except in the case of Grievance relating to the purported deregistration of a Player, before referring any Grievance to BDSFA, a Member making a Claim (**Claimant**) or a Complaint (**Complainant**) must write to the other Member involved in the subject matter of the Grievance (**Respondent**) with details of the Grievance (including any material or evidence relied on by the Member in respect of the Grievance) allowing the Respondent at least seven (7) working days to respond. The Respondent's reply must include reasons for any disagreement with the details of the Grievance.
- (d) If a response is not received within seven (7) working days of the notice from the Claimant or Complainant referred to in section 8.3(c) or the Grievance is not otherwise resolved, the Claimant or Complainant may, in writing, refer the Grievance to BDSFA.

- (e) In the first instance, a Grievance will be dealt with by mediation pursuant to section 11 (Mediation) unless the Executive determines, in its absolute discretion, that a Grievance should be referred immediately to the General Purposes Tribunal for determination.
- (f) Members should note that the time limits set out above are strict. Unless there are exceptional circumstances (to be determined by the Executive, in its absolute discretion), if BDSFA does not receive a completed and signed Grievance Form **and** the relevant Application Fee by the time specified in section 8.3(d) then the Member has waived its right to file a Grievance with BDSFA.
- (g) Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in this section 8.3, any Grievance that relates to a matter that occurred at Member level or below must exhaust the grievance/disciplinary procedures of the Club, in the first instance (if relevant), and of the Member. Once those grievance/disciplinary procedures have been fully exhausted, the Member may only appeal the matter pursuant to section 9.6 (Appeals against a decision of a Member Appeals Committee) and subject to section 9.3 (Grounds of Appeal).

8.4 Referral from the Disciplinary Committee

- (a) The Disciplinary Committee may, in its absolute discretion, refer any matter to the Executive if it considers the matter is serious, complex and/or cannot be adequately dealt with given the Disciplinary Committee's limited jurisdiction. Subject to section 8.4(b), upon receipt of any such referral, the Executive is to investigate and deal with the matter in accordance with section 8.2 (Charges of Misconduct and Disrepute)
- (b) If a matter referred by the Disciplinary Committee to the Executive pursuant to section 8.4(a) relates to a challenge pursuant to section 7.3 (Challenging a decision on the basis of mistaken identity in a Match Official Send-Off/Expulsion Report) or section 7.4, the Executive may refer the matter directly to the General Purposes Tribunal for determination.
- (c) Any matter referred to the General Purposes Tribunal pursuant to section 8.4(b) is to be determined in accordance with section 8.7 (Decisions of the General Purposes Tribunal) and any appeal against such a determination must be filed in accordance with section 8.8 (Appealing a Decision of the General Purposes Tribunal).

8.5 Offences disclosed in Match Official Reports

- (a) Unless the Executive, in its absolute discretion, determines otherwise, the General Purposes Tribunal may determine Offences disclosed in any Match Official Send-Off/Expulsion Report and Offences disclosed in any Match Official Incident Report in accordance with this section 8.5.
- (b) BDSFA will, within a reasonable time following receipt of any Match Official Send-Off/Expulsion Report and/or Match Official Incident Report referred to in section 8.5(a), refer the report(s), the Member's Disciplinary History and any other material BDSFA determines, in its absolute discretion, is relevant to the matter, to the General Purposes Tribunal and to the Member's Club (or to the Club, as the case may be).
- (c) BDSFA will convene a General Purposes Tribunal to hear the matter and will use its reasonable endeavours to ensure the matter is heard within seven (7) working days of the Match.
- (d) Despite anything to the contrary contained in these Regulations, the following provisions apply to matters dealt with pursuant to this section 8.5:
 - i. at the time of providing the information referred to in section 8.5(b), BDSFA will notify the Member the Offence(s) allegedly committed and the time, date and location of the hearing;
 - ii. by 12.00pm on the day of the hearing, the Member must submit a completed and signed Notice of Response (section 8.5) (**Prescribed Form 11** - [click here](#)) to tribunal@bdsfa.com
 - iii. a General Purposes Tribunal must comprise a minimum of one (1) and a maximum of three (3) General Purposes Tribunal members in order to make a valid Determination;

- iv. the questioning of all parties is to be through a member of the General Purposes Tribunal;
 - v. only where there are three (3) General Purposes Tribunal members hearing a matter must at least one of those members be either the Chairperson or Vice-Chairperson of the General Purposes Tribunal in order to make a valid Determination;
 - vi. where a Participant the subject of a Match Official Incident Report is also the subject of a Match Official Send-Off/Expulsion Report arising out of the same Match, the General Purposes Tribunal will deal with both sets of matters in the same hearing and the Match Official Send-Off/Expulsion Report will not be referred to the Disciplinary Committee.
 - vii. the General Purposes Tribunal will use its reasonable endeavours to issue a short written summary of its Determination (**Preliminary Determination**) within 24 hours of the completion of any hearing and may, in accordance with section 8.78.7(g), issue a Final Determination; and
- (e) A Notice of Response (section 8.5) enables the Member to, amongst other things:
- i. indicate whether the Member pleads guilty to the Offence(s), accepts the contents of the Match Official Report(s) and does not wish to attend the hearing (in which case the Member must submit written submissions addressing the sanction to be imposed); or
 - ii. indicate whether the Member pleads guilty to the Offence(s) and does **not** accept the contents of the Match Official Report(s) (in which case, the Member **must** attend the hearing); or
 - iii. indicate whether the Member pleads not guilty to the Offence(s) (in which case, the Member **must** attend the hearing); and
 - iv. advise the names of any witnesses attending the hearing with the Member (if relevant); and
 - v. advise whether the Member will be represented by a lawyer and/or accompanied by a support person (if relevant).
- (f) A Member who pleads guilty in a Notice of Response (section 8.5) may be eligible for leniency by a Tribunal in respect of the sanction imposed.
- (g) Members should note that the time limits set out above are strict. Unless there are exceptional circumstances (to be determined by the Executive, in its absolute discretion), if BDSFA does not receive a properly completed and signed Notice of Response (section 8.5) by 12.00pm on the day of the hearing then the Member is deemed:
- i. to have pleaded guilty to the Offence(s);
 - ii. to have accepted the contents of the Match Official Report(s); and
 - iii. to be in contempt of a Tribunal and may be sanctioned pursuant to section 12.15 (Contempt against a Tribunal).
- (h) It is intended that matters referred to the General Purposes Tribunal pursuant to this section 8.5 will be dealt with expeditiously. Accordingly, the General Purposes Tribunal may, in its absolute discretion, refuse to hear evidence from witnesses whose evidence merely confirms evidence adduced, or expected to be adduced, from other witnesses.
- (i) Any appeal from a Determination issued in accordance with this section is to be dealt with in accordance with section 8.8 (Appealing a decision of the General Purposes Tribunal).

8.6 Matters of Importance

The Executive, in its absolute discretion, may refer any matter it determines, in its absolute discretion, to be important to the interests of football in the State, BDSFA or FFA to the General

Purposes Tribunal 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 State.

8.7 Decisions of the General Purposes Tribunal

- (a) A General Purposes Tribunal Determination will be in accordance with the majority opinion of the General Purposes Tribunal members hearing a matter.
- (b) The types of decisions that the General Purposes Tribunal may issue are set out in Schedule 3: Table of Offences, Table D: Sanction Imposed by a Tribunal and may include (but are not limited to) a finding, directive, Suspension, ban, fine or such other action as reasonably determined by the General Purposes Tribunal.
- (c) Any decision issued under this section 8.7 may be combined; however, the serving of a Time Suspension issued to a Member must precede the serving of a Fixture Suspension issued to that Member.
- (d) Any failure to comply with a Determination of the General Purposes Tribunal is deemed to be contempt of a Tribunal and may be sanctioned pursuant to section 12.15 (Contempt against a Tribunal).
- (e) The General Purposes Tribunal is not obliged to give reasons for any decision it makes.
- (f) The General Purposes Tribunal 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.
- (g) Notwithstanding section 8.7(e), the General Purposes Tribunal may, in its absolute discretion, issue a full written Determination, with reasons for decision (**Final Determination**). The General Purposes Tribunal's decision in respect of whether it will issue a Final Determination must be communicated to BDSFA at the time of issuing the Preliminary Determination. If the General Purposes Tribunal 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.
- (h) Unless otherwise specified in these Regulations or by the General Purposes Tribunal in a Determination, the imposition of a sanction has immediate effect.
- (i) All Determinations of the General Purposes Tribunal remain in force unless and until reversed by the Appeals Tribunal.

8.8 Appealing a decision of the General Purposes Tribunal

- (a) Subject to section 9 (Appeals Tribunal), a Determination of the General Purposes Tribunal may be appealed to the Appeals Tribunal.
- (b) If a Member wants to appeal a Determination of the General Purposes Tribunal to the Appeals Tribunal, it must, within seven (7) working days of the issuance of the Preliminary Determination by BDSFA (or the Final Determination, where the General Purposes Tribunal has indicted one will be issued):
 - i. pay to BDSFA the relevant Application Fee (as per Schedule 4: Application Fees);
 - ii. pay any award or fine the subject of that Preliminary Determination or Final Determination, as the case may be, to BDSFA;
 - iii. submit to BDSFA a completed and signed Notice of Appeal of a decision of a GPT (**Prescribed Form 12 - [click here](#)**);
 - iv. submit to BDSFA all supporting material, including any additional evidence; and
 - v. submit to BDSFA any written submissions the Member intends to rely on.
- (c) Members should note that the time limits set out above are strict. Unless there are exceptional circumstances (to be determined by the Executive, in its absolute discretion), if BDSFA does not

receive the documentation and payments prescribed under section 8.8(b) by the time specified therein, the Member is deemed to have waived its right to appeal the Determination of the General Purposes Tribunal to the Appeals Tribunal.

9. APPEALS TRIBUNAL

9.1 Jurisdiction

The Appeals Tribunal will be responsible for hearing and determining appeals from:

- (a) the Disciplinary Committee pursuant to section 7.5 (Appealing a decision of the Disciplinary Committee in respect of a challenge) but subject to section 9.3 (Grounds of Appeal);
- (b) the General Purposes Tribunal pursuant to sections 8.8 (Appealing a decision of a GPT) but subject to section 9.3 (Grounds of Appeal) and, if applicable, section 9.5 (Appeal from a GPT in relation to a Grievance); and
- (c) Member Appeals Committees but subject to section 9.3 (Grounds of Appeal) and section 9.6 (Appeals against a decision of a Member Appeals Committee).

9.2 Standing to Appeal

- (a) Despite anything to the contrary contained in these Regulations and for the avoidance of doubt, only the Members set out in this section 9.2 (subject to section 9.3 (Grounds of Appeal)) and BDSFA have standing to appeal matters to the Appeals Tribunal.
- (b) **An appeal from the Disciplinary Committee pursuant to section 7.5 (Appealing a decision of the Disciplinary Committee in respect of a challenge):** the Participant who challenged the Disciplinary Committee's Suspension pursuant to section 7.3 (Challenging a decision on the basis of mistaken identity in a Match Official Send-Off/Expulsion Report) or section 7.4.
- (c) **An appeal from the General Purposes Tribunal pursuant to section 8.8 (Appealing a decision of a GPT) in relation to a referral from the Disciplinary Committee (section 8.4(b)):** the Participant who challenged the Disciplinary Committee's Suspension pursuant to section 7.3 (Challenging a decision on the basis of mistaken identity in a Match Official Send-Off/Expulsion Report) or section 7.4.
- (d) **An appeal from the General Purposes Tribunal pursuant to section 8.8 (Appealing a decision of a GPT) in relation to a charge(s) of Misconduct and/or Disrepute (section 8.2):** the Member(s) the subject of the charge(s) before that General Purposes Tribunal but only in respect of the charge(s) against that Member.
- (e) **An appeal from the General Purposes Tribunal pursuant to section 8.8 (Appealing a decision of a GPT) in relation to a Grievance (section 8.3):** the Member(s) (including any Affected Party) who appeared before that General Purposes Tribunal.
- (f) **An appeal from the General Purposes Tribunal pursuant to section 8.8 (Appealing a decision of a GPT) in relation to Offences disclosed in Match Official Reports (section 8.5):** the Member(s) the subject of the Match Official Report.
- (g) **An appeal from the General Purposes Tribunal pursuant to section 8.8 (Appealing a decision of a GPT) in relation to a matter referred to the General Purposes Tribunal by the Executive pursuant to section 8.6 (Matters of Importance):** the Member(s) who appeared before that General Purposes Tribunal.
- (h) **An appeal from a Member Appeals Committee pursuant to section 9.6 in relation to a disciplinary matter:**
 - i. the Member(s) the subject of the charge(s) before the Member Appeals Committee but only in respect of the charge(s) against that Member;
 - ii. if applicable, any Match Official who officiated in the match giving rise to the charge(s) or the relevant Referees Body but only if the Executive, in its absolute discretion, determines

that it is in the interests of football in the State for the appeal to be heard by the Appeals Tribunal;

- iii. the victim(s) in the incident that gave rise to the charge(s) before the Member Appeals Committee but only if the Executive, in its absolute discretion, determines that it is in the interests of football in the State for the appeal to be heard by the Appeals Tribunal; and
- iv. the Member who laid the original charge(s) but only if the Executive, in its absolute discretion, determines that it is in the interests of football in the State for the appeal to be heard by the Appeals Tribunal.

- (i) **An appeal from a Member Appeals Committee pursuant to section 9.6 in relation to a grievance or a matter not contemplated by section 9.2(g):** the Member(s) who appeared before the Member Appeals Committee and, subject to section 12.4(d), any Affected Party.

9.3 Grounds of Appeal

The sole grounds of an appeal to the Appeals Tribunal are:

- (a) a party was not afforded a reasonable opportunity to present its case;
- (b) lack or excess of jurisdiction of a Body or a Member Appeals Committee;
- (c) the decision of a Body or a Member Appeals Committee was affected by actual bias;
- (d) the decision was one that was not reasonably open to a Body or a Member Appeals Committee having regard to the evidence before the Body or the Member Appeals Committee;
- (e) severity, but only where a Body or a Member Appeals Committee imposed one or more of the following sanctions:
 - i. a Fixture/Match Suspension of six (6) or more Fixtures/Matches (excluding Trial Matches, Tournaments, the NPL Pre-Season Competition, the FFA national titles or any BDSFA Representative Matches); or
 - ii. a Time Suspension of three (3) or more months; or
 - iii. a fine of three thousand dollars (\$3,000) or more; or
 - iv. a bond to be of good behavior of three thousand dollars (\$3,000) or more; or
 - v. a deduction, loss or ban on accruing six (6) or more competition points; or
 - vi. exclusion, suspension or expulsion of a Club or Team from a competition; or
 - vii. relegation to a lower division; or
- (f) leniency, but only in the case of an appeal brought by BDSFA or an appeal allowed by the Executive pursuant to section 9.2(h) (Appeal from a Member Appeals Committee).

9.4 Decisions of the Appeals Tribunal

- (a) An Appeals Tribunal Determination will be in accordance with the majority opinion of the Appeals Tribunal members.
- (b) The Appeals Tribunal 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 a Body or a Member Appeals Committee, as the case may be;
 - ii. subject to any applicable Minimum Suspension, impose any sanction, measure or make any order it thinks fit or that a Body or Member Appeals Committee, as the case may be, could have imposed under these Regulations or its regulations, as the case may be;
 - iii. conduct a fresh hearing of the matter (**hearing *de novo***); or

- iv. remit the matter to the Body or the Member Appeals Committee from which the appeal originated, or to the tribunal (or similar) that dealt with the matter at first instance, for rehearing and issue any directions or orders in relation to the rehearing of the matter that the Appeals Tribunal deems appropriate.
- (c) No Determination of the Disciplinary Committee or the General Purposes Tribunal will be quashed or held invalid by the Appeals Tribunal by reason only of any defect, irregularity, omission or other technicality, provided the Appeals Tribunal is satisfied there has not been a miscarriage of justice.
- (d) Any failure to comply with a Determination of the Appeals Tribunal is deemed to be contempt of a Tribunal and may be sanctioned pursuant to section 12.15 (Contempt against a Tribunal).
- (e) The Appeals Tribunal will use its reasonable endeavours to issue a short oral or written summary of its Determination (**Preliminary Determination**) within five (5) working days of the completion of any hearing. The Appeals Tribunal will use its reasonable endeavours to issue a full written Determination, with reasons for decision (**Final Determination**), within twenty-one (21) working days of the completion of any hearing.

9.5 Appeal from a General Purposes Tribunal in relation to a Grievance

- (a) No appeal can be brought from a General Purposes Tribunal Determination in relation to a Grievance (section 8.3) except with leave of the Appeals Tribunal granted in accordance with this section 9.5.
- (b) Any Notice of Appeal of a decision of a GPT (**Prescribed Form 13** - [click here](#)) in relation to a Grievance received by BDSFA must be referred, within seven (7) working days of receipt, to the Chairperson of the Appeals Tribunal (or if he or she is not available, to the Vice Chairperson of the Appeals Tribunal) for determination as to whether leave should be granted for the appeal to proceed.
- (c) The Chairperson or the Vice-Chairperson, as the case may be, of the Appeals Tribunal will determine, within fourteen (14) working days of receipt of a Notice of Appeal referred under section 9.5(b), whether leave to appeal should be granted and the outcome of such determination will be communicated in writing to the party that lodged the appeal.
- (d) In determining whether leave to appeal should be granted, the Chairperson or the Vice-Chairperson, as the case may be, of the Appeals Tribunal must have regard to:
 - i. the grounds of appeal set out in the Notice of Appeal;
 - ii. whether any obvious error on the part of the General Purposes Tribunal has been identified;
 - iii. the prospects of success of the appeal; and
 - iv. the nature and significance of the Grievance and the subject of the decision being appealed.
- (e) If leave to appeal is not granted, the Chairperson or the Vice-Chairperson, as the case may be, of the Appeals Tribunal may, in his or her absolute discretion, recommend that all or part of the Appeal Fee be refunded to the appellant by BDSFA.
- (f) If leave to appeal is granted, an appeal lodged pursuant to this section will proceed and be determined in the same manner as all other appeals determined by the Appeals Tribunal.

9.6 Appeals against a decision of a Member Appeals Committee

- (a) In addition to the limitations set out under section 9.3 (Grounds of Appeal), the Appeals Tribunal will only hear and determine a matter involving an appeal from a Member Appeals Committee where the matter has proceeded in accordance with, and exhausted, that Member's own disciplinary/grievance rules and regulations. A party wanting to appeal a decision of a Member Appeals Committee to the Appeals Tribunal must provide documentation, to the satisfaction of Football NSW, to demonstrate that the matter has proceeded in accordance with and exhausted

that Member's own disciplinary/grievance rules and regulations before it can be appealed to the Appeals Tribunal.

- (b) If a party wants to appeal a decision of a Member Appeals Committee, it must, within seven (7) working days of being issued the decision:
- i. pay to Football NSW the relevant Application Fee (as per Schedule 4: Application Fees);
 - ii. pay any award or fine the subject of the decision to the Member;
 - iii. submit to Football NSW a completed and signed Notice of Appeal of a decision of a Member Appeals Committee (**Prescribed Form 13** - [click here](#));
 - iv. submit to Football NSW written copies of the decision of the Member Appeals Committee and of the decision at first instance (if applicable);
 - v. submit to Football NSW evidence that the matter has proceeded in accordance with and exhausted the Member's own disciplinary/grievance rules and regulations;
 - vi. submit to Football NSW a copy of the Member's constitution;
 - vii. submit to Football NSW a copy of the Member's disciplinary/grievance rules and regulations;
 - viii. submit to Football NSW any supporting material, including any additional evidence; and
 - ix. submit to Football NSW any written submissions the party intends to rely on.
- (c) Parties should note that the time limits set out above are strict. Unless there are exceptional circumstances (to be determined by the Executive, in its absolute discretion), if the requirements prescribed under section 9.6(b) are not fully complied with by the time specified therein, the party is deemed to have waived its right to appeal the decision to Football NSW.
- (d) Copies of all documents sent to Football NSW must be lodged with BDSFA simultaneously otherwise, the Appeal will be void.

9.7 Abandoned Appeals

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

10. NO RECOURSE TO COURTS

Any Determination by the Appeals Tribunal 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 (other than the limited right of appeal to the Football NSW, subject to the Football NSW Grievance Resolution Regulations and Statutes).

11. MEDIATION

- (a) In relation to a Grievance between Members pursuant to section 8.3(Grievances), the Executive may require Members to attend a meeting with a representative of BDSFA and/or an independent person who will act as a mediator (**Mediator**) for the purpose of attempting to reach agreement for the resolution of the Grievance.
- (b) A Mediator will be a person who, in the opinion of the Executive, is appropriately qualified to conduct the mediation, and may include a member of the Institute of Arbitrators & Mediators Australia or other similar body, or a legal practitioner.
- (c) Unless otherwise determined by the Executive, any costs involved in the mediation, including the costs of the Mediator, must be borne equally by the parties to the Grievance.
- (d) As soon as is practicable after receipt of a Grievance Form from a Member, BDSFA must provide a copy of the Grievance Form and any other related material provided by that Member to the Respondent and/or an Affected Party.
- (e) Within seven (7) working days of receiving the Grievance Form and any other related material, the Respondent and/or an Affected Party must file with BDSFA its written response to the Grievance along with any material that party intends to rely on.
- (f) BDSFA will then set a date for the mediation and notify the parties accordingly.

- (g) BDSFA may, in its absolute discretion, and where the circumstances require it, shorten the above timeline.
- (h) A Mediator must disclose to the parties to the Grievance, at the commencement of the mediation process, any prior or existing relationship with those parties. If one or more parties to the Grievance object to the Mediator's right to hear a matter on the basis of perceived bias, the party/parties must raise the objection immediately with the Mediator. The Mediator must then advise the Executive who will, in its absolute discretion, appoint another Mediator or refer the Grievance directly to the General Purposes Tribunal for determination.
- (i) During the mediation process, the parties to the Grievance and their legal representatives (if applicable) must:
 - i. participate in good faith;
 - ii. follow all reasonable directions of the Mediator with regard to the conduct of the mediation process including directions in respect of joint and private discussions with the parties; and
 - iii. have in attendance an individual with the necessary authority to settle the Grievance and execute any mediation agreement.
- (j) A Mediator must not disclose any information provided by a party in private discussions with the Mediator unless authorised by that party or required to do so by operation of law.
- (k) The mediation will be conducted on a "*without prejudice basis*" and the Mediator will have no power to impose any Suspension, decision or sanction on any of the parties to the Grievance. The role of the Mediator is not to act as an advisor to parties or to make a determination but is instead to facilitate the parties to the Grievance in identifying the issues and considering the options to arrive at a mutual agreement.
- (l) If the parties to a Grievance reach agreement in relation to a Grievance during the mediation process, the parties must execute a mediation agreement. Once a mediation agreement is executed by the parties to a Grievance, those parties will have no right of appeal and will not be able to lodge any Grievance or bring any claim in relation to the subject matter of the original Grievance.
- (m) The Mediator may terminate a mediation at any time if he or she determines, in his or her absolute discretion, that the mediation is unlikely to produce an agreement and must then refer the Grievance to the General Purposes Tribunal for determination pursuant to these Regulations.
- (n) A Member who fails to attend mediation convened in accordance with this section 11, when reasonably requested by BDSFA to do so and without reasonable excuse, will be deemed to have committed Misconduct (section 15.4) and the Executive may, in its absolute discretion, charge the Member accordingly and refer the matter to the General Purposes Tribunal for determination pursuant to section 8.2 (Charges of Misconduct and Disrepute).
- (o) A member of a Tribunal who acted as Mediator in respect of a Grievance which was subsequently referred to the General Purposes Tribunal pursuant to section 11(m) must not sit on a Tribunal that subsequently hears the Grievance.

12. ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES OF TRIBUNALS

12.1 Electronic Documents

In order to ensure the efficiency of matters dealt with pursuant to the Regulations, all documents, statements, submissions and forms referred to in the Regulations must be sent by email to the respective addresses set out in Schedule 2: Prescribed Forms and Email Addresses. BDSFA may from time to time request the parties to provide hard copies of documents, statements, submissions and forms. A party seeking to rely on photographic, video or similar evidence must provide such evidence in the manner or form requested by BDSFA and at that party's own cost.

12.2 Responsibility of BDSFA

Where a Tribunal is required to hear a matter pursuant to sections 8 (General Purposes Tribunal) or section 9 (Appeals Tribunal), BDSFA:

- (a) must appoint a Chairperson or Vice-Chairperson to act as Chairman for the hearing;
- (b) must appoint the other Tribunal members for the hearing;
- (c) must set a date for the hearing;
- (d) must issue a Notice of Proceedings; and
- (e) may consult the Chairperson of the hearing in order to confirm any directions to the parties, including, but not limited to, matters pertaining to witnesses and/or evidence.

12.3 Submissions by a party

- (a) For a hearing before the General Purposes Tribunal in relation to a charge(s) of Misconduct and/or Disrepute pursuant to section 8.2, the accused (that is, the Member the subject of the charge(s)) must provide to BDSFA a copy of any written submissions, statements, materials, documents or other evidence the accused intends to rely on in the hearing along with a completed Notice of Response (section 8.2) (**Prescribed Form 09** - [click here](#)) by the due date specified in the Notice of Charge or such other date specified by BDSFA.
- (b) In the case of a Grievance between Members pursuant to section 8.3 (Grievances), the Claimant or Complainant, as the case may be, must provide to BDSFA a copy of any written submissions, statements, materials, documents or other evidence it intends to rely on in the mediation and/or hearing at the time of submitting a Grievance Form (**Prescribed Form 10** - [click here](#)). The Respondent and/or an Affected Party must provide to BDSFA a copy of any written submissions, statements, materials, documents or other evidence it intends to rely on in the mediation and/or hearing by the due date specified by BDSFA.
- (c) In the case of an Appeals Tribunal hearing, the appellant must provide to BDSFA a copy of any written submissions, statements, materials, documents or other evidence it intends to rely on in the hearing, written copies of the determinations made by lower tribunals (or similar) and copies of the Association Member's, Referees Body's or Centre's constitution and disciplinary rules and regulations (if relevant) at the time of submitting a Notice of Appeal. The Respondent and/or an Affected Party must provide to BDSFA a copy of any written submissions, statements, materials, documents or other evidence it intends to rely on in the hearing by the due date specified by BDSFA.
- (d) All written submissions, statements, materials, documents or other evidence supplied to BDSFA must be sent to tribunal@bdsfa.com
- (e) Unless there are exceptional circumstances (to be determined by the Executive, in its absolute discretion), BDSFA will not accept any written submissions, statements, materials, documents or other evidence submitted after the submission of a Notice of Response (section 8.2), Notice of Appeal or after any other due date specified by BDSFA.
- (f) In the case of a Grievance between Members pursuant to section 8.3 and in the case of an Appeals Tribunal hearing pursuant to section 9, all written submissions, statements, materials, documents or other evidence supplied to BDSFA will be provided to the other parties (including an Affected Party) involved in the matter
- (g) In the case of a General Purposes Tribunal hearing in relation to charges of Misconduct and Disrepute pursuant to section 8.2, all evidence supplied to BDSFA in relation to an accused that the Executive determines, in its absolute discretion, is relevant to the hearing, will be provided to that accused.

12.4 Affected Party

- (a) For the purposes of these Regulations, an Affected Party means:

- i. a Member who may be affected by a determination of a Body or by the outcome of a mediation based on the relief sought by the Member who has submitted a Notice of Appeal or Grievance Form under these Regulations but subject to section 12.4(d); and
 - ii. BDSFA, if the Executive considers, in its absolute discretion, that the determination of a Body, or the outcome of a mediation, may affect the interests of football in the State, BDSFA, or FFA or it may bring the game into Disrepute or damage the reputation or goodwill of the game.
- (b) Despite anything to the contrary in section 12.4(a), the victim of an incident giving rise to disciplinary charges or proceedings is not an Affected Party for the purposes of these Regulations.
- (c) A Member submitting a Notice of Appeal or Grievance Form must nominate in the relevant form, whether, in its opinion, any other Member may be an Affected Party.
- (d) The Executive, a Mediator and/or a Tribunal only may determine, in their absolute discretion, whether a Member is an Affected Party and must notify the Affected Party accordingly.
- (e) An Affected Party provided with notice under this section 12.4 may participate in the hearing and/or mediation as an Affected Party and may make submissions and, subject to section 12.10(h), call evidence. An Affected Party is bound by any decision of a Tribunal.
- (f) If an Affected Party provided with notice under this section 12.4 elects not to participate in a hearing and/or mediation, that Affected Party cannot subsequently initiate a Grievance or lodge an appeal under the Regulations in relation to the same subject matter.

12.5 Legal Representation

A Claimant, Complainant, Respondent, accused and Affected Party has the right to be represented by a lawyer at a Tribunal hearing. Details of legal representation must be set out in the Grievance Form, Notice of Appeal, Notice of Response (section 8.2) or otherwise notified to BDSFA. Notification of legal representation must be given to the Executive no later than five (5) business days prior to the first return date of the Tribunal hearing.

12.6 Parent/Guardian

- (a) Unless a Tribunal determines otherwise, a party or witness who is under the age of eighteen (18) years at the date of a Tribunal hearing must be accompanied at that hearing by a parent or legal guardian.
- (b) In the case of a Match Official, section 12.6(a) is taken to have been complied with if the Match Official is accompanied by a representative of the Match Official's Referees Body.

12.7 Non-attendance

If any Member who has been properly notified of a Tribunal hearing fails to attend a Tribunal hearing without establishing exceptional circumstances for such failure, to the satisfaction of the Tribunal, in its absolute discretion:

- (a) the hearing can proceed *ex parte* and be determined in that Member's absence, including as to determination on the merits and/or sanction. An *ex parte* Determination of a Tribunal has the same force and effect as if it was made after a full hearing before that Tribunal at which the Member was present; and
- (b) the Tribunal may impose sanctions as it sees fit in accordance with the Regulations for the Member's non-attendance or make recommendations to the Executive to issue a Notice of Charge pursuant to section 8.2 (Charges of Misconduct and Disrepute).

12.8 Adjournment

- (a) In the event a Member requires an adjournment of a Tribunal hearing, the Member must apply in writing to BDSFA no later than two (2) working days before the scheduled date of that Tribunal hearing.

- (b) BDSFA will refer requests for adjournment to the Tribunal and may require evidence from the Member to substantiate the basis for the request. In considering whether to grant the adjournment, the Tribunal will consider whether the Member has established exceptional circumstances warranting the adjournment, including avoiding significant costs, hardship or inconvenience to the Member.
- (c) Any decision to adjourn a hearing will be at the absolute discretion of the Tribunal.
- (d) Members acknowledge that the Tribunal meets after normal business hours and during the working week. Given the sometimes-large number of parties and witnesses involved in a Tribunal hearing and the need to resolve matters in an expeditious manner, it will not always be possible to accommodate adjournment applications.

12.9 Stay of proceedings

On application by a Member (including an Affected Party) or BDSFA, a Tribunal may order a stay of proceedings (with or without conditions).

12.10 General conduct of Tribunal hearings

- (a) A Tribunal will not be bound by the rules of evidence usually applicable to proceedings in courts of law
- (b) A Tribunal may have regard to, but will not be bound by, its previous Determinations. The General Purposes Tribunal will be bound by Determinations of the Appeals Tribunal.
- (c) All hearings must be conducted in accordance with the principles of natural justice.
- (d) A Tribunal may conduct the hearing in any manner it sees fit provided that:
 - i. the questioning of all parties is to be through the Chairperson or Vice-Chairperson of the Tribunal;
 - ii. unless section 12.7 (Non-attendance) applies, an accused must be present (in person or via telephone/video) while a Tribunal receives **any** oral evidence against that accused;
 - iii. all parties are given a reasonable opportunity to be heard; and
 - iv. the hearing is conducted with as little formality and technicality and with as much expedition as proper consideration of the matters before it permits.
- (e) A Tribunal is empowered to:
 - i. take evidence, subject to section 12.10(j). The admissibility and weight to be given to any evidence in a hearing will be at the absolute discretion of a Tribunal but Members acknowledge that less weight may be given to the evidence of a witness or party who is not available for cross-examination by a Tribunal;
 - ii. require the attendance of any Member to give evidence;
 - iii. permit any witness to give evidence via telephone or video over internet (for example, via "skype");
 - iv. require the production of any document, information or other evidence, in whatever form, held by any Member; and
 - v. inform itself on any matter or thing in order to properly carry out its function in accordance with these Regulations.
- (f) If a Tribunal is not satisfied to the required standard that a charge(s) before it has been proved, but is satisfied that a different charge(s) has been proved, then provided the Member has been given an opportunity to address the Tribunal in relation to the different charge(s), the Tribunal must find the Member guilty of the different charge(s) and apply the appropriate sanction. A Tribunal may, in its absolute discretion, grant a Member an adjournment for the purposes of answering the different charge(s).

- (g) Prior to a hearing, BDSFA must provide to a Tribunal a copy of a Member's Disciplinary History. A Tribunal must take into account the Member's Disciplinary History in determining any appropriate sanction. A Tribunal must not refer to the Member's Disciplinary History until after it has made a determination in respect of guilt.
- (h) If a Tribunal finds that the charge(s) have been proved against a Member, then prior to imposing any penalty or sanction, it must invite the Member to make submissions to the Tribunal on the question of what penalty or sanction, if any, ought to be imposed.
- (i) In addition, BDSFA or its representatives may make submissions to the Tribunal on the question of what penalty or sanction, if any, ought to be imposed.
- (j) Unless there are exceptional circumstances (to be determined by the Appeals Tribunal, in its absolute discretion), in determining any appeal under section 9.3(d) or (e) or section 9.5 (Appeal from a GPT in relation to a Grievance), the Appeals Tribunal must not consider evidence which was not before the body whose decision is being appealed.
- (k) A Tribunal may, in the case where a Member has been found guilty of multiple Offences, impose entirely cumulative or partly or wholly concurrent Suspensions. However, the overall Suspension must not be less than the Minimum Suspension applicable to the most serious Offence but may be greater than the Maximum Suspension applicable to that Offence.
- (l) All hearings will be recorded electronically and, if requested, a transcript of the recording will be provided to an appellant at the appellant's cost.
- (m) To the extent that a matter relating to the procedures of a Tribunal is not provided for by these Regulations, the Chairperson or Vice-Chairperson of a Tribunal may issue appropriate directions for the conduct of any matter or hearing.

12.11 Disclosure of Tribunal members

In the interests of ensuring independence, BDSFA will not disclose the identity of Tribunal members prior to a hearing to any party, any party's representatives or to any witness.

12.12 Challenge of jurisdiction of a Tribunal or of a Tribunal member

- (a) A Member may challenge a Tribunal's jurisdiction to deal with a matter but it must do so in its Notice of Response (section 8.2), Notice of Appeal or its written submissions in response to a Notice of Appeal. A failure to do so will be deemed to be acceptance by that Member that the Tribunal does have the necessary jurisdiction. A Tribunal has the power to rule on any challenge to its jurisdiction. In general, a Tribunal should determine any such challenge as a preliminary question. However, a Tribunal may proceed with the hearing and rule on such an objection in its Preliminary Determination or Final Determination, as the case may be.
- (b) A Member may object to a Tribunal member's right to hear a matter on the basis of perceived bias. Such an objection must be raised in oral submissions as a preliminary question at the hearing. The Tribunal has the power to rule on this objection and, if the objection is overruled, the Tribunal must provide reasons in its Preliminary Determination or Final Determination, as the case may be.

12.13 Standard of proof

Unless the circumstances of a matter require otherwise, a Body must make a Determination on the balance of probabilities.

12.14 Costs generally

- (a) As a general rule, the parties must bear their own costs in relation to a Tribunal matter or hearing
- (b) Notwithstanding section 12.14(a), a Tribunal may require a Member subject to disciplinary action to pay BDSFA's costs of conducting the hearing, including, but not limited to, the cost of providing security services at the hearing.

- (c) Where the Executive receives notice of legal representation, then the Executive may employ the services of a legal representative.
- (d) In relation to any matter or hearing, the Tribunal may award the costs it considers appropriate on:
 - i. the application of a party to the proceedings;
 - ii. the application of legal fees of either party to the proceedings;
 - iii. the application of a witness to the proceedings;
 - iv. the application of BDSFA; or
 - v. its own initiative.
- (e) In deciding whether to award costs, and the amount of those costs, the Tribunal may have regard to the following:
 - i. the outcome of the matter or hearing;
 - ii. the conduct of the parties to the proceedings before and during the hearing;
 - iii. the nature and complexity of the matter or hearing;
 - iv. any Application Fee paid by a party;
 - v. any legal costs incurred by a party (including an Affected Party), a witness, a Tribunal or BDSFA;
 - vi. any out of pocket expenses (including any travel or accommodation expenses) incurred by a party (including an Affected Party), a witness, a Tribunal or BDSFA in attending or conducting the matter or hearing;
 - vii. any costs incurred by whomever in repairing or replacing any physical property damaged or destroyed in the incident(s) giving rise to the matter or hearing;
 - viii. the relative strengths of the claims made by each of the parties to the matter or hearing;
 - ix. any contravention of the FNSW Rules and Regulations or BDSFA Rules and Regulations by a party to the proceeding; and
 - x. anything else the Tribunal considers relevant.
- (f) For the avoidance of doubt, the award of costs, if any, will generally be limited to legal costs and out of pocket expenses as set out in section 12.14(e). A Tribunal does not have the jurisdiction to award costs in relation to medical expenses incurred by a party or witness.
- (g) A party to proceedings is not entitled to costs or to the reimbursement of any Application Fee paid only because the Tribunal made an order(s) in a party's favour.
- (h) For the avoidance of doubt, a Tribunal may award costs even in circumstances where a matter does not proceed to a hearing, for example, where a party withdraws its appeal prior to the hearing.
- (i) The power of the Tribunal to award costs under these Regulations is in addition to the Tribunal's power to award costs under any other provision of the FNSW Rules and Regulations and BDSFA Rules and Regulations.

12.15 Contempt against a Tribunal

- (a) A person appearing before a Tribunal must not:
- i. insult a member of a Tribunal;
 - ii. repeatedly interrupt the proceedings of a Tribunal;
 - iii. create a disturbance or take part in creating or continuing a disturbance in or near a place where a Tribunal is sitting;
 - iv. fail to comply with an order or direction of a Tribunal;
 - v. deliberately mislead a Tribunal; or
 - vi. do any other act or thing that would, if a Tribunal were a court of record, constitute contempt of such a court.
- (b) A person must not submit to BDSFA or to a Tribunal 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 BDSFA or a Tribunal.
- (c) A Member must comply with a Determination of a Tribunal.
- (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 Tribunal considers that a Member has breached this section 12.15 and/or section 8.2(h), then it may impose sanctions as it sees fit in accordance with these Regulations or make recommendations to the Executive to issue a Notice of Charge pursuant to section 8.2 (Charges of Misconduct and Disrepute).
- (f) If the Executive determines that a Member has breached this section 12.15, section 8.2(h) and/or section 12.19(b), then it may, in its absolute discretion, charge the Member with Misconduct (section 15.4) and refer the matter to the General Purposes Tribunal for determination pursuant to section 8.2 (Charges of Misconduct and Disrepute).

12.16 Tribunal may hear proceedings regardless of related criminal or disciplinary action

A Body may issue Suspensions or make a Determination whether or not a Member:

- (a) has been charged with, convicted of or sentenced for an offence arising out of the contravention;
- (b) is the subject of pending disciplinary proceedings relating to the contravention; or
- (c) may be, or has been, subject to disciplinary action in relation to the contravention.

12.17 Immunity

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 BDSFA, a Mediator a Body or member of a 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.

12.18 Correction of a Determination

Within five (5) working days of the issuance of a Preliminary Determination or a Final Determination, as the case may be, either party (including an Affected Party) to a hearing may submit to tribunal@bdsfa.com a request to correct in that Determination any errors in computation, any clerical or typographical errors or any other error of a similar nature. If the Tribunal considers the request to be justified, it will make the correction and reissue the Determination to the parties.

12.19 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 BDSFA or by a third party (with BDSFA's written consent).
- (b) All evidence and information provided in proceedings of a Tribunal 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 section 12.19(b) is deemed to be contempt against a Tribunal and the offender may be sanctioned pursuant to section 12.15 (Contempt against a Tribunal).

12.20 Legal advice

A Tribunal may, in its absolute discretion, obtain legal advice during any proceedings and may adjourn proceedings for that purpose.

12.21 BDSFA Staff

BDSFA staff will not be required to provide evidence at a hearing (whether oral or written) unless BDSFA is an Affected Party to a hearing or a Tribunal determines otherwise.

12.22 Fines

- (a) Subject to section 12.22(b), any award or fine imposed under these Regulations must be paid within twenty-one (21) days after the date on which the Determination is issued unless otherwise specified in the Determination.
- (b) A Member that wants to appeal any matter to the Appeals Tribunal must pay any award or fine payable as a consequence of the decision the subject of appeal prior to the due date for lodgement of the appeal as set out in these Regulation, unless there are exceptional circumstances, to be determined by the Executive, in its absolute discretion.
- (c) A Participant cannot take part in any match until any fine imposed under these Regulations is paid in full. This means that if a Suspension is combined with a fine, the Suspension is prolonged until the fine is paid in full.
- (d) A fine cannot be issued against an Amateur and in the case of a Professional, cannot exceed one half of the Total Payments that Participant would have received over the duration of the sanction.
- (e) A Club is jointly and severally liable for any award or fine imposed under these Regulations on one of its Participants (even if that Participant subsequently leaves that Club).

12.23 BDSFA Representative

The Executive reserves the right to appoint a representative to any Tribunal hearing. The representative may argue the case on behalf of BDSFA and may be a BDSFA staff member.

13. SUSPENSION ORDERS

13.1 Interim Suspension Orders

- (a) Where a Member is the subject of a Match Official Report or is being investigated by the Board or the Executive in relation to an alleged act of Misconduct or Disrepute pursuant to section 8.2 (Charges of Misconduct or Disrepute), the Board or the 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 Board or the Executive determines, in its absolute discretion (an **Interim Suspension Order**).
- (b) The period of an Interim Suspension Order will not be capable of lasting beyond the date upon which any investigation referred to in section 13.1(a), or any subsequent disciplinary proceedings, are concluded.

13.2 Suspension for criminal charges and offences

The Executive will have the power to order that a Member 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 Member has

been charged with a criminal offence or had a criminal offence proven against him or her and the Executive determines, in its absolute discretion, that there is a risk of harm to another Member(s).

13.3 Suspension following disqualification from working with children

Where a Participant is prohibited under child protection legislation from regulated activity relating to children, the 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.

14. SERVING OF SUSPENSIONS

14.1 Application of Suspensions and Determinations

- (a) Upon the issuance of a Suspension or Determination by a Body, the Executive has the obligation to ensure that the Suspension or Determination is applied correctly in accordance with this section 14 and with any other directive imposed by the Executive from time to time. Such decision will be final and not subject to challenge or appeal.
- (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, BDSFA reserves the right to determine how Suspensions will be served. Any such determination is final and not subject to challenge or appeal.

14.2 Suspensions to be served immediately

- (a) Subject to this section 14, any Suspension must be served immediately. In serving a Suspension, a Participant and BDSFA must take into consideration any Fixtures or time already served while awaiting the issuance of the Notice of Suspension or Determination and the Suspension will apply in respect of the Football Related Activities set out in the Notice of Suspension or Determination or, if none are set out, all Football Related Activities.
- (b) Club Officials or Team Officials Expelled from the Technical Area during a Match are eligible to play as a Player in a Match scheduled in the same round unless otherwise determined by BDSFA or a 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 Team Official in the Technical Area in a Match scheduled in the same round unless otherwise determined by BDSFA or a Body.

14.3 Club Responsibility on Suspensions and Team Sheets

- (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 14.3 will be deemed to have committed Misconduct (section 15.4) and the Executive may, in its absolute discretion, charge the Member accordingly and refer the matter to the General Purposes Tribunal for determination pursuant to section 8.2 (Charges of Misconduct and Disrepute).

14.4 Types of Suspensions

- (a) A Body may issue a Suspension either in terms of the number of Fixtures for which a Participant will be suspended (**Fixture Suspension**) or the period of time for which a Participant will be suspended (**Time Suspension**).
- (b) A Member does not need to be registered to serve a Time Suspension. Subject to section 14.4(c), or unless BDSFA has determined otherwise in its absolute discretion, a Member must be registered to serve a Fixture Suspension.
- (c) A Participant subject to a Fixture Suspension as a Spectator only does not need to be registered to serve a Fixture Suspension.

14.5 Time Suspensions

- (a) A Time Suspension affects a Participant's participation in both eleven-a-side football and futsal, regardless of whether the infringement was committed in an eleven-a-side football or futsal Match.
- (b) Upon issuing a Time Suspension, a Body must provide a start date and end date for the Suspension.
- (c) Unless a Body determines otherwise, but subject always to section 14.5(a), a Participant issued with a Time Suspension is ineligible to participate in all Football Related Activities for the duration of the Suspension.
- (d) 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 BDSFA, Clubs, Association Members or their clubs;
 - ii. taking a position as a coach, Team Official or Club Official in any match or competition sanctioned or administered by BDSFA, Clubs, Association Members or their clubs;
 - 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 BDSFA, Clubs, Association Members or their clubs;
 - v. acting in any way as a Team Official, Club Official or Association Member 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 or event coordinated, conducted or sanctioned by BDSFA; and/or
 - viii. entering a stadium, venue, ground or Centre during any match, competition or training session sanctioned or administered by BDSFA, Clubs, Association Members or their clubs.

14.6 Fixture Suspensions

- (a) A Fixture Suspension imposed on a Player participating in:
 - i. eleven-a-side football, only affects that Player's participation in eleven-a-side football; or
 - ii. Summer Football only affects that Player's participation in Summer Football: or
 - iii. Futsal, only affects that Player's participation in futsal.
- (b) A Participant subject to a Fixture Suspension resulting from or related to any Premiership, Championship, Cup or FFA Cup Fixture must serve that Suspension in the next Premiership, Championship, Cup or FFA Cup Fixture(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, Pre-Season Competition, any BDSFA Representative Match, any competition, event or tournament conducted by another Member Federation or any other match/fixture.
- (c) A Participant must serve a Fixture Suspension in the same age-grade and Competition for which he or she received that Suspension and will not be eligible to participate in **any** Match/Fixture of any Competition until that Suspension is served in full. If a Fixture Suspension extends over one

- (1) or more Seasons, that Suspension must be served in the age-grade in which the Participant would normally compete in the following Season(s).
- (d) While subject to a Fixture Suspension, a Participant may only participate in a Trial Match, Tournament if the Participant's Club has obtained written approval from BDSFA to do so. That approval is to be at BDSFA's absolute discretion. To the extent any determination by a Body permits, or seeks to permit, a Participant to participate in a Trial Match, Tournament or the NPL Pre-Season Competition, that part of the Determination will not apply.
 - (e) Unless a Body determines otherwise, a Fixture Suspension applies to the Participant in the capacity in which the Participant was acting when he or she committed the Offence giving rise to the Suspension.
 - (f) While serving a Fixture Suspension, a Participant must not, on the day of a Fixture, act in any manner or role for which he or she has been suspended.
 - (g) For the purposes of section 14.6(f), a Participant subject to a Fixture Suspension as a Player or Official must not:
 - i. enter the field of play (or court), its surrounds, the Technical Area, players race, dressing rooms or any other place within a stadium, venue, ground or Centre where players and/or officials are likely to assemble to prepare for a match;
 - ii. be seated in an area in a stadium, venue, ground or Centre normally reserved for players and/or officials;
 - iii. 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; and
 - iv. in the case of a coach, must not engage or attempt to engage a third party to relay coaching instructions.
 - (h) For the purposes of section 14.6(f), a Participant subject to a Fixture Suspension as a Spectator must not enter a stadium, venue, ground or Centre during a Fixture until that Suspension is served in full. Unless a Body determines otherwise, a Fixture Suspension imposed on a Participant as a Spectator will be served in accordance with this section 14.6.
 - (i) Where a Participant the subject of a Fixture Suspension is unable to register with a Club participating in a Competition such that he or she would be otherwise able to serve the Fixture Suspension in accordance with these Regulations, that Participant may register with a club in another competition and BDSFA may, in its absolute discretion, allow that Participant to serve the Fixture Suspension in that other competition.
 - (j) Where a Fixture 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 he or she subsequently participates in, if any. If BDSFA 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.

14.7 Non-selection of BDSFA representative teams

If a Participant has been selected to represent BDSFA or a region in a representative competition, event or tournament and is then subsequently the subject of a Suspension, BDSFA may decide, in its absolute discretion, to suspend the Participant from representing BDSFA or the region at that representative competition, event or tournament. For the avoidance of doubt, a suspension imposed under this

section 14.7 will not count towards the serving of the Suspension. Any decision made by BDSFA under this section 14.7 is final and not subject to any appeal.

14.8 Effect of Abandoned Matches

- (a) Only those Matches actually played count towards the serving of any Fixture Suspension.
- (b) Subject to section 14.8(c), if a Match is abandoned, cancelled or forfeited pursuant to BDSFA Rules and 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) BDSFA 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) BDSFA may decide, in its absolute discretion, whether 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.

14.9 Recognition of Suspensions

- (a) Any sanction imposed on a Member (or on a person or entity seeking to become a Member) by FFA, 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 BDSFA, in its absolute discretion, across the State.
- (b) BDSFA reserves the right to notify any sanction imposed pursuant to these Regulations to FFA, AFC, FIFA or any other confederation, national association, Member Federation, Club, Centre, Referees Body, Association Member, affiliated association or their clubs.

15. CONDUCT

15.1 Financial Default and Payment of Interest

- (a) In the event that a Member (except a Participant) fails to make payment of any amount payable to BDSFA by the due date (**Financial Default**) then that Member 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.

15.2 Non-Financial Conduct

- (a) Where any Member suffers Financial Default, it will be referred to the Executive (or the Board where the context provides otherwise) who may, in its absolute discretion and in addition to section 15.1, enforce this section 15.2.

Member

- (b) A Member in Financial Default will have, if more than ninety (90) days from the date the payment is due and payable:
 - i. the voting rights of its Members suspended under the BDSFA Constitution until the Financial Default is rectified; and
 - ii. such other sanctions or penalties imposed on it as the Board may determine in its absolute discretion.

Club

- (c) A Club (or an Association Member or Branch participating in a Competition) in Financial Default:
 - i. if more than sixty (60) days from the date the payment is due and payable:

- A. 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; or
- B. during a Championship or a Cup, it will forfeit any Match it participates in until the Financial Default is rectified; or
- ii. if more than ninety (60) days from the date the payment is due and payable:
 - A. during the playing season, the Board, pursuant to the BDSFA By-Laws, may suspend or expel the Club from participating in any current or future Competition until the Financial Default is rectified; or
 - B. during the off-season, the Club will not be entitled to participate in any future Competition until the Financial Default is rectified; and
 - C. have such other sanctions or penalties imposed on it as the Board may determine in its absolute discretion.

15.3 Non-Financial Conduct - Participants

In the event that a Participant fails to make payment in full of any amount payable to BDSFA, or an Association Member, by the due date, BDSFA 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.

15.4 Misconduct and Disrepute

Misconduct means any act or omission by a Member which:

- (a) constitutes a breach of the FIFA Statutes and Regulations;
- (b) constitutes a breach of the FFA Rules and Regulations;
- (c) constitutes a breach of the Laws of the Game;
- (d) constitutes a breach of these Regulations including the Offences set out in Schedule 3: Table of Offences;
- (e) constitutes a breach of BDSFA Rules and Regulations, unless a document contains a provision or provisions for dealing with any breach thereof;
- (f) brings or may bring the game into Disrepute or damage the reputation and goodwill of the game; or
- (g) in the opinion of BDSFA, is or may be prejudicial to the interests or reputation of either the game of football in the State, BDSFA or any of its sponsors.

15.5 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 Body may, however, reduce the sanction envisaged for the actual Offence and determine any extent of mitigation as it sees fit.
- (c) Any Participant who knowingly takes part in committing an Offence, either as instigator or accomplice, is also punishable. A Body may take account of the degree of guilt of the party involved by reducing the sanction as it sees fit.

15.6 Misconduct – Club Liability

- (a) A Club is deemed to have committed an offence(s) under section 15.4 (Misconduct and Disrepute) where its Club Officials, Team Officials, Players or Spectators have allegedly committed any

Offence(s) outlined in section 15.4 (Misconduct and Disrepute) and the Club may be sanctioned accordingly by a Tribunal.

- (b) For the avoidance of doubt, a Club may be sanctioned in accordance with section 15.6(a) notwithstanding the offender(s) have not been identified.
- (c) At any Tribunal hearing dealing with an offence outlined in section 15.4 (Misconduct and Disrepute) allegedly committed by a Club’s Team Officials, Club Officials, Players or Spectators, that Club will be required to make written and/or oral submissions to the Tribunal addressing any mitigating circumstances, the Club’s Disciplinary History and potential sanctions.
- (d) A Tribunal may, when considering the question of sanction under this section 15.6, take into account any steps taken by the Club to:
 - i. identify the relevant Team Officials, Club Officials, Players or Spectators involved; and/or
 - ii. minimise the risk of repetition of such conduct by those and other Team Officials, Club Officials, Players or Spectators.
- (e) A Club’s failure to provide submissions in accordance with 15.5(b) will not prevent the Tribunal from making an adverse finding against that Club and will be deemed to be contempt of a Tribunal and may be sanctioned pursuant to section 12.15 (Contempt against a Tribunal).

15.7 Misconduct – Registration

- (a) In the event of a Player signing registration forms for more than one Club, priority of registration will be accorded to the Club who earliest in time, all things being equal, obtained the Player’s signature to a valid registration form.
- (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, or sign registration forms for, 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, or has signed a registration form to register with, another Club (**the current Club**), to:
 - i. register with the second Club;
 - ii. sign a registration form with the second Club; or
 - iii. de-register from the current Club.
- (e) A Player or Club in breach of sections 15.7(c) or 15.7(d), will be deemed to have committed Misconduct (section 15.4) and the Executive may, in its absolute discretion, charge the Member accordingly and refer the matter to the General Purposes Tribunal for determination pursuant to section 8.2 (Charges of Misconduct and Disrepute).

16. ON-FIELD MISCONDUCT

16.1 Yellow Card Offences

- (a) A Yellow Card is issued by a Match Official to a Player due to the following cautionable offences specified in Law 12 of the Laws of the Game and will be given as follows:

Code	Description
Y1	The player is guilty of unsporting conduct
Y2	The player shows dissent by action or word
Y3	The player persistently infringes the Laws of the Game
Y4	The player delays the restart of play

Y5	The player fails to respect the required distance when play is restarted with a corner kick, free kick or throw in
Y6	The player re-enters the field of play without the Referee's permission
Y7	The player deliberately leaves the field of play without the Referee's permission

- (b) For the avoidance of doubt, if a Player receives two (2) Yellow Cards in a Match, resulting in an R7 Red Card Offence, then the two (2) Yellow Cards are expunged from the Player's record and neither Yellow Card will be considered when accumulating Yellow Cards pursuant to sections 16.2 to 16.3.
- (c) If a Player receives one (1) Yellow Card in a Match and then receives a direct Red Card in the same Match, the Yellow Card will **not** be expunged from the Player's record and must be considered when accumulating Yellow Cards pursuant to sections 16.2 to 16.3.
- (d) A Mandatory Match Suspension incurred as a result of the accumulation of Yellow Cards pursuant to sections 16.2 to 16.3 cannot be appealed.

16.2 Accumulation of Yellow Cards - Premiership

- (a) A Player who accumulates five (5) Yellow Cards in the Premiership, irrespective of the age-grade in which they are received, must serve a Mandatory Match Suspension of one (1) Fixture. That Mandatory Match Suspension must be served immediately and in the age-grade in which the fifth (5th) Yellow Card was received.
- (b) A Player who accumulates an additional two (2) Yellow Cards (in total eight (7) Yellow Cards) in the Premiership, irrespective of the age-grade in which they are received, must serve a Mandatory Match Suspension of two (2) Fixtures. That Mandatory Match Suspension must be served immediately and in the age-grade in which the seven (7th) Yellow Card was received.
- (c) A Player who accumulates an additional two (2) Yellow Cards (in total nine (9) Yellow Cards) in the Premiership, irrespective of the age-grade in which they are received, must serve a Mandatory Match Suspension of three (3) Fixtures. The Mandatory Match Suspension must be served immediately and in the age-grade in which the tenth (10th) Yellow Card was received.
- (d) A Player who accumulates his or her tenth (10th) Yellow Card in total in the Premiership, irrespective of the age-grade in which they are received, must appear before the General Purposes Tribunal and must not participate in any Fixture until he or she has appeared before the General Purposes Tribunal and served in full any sanction imposed by the General Purposes Tribunal.
- (e) A Mandatory Match Suspension incurred because of the accumulation of Yellow Cards pursuant to this section 16.2 must be served in accordance with section 14.6.
- (f) Yellow Cards received during a Premiership Season that do not result in a Mandatory Match Suspension do not carry over into the Finals Series or any other matches or competitions. Mandatory Match Suspensions incurred because of the accumulation of Yellow Cards will not, however, be cancelled.

16.3 Accumulation of Yellow Cards – Finals Series

- (a) A Player 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) Fixture.
- (b) The Mandatory Match Suspension must be served immediately and in the age-grade in which the second (2nd) Yellow Card was received.
- (c) A Mandatory Match Suspension incurred as a result of the accumulation of Yellow Cards pursuant to this section 16.3 must be served in accordance with section 14.6.
- (d) Yellow Cards received during the Finals Series that do not result in a Mandatory Match Suspension do not carry over into the next Premiership Season, Championship, Cup, FFA Cup, any Tournaments or any other matches or competitions. Mandatory Match Suspension incurred because of the accumulation of Yellow Cards will not, however, be cancelled.

16.4 Red Card Offences

- (a) Subject to any Suspension issued by the Disciplinary Committee or any Suspension or other sanction issued by a Tribunal, a Player who receives a Red Card must immediately serve the Minimum Suspension attributable to the Send Off Code for that Red Card as set out in Schedule 3: Table of Offences, Table A and Table B.
- (b) A Red Card may be issued by a Match Official during a Match against a Player who engages in any one of the following offences (also set out in Schedule 3: Table of Offences):

Code	Description
R1	Serious foul play
R2	Violent conduct
R3	Spitting at an opponent or any other person
R4	Denying the opposing team a goal or an obvious goal-scoring opportunity by deliberately handling the ball (this does not apply to a goal-keeper within his own penalty area)
R5	Denying an obvious goal-scoring opportunity to an opponent moving towards the player's goal by an offence punishable by a free kick or a penalty kick
R6	Using offensive, insulting or abusive language and/or gestures
R7	Receiving a second caution in the same match

- (c) If a Player receives an R7 (receiving a second caution in the same match), the Player must serve a Mandatory Match Suspension of one (1) Fixture and the Club is responsible for ensuring the Player is immediately stood down for his or her next Fixture in accordance with section 14 (Serving of Suspensions) and for ensuring that the Player complies with any other directive imposed by the Executive.
- (d) BDSFA is **not** obliged to issue a Notice of Suspension when a Player receives an R7 (receiving a second caution in the same match).
- (e) In accordance with section 14.8 (e), Red Cards issued during an abandoned Match will be upheld regardless of whether the Match is replayed or not.
- (f) A Participant who is issued with a Red Card or Expelled from the Field of Play, its surrounds or the Technical Area during a Match:
- i. must proceed directly to the Participant's Club's designated dressing room in the first instance;
 - ii. must not, for the remainder of the Match, enter the Field of Play, its surrounds or the Technical Area or occupy the Players' race, if applicable;
 - iii. must not, until one (1) hour after the conclusion of the Match, have contact with:
 - A. any Player or Team Official while that person is in an area outlined in section 16.4(f)(ii); or
 - B. any Match Official involved in the Match.
 - iv. may, if the venue facilitates it, be escorted to a suitable secure area within the venue to observe the remainder of the Match. Should the venue not provide access to such an area, it will be at the discretion of the Home Club to determine the most secure place for the Participant to be positioned for the remainder of the Match.
- (g) In accordance with the Laws of the Game, Players and Team Officials must not use electronic communication systems during a Match. BDSFA may, in its absolute discretion, sanction a Club whose Players and Team Officials use electronic communication systems during a Match.

16.5 Accumulation of Red Cards

Subject to Schedule 3: Table of Offences, a Player who accumulates three (3) Red Cards (not including R7s) in Competitions in any one (1) Season will not be eligible to participate in any Match in his or her capacity as a Player after receiving his or her third (3rd) Red Card until he or she has appeared before the General Purposes Tribunal and has complied with any sanction imposed by the General Purposes Tribunal.

16.6 Club responsibility for recording accumulation of Yellow and Red Cards 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) It is a Club's responsibility to ensure that any Participant who has incurred a Fixture Suspension serves that Fixture Suspension in full.
- (c) A Club in breach of this section 16.6 will be deemed to have committed Misconduct (section 15.4) and the Executive may, in its absolute discretion, charge the Member accordingly and refer the matter to the General Purposes Tribunal for determination pursuant to section 8.2 (Charges of Misconduct and Disrepute).

16.7 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 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 (section 15.4) and the Executive may, in its absolute discretion, charge the Club accordingly and refer the matter to the General Purposes Tribunal for determination pursuant to section 8.2 (Charges of Misconduct and Disrepute).
- (d) In determining whether to sanction a Club pursuant to this section 16.7, the General Purposes Tribunal may consider any exceptional circumstances which it deems apply.
- (e) The relevant sanctions for Team Misconduct are set out at Schedule 3: Table of Offences, Table D: Sanctions Imposed by a Tribunal.

16.8 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 FFA, BDSFA or are not registered for a Competition.
- (b) Any Club which fields or lists unregistered players will be deemed to have committed Misconduct (section 15.4) and the Executive may, in its absolute discretion, charge the Club accordingly and refer the matter to the General Purposes Tribunal for determination pursuant to section 8.2 (Charges of Misconduct and Disrepute).

16.9 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 (section 15.4) and the Executive may, in its absolute discretion, charge the Club or Team accordingly and refer the matter to the General Purposes Tribunal for determination pursuant to section 8.2 (Charges of Misconduct and Disrepute).

16.10 Team Officials and Club Officials

- (a) Tribunals 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 Schedule 3: 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) Fixture in the next Premiership, Championship, Cup or FFA Cup Fixture, whichever occurs first, and which may be taken as being included in any additional Suspension issued by a Tribunal and which may apply across all Football Related Activities depending on the severity of the Offence.

16.11 Refusal to take the field of play and mass walk-offs

Any Club which by the conduct of its Players, 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 (section 15.4) and as a result BDSFA may, in its absolute discretion, charge a Participant, or Club and refer the matter to the General Purposes Tribunal for determination pursuant to section 8.2 (Charges of Misconduct and Disrepute).

17. SOCIAL MEDIA AND DETRIMENTAL PUBLIC COMMENT

- (a) Without limiting the BDSFA Social Media Policy or FNSW and/or FFA Rules and Regulations, a Member must not make public or media comment (including via social media) which is detrimental to BDSFA, FNSW, FFA, their commercial partners or to the interests of the game.
- (b) Without limitation, a Member 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 Member:
 - i. denigrates or criticises another Member, whether in relation to incidents that have occurred in a match or otherwise;
 - ii. denigrates or criticises BDSFA, FNSW, FFA or any of their commercial partners;
 - iii. denigrates or criticises a Participant by inappropriately commenting on any aspect of his or her performance, abilities or characteristics;
 - iv. comments on the likely outcome of a matter being investigated by BDSFA or a matter or hearing before a Body;
 - v. criticises the outcome of a BDSFA investigation;
 - vi. criticises the decision of a Body; or
 - vii. criticises any evidence, submission or other comment made by any person at or in relation to a matter or hearing before a Body.
- (c) BDSFA may, in its absolute discretion, deal with such matters pursuant to section 8.2 (Charges of Misconduct and Disrepute).
- (d) Where there is evidence that a Member has made a public or media comment (including via social media) in breach of section 17(a) of these Regulations, the BDSFA Social Media Policy or the FNSW and/or FFA Rules and Regulations, that Member will be presumed to have made the comment and the onus will be on the Member to satisfy the Executive or the Tribunal, as the case may be, that the Member did not do so. For example, if the offending comment is made on the Member's social

media account, that Member will be presumed to have posted the comment and the onus will be on that Member to satisfy the Executive or the Tribunal that the Member did not do so.

- (e) Members are responsible for their own social media and email accounts and must ensure they keep the usernames and passwords by which they access their own social media and email accounts confidential and secure at all times. Members must ensure computers and mobile devices are not left unattended and/or without password protection.

18. SPECTATORS

- (a) These Regulations, the BDSFA Terms of Admission Policy and the FFA 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 Tribunals 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 behavior 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 BDSFA Terms of Admission Policy and/or the FFA Spectator Code of Behaviour, BDSFA may refer the matter to the General Purposes Tribunal pursuant to section 8.2 (Charges of Misconduct and Disrepute) 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) Any ban imposed by FFA under the FFA Rules and Regulations against a person may be endorsed and applied by BDSFA across all Matches and across all matches and competitions sanctioned or administered by Members and their clubs.
- (e) Any ban imposed by a Member Federation, Club, Centre, Association Member, affiliated association or their clubs under their applicable rules and regulations may be endorsed and applied by BDSFA across all Matches and across all matches and competitions sanctioned or administered by Clubs, Centres, Association Members and their clubs.
- (f) A Club is responsible, and liable, for the conduct and behaviour of its supporters, whether at home or away Matches.
- (g) It is the Home Club's responsibility to ensure the Football NSW Terms of Admission Policy and the FFA Spectator Code of Behaviour is implemented and enforced against all Spectators.
- (h) An Away Club is liable for improper conduct among its own group of supporters. Supporters occupying the away sector of a stadium, ground or centre are regarded as the Away Club's supporters, unless proven to the contrary by the Away Club.
- (i) 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 (section 15.4) and the Executive may, in its absolute discretion, charge the Club accordingly and refer the matter to the General Purposes Tribunal for determination pursuant to section 8.2 (Charges of Misconduct and Disrepute).

SCHEDULE 1: DEFINITIONS

“**Additional Suspension**” means any Suspension in addition to a Mandatory Match Suspension;

“**AFC**” means the Asian Football Confederation;

“**Affected Party**” has the meaning given to it in section 12.4 of these Regulations;

“**Amateur**” means any Player that is not a Professional;

“**Appeals Tribunal Determination**” means a decision or Determination made by the Appeals Tribunal pursuant to section 9;

“**Appeals Tribunal**” means the Body responsible for hearing and determining appeals pursuant to section 9;

“**Application Fees**” means the applicable fees to appear before a General Purposes Tribunal or Appeal Tribunal as set out in Schedule 4: Application Fees;

“**Association Member**” means those admitted from time to time as association members of BDSFA under the BDSFA Constitution and North West Sydney Women’s Football;

“**Association Member Official**” means any person involved with the administration, management or organisation of an Association Member (whether paid, unpaid or honorary), including employees, contractors, directors, representatives and volunteers;

“**Away Club**” means the Club not playing the Match at its home ground or appearing second on the fixture list in the event the Match is conducted at a neutral venue;

“**Board**” mean the directors of BDSFA appointed or elected from time to time in accordance with the BDSFA Constitution;

“**Body**” means a body established under section 4 (Authority to Establish Committees and Tribunals) of these Regulations;

“**Branch**” means each of Southern Branch, Western Branch and Riverina Branch;

“**Broadcast Partner**” means the organisation(s) granted the rights by FFA, FNSW or BDSFA to broadcast live Matches;

“**Centre**” means an entity which conducts futsal competitions and is affiliated with BDSFA;

“**Championship**” means the final series of a Competition held at the completion of a Premiership in accordance with the BDSFA Rules and Regulations;

“**Chairperson**” means a chairperson or vice-chairperson of a Tribunal appointed under section 5 (Membership of Bodies);

“**Claim**” means a claim by one Member against another Member(s) or a disagreement between Members;

“**Club**” means any club registered with FFA and/or BDSFA or admitted to participate in a Competition. A reference to a Club in these Regulations includes a Team where that Team is not affiliated to a Club;

“**Club Official**” means any person involved with the administration, management or organisation of a Club, Centre, Referees Body or a club affiliated with an Association Member (whether paid, unpaid or honorary), including employees, contractors, directors, representatives and volunteers;

“**Competition**” means any or all of the football matches, competitions, Premierships, Championships, Cups, tournaments and events owned or conducted by BDSFA;

“**Complaint**” means an allegation by a Member that the conduct of another Member(s) is in breach of FFA Rules and Regulations, BDSFA Rules and Regulations or the rules and regulations of the other Member(s);

“**Cup**” means a Competition in which Clubs/Teams compete in a series of knockout matches in accordance with the BDSFA Rules and Regulations and includes, but is not limited to, the Waratah Cup;

“**Determination**” means a decision made by a Body in accordance with these Regulations;

“Disciplinary Committee” means the Body responsible for making determinations pursuant to section 7;

“Disciplinary History” means a Member’s disciplinary/tribunal record as held by FFA, BDSFA, a Member Federation or an Association Member;

“Disrepute” has the meaning given to it under the FFA Code of Conduct;

“Exceptional Circumstances” means circumstances operating at the time of the Offence and relating to the commission of the Offence and not to the impact a sanction may have. The following are **not** Exceptional Circumstances:

- i. the significance or importance to the Participant or his or her Club of the Match in which the Offence was committed;
- ii. the significance or importance of any Match, Fixture or tournament in which the Participant will be ineligible to participate because of the imposition of a Suspension imposed within the range in Schedule 3: Table of Offences;
- iii. the point in the Match at which the Offence was committed;
- iv. the conduct, including actions, words or gestures of any Participant or Spectator during or related to the Match; and
- v. any disciplinary decision taken or failure to take a disciplinary decision by a Match Official during the Match.

“Executive” means the Chief Executive Officer of BDSFA or his or her nominee;

“Expel, Expelled and Expulsion” means a Match Official directing a Team Official or Club Official from the Field of Play, its surrounds or the Technical Area;

“Expulsion Offence” means an offence specified in Schedule 3: Table of Offences, Tables B and C committed by a Team Official or Club Official warranting or leading to his or her Expulsion;

“FFA” means Football Federation Australia Limited, the governing body for football in Australia;

“FFA Privacy Policy” means the privacy policy of FFA adopted on 19 March 2014;

“FFA Statutes” means the statutes and any accompanying standing orders, by-laws and regulations governing football in Australia as promulgated by FFA;

“FFA Rules and Regulations” means the FFA Statutes and any other rules, regulations, policies, procedures, codes of conduct and guidelines developed, promulgated and implemented by FFA;

“Field of Play” means the field of play and any perimeter area between the line markings of the pitch and the spectator area except in the case of futsal, where it means the court of play;

“FIFA” means Federation Internationale de Football Association, its successor or assignee;

“Fixture” means a meeting of Clubs as scheduled in all grades applicable;

“Fixture Suspension” has the meaning given to it in section 14.4(a) of these Regulations;

“BDSFA By-Laws” means the by-laws of BDSFA adopted on 2 December 2015;

“BDSFA Constitution” means the constitution of BDSFA adopted on 31 March 2007;

“BDSFA Privacy Policy” means the privacy policy of BDSFA adopted 20 August 2015;

“BDSFA Representative Match” means any match played by a Participant for a representative side controlled or administered by BDSFA (EG State Cup and Champion of Champions)

“BDSFA Rules and Regulations” mean any rules, regulations, by-laws, policies, procedures, directives, codes of conduct and guidelines developed, promulgated and implemented by BDSFA;

“BDSFA” means BDSFA Limited ABN 694 189 213 08 which is the regional governing body for football.

“Football Related Activity” has the meaning given to it in section 14.5(d) of these Regulations;

“**General Purposes Tribunal or GPT**” means the Body responsible for hearing and determining matters pursuant to section 8;

“**General Purposes Tribunal Determination**” means a decision made by the General Purposes Tribunal pursuant to section 8;

“**Grievance**” means either a Claim or Complaint, as the case requires, under section 8.3;

“**Grievance Form**” means **Prescribed Form 10**, used for raising a Grievance against a Member under section 8.3;

“**Home Club**” means the Club playing the Match at its home ground or appearing first on the fixture list in the event the Match is conducted at a neutral venue;

“**Ineligible Player**” means a Player who is subject to a Suspension, is subject to a suspension issued by, or applicable under the rules and regulations of, FFA, a Member Federation, a Club, Centre, an Association Member, an affiliated association or any of their clubs, any Player who is defined as “Ineligible” pursuant to the BDSFA Competition Regulations, a Player who is in breach of article 4.9 (Prohibition on Dual Registration) of the FFA National Registration Regulations or any Player who is otherwise ineligible to participate in a Competition;

“**Laws of the Game**” means the official laws of the game of football as promulgated by FIFA;

“**Mandatory Match Suspension or MMS**” means the automatic suspension from participating in a Match that must be served in accordance with these Regulations.

“**Match**” means a single meeting of two teams to play football in a Competition;

“**Match Official**” means a referee, assistant referee, fourth official, assessor, match commissioner, any person in charge of safety or any other person appointed by FFA, BDSFA, a Referees’ Body, a Centre, a Club, an Association Member or its clubs to assume responsibility in connection with a fixture and/or match but does not include a Team Official or Club Official;

“**Match Official Report**” means either a Match Official Send-Off/Expulsion Report (**Prescribed Form 02**) or a Match Official Incident Report (**Prescribed Form 03**) prepared and submitted by Match Officials to BDSFA;

“**Match Official Send-Off/Expulsion Report (Prescribed Form 02)**” means a report prepared and submitted by a Match Official to BDSFA which sets out any Red Card Offences and Expulsion Offences that occurred during a Match;

“**Match Official Incident Report (Prescribed Form 03)**” means a report prepared and submitted by a Match Official to BDSFA which sets out any incidents which occurred prior to, during or after a Match;

“**Maximum Suspension**” means the maximum suspension, if prescribed, for an Offence as set out in Schedule 3: Table of Offences;

“**Member**” means for the purposes of these Regulations an Association Member, a Branch, a Centre, a Club, a Team, a Referees Body or a Participant;

“**Member Appeals Committee**” means the highest disciplinary or judicial body of a Branch, Association Member, Centre or Referees Body, as the case may be;

“**Member Federation**” means a State, Territory or a regional association or federation that is a member or an interim member of FFA from time to time;

“**Minimum Suspension**” means the minimum sanction, if prescribed, for an Offence as set out in Schedule 3: Table of Offences;

“**Misconduct**” has the meaning given to it in section 15.4 of these Regulations;

“**National Online Registration System**” means FFA’s national registration database;

“**NPL Pre-Season Competition**” means Matches/Fixtures played prior to the commencement of the Premiership;

“**Notice of Appeal**” means the relevant prescribed form submitted by a party to BDSFA wanting to appeal a decision of the Disciplinary Committee (**Prescribed Form 08**), the General Purposes Tribunal (**Prescribed Form 12**) or a Member Appeals Committee (**Prescribed Form 13**);

“**Notice of Charge**” means a notice issued by BDSFA setting out the charge(s) against a Member and the due date for submission of a Notice of Response (section 8.2);

“**Notice of Proceedings**” means a notice issued by BDSFA to parties and witnesses subject to a hearing setting out the time, date and location of the hearing;

“**Notice of Response (section 8.2)**” means **Prescribed Form 09** which must be submitted by a Member in response to a Notice of Charge and which, among other things, provides a Member with the opportunity to indicate its plea to the charge(s);

“**Notice of Response (section 8.5)**” means **Prescribed Form 11** which must be submitted by a Member in response to a matter to be dealt with by the General Purposes Tribunal pursuant to section 8.5 and which, among other things, provides a Member with the opportunity to indicate its plea to the charge(s);

“**Notice of Suspension**” means a notice issued by BDSFA to a Member setting out the Suspension determined pursuant to these Regulations;

“**Offences**” means those offences set out in Schedule 3: Table of Offences;

“**Official**” means a Team Official, Club Official Match Official or Association Member Official;

“**Participant**” means a Player, Official, Spectator or an individual otherwise registered with FFA to participate in football in the State;

“**Player**” means any person who participates in a Match (irrespective of whether he or she is registered with FFA, junior or senior or an Amateur or Professional). For the avoidance of doubt, a reference to a Player during a Match includes a substitute and a substituted player;

“**Premiership**” means a Competition in which Clubs/Teams compete in a series of round robin Matches (both home and away) during a Season in accordance with the BDSFA Rules and Regulations;

“**Range at the Table of Offences or Range**” means, in relation to each Offence, the range bounded by the Minimum Suspension prescribed in the Table of Offences and the Maximum Suspension.

“**Red Card**” means a card issued to a Player for the commission of a Red Card Offence;

“**Red Card Offence**” means the commission by a Player of one of the sending-off offences set out in Schedule 3: Table of Offences, Table A and Table B;

“**Referees Body**” means a body made up of Match Officials who provide services to BDSFA, an Association Member or Centre. For the purposes of these Regulations,, a Referees Body (whether or not as an entity in its own right) together with its members will be considered a Member of BDSFA ;

“**Regulations**” means these BDSFA Grievance and Disciplinary Regulations;

“**Season**” means from the commencement of a Competition to the conclusion of a Competition unless otherwise directed by BDSFA;

“**Spectating**” means attendance at a stadium, venue, ground or Centre during any match, competition or training session sanctioned or administered by BDSFA, Clubs, Centres, Association Members or their clubs;

“**Spectator**” means a person in attendance at a stadium, venue, ground or Centre during any match, competition or training session sanctioned or administered by BDSFA, Clubs, Centres, Association Members or their clubs;

“**State**” means the state of New South Wales with the exception of the northern regions of NSW which are identified by FFA as “Northern NSW”;

“**Suspension**” means any suspension applicable under or issued pursuant to these Regulations including any suspension issued pursuant to section 13;

“**Table of Offences**” mean the Offences as set out at Schedule 3 to these Regulations;

“**Team**” means any team registered with FFA and/or BDSFA, any team admitted by BDSFA to participate in a Competition or any team registered with a Centre;

“**Team Official**” 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, Branch, Centre, Association Member or its clubs;

“**Technical Area**” means the area marked and designated in accordance with the FIFA Laws of the Game within which the coach, the substitute Players and the Team Officials must remain during a match;

“**Time Suspension**” has the meaning given to it in section 14.4(a) of these Regulations;

“**Total Payments**” means the gross salary (including superannuation but not match bonuses) a Player is entitled to receive under his or her employment contract with the Club for the period corresponding to the period when he or she is subject to suspension;

“**Tournament**” means a Competition in which Clubs/Teams compete in a series of round robin and/or knockout matches in accordance with the BDSFA Rules and Regulations and includes, but is not limited to, the BDSFA State Titles;

“**Trial Match**” means any match played by two Clubs/Teams which does not form part of a Competition, Premiership, Championship, Cup or other event or tournament but has been sanctioned by BDSFA;

“**Tribunal**” means the General Purposes Tribunal or the Appeals Tribunal;

“**Vexatious Claim**” means a Claim or Complaint instituted without sufficient grounds and serving or designed only to cause annoyance to another Member;

“**Yellow Card**” means a caution of a Player by a Match Official for an infringement set out in section 16.1;

“**Zone Council Member**” has the meaning given to it in the BDSFA Constitution.

SCHEDULE 2: PRESCRIBED FORMS AND EMAIL ADDRESSES

Documents	Email Address
Match Team Sheet (Prescribed Form 01)	matchreports@bdsfa.com
Match Official Send-Off/Expulsion Report (Prescribed Form 02)	matchreports@bdsfa.com
Match Official Incident Report (Prescribed Form 03)	matchreports@bdsfa.com
Written Statement by a Participant challenging a decision on the basis of mistaken identity in a Match Official Send-Off/Expulsion Report (Prescribed Form 04) – section 7.3	dc@bdsfa.com
Written Statement by actual Participant committing the Offence - mistaken identity in a Match Official Send-Off/Expulsion Report (Prescribed Form 05) – section 7.3	dc@bdsfa.com
Written Statement by a Club - mistaken identity in a Match Official Send-Off/Expulsion Report (Prescribed Form 06) – section 7.3	dc@bdsfa.com
Written Statement by Participant – challenging a decision pursuant to section 7.4 (Prescribed Form 07)	dc@bdsfa.com
Notice of Appeal of a decision of a DC (Prescribed Form 08) – section 7.5	tribunal@bdsfa.com
Notice of Response (section 8.2) (Prescribed Form 09) – section 8.2	tribunal@bdsfa.com
Grievance Form (Prescribed Form 10) – section 8.3	tribunal@bdsfa.com
Notice of Response (section 8.5) (Prescribed Form 11) – section 8.5	tribunal@bdsfa.com
Notice of Appeal of a decision of a GPT (Prescribed Form 12) – section 8.8	tribunal@bdsfa.com
Notice of Appeal of a decision of a Member Appeals Committee (Prescribed Form 13) – section 9.6	tribunal@bdsfa.com
Witness Statement (Prescribed Form 14)	tribunal@bdsfa.com
Any other matter relevant to these Regulations	tribunal@bdsfa.com

SCHEDULE 3: TABLE OF OFFENCES

TABLE A: OFFENCES BY PLAYERS¹

Send Off Codes	Description	Suspension	
		Minimum Suspension	Maximum Suspension
R1	Serious Foul Play	1 Fixture	24 months
R1 Expanded			
	Violent Tackle from behind that endangers the safety of an opponent	3 Fixtures	24 months
	Rugby Tackle	4 Fixtures	24 months
	Violent Charging	2 Fixtures	24 months
	Over the Ball Tackle	2 Fixtures	24 months
R2	Violent Conduct	1 Fixtures	24 months
R2 Expanded			
	Head Butting	5 Fixtures	24 months
	Punching/Fighting	3 Fixtures	24 months
	Kicking	5 Fixtures	24 months
	Elbowing to the Head	4 Fixtures	24 months
	Elbowing to the Body	2 Fixtures	24 months
	Inciting a brawl/melee	5 Fixtures	24 months

BDSFA Grievance and Disciplinary Regulations 2019

R3	Spitting at an opponent or any other person (other than a Match Official)	12 Fixtures	24 months
R3 Expanded			
	Spitting on an opponent or any other person (other than a Match Official)	12 Fixtures	24 months (including the MMS) ²
R4	Denying the opposing team a goal or an obvious goal-scoring opportunity by deliberately handling the ball (this does not apply to a goal-keeper within his own penalty area)	1 Fixture	1 Fixture
R5	Denying an obvious goal-scoring opportunity to an opponent moving towards the player's goal by an offence punishable by a free kick or a penalty kick	1 Fixture	1 Fixture
R6	Using offensive, insulting or abusive language and/or gestures	1 Fixture	24 months
R6 Expanded			
	Indecent gestures	4 Fixtures	24 months
	Incitement to violence, or repeated use of offensive, insulting or abusive words or gestures	8 Fixtures	24 months
	Using discriminatory, homophobic, racist, religious, ethnic or sexist language and/or gestures	8 Fixtures	24 months
R7	Receiving a second caution in the same Match	1 Fixture	1 Fixture

¹ Where the Offence giving rise to the Red Card was committed against a Match Official, the applicable Minimum and Maximum Suspensions are those set out in Table B.

² A Suspension greater than the applicable Maximum Suspension may be imposed by a Body only in Exceptional Circumstances that must be detailed in the Determination.

TABLE B: OFFENCES BY PARTICIPANTS AGAINST MATCH OFFICIALS*

Number	Description	Suspension	
		Minimum Suspension	Maximum Suspension
1 (R6 for Players)	Using offensive , insulting or abusive language and/or gestures	3 Fixtures	24 months
2 (R6 for Players)	Indecent gestures	8 Fixtures	24 months
3 (R6 for Players)	Incitement to violence, or repeated use of offensive, insulting or abusive words or gestures	10 Fixtures	24 months
4 (R6 for Players)	Use of discriminatory, homophobic, racist, religious, ethnic or sexist language and/or gestures	10 Fixtures	24 months
5 (R6 for Players)	Threatening or intimidating language or conduct towards a Match Official	12 Fixtures	24 months
6 (R6 for Players)	Threat of physical violence toward a Match Official or his/her family or property	12 months	24 months
7 (R2 for Players)	Tripping a Match Official	12 months	Life
8 (R2 for Players)	Pushing a Match Official	12 months	Life
9 (R2 for Players)	Striking a Match Official with a ball or other object	12 months	Life
10 (R2 for Players)	Punching, kicking, elbowing or striking a Match Official	12 months	Life
11 (R3 for Players)	Spitting at or on a Match Official	12 months	Life

* In respect of Players, the Table in Column 1 also references the relevant sending-off offences R1 to R7 under the FIFA Laws of the Game

TABLE C: OTHER OFFENCES BY MEMBERS

Number	Description	Minimum Suspension [#]	Maximum Suspension
1	Inciting the crowd	12 fixtures	6 Years
2	Attacking or fighting with a Player, Spectator, Club Official, Team Official or BDSFA employee or representative	1 Year	Life
3	Conduct which brings or may bring the game into Disrepute or damage the reputation and goodwill of the game	4 fixtures	Life
4	Contempt against a Body	4 fixtures	5 Years
5	Spitting at or on a Player, Spectator, Club Official, Team Official or BDSFA employee or representative	12 fixtures	Life
6	Failure to provide a safe environment for Participants or to maintain public order at a Match	4 fixtures	24 months
7	Unsportsmanlike or unprofessional behaviour	4 Fixtures	24 Months
8	Failure to follow any reasonable direction of an Official or BDSFA employee or representative in relation to conduct and/or behaviour at a Match.	2 Fixtures	12 Months
9	Unauthorised entry onto the Field of Play	2 Fixtures	12 Months
10	Failing to provide identifying details of an individual when reasonably requested to do so by a Match Official or BDSFA employee or representative	4 Fixtures	24 months
11	Damaging property or equipment before, during or after a Match	2 Fixtures	2 Years
12	Breaching a Suspension, Notice of Suspension or Determination	N/A	Such penalty as BDSFA or the Tribunal may determine
13	Breach of BDSFA Rules and Regulations relating to registration (other than dual registration) and/or competitions	Club - Any penalty or sanction prescribed by the BDSFA Rules and Regulations. Individual Participant – 2 fixtures	Club - Any penalty or sanction prescribed by the BDSFA Rules and Regulations plus any additional penalty as determined by BDSFA or the Tribunal. Individual Participant - Life

BDSFA Grievance and Disciplinary Regulations 2019

14	Breach of the prohibition on dual registration (as per article 4.9 of the FFA National Registration Regulations)	3 months	Such penalty as BDSFA or the Tribunal may determine
15	Betting, match-fixing or corruption (as per clause 4 of the FFA Code of Conduct)	3 months	Life
16	Breach of the FNSW Privacy Policy, the FFA Privacy Policy or any privacy policy applicable to a Member's collection, use and disclosure of personal information	Such penalty as BDSFA or the Tribunal may determine	Such penalty as BDSFA or the Tribunal may determine
17	Other action or behaviour in breach the FFA Code of Conduct, the FFA Spectator Code of Behaviour and/or the FFA National Member Protection Policy not identified elsewhere in this Table	Such penalty as BDSFA or the Tribunal may determine	Such penalty as BDSFA or the Tribunal may determine
18	Using discriminatory, homophobic, racist, religious, ethnic or sexist language and/or gestures	8 fixtures	24 months

* The offences set out in Tables B and C are not intended to be exhaustive and the Executive may bring any charge pursuant to section 15.4 against a Member.

Table C sets out the Minimum and Maximum Suspensions that may be imposed by a Tribunal for the offences set out in that Table. A Tribunal may impose any of the other sanctions set out in Table D in addition to or in lieu of a Suspension.

^A Member is presumed to have known that a person was a Match Official (regardless of that person's attire or regardless of whether that person identified him or herself as a Match Official to the Member) unless that Member satisfies the Executive or Body, as the case may be, otherwise.

TABLE D: SANCTIONS IMPOSED BY A TRIBUNAL

Number	Type of sanction, order or measure
1	a warning, caution or reprimand
2	a fine, bond or costs
3	a deduction or loss of competition points or a ban on accruing competition points for a specified period of time or number of Matches or Fixtures
4	a ban on the registration or transfer of Players for a specified period of time
5	annulment of registration of a Player
6	suspension from participation in a Match, Fixture, Event, Tournament or Competition
7	exclusion, suspension or expulsion from a Competition
8	a ban on playing in a particular stadium, venue, ground or centre
9	annulment of the result of any Match or forfeiture of any Match
10	relegation to a lower division
11	the return of an award
12	a ban from the dressing rooms and/or the substitutes' bench
13	a ban from entering any stadium, venue, ground or centre
14	a ban on taking part in any or all Football Related Activity
15	the cost to BDSFA of providing security at a stadium, venue, ground or centre for a specified period of time or number of Matches or Fixtures
16	the successful completion of a referee's course and the requirement to officiate a number of matches
17	the compulsory attendance at a course(s) of education or rehabilitation (for example, an anger management course)
18	with the exception of suspended sentences, such other disciplinary sanctions or measures as are appropriate in all the circumstances, including as prescribed in the FIFA Statutes, FFA Rules and Regulations and BDSFA Rules and Regulations.

SCHEDULE 4: APPLICATION FEES**Disciplinary Committee (Section 7)**

Nature of matter	Fee
Challenge on the basis of mistaken identity under section 7.3	Nil
Challenge under section 7.4	\$200

General Purposes Tribunal (Section 8)

Nature of matter	Fee
Lodgment of a Grievance (section 8.3)	\$200

Appeals Tribunal (Section 9)

Nature of matter	Fee
Appeal from a decision of the Disciplinary Committee (section 7.5)	\$200
Appeal from any decision of the General Purposes Tribunal (section 8.8)	\$350
Appeal to FNSW Appeals Committee (section 9.6)	\$500 payable to FNSW

PAYMENT IS TO BE MADE BY ELECTRONIC TRANSFER INTO THE BANK ACCOUNT SET OUT BELOW AND A COPY OF THE PROOF OF TRANSFER IS TO BE EMAILED TO BDSFA ALONG WITH THE RELEVANT PRESCRIBED FORM:

BDSFA LIMITED

COMMONWEALTH BANK LTD,

ACCOUNT NAME: BLACKTOWN & DISTRICTS SOCCER FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION, BSB: 062 121, ACCOUNT NUMBER: 00909770.

PLEASE TYPE THE PARTICIPANT'S OR CLUB'S NAME AS THE REFERENCE WHEN MAKING THE TRANSFER