



**CENTRAL COAST  
FOOTBALL**

# 2022 Grievance and Disciplinary Regulations

Approved by the Board of CCF on 8<sup>th</sup> March 2022

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## INTRODUCTION

- a) These Regulations are made under the Section 37 of CCF Constitution. In conjunction with the CCF 2021 Competition Rules and Regulations these regulations will be implemented for the 2021 Season and beyond. The CCF Board has the power to amend, delete or add to these Regulations from time to time.
- b) These regulations will cover all cautions and send offs of players and all incidents and complaints involving Members, Participants and Teams and any Matches under the jurisdiction or sanction of CCF. This includes all breaches of FIFA laws of the game, CCF Rules and Regulations, CCF Code of Conduct, and CCF Social Media Policy breaches as per the appendices.
- c) These Regulations are supplementary to the FFA National Disciplinary Regulations and Grievance Resolution Regulations and FNSW Disciplinary Regulations and Grievance Regulations.
- d) For the purposes of these Regulations, a reference to FFA in the FFA Code of Conduct and the FFA Spectator Code of Behaviour will also be a reference to Central Coast Football.
- e) Where an incident may constitute a breach of these Regulations and a breach of the FFA Rules and regulations, FNSW Grievance and Disciplinary Regulations (for example, the FFA Code of Conduct for the FFA National Member Protection Policy), Central Coast Football may in its absolute discretion determine the appropriate governing document under which to investigate, process, and penalise (if necessary) any matter.
- f) Central Coast Football reserves the right to deal with any person, club, official, player and/or spectator 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, Central Coast Football reserves the right to determine which interpretation is valid.
- h) Central Coast Football 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) Headings and examples are for convenience only and do not affect interpretation.
- l) In these Regulations:
  - i) any use of the words “includes” or words such as “for example” or “such as” do not limit anything else that is included in general speech;
  - ii) “working day” means a day when the offices of Central Coast Football are ordinarily open for business;
  - iii) any reference to “\$” or “dollars” is to Australian dollars;
  - iv) a reference to a singular includes the plural and vice versa; and
  - v) a reference to any document is to that document as amended, supplemented, varied or replaced from time to time except to the extent expressly prohibited by that document or these Regulations
- m) Where these Regulations require Central Coast Football (CCF) to make a decision, determination, appointment or undertake an action then this responsibility is bestowed upon the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of CCF or their nominee unless specifically written otherwise.

- n) Participants should note that the time limit set in these regulations are strict. Unless there are exceptional circumstances (to be determined by CCF in its absolute discretion), then the time limits prescribed in these regulations are mandatory.

## **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 and participants.
- 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 conducted by Central Coast Football.
  - ii) Grievances between Members and Participants within Central Coast Football;
  - iii) Incidents, disciplinary, dispute and conduct matters in relation to competitions conducted by Clubs where CCF determines, in its absolute discretion, that the matter has not been appropriately dealt with by the Club;
  - iv) any matter CCF determines, in its absolute discretion, is important to the interests of football in Central Coast Football; and
  - v) 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 Football NSW, FFA or a court of law.
- c) Any person, entity, body, club, official, coach, player or match official that attends a match, venue, training, meeting or event organised by CCF or its members clubs automatically agrees to be bound by the regulations which are publicly available on the CCF website.
- d) For each decision made under this policy a notice of determination or notice of suspension will be issued to affected parties as determined by the Judiciary Panel, Tribunal or CCF.
- e) Unless otherwise stated, Evidence, for the purposes of these Regulations, means video and/or audio evidence and the relevant Match Official Reports, Reports from Player, Coach or Manager of the players club but excludes any other written statements, photos and stills.

## **4. AUTHORITY TO ESTABLISH COMMITTEES AND TRIBUNALS**

- a) The authority to establish committees and tribunals is vested in the Board of Central Coast Football in conjunction with the Central Coast Football CEO.
- b) These Regulations confirm the establishment of the following Bodies:
  - i) Judiciary Panel
  - ii) Appeals Tribunal
- c) Where these regulations require Central Coast Football (CCF) to make a decision, determination, appointment or undertake an action then this responsibility is bestowed upon the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of CCF or their nominee unless specifically written otherwise.

## **5. MEMBERSHIP OF BODIES**

### **5.1 Appointment of Body Members**

- a) CCF must appoint a Judiciary Panel and the Appeals Tribunal. A different Chairperson may be appointed for each hearing at the sole discretion of CCF.
- b) CCF will appoint reliable, neutral persons to committees and tribunals on an as needs basis

### **5.2 Composition of a Body**

- a) The Judiciary Panel must comprise a minimum of two (2) and a maximum of three (3) members in order to make a valid decision
- b) A Tribunal must comprise a minimum of three (3) and a maximum of five (5) Tribunal members in order to make a valid Determination

### **5.3 Term**

CCF will appoint individual(s) as a member of a Body on an as needs basis including the Chairperson

### **5.4 Removal of Body Members**

CCF may remove an individual as a member of a Body at any time in its absolute discretion.

### **5.5 Code of Conduct for Body Members**

Upon appointment by CCF, a member of a Body agrees to be bound by and to comply with the Central Coast Football and Football NSW Code of Conduct applicable to members of a Body. Uphold confidentiality in the best interest of Central Coast Football.

## 6. YELLOW CARDS

### 6.1 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 second Yellow Card is expunged from the Player's record and first Yellow Card will be considered when accumulating Yellow Cards.
- 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
- d) A Mandatory Suspension incurred as a result of the accumulation of Yellow Cards cannot be appealed.

### 6.2 Accumulation of Yellow Cards – Winter Season/Final Series

- a) A Player who accumulates five (5) Yellow Cards in the Season, including the final series, irrespective of the age-grade or competition (including cup) in which they are received, must serve a Mandatory Match Suspension of one (1) Fixture. That Mandatory Suspension must be served in the next competition match of the team the player is registered in or should the players registered team have finished its season then the match of the team in which the fifth (5th) Yellow Card was received.
- b) A Player who accumulates an additional three (3) Yellow Cards (in total eight (8) Yellow Cards) in the Season, including the final series, irrespective of the age-grade in which they are received, must serve a Mandatory Suspension of two (2) Fixtures. That Mandatory Suspension must be served in the next competition match of the team the player is registered in or should the players registered team have finished its season then the match of the team in which the eighth (8th) Yellow Card was received.
- c) A Player who accumulates his or her ninth (9th) Yellow Card in total in the Season, including the final series, irrespective of the age-grade in which they are received, must appear before the Judiciary Panel 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.
- d) Yellow Cards received during a Season, including the final series, that do not result in a Mandatory Match Suspension do not carry over into Cup Competitions, FFA Cup, the next Winter Season, any Tournaments or any other matches or competitions. Mandatory Suspensions incurred as result of the accumulation of Yellow Cards will not, however, be cancelled.

## 6.4 Accumulation of Yellow Cards – Other Competitions

- a) For all other competitions apart from Winter season and Finals series above, CCF will clearly set out competition specific rulings on accumulation of yellow cards

## 6.5 Application of Suspensions in relation to the accumulation of yellow cards

- a) No Player shall stand down from matches for accumulation of yellow cards until notified by CCF.  
b) If a club and/or player is aware of a yellow card that has not been recorded they must notify CCF immediately. Failing to do will subject them to additional penalty at CCF's sole discretion.

# 7. RED CARD OFFENCES

## 7.1 Red Card Offences

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

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

- b) 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:
- must proceed directly outside the field of play and behind the designated spectator area in the first instance;
  - 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;
  - must not, until one (1) hour after the conclusion of the Match, have contact with:
    - any Player or Team Official while that person is in an area outlined in section 7.1 b) ii); or
    - any Match Official involved in the Match.
  - May be escorted to a suitable secure area within the venue to observe the remainder of the Match.
- c) In accordance with the Laws of the Game, Players and Team Officials must not use electronic communication systems during a Match. Central Coast Football may, in its absolute discretion, sanction a Club whose Players and Team Officials use electronic communication systems during a Match.
- d) Players who are sent from the field may not participate in any other matches, including matches on the same day, until such time as they have received a determination from CCF until such time as the suspension is served in accordance with the determination and these regulations.



## 7.2 Determination

- a) At the conclusion of a match the Referee will note players sent from the field on the team sheet and indicate the send-off code beside the Players' name and will provide a written report on the incident.
- b) Clubs who have Players sent from the field may have a Notice of Suspension sent to them from CCF, by 5pm Tuesday each week following the match. Midweek games will be as soon as possible following the fixture. Any player issued with a Red Card in a match will serve a 1 match Mandatory Suspension, this Mandatory Match Suspension cannot be reviewed.
- c) CCF in its absolute discretion may in its absolute discretion decide not to send a Notice of suspension and may refer any matter directly to the Judiciary Panel for a hearing and determination. In this case there will be a Summons Notice to attend a Judiciary Hearing issued to the players club.
- d) If CCF decides to refer a send-off directly to the Judiciary panel then the Judiciary panel will make a determination as per 7.4 below. If the player is found guilty the Judiciary Panel must issue Suspension as per the Schedule of Penalties (Schedule 2). Following the Judiciary Panel hearing CCF will issue a notice of suspension as per the determination issued by the Judiciary panel.
- e) Notice of Suspensions will be based on the prescribed penalties in the table attached as Schedule 2 of this document. The Notice of Suspension will notify the penalty & will allow the player to accept a lesser Suspension if they are to accept an early guilty plea. The Notice will also allow the player/club to request a hearing, the player/club must notify CCF by the timeframe stated in Notice of Suspension should a hearing be requested. Please note, time frames are strict.
- f) A Notice of Suspension may offer a player an early guilty plea which will be a lesser sentence than the Mandatory Match Suspension (MMS). Please note, if a player does not accept the early guilty plea and requests a Judiciary Hearing, the early guilty plea is no longer available & should the player be found guilty of the offence the Mandatory Match Suspension will be enforced as per the Schedule of Penalties (Schedule 2)
- g) 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 CCF determines that, in its absolute discretion, the Red Card Offence is too serious to be dealt with in accordance with this section 7, the matter must be dealt with by CCF in accordance with Section 8.1 (Charges of Misconduct and Disrepute).
- h) Central Coast Football must determine Suspensions based on the material referred to in section 7.2(a) and by applying the Range at the Table of Offences as set out in Schedule 2. For the avoidance of doubt, Central Coast Football must not impose Suspensions below the applicable Mandatory Match Suspension.
- g) All such Suspensions remain in force unless reversed by a Body and a participant must continue to serve any Suspension until the Suspension is served in full.

### 7.3 Accumulation of Red Cards

- a) A Player who accumulates the following number of Red Card infringements during the same Calendar year, regardless of the league, competition or Club in which those Red Cards are received will receive the following sanction:

Number of Red Cards accumulated	Suspension	In Addition
Two (2) during the same Calendar	The Suspension issued in respect of the 2 <sup>nd</sup> Red Card plus a further Mandatory Suspension of one (1) Fixture	N/A
Three (3) or more during the same Calendar	The Suspension issued in respect of the 3 <sup>rd</sup> Red Card plus a further Mandatory suspension of two (2) Fixtures	The Player will be referred to Judiciary Panel for Hearing and potential additional sanctions

Notes: The Mandatory Suspension cannot be appealed and must be served after the Suspension issued in respect of the Red Card

### 7.4 Request for a Judiciary Hearing

- a) 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,) may choose to have the Suspension referred to a Judiciary Hearing. Any such request for a review must be received by CCF by the timeframe stated in the Notice of Suspension. The request by the club must be accompanied with any new evidence. Evidence, for the purposes of these regulations, means video and/or audio evidence as well as written reports from the player/coach/manager of the players club.
- b) A review pursuant to this section 7.4 is to be dealt with by the Judiciary Panel.
- c) The Judiciary Panel has the authority to determine if the player is guilty or not guilty.
- d) The Judiciary Panel must **not** expunge a 1 Match Mandatory Match Suspension.
- e) Subject to section 7.4 (h), when determining a hearing in accordance with section 7.4 the Judiciary Panel may consider:
- i. the nature and severity of the Offence, including whether it was intentional, negligent or reckless;
  - ii. the nature and severity of any injuries suffered by the victim(s) of the Offence;
  - iii. the Player's past record and whether or not this is a repeated Offence;
  - iv. the remorse of the Player; and
  - v. any extenuating circumstances relevant to the commission of the Offence (excluding any disciplinary decision taken or failure to take a disciplinary decision by a Match Official during the Match which is specifically excluded pursuant to section 7.4 (h) (v))
- f) When determining a challenge in accordance with section 7.4, the Judiciary Panel must **not** take into account the following circumstances:
- i. the significance or importance to the Player or their 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.
- g) 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 9.1 (Challenge on the basis of mistaken identity on a team sheet or in a Match Official Send-Off/Expulsion Report).
  - h) Participants should note that the time limit set out above is strict. Unless there are exceptional circumstances (to be determined by the CCF in its absolute discretion), if a Participant fails to comply with the requirements prescribed under 7.4a , by the time specified therein, the Participant is deemed to have accepted the Suspension and waived their right to review the Suspension under this section .
  - i) CCF reserves the right to file written submissions in reply to the material filed by the Participant (or their Club).
  - j) The Judiciary Panel may in its absolute discretion request additional information from CCF or the Participant prior to making a decision.
  - k) After considering the evidence, the Judiciary Panel will decide whether the player is guilty or not guilty. The Judiciary Panel is not obliged to give reasons for any decision it makes.
  - l) The Judiciary Panel has the power to lay additional charges if the evidence provided deems it necessary.

Upon receipt of the Judiciary Panels determination, CCF 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 Judiciary Panels determination and, if applicable, provide the Participant with a copy of the Notice of Suspension.

## **7.5 Obvious Error in Decision of Match Official**

Where there is sufficient Evidence that leads CCF to believe, in its sole and absolute discretion, that an Obvious Error (within the meaning of section 7.5 (b) may have been made by a Match Official in a Match, then CCF will make determination in accordance with 7.5 (c).

- a) Evidence, for the purposes of these Regulations, means video and/or audio evidence and the relevant Match Official Reports but excludes any other written statements, photos and stills.
- b) An Obvious Error, for the purpose of these Regulations means a decision by a Match Official to:
  - i. issue a Direct Red Card when no card was warranted; or
  - ii. expel a Team Official when no expulsion was warranted,
 being a decision that no reasonable Match Official, in the possession of all the facts, including the verifiable Evidence relied upon by CCF, could reasonably have made.
- c) If CCF Determines that an Obvious Error has been made, CCF will make a determination that:
  - i. in the case of a Player, the Player is not required to serve the Mandatory Match Suspension and the Red Card is expunged from the Player's Disciplinary History; or
  - ii. in the case of a Team Official, the Team Official is not required to serve the Mandatory Match Suspension.

- d) If CCF determines that no Obvious Error has been made, CCF will make a determination that the Match Official's original decision will stand and CCF will then determine a Suspension and issue a Notice of Suspension to the Participant's Club in accordance with section 7.2. For the avoidance of doubt, in this case, the Participant remains entitled to Review any Notice of Suspension pursuant to section 7.4 (Reviewing a Notice of Suspension) but neither the Red Card nor the Mandatory Match Suspension may be expunged by the Disciplinary Committee.

## **8. CONDUCT**

### **8.1 Misconduct and Disrepute**

Misconduct means any act or omission by a Member or participant 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 2: Table of Offences;
- e) constitutes a breach of the Central Coast Football Code of Conduct which appears as an appendix to this document;
- f) constitutes a breach of the Central Coast Football social media policy which appears as an appendix to this document;
- g) constitutes a breach of Central Coast Football Rules and Regulations, unless a document contains a provision or provisions for dealing with any breach thereof;
- h) brings or, in Central Coast Football's opinion may bring, the Member, Central Coast Football or the game of football into Disrepute or adversely affect the image, reputation and goodwill of the Member, Central Coast Football or the game of football; or
- i) in the opinion of Central Coast Football, is or may be prejudicial to the image, interests or reputation of the game of football, Central Coast Football or any of its sponsors.

### **8.2 Team Misconduct**

- a) Each Club must ensure that its Participants do not engage in Team Misconduct.
- b) Team Misconduct in relation to a Club is where, in a Match:
  - i) five (5) or more of its Participants are sanctioned during a Match (including Yellow Cards, Red Cards or Expulsions);
  - ii) three (3) or more of its Participants are issued with a Red Card or Expelled during a Match;
  - iii) its Players and/or Officials collectively show dissent towards a Match Official or collectively seek to intimidate, threaten or exert pressure on a Match Official to make or alter a decision in a Match; or
  - iv) its Participants engage in a melee or brawl in a Match (regardless of whether or not it is possible to identify the instigators).
- c) Any Club which engages in Team Misconduct will be deemed to have committed Misconduct and CCF may, in its absolute discretion, take any relevant action against the club pursuant to section 8.1 (Charges of Misconduct and Disrepute).

### **8.3 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 and as a result Central Coast Football may, in its absolute discretion, take any action against the Participant or Club pursuant to section 8.1 (Charges of Misconduct and Disrepute)

## **9. MISTAKEN IDENTITY**

### **9.1 Challenge on the basis of mistaken identity on a team sheet or in a Match**

#### **Official Send-Off/Expulsion Report**

- a) 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 or been Expelled, the Team Official must notify the club secretary. The club will notify CCF within 24 hours of the match outlining reasons they believe the participant has been mistakenly identified.
- b) Unless there are exceptional circumstances (to be determined by CCF in its absolute discretion), if a Team Official has failed to comply with the requirement set out in section 9.1 a), a Member or Participant cannot challenge the attribution of a Yellow Card, Red Card or expulsion on a team sheet or a Suspension resulting from a Match Official Send-Off/Expulsion report on the basis of mistaken identity.
- c) If a Participant believes that he or she has been mistakenly identified on the team sheet by a match Official as having received a Yellow Card or Red Card or been Expelled or has been mistakenly identified in a Match Official Send-Off/Expulsion Report, the Participant must notify Central Coast Football within 24 hours of the match outlining reasons they believe the participant has been mistakenly identified.
- d) Unless there are exceptional circumstances (to be determined by CCF in its absolute discretion), if a Participant fails to comply with the requirements prescribed under section 9.1c) by the time specified therein, the Participant identified on the team sheet or in the Match Official Send-Off/Expulsion Report is deemed to have been responsible for the Offence and may, subject to CCF'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 9.1.
- e) After considering the written statements and any other evidence provided, Central Coast Football will decide whether the claim for mistaken identity should be rejected or upheld.
- f) If Central Coast Football rejects a claim for mistaken identity and:
  - a. 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
  - b. a Notice of Suspension in relation to the matter has not already been issued to the Participant, Central Coast Football will determine the Suspension, and issue a Notice of Suspension to the Participant's Club.
- g) If Central Coast Football upholds a mistaken identity claim, the Yellow Card or Red Card issued to the original Participant will be expunged and the Notice of Suspension issued (if any) will be rescinded by Central Coast Football.

- h) If the Central Coast Football upholds any mistaken identity claim and makes a finding in respect of the identity of the actual offender, Central Coast Football must determine or re-determine the matter, as the case may be, as if it were dealing with a fresh matter.
- i) Central Coast Football must, as soon as is practicable, issue its determination in writing to 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 will result in a \$250 fine against the Club.

## **10. SERVING OF SUSPENSION**

### **10.1 Application of Suspensions and Determinations**

- a) Upon the issuance of a Suspension or Determination by Central Coast Football or a Body, CCF has the obligation to ensure that the Suspension or Determination is applied correctly in accordance with this section 10 and with any other directive imposed by CCF from time to time. Such decision will be final and not subject to challenge or appeal.

### **10.2 Suspensions to be served immediately**

- a) Subject to this section 10, any Suspension must be served immediately and cannot be deferred for any reason including importance of fixtures. In serving a Suspension, a Participant and Central Coast Football must take into consideration any Fixtures or time already served while awaiting the issuance of the Notice of Suspension or Determination.
- b) Club Officials or Team Officials Expelled from the Technical Area during a Match are eligible to play as a Player in a Match scheduled in the same round unless otherwise determined by Central Coast Football 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 Central Coast Football or a Body.
- d) A Player issued with a Red Card or Expelled from the field of play or Technical Area during a Match is not eligible to play in any other matches, including matches on the same day, until such time as they have received a determination from CCF

### **10.3 Club Responsibility on Suspensions**

- a) In addition to the responsibility of the participant, 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 10.3 will be deemed to have committed Misconduct (section 8.1) and CCF may, in its absolute discretion, take any relevant action pursuant to section 8 (Charges of Misconduct and Disrepute).

### **10.4 Type of Suspensions**

- a) CCF or 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 Participant does not need to be registered to serve a Time Suspension. Subject to section 10.4 c), or unless Central Coast Football has determined otherwise in its absolute discretion, a Participant 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.

### **10.5 Time Suspension**

- a) A Time Suspension affects a Participant's participation in both eleven-a-side football and other types of Football such as futsal, summer football etc., regardless of whether the infringement was committed in an eleven-a-side football or other types of Football Match.
- b) Upon issuing a Time Suspension, CCF or a Body must provide a start and end date for the Suspension.
- c) Unless CCF or a Body determines otherwise, but subject always to section 10.5 (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 Central Coast Football, Clubs, Centres, Participants, or their clubs;
  - ii) Taking a position as a coach, Team Official or Club Official in any match or competition sanctioned or administered by Central Coast Football, Clubs, Centres, Participants, 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 Central Coast Football, Clubs, Centres, Participants, or their clubs;
  - v) Acting in any way as a Team Official, Club Official or Association 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) Attending any function or event coordinated, conducted or sanctioned by Central Coast Football.
  - vii) Attending, in the capacity of spectator, any match sanctioned by Central Coast Football.

### **10.6 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
- b) A Participant subject to a Fixture Suspension resulting from or related to any Winter Season, Final Series, Cup or FFA Cup Fixture must serve that Suspension in the next Winter Season, Final Series, 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 competition, event or tournament conducted by another Member Federation or any other match/fixture.

- c) A Participant subject to a Fixture Suspension resulting from or related to any Central Coast Football Match must serve that Suspension in the next consecutive Fixture(s) (be that a Central Coast Football Match, Winter Season, Final Series, Cup or FFA Cup Match/Fixture) in which that Participant's Team or Club plays in, whichever occurs first, until the Suspension is served in full. A Participant **cannot** serve such a Suspension in a Trial Match, Tournament or Pre-Season Competition.
- d) A Participant subject to a Fixture Suspension resulting from or related to any Trial Match, Pre-Season Competition or any Tournament must serve that Suspension in the next consecutive Trial Match, Pre-Season Competition, Tournament, Winter Season, Final Series, Cup or FFA Cup Match/Fixture in which the Participant's Team or Club plays in, whichever occurs first, until the Suspension is served in full.
- e) The following applies to Participants participating in a Cup or Tournament as part of a grassroots team. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in this section 10.6 but subject to any local rules to the contrary, a Participant subject to a Fixture Suspension resulting from or related to any Cup or Tournament must serve that Suspension in whichever matches CCF determines in its absolute discretion
- f) A Participant must serve a Fixture Suspension in next competition match(es) of the team the player is registered in or should the players registered team have finished its season then the match of the team in which suspension was received.
- g) A fixture suspension is deemed to be completed at Midnight on the day the players registered team was to play. That is the player cannot play for a team on the same day after their team has played.
- h) For BPL, SWL, Div1 and WDIV1 competitions a player cannot play for another grade in the same round as the round in which the suspension occurred. For example, if the player served the suspension in 1<sup>st</sup> grade of round 3 on a Saturday they can't play in any other round 3 fixture for this clubs grade teams irrelevant of when the game is played.
- i) A Participant cannot play for their registered team or any other team 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 participate in the following Season(s).
- j) While subject to a Fixture Suspension, a Participant may only participate in a Trial Match, Tournament or Pre-Season Competition if the Participant's Club has obtained written approval from Central Coast Football to do so. That approval is to be at Central Coast Football'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 Pre-Season Competition, that part of the Determination will not apply.
- k) Unless Central Coast Football or 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.
- l) 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.
- m) For the purposes of section 10.6 (j), 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; and
  - iii) in the case of a coach, must not engage or attempt to engage a third party to relay coaching instructions.
- n) For the purposes of section 10.6 (j), 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 10.6.
- o) 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 CCF may, in its absolute discretion, allow that Participant to serve the Fixture Suspension in that other competition.
- p) 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 Central Coast Football 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.

## **10.7 Effect of Abandoned Matches**

- a) Any Yellow or Red Card issued during an abandoned Match will be upheld, regardless of whether the Match is replayed or not.

## **11. JUDICIARY PANEL (JP)**

### **11.1 Jurisdiction**

The Judiciary Panel (JP) has jurisdiction to adjudicate on any challenge to a Suspension issued in respect of a Red Card Offence pursuant to section 7 subject to these regulations.

- i) charges of Misconduct and Disrepute and Offences disclosed in Match Official Reports (section 12.2);
- ii) Send offs and or expulsions that occur in conjunction with charges of misconduct and disrepute
- iii) Grievances between Members and/or Participants (section 12.3); and
- iv) Breaches of the Code of Conduct (schedule 3)
- v) Breaches of the Central Coast Football Social Media Policy (schedule 4)
- vi) any other matter which CCF determines, in its absolute discretion, is important to the interests of football on the Central Coast (section 12.4).

## **11.2 Determination of the Judiciary Panel**

- a) The Judiciary Panel has the power to apply sanctions in the form of Suspension, Bond, Suspended Sentence, Fines or other such penalty as deemed appropriate as long as this is in accordance with this policy.
- b) The Judiciary Panel will provide all determinations in writing. Such determinations will be forwarded by Central Coast Football to the Players Club Secretary and/or Club President within 2 working days of the hearing.

## **11.3 Appealing a decision of the Judiciary**

- a) Subject to section 13 (Appeals Tribunal), the decision made by the Judiciary Panel may be appealed to the Appeals Tribunal.
- b) The right of appeal under this section 11.3 is limited to:
  - i) Central Coast Football; and
  - ii) The Participant subject to the determination by the Judiciary Panel.
  - iii) The Secretary of the club or affiliated body.
- c) If a Participant wants to appeal to the Appeals Tribunal pursuant to this section 11.3, the Participant must, within seven (7) days of the issuance of the decision of the Judiciary Panel to the Club by Central Coast Football:
  - i) pay to Central Coast Football the relevant Application Fee of \$300.00, If the appeal is upheld the fee will be refunded;
  - ii) submit to Central Coast Football all supporting material, including any additional evidence; and
  - iii) submit to Central Coast Football any written submissions the Participant intends to rely on.
- d) Unless there are exceptional circumstances (to be determined by CCF in its absolute discretion), if Central Coast Football does not receive the material and the Application Fee prescribed under section 11.3 c) by the time specified therein, the Participant is deemed to have waived his or her right to appeal the decision of the Judiciary Panel to the Appeals Tribunal.
- e) Upon receiving completed request for appeal, Central Coast Football will forward the appeals documentation to the appointed chairperson who will determine whether there are legitimate grounds for appeal. The chairperson has absolute discretion to dismiss the appeal if the grounds for appeal are deemed not legitimate.
- f) Should the chairperson determine there are legitimate grounds for appeal they shall advise CCF who will set a date and time for the appeal to be heard within 14 days of the receipt of the request for appeal.
- g) The Appeals Tribunal has the power to make a determination of whether to uphold or dismiss the appeal. The Appeals Tribunal can also either reduce or increase any sentence being appealed against and to impose further penalties as they see fit provided that the penalty or sanction does not fall below the prescribed penalty outlined in Schedule 2 or determine guilt or otherwise..
- h) The sanction imposed by the Judiciary Panel stands and is applied until such time as the appeal is determined.
- i) Players have a further right of appeal to The Board of Central Coast Football. Such appeal must be lodged, along with the prescribed fee, with Central Coast Football within 7 days of notification of the result of the Central Coast Football Appeal or the right of appeal will be forfeited.

## **11.4 Matters of Importance**

CCF, in its absolute discretion, may refer any matter it determines, in its absolute discretion, to be important to the interests of football on the Central Coast to the Judiciary Panel or the Board of Central Coast Football for determination. For the avoidance of doubt, such matters include (but are not limited to) those involving Members and/or Participants involved in football, summer football at any level on the Central Coast.

## **12 Decisions of the Judiciary Panel**

- a) A Judiciary Panel Determination will be in accordance with the majority opinion of the Judiciary Panel members hearing a matter.
- b) The Judiciary Panel will have the power to impose sanctions on members, participants, teams and club officials including suspensions, fines or other penalties as it determines appropriate.
- c) Where any member and/or Participant is the subject of a match official report, incident report or is being investigated in relation to an alleged act of misconduct or disrepute, the CEO of CCF or the Judiciary Panel may order that the member and/or Participant 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 they determine. Such suspension will be termed an interim suspension.
- d) The period of an interim suspension shall not last longer than twenty one (21) days, or until the next hearing of the Central Cost Football Judiciary Panel, whichever comes first.
- e) The Judiciary Panel will keep records of hearings and decisions reached. Such records may be kept in the form of voice recording.
- f) The Judiciary Panel will have the power to summon persons to give evidence as it sees fit. The Judiciary Panel may decide to still hear cases if summoned persons fail to attend.
- g) Each person summoned will be given a minimum of 48 hours' notice to attend. Failure to attend or provide adequate reason for non-attendance may forfeit an affected party's right of appeal.
- h) The Judiciary Panel will provide all determinations in writing. Such determinations may be forwarded by Central Coast Football. All affected parties as determined by the Judiciary Panel Chairperson will be sent copies of the determination within 2 working days of the hearing.
- i) All Determinations of the Judiciary Panel remain in force unless and until reversed by the Appeals Tribunal.

## **13. APPEALS TRIBUNAL (AT)**

### **13.1 Jurisdiction**

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

- a) CCF pursuant to section 9.2 (Appealing a decision in respect of a challenge (mistaken identity) but subject to section 13.3(Grounds of Appeal);
- b) the Judiciary Panel pursuant to section 11.4 (Appealing a decision of the Judiciary Panel) but subject to section 13.3(Grounds of Appeal);
- c) Member Appeals Committees but subject to section 13.3(Grounds of Appeal) and section 13.6 (Appeals against a decision of a Member Appeals Committee).

### **13.2 Standing to Appeal**

- a) The participant who brought the challenge in accordance with 9.1.
- b) Central Coast Football
- c) A participant subject to a determination by the Judiciary Panel or CCF
- d) The club of a participant subject to a determination by the Judiciary Panel or CCF

### **13.3 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) the decision of a Body or a Member Appeals Committee was affected by actual bias;
- c) 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;
- d) Additional evidence that has been made available
- e) Error by a Body or a Member Appeals Committee
- f) severity. or
- g) leniency, but only in the case of an appeal brought by Central Coast Football or an appeal allowed by CCF.

### **13.4 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/Sanction and Maximum 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) 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 Judiciary Panel 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.
- e) The Appeals tribunal has the power to either reduce or increase any sentence being appealed against and to impose further penalties as they see fit.
- f) The sanction imposed by the Judiciary Panel stands and is applied until such time as the appeal is determined.

### **13.6 Appeals against a decision of a Member Appeals Committee**

- a) Affected Parties have a further right of appeal to the Board of Central Coast Football. Such appeal must be lodged, along with the prescribed fee, with Central Coast Football within 7 days of notification of the result of the appeal or the right to appeal will be forfeited.
- b) In addition to the limitations set out under section 13.3 (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 Central Coast Football, 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.
- c) Parties should note that the time limits set out above are strict. Unless there are exceptional circumstances (to be determined by CCF, in its absolute discretion).

### **13.7 Abandoned Appeals**

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

## **SCHEDULE 1: DEFINITIONS**

“Mandatory Match Suspension” is until midnight on the day of the last match suspension. For Men’s Premier League, a Fixture/match is considered the First, Reserve and Third Grade games played for any single round. For Women’s Premier League, Women’s Division 1 and Division 1 it is First and Reserve Grade

“Competition” one calendar year of the winter season

“Member” where this document refers to a member this means a member club of CCF

“Participant” where this document refers to a Participant this means a player, match official, coach, club, spectator, parent or participant or other individual.

“Member Appeals Committee” defined as a committee who deals with internal judicial matters of members clubs.

## SCHEDULE 2: SCHEDULE OF PENALTIES

### Schedule of Penalties

The following guidelines are to be used by CCF Tribunals

**Table A.** Offences by players against another player or any other person. Send-Off Offences (In accordance with the guidelines of FIFA Law 12)

Offence Code	Early Guilty Plea	Minimum Mandatory Suspension	Maximum	
<b>R1 - Serious Foul Play</b>				
<b>R1</b>	<b>(a) Serious Foul Play</b>	1 Match	2 Matches	12 matches
	(b) Serious Foul Play (Serious/repeat offence)	2 Matches	3 Matches	20 Matches
	(c) Violent Tackle that endangers the safety of an opponent	2 Matches	3 Matches	10 Matches
	(d) Rugby Tackle	1 Match	2 Matches	8 Matches
	(e) Violent charging	1 Match	2 Matches	8 Matches
	(f) Over the ball tackle	1 Match	2 Matches	12 Matches
<b>R2 - Violent Conduct</b>				
<b>R2</b>	(a) Violent Conduct when the ball is not in play or playing distance	2 Matches	3 Matches	12 Matches
	(b) Head butting	4 matches	5 Matches	2 Years
	(c) Punching/Fighting	2 Matches	3 Matches	8 Matches
	(d) Punching/Fighting (Serious)	4 matches	5 Matches	20 matches
	(e) Kicking	2 Matches	3 Matches	12 Matches
	(f) Elbowing to the head	3 Matches	4 Matches	16 Matches
	(g) Elbowing to the body	2 Matches	3 Matches	10 Matches
<b>R3 – Spitting</b>				
<b>R3</b>	(a) Spitting at or towards an opponent or any other person	4 matches	5 Matches	2 Years
	(b) Spitting on an opponent or any other person	7 matches	8 Matches	2 Years
<b>R4/5 – Denying an Obvious Goal Scoring Opportunity</b>				
<b>R4</b>	R4 - Sabotaging an obvious goal scoring opportunity (handball)	No Early Plea	1 Match	4 Matches
<b>R5</b>	R5 - Sabotaging an obvious goal scoring opportunity (holding, tripping impeding)	No Early Plea	1 Match	6 Matches
<b>R6 – Offensive, insulting, abusive or intimidating language and/or gestures</b>				
<b>R6</b>	(a) - Using offensive, insulting or abusive language and/or gestures in frustration	1 Matches	2 Matches	8 Matches
	(b) – Using offensive, insulting or abusive language and/or gestures directed at another person	2 Matches	3 Matches	20 Matches

	(c) – Use of discriminatory, homophobic, racist, religious, ethnic, or sexist language and/or gestures	7 Matches	8 Matches	2 Years
	(d) Incitement to violence, or repeated use of offensive language and/or gestures to another person	5 Matches	6 Matches	2 Years
	(e) Indecent actions	5 Matches	6 Matches	2 Years
<b>R7</b>	<b>R7 - Second Caution</b>	No Early Plea	1 Match	

**Table B.** Offences by players and team officials against match officials.

**Note:** Players include substitutes. Team officials comprise coaches, managers, trainers and any other person permitted in the technical area Sending off Offences (In accordance with the guidelines of FIFA Law 12)

	Offence Code	Early Guilty Plea	Minimum Mandatory Suspension	Maximum
	<b>R2 – Violent Conduct</b>			
<b>R2</b>	(g) Threatening or intimidating a referee or assistant referee by word or action	No Early Plea	12 Matches	Life
	(h) Tripping a referee or assistant or assistant referee	No Early Plea	1 Year	Life
	(i) Pushing a referee or assistant referee with an open hand, shoulder or hip	No Early Plea	1 Year	Life
	(j) Striking a referee or assistant referee with the ball or other object	No Early Plea	1 Year	Life
	(k) Punching, kicking or elbowing a referee or assistant referee	No Early Plea	Life	Life
	<b>R3 - Spitting</b>			
<b>R3</b>	<b>R3 - Spitting at or towards a Referee</b>	7 Matches	8 Matches	Life
<b>R6</b>	<b>R6 - Using offensive, insulting or abusive language to a referee or assistant referee</b>	2 Matches	3 Matches	12 Matches
	R6 – Using offensive, insulting or abusive language to a referee or assistant referee (serious / repeat offence)	3 Matches	4 Matches	20 Matches
	(d) Making offensive, insulting or abusive gestures	5 Matches	6 Matches	20 Matches



**Table C.** Other Offences by players and/or officials.

	<b>Offence Code</b>	<b>Prescribed Penalty/Mandatory Match Suspension (MMS)</b>	<b>Maximum</b>
	(a)Inciting the crowd	10 Matches	6 Years
	(b)Attacking or fighting with spectators	1 Year	Life
	(c)Bringing the game into disrepute	6 Matches	Life
	(d)Deliberately misleading any tribunal or CCF	10 Matches	2 Years
	(e)Spitting at or onto spectators	8 Matches	Life
	(f)Breaching the CCF Code of Conduct	1 Matches	Life
	(g)Breaching the CCF Social media Policy	1 Match	2 Years

### **SCHEDULE 3: CODE OF CONDUCT**

**Any Player / Spectator / Coach / Parent or Official or any Person present at a match or otherwise involved in any activity staged or sanctioned by CCF or its member clubs must at all times:**

- a) Conduct yourself in a manner that enhances the reputation and goodwill of football on the Central Coast.
- b) Respect the decisions of match officials & teach children to do the same.
- c) Respect the rights, dignity and worth of every person regardless of their gender, ability, race, colour, religion, language, politics, national, or ethnic origin.
- d) Not engage in discrimination, harassment, or abuse in any form, including the use of obscene or offensive language or gestures, the incitement of hatred or violence or partaking in indecent or racist chanting.
- e) Not use violence in any form, whether it is against other spectators, Team Officials (including coaches) Match Officials or Players.
- f) Never ridicule or unduly scold a child for making a mistake - positive comments are motivational, negative comments are harmful.
- g) Not carry , supply or consume alcohol at any match, except in a licensed and/or designated area
- h) Follow the instructions and directions of a ground official or CCF representative.
- i) Follow an instruction to immediately leave a venue at which CCF sanctioned matches, training or other events are being undertaken when asked by a ground official, match official or CCF representative.

**Any Person or Club that does not comply with this Code of Behaviour or who otherwise causes a disturbance may be evicted from a venue and is subject to sanction under the CCF disciplinary policy, which is available on the CCF website.**

**If you have any concerns about the above or believe someone at the ground is in breach of the Code of Behaviour, please bring this to the attention of the Vested Ground Official.**



**All CCF Venues are strictly non-smoking.  
All Venues are alcohol free zones during junior games.**

## **SCHEDULE 4: CENTRAL COAST FOOTBALL SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY**

### **1. Purpose/Outline**

The aim of this social media policy is to uphold the reputation of Central Coast Football (CCF), affiliated associations/clubs and the Central Coast Football Referees Branch (CCFRB) and member clubs. It is important that the reputation of CCF and its affiliate members are not tarnished online by those who use social media inappropriately, particularly any content that may reference CCF.

Social media is a useful tool that offers people the chance to gather in online communities of shared interests and create, share or consume content. CCF recognises the advantages and benefits of the use of social media to enrich and engage people involved in Football

When someone clearly identifies their association with CCF, and/or discusses their involvement in the organisation in any type of social media forum, they are expected to behave and express themselves appropriately and in the ways that are consistent with CCF's stated values and policies.

This policy aims to provide some guiding principles to follow when using social media especially when directly referencing CCF, affiliated clubs and entities.

### **2. Scope**

- 2.1 This policy covers all members and staff of CCF including: Players, Coaches, Spectators, Office holders, Match Officials, Spectators and any other involved participants. This includes anyone who holds one of the above positions with associated clubs/associations and Member Football Clubs.
- 2.2 The policy covers all forms of social media, including but not limited to:
  - a. The use of any social or business networking website (e.g. Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn)
  - b. Content sharing websites that allow the user to share photos and videos (e.g. Instagram, YouTube)
  - c. Commenting on blogs
  - d. Leaving product or service reviews on retailer sites or customer review sites
  - e. Taking part in online votes and polls
  - f. Taking part in conversations on public and private web forums
  - g. Editing a Wikipedia page
- 2.3 It is the scope of this policy to include anything posted online where information is shared that might affect CCF, member clubs or any participants of the sport in general.

### **3. Branding and intellectual copyright**

- 3.1 The use of any logo, symbol or other Trademark owned by CCF, affiliated associations, affiliated clubs or member club must not be used in personal social media in any way that shows disrespect or aims to tarnish the reputation of CCF and other members.

#### **4. Principles/Usage**

- 4.1 The internet is not anonymous. CCF participants should assume that everything posted on the web can be traced back to them.
- 4.2 When using social media for personal or professional means, all CCF participants should respect the brand of CCF, affiliate associations, affiliate clubs and member clubs as well as any other members that participate in our sport.
- 4.3 All CCF participants should follow the guidelines in place in order to ensure that the sports intellectual property or its relationship with its stakeholders and sponsors is not tarnished or the organisation is not brought into disrepute.
- 4.4 For CCF participants using social media:
  - a. Must not contain, or link to, libellous, defamatory or harassing content – this also applies to the use of illustrations or nicknames;
  - b. Must not comment on, or publish information that is confidential in anyway;
  - c. Must not bring the organisation or the sport into disrepute; or
  - d. Must not otherwise be in breach of the CCF/ FFA Code of Conduct.

#### **5. Official CCF Sites, Social Pages and Forums**

- 5.1 When creating a new website, blog, social media page or online forum that is associated with CCF, affiliate associations, affiliate clubs or member clubs it is important that care is taken in receiving the proper approval to create the page or forum.
- 5.3 CCF sites or associated sites must not contain nor link to any sought of indecent material, as well as this all CCF sites and associated sites should only contain relevant information.

#### **6. Considerations**

- 6.1 Social networking sites allow photographs, videos and comments to be shared with thousands of other users. CCF participants must recognize/consider that it may not be appropriate to share photographs, videos and comments in this way.
- 6.3 Any information posted about another person by a CCF participant must be removed if asked to do so.
- 6.4 Information about CCF and its participants/employees that contains considerable bias or unproven facts should not be posted/be removed from social media sites, especially if the information aims to tarnish the reputation of CCF and its members.

#### **7. Breach of Policy**

- 7.1 CCF will aim to monitor online activity that has any relation to CCF or the sport. Any detected infringements or breaches of the policy should be immediately reported to CCF.
- 7.2 If a breach is detected CCF reserve the right to take disciplinary action against any participant, club, or other entity that has done so.
- 7.3 Disciplinary action may include but is not limited to: Written or verbal warning from CCF, Suspension from footballing activities or any other penalty as scheduled in the Disciplinary policy and process manual.

## 8. Consultation or Advice

- 8.1 This policy has been constructed in order to benefit and protect all Participants involved with CCF anybody who is unsure or finds any part of this policy unclear can contact Central Coast Football to seek clarification.

## SCHEDULE 5. SPECTATORS

- a) These Regulations, the Central Coast Football Code of Conduct 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) Central Coast Football and 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 behaviour of that Spectator; and
  - iii) Clubs, in respect of the behaviour of any Spectator.
- c) In the event of an alleged breach of these Regulations, the Central Coast Football Code of Conduct and/or the FFA Spectator Code of Behaviour, Central Coast Football may refer the matter to the Judiciary Panel pursuant to section 12.2 (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 Football NSW across all Matches and across all matches and competitions sanctioned or administered by Clubs, Centres, Association Members, Branches, Regional Associations 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 Football NSW across all Matches and across all matches and competitions sanctioned or administered by Clubs, Centres, Association Members, Branches, Regional associations 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 Central Coast Football Code of Conduct 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 8) and the Executive may, in its absolute discretion, take any relevant action against the Club pursuant to section 12.2 (Charges of Misconduct and Disrepute).