



WESTERN AUSTRALIAN
**CHRISTIAN FOOTBALL
ASSOCIATION**

BY-LAW 25 DISCIPLINARY REGULATIONS

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INTRODUCTION

This document is a constituent part of and must be read in conjunction with the 2015 WACFA By-Laws and Information Manual.

25 DISCIPLINARY REGULATIONS

25.1 JURISDICTION

- 25.1.1 All Member Clubs, all registered players, Club Officials, and all Match Officials (hereafter referred to as “participants”) are bound by these regulations and Part V of the FIFA Statutes (Judicial Bodies and Disciplinary Sanctions).
- 25.1.2 A penalty imposed by the Disciplinary Tribunal of WACFA continues to apply until the period of suspension has been served, even if the participant’s association with WACFA has ended.
- 25.1.3 These regulations do not limit or restrict the application of the FIFA statutes, FFA statutes or Code of Conduct governing the behaviour of a participant which occurs outside the authority of these regulations generally.
- 25.1.4 WACFA retains the right to issue a disciplinary notice to a participant without referral to a disciplinary committee, but this does not limit or remove the participant’s right to appeal.
- 25.1.5 WACFA retains the right to investigate any matter of alleged misconduct and either issue a disciplinary infringement notice or refer the matter to the disciplinary committee.
- 25.1.6 WACFA retains the right to refer a matter to a disciplinary committee established in accordance with Clause 25.3.4 and 25.3.6.
- 25.1.7 All participants, including WACFA itself, are bound by the decisions of the duly appointed disciplinary and appeal committees.
- 25.1.8 WACFA retains the right to seek clarification from a disciplinary or appeal committee if a decision appears to conflict with these regulations, the FFA Statutes, the National Disciplinary Regulations or the FIFA Disciplinary Code, and may delay the issue and publication of a decision until such clarification is given.

25.2 LAWS OF THE GAME

- 25.2.1 All fixtures within WACFA competitions, including WACFA-sanctioned non-competition (ie, ‘friendly’) games, are played according to The laws of the Game as drafted by the International Football Association Board and as adopted in FIFA Statutes, as well as the Rules of Competition prescribed by WACFA By-law 20.
- 25.2.2 During any fixture sanctioned by WACFA, whether a competition or a non-competition fixture, a referee may take the following disciplinary action:
 - A in the case of a player, substitute or substituted player, issue a yellow card in accordance with the Laws of the Game;
 - B in the case of a player, substitute or substituted player, issue a red card in accordance with the Laws of the Game;
 - C in the case of a Team Official, direct the expulsion from the field of play, the technical area, and the immediate area in which the fixture is being played.

25.3 Authorities

25.3.1 The Referee:

- A is the sole authority for each fixture sanctioned by WACFA and has authority to enforce the Laws of the Game in each fixture to which he or she has been appointed;**
- B makes all disciplinary decisions during a fixture sanctioned by WACFA;**
- C has the powers, duties and authority as specified in the FIFA Laws of the Game and, in particular, Law 5;**
- D has the authority to make disciplinary decisions from the moment he or she enters the field of play until he or she leaves the field of play after the final whistle.**

25.3.2 Western Australian Christian Football Association:

- A is the sole administrator of all WACFA competitions;**
- B may exercise any of the powers granted to it under these regulations;**
- C may appoint an investigations officer to operate in accordance with these regulations;**
- D may refer any allegation of misconduct to a disciplinary committee, including a serious infringement that has escaped the Referee's attention;**
- E may convene a disciplinary committee and an appeal committee to make determinations as required under these regulations;**
- F must give effect to the sanctions applied pursuant to these regulations;**
- G may rectify an obvious error in the referee's disciplinary decision if:**
 - a disciplinary decision was made by the referee to issue a red or yellow card; and**
 - it was clearly a wrong decision (such as right decision but against wrong player, or of mistaken identity, or wrong in terms of the facts of the incident); and**
 - it was a discretionary decision by a referee as to whether an action was a foul or a yellow or a red card.**

25.3.3 The Disciplinary Committee has the following authority and powers:

- A to determine matters that have been referred to it and impose such sanctions as are authorised and appropriate to the determination;**
- B it may expunge any part of a penalty other than the Automatic Match Suspension;**
- C it may not rescind a red card except in the case of mistaken identity or in accordance with 25.3.2.G;**
- D A red card issued as a result of two yellow cards cannot be rescinded**

25.3.4 The Disciplinary Committee will:

- A be Chaired by the WACFA Chaplain or, in his or her absence, the President of WACFA;**
- B be composed of at least three (3) persons in total;**
- C include members drawn from the WACFA Executive or MC Representatives;**
- D be fully compliant with the requirements of the WACFA conflict of interest policy – it is the responsibility of the Chairperson to ensure that**

potential committee members have declared any actual or perceived conflicts of interest.

25.3.5 The Appeal Committee has the following authority and powers:

- A** to hear appeals in accordance with these regulations;
- B** to make decisions about those appeals, including the imposition of any sanction or finding in accordance with these regulations.

25.3.6 The Appeal Committee will:

- A** be Chaired by the WACFA Chaplain or, in his or her absence, the President of WACFA;
- B** be composed of at least three (3) persons in total;
- C** not include any of the members of the original Disciplinary Committee which made the decision being appealed, with the exception of the Chairperson (who, for all disciplinary or appeal committees, must be either the WACFA Chaplain or, in his or her absence, the President of WACFA);
- D** include members drawn from the WACFA Executive or MC Representatives;
- E** be fully compliant with the requirements of the WACFA conflict of interest policy – it is the responsibility of the Chairperson to ensure that potential committee members have declared any actual or perceived conflicts of interest.

25.4 Yellow Card Infringements

25.4.1 A yellow card may be issued by a referee in accordance with the Laws of the Game (25.2.1)-

25.4.2 A player who accumulates four (4) yellow cards in a season will receive a one match suspension, which will be served in the next scheduled fixture.

25.4.3 A player who accumulates seven (7) yellow cards in a season will receive a two match suspension in addition to the one match suspension incurred by 25.4.2. In addition, the player will be required to attend counselling with the Member Club chaplain.

25.4.4 A player who accumulates ten (10) yellow cards in a season will receive a three (3) three match suspension, in addition to the one match suspension incurred by 25.4.2 and the two match suspension incurred by 25.4.3.

25.4.5 A player who accumulates ten (10) yellow cards in a season must appear before the Disciplinary Committee and show cause why he or she should not be deregistered from the WACFA competition.

25.4.6 If a player receives two yellow cards in a single fixture and, therefore, receives a red card, the two yellow cards will not be included in the player's accumulated total of yellow cards as described in paragraphs 25.4.2, 25.4.3, 25.4.4, 25.4.5 above.

25.4.7 If a player receives a yellow card and then a direct red card in a single fixture, the yellow card will be included in the player's accumulated total of yellow cards as described in paragraphs 25.4.2, 25.4.3, 25.4.4, 25.4.5 above.

25.4.8 A yellow card received during a finals fixture does count toward the accumulated totals referred to in 25.4.2, 25.4.3, 25.4.4, 25.4.5 above.

- 25.4.9 A yellow card received during a friendly or state representative fixture does not count toward the accumulated totals referred to in 25.4.2, 25.4.3, 25.4.4, 25.4.5 above.
- 25.4.10 Match suspensions incurred as a result of the accumulation of yellow cards in competition fixtures must be served in the next fixture in the competition in which the suspension was incurred whether such fixtures occur in the current season (eg, league or final fixtures) or the following season (even if the player concerned will be registered in the next older age-group in the subsequent season).
- 25.5 Red Card Infringements**
- 25.5.1 A red card may be issued by a referee in accordance with the Laws of the Game (25.2.1)
- 25.5.2 A player who is issued with a red card may not participate in any WACFA fixture on the same day either as a player, coach, ground official, club referee, club assistant referee or in any other official capacity for the club. The imposition of an Automatic Match Suspension is immediate.
- For completeness, WACFA must issue a Disciplinary Infringement Notice in accordance with this By-Law except when a player is issued a Red Card and sent from the field of play for an offence that carries the penalty of one match suspension, but for the avoidance of doubt, the Automatic Match Suspension is effective regardless of whether or not the Disciplinary Infringement Notice is received before the next Match.
- In addition to the Automatic Match Suspension the Player may be required to serve an Additional Suspension in accordance with the Table of Offences , Article 26 Article 26 Of Football West Disciplinary and Grievance By Law – By Law 11 which is included in Appendix A of this By-Law.
- 25.5.3 An exclusion from participation in accordance with 25.5.2 above is in addition to any sanction imposed by WACFA or the Disciplinary Committee.
- 25.5.4 A red card is defined as indirect if it is issued as the result of the player receiving two yellow cards in the same fixture. All other red cards issued are defined as direct.
- 25.5.5 A player issued with a red card must serve an Automatic Match Suspension, which will apply to the next scheduled fixture (or, to the next friendly game if the red card was issued during a non-competition fixture).
- 25.5.6 A player who accumulates two (2) red cards in a season must serve a mandatory two (2) match suspension.
- 25.5.7 A player who accumulates three (3) red cards in a season must serve a mandatory three (3) match in addition to the two match suspension incurred by 25.5.6. The player will also be required to attend counselling with Member Club chaplain.
- 25.5.8 A player who accumulates four (4) red cards in a season must serve a mandatory four (4) week suspension, in addition to the two match suspension incurred by 25.5.6 and the three match suspension incurred by 25.5.7.
- 25.5.9 A player who accumulates four (4) red cards in a season must appear before the Disciplinary Committee and show cause why he or she should not be deregistered from the WACFA competition.

- 25.5.10** The imposition of an Automatic Match Suspension is immediate and will apply to the next scheduled fixture (or, to the next friendly game if the red card was issued during a non-competition fixture). The WACFA Disciplinary Committee will issue a Disciplinary Infringement Notice to the player, through the Member Club, in accordance with 25.9.1 and 25.9.2 below. However, the Automatic Match Suspension is effective regardless of whether or not the notice was received (please note 25.9.9 regarding additional sanctions).
- 25.5.11** In addition to the mandatory match suspensions prescribed in 25.5.5, 25.5.6, 25.5.7 and 25.5.8 above, the player may be suspended for additional matches in accordance with these regulations dependant on the nature of the offence.
- 25.5.12** Match suspensions incurred as a result of the issue of a red card in a competition fixture must be served in the next fixture in the competition in which the suspension was incurred whether such fixtures occur in the current season (eg, league or final fixtures) or the following season (even if the player concerned will be registered in the next older age-group in the subsequent season).
- 25.6** **Offences by Team Officials**
- 25.6.1** A referee may expel a Team Official from the field of play, the technical area, and the immediate area in which the fixture is being played if the team official has committed an offence specified in the table of offences.
- 25.6.2** An expelled team official may not be present inside the perimeter fence or barrier, where one is present, or within 20 metres of the field of play where no perimeter fence or barrier is present, until at least 15 minutes following the end of the fixture.
- 25.6.3** A team official who has been expelled from the field of play, the technical area, and the immediate area must serve a mandatory one match suspension and is subject to additional sanction in accordance with the table of offences.
- 25.6.4** A team official who is expelled by a referee in accordance with 25.6.1 may not participate in any other WACFA fixture on the same day either as a player, coach, ground official, club referee, club assistant referee or in any other official capacity for the club.
- 25.7** **Team Misconduct**
- 25.7.1** A team which has three or more individual players or Club Officials cautioned or expelled from the field of Play in a single fixture, will be sanctioned in accordance with the table of offences in Appendix A. Any such sanction is final and may not be subject to a request for a disciplinary hearing.
- 25.7.2** If a team is guilty of the offence described in 25.7.1, on multiple occasions during a season, the penalty as described in the table of offences will be multiplied by the number of times it has occurred to that point in the season. Any such sanction is final and may not be subject to a request for a disciplinary hearing.
- 25.7.3** A team in which multiple participants 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 will be sanctioned in accordance with the table of offences in Appendix A. Any such sanction is final and may not be subject to a request for a disciplinary hearing.
- 25.7.4** If a team is guilty of the offence described in 25.7.3, on multiple occasions during a season, the penalty as described in the table of offences in Appendix A

will be multiplied by the number of times it has occurred to that point in the season. Any such sanction is final and may not be subject to a request for a disciplinary hearing.

25.8 Breaches of Code of Conduct

25.8.1 The WACFA Executive is empowered to investigate an alleged breach the Code of Conduct applying to players, Club Officials, parents and spectators (see 25.1.5). Such breaches, once investigated, may be referred to the Disciplinary Committee for further action.

25.9 Disciplinary Infringement Notice

25.9.1 On receipt of a report of misconduct by a player or a team, the WACFA Executive will refer the matter to the Disciplinary Committee which, in turn, will issue a disciplinary infringement notice to the Member Club and/or call the parties concerned to a disciplinary hearing.

25.9.2 A disciplinary notice issued to a Member Club in accordance with 25.9.1, will detail the alleged offence and contain the particulars of the fixture or event at which the alleged offence occurred.

25.9.3 On receipt of a disciplinary infringement notice, the Member Club may elect to accept the stipulated sanction, or request that the matter be referred to a disciplinary hearing.

25.9.4 A Member Club which elects to have a matter referred to a disciplinary hearing in accordance with 25.9.3 must:

- A** lodge the request in writing on stationery bearing the Club's letterhead;
- B** be authorised and submitted by the Club President or Secretary;
- C** ensure that the request is received by WACFA by 5.00pm on the seventh day following the notice being sent by WACFA;
- D** and ensure the request is accompanied by the appropriate fee as detailed in the WACFA By-laws.

25.9.5 An individual participant, the subject of a disciplinary infringement notice (25.9.1), who elects to have the matter referred to the Disciplinary Committee in accordance with 25.9.4, may be excused from requirements-25.9.4.A, 25.9.4.B, and 25.9.4.C if the participant establishes that he or she is no longer associated with that Member Club. The requirements of 25.9.4.D, however, must be met.

25.9.6 Except in circumstances described in 20.10.5, a request to have a matter referred to a disciplinary hearing in accordance with 25.9.3 will not be accepted unless the conditions of 25.9.4 are met in full.

25.9.7 Fees paid in accordance with 25.9.4.D will be refunded if, as a result of the disciplinary hearing, the sanction issued in under 25.9.1 is dismissed and no further action is taken by the Disciplinary Committee.

25.9.8 The Disciplinary Committee may recommend to WACFA that the disciplinary hearing fee is refunded in full or in part even if all of the conditions of 25.9.7 are not met. Such a recommendation must be accompanied by reasons justifying the decision.

25.9.9 In the event that a Member Club elects to have a matter referred to a disciplinary hearing in accordance with 25.9.3, any sanction in excess of the Automatic Match Suspension will not be imposed while the disciplinary hearing is pending (Note the exception included in 25.12.5 below).

25.9.10 If a matter is referred to a disciplinary hearing in accordance with 25.9.1 because it is alleged that an individual participant assaulted a match official, the participant concerned is suspended, without recourse to 25.9.9, until the matter has been determined by the Disciplinary Committee

25.10 Nature and Forms of Sanctions

25.10.1 A WACFA Disciplinary Committee or Appeal Committee has the authority to determine the scope and duration of suspensions, but may not impose any sanction greater than the maximum specified in the FIFA Disciplinary Code.

25.10.2 Any suspension issued, whether by WACFA, the Disciplinary Committee or an Appeal Committee must be consistent with Table of Offences in Appendix A in this By Law (ie Article 26 Of Football West Disciplinary and Grievance By Law – By Law 11)

25.10.3 A suspension is a ban on taking part in a match in any official capacity, including, but not limited to, participation as a player, Club Official, Match Official, or representing the Member Club in any other manner.

25.10.4 A suspended Participant may not enter the field of play, the technical area, the Player's race, or any other area where players and officials are likely to assemble to prepare for a match for 15 minutes before the match commences and until 15 minutes after the match ends.

25.10.5 A suspension may be imposed in terms of a number of matches, or days, weeks or months and is subject to the following conditions:

A A participant who receives a Match Suspension – eg, an Automatic Match Suspension – is suspended from all matches until the team in which the participant incurred the suspension has completed the number of competition matches specified in the sanction.

A player who is ineligible to play for his or her team because of a match suspension is also ineligible to play-up (see 18.3 of WACFA By Laws) into another team, or in any other competition, on the same day that a suspension is being served (see 25.11.4).

B A participant who receives a Time Suspension – issued as a number of days, weeks or months – is suspended from all matches for the period specified in the sanction.

A player who is ineligible to play for his or her team because of a time suspension is also ineligible to play-up (see 18.3) into another team, or in any other competition, on the same day that a suspension is being served (see 25.11.4)..

25.10.6 Where a sanction imposes a suspension on a participant (whether by reference to a number of matches or period of time), the suspension:

A must be served continuously;

B cannot be structured in any way that allows the participant to serve the suspension in a fragmented way by participating in a certain fixture or fixtures (in whatever competition) and then resuming the suspension.

25.10.7 In respect of sanctions of fewer than six (6) matches or six (6) months, a disciplinary or appeal committee may order that:

A part of the match suspension comes into immediate effect;

- B the other part does not come into effect unless and until an additional offence is committed during a specified probationary period (ie, part of the penalty for the offence is suspended).
- 25.10.8 If a sanction is imposed in accordance with provisions within 25.11.4, the part of the sanction that comes into immediate effect must:
- A include any suspension corresponding to the minimum suspension contained in the table of offences;
 - B be at least one half of the total sanction to be imposed.
- 25.10.9 If a sanction is imposed in accordance with 25.11.4, the sanction must specify:
- A the parties against whom such a sanction is imposed;
 - B the offences which, if committed, activate the suspended part of the ban;
 - C the length of the probationary period which must be a period between six (6) months and 24 months.
- 25.10.10 Where a disciplinary or appeal committee imposes a match suspension where part is suspended and the participant commits an offence which triggers the suspended part of the sanction within the probationary period specified in 25.11.6, the suspended part of the sanction must be served in addition to any additional sanction imposed for the new offence.
- 25.11 Serving a Suspension**
- 25.11.1 A participant who has been suspended may not enter the field of play, the surrounds of the field of play, the technical area, the players' race or any other area within a venue where participants are likely to assemble to prepare for a fixture for the period between fifteen (15) minutes before the fixture commences until fifteen (15) minutes after the fixture ends.
- 25.11.2 Participants serving a time suspension may be directed not to participate in any football relate activity at WACFA sanctioned fixtures. This includes, but is not limited to, playing, coaching, acting as a referee, assistant referee or ground marshal. Such sanctions are at the discretion of the disciplinary committee.
- 25.11.3 If a suspended player changes clubs, this does not affect the suspension.
- 25.11.4 Where a player is eligible to play in multiple competitions (eg, By-law 18.3), a match suspension renders the participant ineligible for each competition. For the avoidance of doubt, in those cases where a player is eligible to play in multiple competitions and has received a match suspension, a "match" is the equivalent of a one-week suspension and, therefore, the participant is ineligible for any competition for the period of the suspension.
- 25.11.5 A dual registered player may not participate in any WACFA sanctioned fixture if he or she is suspended or otherwise deemed ineligible to participate in a non-WACFA competition.
- 25.11.6 When a time suspension is imposed and some or all of the sanction would coincide with the off-season, then the length of the suspension will be extended by the period of the off-season.
- 25.11.7 If a suspension cannot be served in the same age group in which it was incurred, the suspension carries over to the next highest age group.
- 25.11.8 All suspensions not completed in one season, carry over to the following season.
- 25.11.9 An Automatic Match Suspension incurred in a non-competition fixture (friendly match) will be served in the next friendly match.

- 25.11.10** A match suspension, received for an offence that occurred in a non-competition fixture, which is in addition to the Automatic Match Suspension, will be served in the next competition fixture(s).
- 25.11.11** If there are insufficient fixtures for a participant to complete a suspension during a single season and, therefore, the suspension continues into the following season, the participant may take part in non-competition fixtures (friendly games) as long as those fixtures are held prior to the commencement of the following season.
- 25.11.12** If a participant is suspended during the season, he or she is ineligible to compete in non-competition fixtures until the suspension has been served except in circumstances stipulated in 25.11.13
- 25.11.13** If the team in which the sanctioned player is registered has a bye in the schedule of fixtures, the bye is not credited as a match served for a participant serving a match suspension.
- 25.11.14** If a fixture is postponed, the postponed fixture is not credited as a match served for a participant serving a match suspension.
- 25.11.15** If a fixture is abandoned, the abandoned fixture is credited as a match served for a suspension only if the team to which the suspended player belongs did not cause the abandonment of the fixture.
- 25.11.16** A single yellow card issued during an abandoned fixture will be annulled if the fixture is replayed and upheld if the fixture is not replayed.
- 25.11.17** A red card issued during an abandoned fixture will be upheld regardless of whether or not the fixture is replayed.
- 25.11.18** If a fixture is forfeited, the fixture is credited as a match served for a suspension only if the team to which the suspended player belongs did not cause the fixture to be forfeited.

25.12 Disciplinary Hearings

- 25.12.1** A participant who receives a notice of a disciplinary hearing in accordance with 25.9.1 will receive notice of such a hearing not less than 48 hours prior to the scheduled hearing.
- 25.12.2** A participant electing to have a matter referred to a disciplinary hearing in accordance with 25.9.3 will receive notice of such a hearing not less than 48 hours prior to the scheduled hearing.
- 25.12.3** A participant in receipt of a disciplinary hearing notice in accordance with 25.12.1 or 25.12.2 is required to attend the disciplinary hearing. If a participant is unable to attend a disciplinary hearing, the participant must notify WACFA in writing.
- 25.12.4** Where the participant, who is in receipt of a disciplinary hearing notice in accordance with 25.12.1 or 25.12.2 but has advised WACFA in writing of an inability to attend the scheduled hearing in accordance with 25.12.3, the disciplinary committee will either:
- A** delay the hearing until the participant is able to attend;
 - B** proceed with the hearing and make a ruling in the absence of the participant.
- 25.12.5** If a participant who is a person rather than an organisation, club or other entity does not attend a disciplinary hearing and the committee chooses to delay the hearing in accordance with 25.12.4.A, the effect of 25.9.9 is annulled and the

participant is suspended until the matter is heard by the disciplinary committee.

- 25.12.6 WACFA reserves the right to be heard and to make submissions if a decision has the potential to affect WACFA or football generally.
- 25.12.7 WACFA reserves the right to appoint an advocate to attend any disciplinary hearing where and within which jurisdiction on behalf of WACFA.
- 25.12.8 WACFA reserves the right to appoint a FIFA registered referee (level 3 or higher) as an advisor to a disciplinary hearing. Any such appointment is made to provide advice on the Laws of the Game and other refereeing matters. In order to be appointed, the referee advisor must be fully compliant with the requirements of the WACFA conflict of interest policy. The referee advisor is not a member of the disciplinary committee and holds no powers at a hearing.
- 25.12.9 If the Referee who reported the offence is unable to attend the disciplinary hearing, he or she is entitled to be represented at the hearing.
- 25.12.10 The disciplinary committee appointed to hear a matter may request clarification on a referee report by submitting a request in writing to the WACFA Referee Co-ordinator appointed in accordance with WACFA By Law 9.1 or a referee advisor appointed in accordance with 25.12.8.
- 25.12.11 When determining any appropriate sanction, a disciplinary committee will take into consideration:
 - A the nature and severity of the infringement;
 - B the culpability of the offender (including whether or not the infringement was intentional, negligent or reckless);
 - C any reasons prompting the offender to commit an infringement;
 - D the offender's past record, including whether or not this is a repeat offence;
 - E the remorse of the offender;
 - F any other extenuating circumstances.

25.13 Procedures at Disciplinary Hearings

- 25.13.1 Hearings held by the disciplinary committee are not bound by the rules of evidence usually applicable to proceedings in courts of law. However, all hearings must be conducted in accordance with the principles of natural justice, including that participants:
 - A are treated with equality;
 - B have the opportunity to be heard;
 - C have the opportunity to be represented;
 - D have the opportunity to make submissions in relation to the offence;
 - E have the opportunity to make submissions related to issues of merit and sanction.
- 25.13.2 A disciplinary committee has the right to determine all procedures to be adopted in hearing a matter, including the order and manner in which each party is heard, and may during the course of any hearing:
 - A grant or order an adjournment to provide parties with additional time or to consider additional evidence;
 - B admit or request the production of documents or any relevant written evidence available to a participant or any other person, including reports

- 25.14.5** A participant who appeals a decision of a disciplinary committee in accordance with 25.14.1 must:
- A** lodge the request to appeal the decision in writing and on Member Club letterhead;
 - B** ensure that the request to appeal is signed by the President or Secretary of the Member Club;
 - C** ensure the request to appeal is delivered by hand or email or is sent by registered post;
 - D** ensure the request to appeal is received by WACFA by 5:00 pm on the seventh (7th) day following the issue of the decision notice of the disciplinary committee;
 - E** ensure the request to appeal is accompanied by the appropriate fee as detailed in the WACFA By-Laws;
 - F** clearly stipulate the grounds upon which the appeal is based.
- 25.14.6** An appeal against a decision of a disciplinary committee may only be made on the following grounds:
- A** applicable regulations were not properly followed, implemented, or taken into consideration;
 - B** a participant was not afforded a reasonable opportunity to be heard on the issue of merit or sanction;
 - C** the determination was affected by bias;
 - D** there was an error of fact or law.
- 25.14.7** A participant who appeals a decision of a disciplinary committee in accordance with 25.14.1 may be excused from the requirements of 25.15.2.A and 25.15.2.B if the participant can establish that he or she is no longer associated with the Member Club.
- 25.14.8** Except in circumstances stipulated in 25.14.7, an appeal will not be arranged and heard unless all of the conditions of 25.14.5 are met.
- 25.14.9** If part of a penalty is suspended in accordance with 25.11.4 ???, that penalty may only be appealed in accordance with 25.15.2 and 25.15.3. For the avoidance of doubt, this means that the sanction imposed must be appealed by the seventh (7th) day following the issue of the decision notice of the suspended sentence and not within seven (7) days of any sentence being enacted by virtue of a further breach of rules by the participant.
- 25.14.10** In the event of a participant appealing the decision of a disciplinary committee in accordance with 25.14.1, any sanction in excess of the mandatory match suspension will not be imposed while the appeal hearing is pending.
- 25.14.11** WACFA reserves the right to be represented and to make submissions at an appeal hearing if a decision has the potential to affect WACFA or football generally.
- 25.14.12** WACFA reserves the right to appoint an advocate to attend any disciplinary hearing on behalf of WACFA.
- 25.14.13** WACFA reserves the right to appoint a FIFA registered referee (level 3 or higher) as an advisor to a disciplinary hearing. Any such appointment is made to provide advice on the Laws of the Game and other refereeing matters. In order to be appointed, the referee advisor must be fully compliant with the

requirements of the WACFA conflict of interest policy. The referee advisor is not a member of the disciplinary committee and holds no powers at a hearing.

- 25.14.14** A referee is entitled to be represented by another a referee if the original referee who reported the offence is unable to attend the appeal hearing.
- 25.14.15** The appeal committee appointed to hear a matter may request clarification on a referee report by submitting a request in writing to the Referee who reported the offence, the WACFA Referee Co-ordinator appointed in accordance with WACFA By Law 9.1, or the referee advisor appointed in accordance with 25.14.13.
- 25.14.16** When determining any appropriate sanction, an appeal committee will take into consideration:
- A** the sanction imposed by the disciplinary committee;
 - B** the procedure followed by the disciplinary committee;
 - C** evidence substantiating the claim that the evidence presented before the disciplinary committee was erroneous or incomplete;
 - D** evidence substantiating the claim that the disciplinary committee misinterpreted the Laws of the Game or the relevant WACFA By-laws;
 - E** any other extenuating circumstances.

25.15 Procedures at Appeal Hearings

- 25.15.1** Hearings held by the appeal committee are not bound by the rules of evidence usually applicable to proceedings in courts of law. However, all hearings must be conducted in accordance with the principles of natural justice, including that participants:
- A** are treated with equality;
 - B** have the opportunity to be heard in relation to the grounds of the appeal;
 - C** have the opportunity to be represented;
 - D** have the opportunity to make submissions in relation to the appeal;
 - E** have the opportunity to make submissions related to the sanction imposed by the disciplinary committee.
- 25.15.2** An appeal committee has the right to determine all procedures to be adopted in hearing a matter, including the order and manner in which each party is heard, and may during the course of any hearing:
- A** grant or order an adjournment to provide parties with additional time or to consider additional evidence;
 - B** admit or request the production of documents or any relevant written evidence available to a participant or any other person, including reports from match officials, declarations from the parties and witnesses, expert opinion, and video or audio recordings;
 - C** order the attendance of any person, for the purpose of asking questions of that person, who is deemed relevant to the matter under consideration.
- 25.15.3** At an appeal hearing:
- A** only those submissions that conform to the grounds of appeal as stipulated in 25.14.6 will be heard. For the avoidance of doubt, all testimony in relation to the actual offence which was heard at the

disciplinary hearing is specifically excluded unless requested by the Chairperson of the appeal committee.

- B an entity (such as WACFA or a Member Club) may be represented by an officer or employee of that entity;
- C an individual participant may have legal representation or by any other person provided the names of representatives and/or advocates have been communicated to the other parties involved in advance of the hearing;
- D the appeal committee may refuse entry to any person who is not directly involved in the matter, including the media;
- E any witness, whom a party intends to call to give evidence in an appeal hearing, may be asked to remain outside the hearing room until called to give evidence.

25.15.4 An appeal committee deliberates behind closed doors.

25.15.5 Each member of an appeal committee has a single vote and all decisions of an appeal committee must be made by majority vote. If there is an equality of votes, the Chairperson has the casting vote.

25.15.6 An appeal committee has the power to:

- A dismiss the appeal;
- B dismiss or vary (either by reduction or increase) any sanction imposed or decision reached by the disciplinary committee;
- C substitute the decision of the disciplinary committee with its own sanctions or findings;
- D impose any sanction or make any finding that the disciplinary committee could have imposed or made.

25.15.7 If the appellant's argument is successful and the disciplinary committee's decision is overturned, the appeal fee will be refunded in full.

25.15.8 The appeal committee may recommend to WACFA that the appeal hearing fee is refunded in full or in part even if the conditions of ~~25.16.7~~ 25.15.7 are not met. Such a recommendation must be accompanied by reasons which justify the refund.

25.15.9 An appeal committee is not obliged to provide reasons for its decision unless required to do so by ~~25.16.8 or 25.17.5~~ 25.15.8 or 25.16.5.

25.15.10 Should an appeal committee provide reasons for its decision, it may direct that these reasons are not for publication, in which case such decisions will not be made public, except where required to do so by 25.15.8 or 25.16.5.

25.15.11 The Chairperson of the appeal committee will inform the relevant party or parties, including WACFA, of the appeal committee's decision in writing within two (2) working days of appeal hearing.

25.16 Decisions

25.16.1 A decision of a disciplinary or appeal committee must:

- A be made in writing;
- B contain all the relevant details of the hearing;
- C contain the terms of the decision by the disciplinary or appeal committee;
- D be forwarded to all the relevant parties, including WACFA and the Member Club(s), in accordance with 25.13.9 and/or 25.15.11.

- 25.16.2** A decision of a disciplinary committee remains in force unless changed through the appeal process.
 - 25.16.3** Subject only to the right of appeal, the decision of a disciplinary committee is final and binding and no person may institute or maintain proceedings in any court of law or tribunal.
 - 25.16.4** The decision of an appeal committee is final and binding on the parties to the appeal and no person may institute or maintain proceedings in any court of law or tribunal (other than the limited right of appeal to CAS in accordance with FFA Statutes).
 - 25.16.5** The Chairperson of a disciplinary or appeal committee, which decides upon a sanction outside of the range of the minimum and maximum sanctions as detailed in the Table of Offences, must provide a written explanation of the reasons for that decision to WACFA. In such circumstances, the Chairperson does not have the right to direct that the reasons are not for publication as stipulated in 25.13.7 and/or 25.13.8
- 25.17 Compliance with Decisions**
- 25.17.1** Failure to comply with a decision of a disciplinary committee or appeal committee within the manner or time as prescribed by the decision is itself a breach of these regulations and the FFA Statutes. The non-compliant participant, therefore, is subject to further sanction by the disciplinary committee.

APPENDIX A – TABLE OF OFFENCES (ARTICLE 26 FOOTBALL WEST) ARTICLE 26 - TABLE OF OFFENCES

In this Table of Offences, an Automatic Match Suspension is abbreviated to AMS.

Offence No	Offence Description	Reduced Penalty	Fixed Penalty
1a	Serious foul play	N/A	AMS
1b	Serious foul play with high risk of injury	AMS plus 2 Matches	AMS plus 3 Matches
2a	Violent conduct	AMS plus 1 Matches	AMS plus 2 Matches
2b	Serious violent conduct	AMS plus 4 Matches	AMS plus 6 Matches
3a	Spits at a Player or other person (excluding a Match Official)	AMS plus 5 Matches	AMS plus 7 Matches
3b	Spits on a Player or other person (excluding a Match Official)	AMS plus 8 Matches	AMS plus 10 Matches
3c	Spits on the face of a Player or other person (excluding a Match Official)	AMS plus 11 Matches	AMS plus 14 Matches
4	Uses discriminatory language or gestures including racist, religious, ethnic or sexist language or gestures	AMS plus 4 Matches	AMS plus 6 Matches
5	Incites a brawl or melee	AMS plus 5 Matches	AMS plus 7 Matches
6a	Causes the abandonment of a Match (Player)	AMS plus 7 Matches	AMS plus 10 Matches
6b	Causes the abandonment of a Match (Club, Team or Club Associate – NPL Seniors, State League, Women’s State League or Amateur League)	Forfeit plus: \$800 for the first offence An additional \$800 for each subsequent offence	Forfeit plus: \$1,000 for the first offence An additional \$1,000 for each subsequent offence
6c	Causes the abandonment of a Match (Club, Team or Club Associate - Metropolitan, Masters, Women’s Metropolitan Leagues)	Forfeit plus: \$600 for the first offence An additional \$600 for each subsequent offence	Forfeit plus: \$800 for the first offence An additional \$800 for each subsequent offence

Offence No	Offence Description	Reduced Penalty	Fixed Penalty
6d	Causes the abandonment of a Match (Club, Team or Club Associate – Junior Leagues)	Forfeit plus: \$500 for the first offence An additional \$500 for each subsequent offence	Forfeit plus: \$600 for the first offence An additional \$600 for each subsequent offence
7	Denies the opposing Team an obvious goal scoring opportunity	N/A	AMS
8	Uses offensive, insulting or abusive language and/or gestures	N/A	AMS
9	Receives 2 Yellow Cards in the same Match	N/A	AMS
Offences against a Match Official			
10	Uses offensive, insulting or abusive language and/or gestures against a Match Official	N/A	AMS
11	Unsporting behaviour towards a Match Official	AMS plus 3 Matches	AMS plus 4 Matches
12	Uses threatening or intimidating language and/or gestures towards a Match Official	AMS plus 4 Matches	AMS plus 6 Matches
13	Recklessly makes contact with a Match Official	AMS plus 11 Matches	AMS plus 14 Matches
14a	Spits at a Match Official	12 months suspension including the AMS	18 months suspension including the AMS
14b	Spits on a Match Official	18 months suspension including the AMS	24 months suspension including the AMS
14c	Spits on the face of a Match Official	24 months suspension including the AMS	36 months suspension including the AMS
15	Assault of a Match Official	Minimum: 6 months suspension including the AMS Maximum: 10 years suspension	Minimum: 12 months suspension including the AMS Maximum: Life suspension
16a	Club Associate sent from the technical area (NPL Seniors, State League, Women's State League or Amateur League)	AMS plus \$100 Fine	AMS plus 1 Match plus \$200 Fine

Offence No	Offence Description	Reduced Penalty	Fixed Penalty
16b	Club Associate sent from the technical area or away from the Field of Play (Metropolitan, Masters, Women's Metropolitan Leagues)	AMS plus \$50 Fine	AMS plus 1 Match plus \$100 Fine
16c	Club Associate sent from the technical area or away from the Field of Play (Junior Leagues)	AMS plus \$20 Fine	AMS plus 1 Match plus \$40 Fine
17a	Five or more Players cautioned or sent off in a single Match (NPL Seniors, State League, Women's State League or Amateur League)	N/A	\$200 for the first offence An additional \$100 for each subsequent offence
17b	Five or more Players cautioned or sent off in a single Match (Metropolitan, Masters, and Women's Metropolitan Leagues)	N/A	\$100 for the first offence An additional \$100 for each subsequent offence
17c	Five or more Players cautioned or sent off in a single Match (Junior Leagues)	N/A	\$50 for the first offence An additional \$50 for each subsequent offence
18a	Three or more Players sent off in a single Match (NPL Seniors, State League, Women's State League or Amateur League)	N/A	\$200 for the first offence An additional \$100 for each subsequent offence
18b	Three or more Players sent off in a single Match (Metropolitan, Masters and Women's Metropolitan Leagues)	N/A	\$100 for the first offence An additional \$100 for each subsequent offence
18c	Three or more Players sent off in a single Match (Junior Leagues)	N/A	\$50 for the first offence An additional \$50 for each subsequent offence
19a	Collective show of dissent towards a Match Official or collective intimidation, threats or exertion of pressure on a Match Official (NPL Seniors, State League, Women's State League or Amateur League)	\$100 for the first offence An additional \$100 for each subsequent offence	\$200 for the first offence An additional \$100 for each subsequent offence

Offence No	Offence Description	Reduced Penalty	Fixed Penalty
19b	Collective show of dissent towards a Match Official or collective intimidation, threats or exertion of pressure on a Match Official (Metropolitan, Masters and Women's Metropolitan Leagues)	\$100 for the first offence An additional \$100 for each subsequent offence	\$200 for the first offence An additional \$100 for each subsequent offence
19c	Collective show of dissent towards a Match Official or collective intimidation, threats or exertion of pressure on a Match Official (Junior Leagues)	\$20 for the first offence An additional \$20 for each subsequent offence	\$40 for the first offence An additional \$40 for each subsequent offence
Other Misconduct			
20	Refuses to leave or unreasonably delays leaving the field of play after being shown a red card or sent from the technical area or surrounds of the field of play	2 Matches	3 Matches
21a	Entry on to the field of play by a non-playing Club Associate or spectator during a Match (NPL Seniors, State League, Women's State League & Amateur League)	\$300 (Club)	\$500 (Club)
21b	Entry on to the field of play by a non-playing Club Associate or spectator during a Match (Metropolitan, Masters & Women's Metropolitan Leagues)	\$200 (Club)	\$300 (Club)
21c	Entry on to the field of play by a non-playing Club Associate or spectator during a Match (Junior Leagues)	\$100 (Club)	\$200 (Club)
22	Discriminatory, harassing or abusive language, gestures or conduct	\$200 (Club)	\$300 (Club)
23	Failure to comply with the terms of entry of a venue	\$200 (Club)	\$300 (Club)
24	Display of national emblems other than those of Australia	\$200 (Club)	\$300 (Club)

Offence No	Offence Description	Reduced Penalty	Fixed Penalty
25a	Projection of missiles onto the field of play or at other people (NPL Seniors, State League, Women's State League & Amateur League)	\$300 (Club)	\$500 (Club)
25b	Projection of missiles onto the field of play or at other spectators or officials (Metropolitan, Masters and Women's Metropolitan Leagues)	\$200 (Club)	\$300 (Club)
25c	Projection of missiles onto the field of play or at other spectators or officials (Junior Leagues)	\$100 (Club)	\$200 (Club)
26	Lighting a flare before, during or after a Football West Match	\$3,000 (Club)	\$5,000 (Club)
27	Fielding a player in a match using a name that is not his own	Forfeit and: \$2,000 fine and deduction of 9 points for the first offence \$4,000 fine and disqualification from the competition for the second offence Disaffiliation of the club from Football West for the third offence	Forfeit and: \$3,000 fine and deduction of 12 points for the first offence \$5,000 fine and disqualification from the competition for the second offence Disaffiliation of the club from Football West for the third offence
28	Acting in a manner prejudicial to the interests of the game or Football West	In accordance with Part V of the FFA Statutes	At the discretion of the Tribunal.
29	Breach of the Code of Conduct	In accordance with Part V of the FFA Statutes	At the discretion of the Tribunal.

Club Associates may be issued with a sanction of a reprimand or the placement of a bond, but only on the first occasion of the offence.

An amateur Player may not be fined.

WACFA reserves the right to inform FFA, AFC, FIFA or any other confederation, national association or Member Federation of the Suspension of a Club Associate