

# **Regulations relating to Disciplinary Commissions and Appeal Boards**

## **General Provisions**

### **1. Evidence**

- 1.1** A Disciplinary Commission and an Appeal Board shall not be bound by any enactment or rule of law relating to the admissibility of evidence in proceedings before a court of law.
- 1.2** A Disciplinary Commission and an Appeal Board may draw such inference from the failure of a Participant or an Alleged Offender or a witness to give evidence or answer a question, as it considers appropriate. Any right to claim privilege against self-incrimination is waived by each Participant in relation to proceedings before a Disciplinary Commission or Appeal Board.

### **2. Representation**

- 2.1** One individual may represent a Participant. (For instance, a Club Official of a Club with which s/he is associated may represent a Player).
- 2.2** An Alleged Offender appearing before a Disciplinary Commission or an Appellant before an Appeal Board may be legally represented only with the prior notice being given to the Disciplinary Commission or Appeal Board. At least 7 days notice must be given.
- 2.3** An individual acting as representative for an Alleged Offender shall not be allowed to give evidence.

### **3. Confidentiality/Publication of Proceedings**

- 3.1** The proceedings of a Disciplinary Commission and an Appeal Board shall take place in private.
- 3.2** Subject to Rule 3.3 below, all oral or written representations and documents created in the course of any proceedings shall be confidential between The Association and the individual or body concerned. All evidence and representations shall be privileged.
- 3.3** The Association shall have the power to publish in the public press, or in any other manner considered appropriate, reports of any hearing, order, requirement, instruction, decision, proceedings, acts, resolution, finding and penalty except in the case of a doping offence which shall be governed by clause 15.4 of the BKA Doping Regulations. Each Participant shall be deemed to have consented to any inquiry or Commission of Inquiry, Disciplinary Commission or Appeal Board and to the publication of any report thereof.

### **4. Service of Documents**

- 4.1** A document may be served by giving it to the person to whom it is addressed or by leaving it at, or sending it by first class post or by fax or e-mail to, the last known address of the addressee and, in the case of an individual, the Club with which s/he is registered.

## **5. Days**

- 5.1** Any reference to a day or days in the Regulations shall mean a calendar day or days. Bank Holidays shall not be counted.

## **6. Disciplinary Sub-Committee and Appeal Boards**

- 6.1** The National Executive Committee of The Association shall appoint the Chairman of the Disciplinary Sub-Committee.
- 6.2** The appointed Chairman, in consultation with the National Executive Committee, shall choose the other members of the Disciplinary Commission. A Disciplinary Commission shall consist of three persons including the Chairman of the Disciplinary Sub-Committee, or such individual that he/she shall appoint from time to time as his/her nominee.
- 6.3** The Association's Chairman, or such individual that the Chairman shall appoint from time to time as his/her nominee, shall appoint an Appeal Board, which shall comprise three Members, at least two of whom shall be members of the National Executive Committee.

## **Regulations for Disciplinary Action**

### **7. Yellow and Red card offences**

- 7.1** Where any facts or matters give rise to alleged misconduct by a Participant under Rule 22.2.1 of the BKA Rules and Constitution (i.e. misconduct under the playing rules of korfbal – yellow and red cards) then the charge shall be deemed to have been made by the showing of the card and the annotation on the match form by the referee.
- 7.2** The matter shall then be dealt with as set out in the appendix to these regulations - *Disciplinary Procedures for Red and Yellow Cards*.

### **8. The Charge**

- 8.1** The decision that facts or matters may give rise to misconduct and that a charge be brought under Rules 22.2.2 to 22.2.5 of the BKA Rules and Constitution shall be made on behalf of The Association by the General Secretary (or his nominee) on the instructions of the National Executive Committee.
- 8.2** In such cases, where any facts or matters give rise to alleged misconduct by a Participant, The Association shall provide the Participant concerned (the "Alleged Offender") with a written charge ("the Charge") which shall
- a** Briefly state the nature of the alleged misconduct;
  - b** Identify the rule(s) alleged to have been breached;
  - c** Provide copies of documents mentioned in the Charge;
  - d** Set out the Alleged Offender's record of misconduct.
- 8.3** A copy of the Charge shall be forwarded to the Chairman of the Disciplinary Committee, who shall appoint the Disciplinary Commission.
- 8.4** A single Charge may be issued against the Alleged Offender in respect of more than one instance of misconduct, but the Charge shall state separately the nature of each alleged

instance of misconduct and the provision(s) alleged to have been breached and shall have effect as separate Charges.

## **9. The Answer**

- 9.1** The Alleged Offender shall within 14 days of the service of the Charge (7 days in the case of a red card being dealt with in accordance with rule 7.2) provide The Association with a written answer (the "Answer"), which shall admit or deny each item of alleged misconduct. The Alleged Offender shall state in the Answer whether the matter is to be dealt with:
- a** On written submissions alone under Regulation 10 below, in which case full details of any defence must be included in the Answer; or
  - b** At a hearing under Regulation 11 below, in which case full details of any matter relied upon in defence of the Charge must be included in the Answer.
- 9.2** Where the Alleged Offender
- a** Fails within 14 days of the service of the Charge to serve an Answer on The Association and the Disciplinary Commission is satisfied that the Charge was served; or
  - b** Fails to indicate in the Answer whether s/he wishes the matter is to be dealt with at a hearing or on written submissions; or
  - c** Fails to set out written submissions under 9.1(a) above
  - d** The Disciplinary Commission shall determine the charge in such manner and upon such evidence as it considers appropriate in the absence of the Alleged Offender.

## **10. Determination on Written Submissions**

- 10.1** Where the Alleged Offender states in the Answer that s/he wishes the matter to be dealt with on written submissions, the Disciplinary Commission may dispense with an oral hearing and determine the Charge in the absence of the Alleged Offender and make whatever order it thinks appropriate (see rule 13).
- 10.2** The Disciplinary Commission shall not have the power to receive further information when both The Association and Alleged Offender have had sufficient opportunity to make submissions to the Commission in relation to the matter to be determined.
- 10.3** Where the Alleged Offender admits misconduct in the Answer and wishes it to be dealt with under this Regulation 10, s/he may set out in the Answer submissions in mitigation.
- 10.4** If the alleged misconduct concerns a charge brought under the BKA Anti-Doping Regulations, then the matter cannot be determined on written submissions and a hearing must be held.

## **11. Determination at a Hearing**

- 11.1** Where the Alleged Offender states in the Answer that the matter is to be dealt with at a hearing, the Disciplinary Commission shall proceed as set out in this Regulation 11.
- 11.2** References to a party or parties mean The Association and the Alleged Offender.

- 11.3** The Alleged Offender must, if an individual, attend a hearing of the Disciplinary Commission in person. If the Alleged Offender is not an individual, it shall attend through an Officer or Club Official as appropriate, unless otherwise ordered by the Disciplinary Commission.
- 11.4** The General Secretary of The Association shall nominate an individual or individuals to present the Charge to the Disciplinary Commission and call evidence and make submissions in support of the Charge.
- 11.5** The Chairman of the Disciplinary Commission may, upon the application of a party or otherwise, give any instructions considered necessary for the proper conduct of the proceedings, including but not limited to:
- a** Extending or abridging any time limit;
  - b** Amending or dispensing with any of the procedural steps set out in this Rule;
  - c** Instructing that a transcript be made of the proceedings;
  - d** Ordering parties to attend a preliminary hearing;
  - e** Ordering a party to provide written submissions.
  - f** The decision of the Chairman of the Disciplinary Commission shall be final.
- 11.6** The parties shall provide to each other and the Disciplinary Commission copies of documents to be referred to at a hearing at least 7 days before the hearing. Documents not provided within time may not be relied upon at the hearing unless the Disciplinary Commission thinks it appropriate.
- 11.7** The hearing shall be conducted how, when and where the Disciplinary Commission thinks appropriate. Reasonable notice of the date, time and location of a hearing shall be notified to all parties.
- 11.8** The following procedures shall be used at a hearing unless the Disciplinary Commission thinks it appropriate to amend them:
- a** The part of the Charge(s) stating the nature of the alleged misconduct, and identifying the rules breached or not complied with, will be read out to the Alleged Offender by the Chairman of the Commission and the Alleged Offender asked if s/he admits or denies each Charge, to which the Alleged Offender shall respond;
  - b** The Association may then address the Commission, summarise the case against the Alleged Offender, and then call evidence;
  - c** After the conclusion of the evidence of The Association, the Alleged Offender may call evidence of any matter of which notice has been given in the Answer;
  - d** After the conclusion of the evidence of the Alleged Offender, The Association and the Alleged Offender in turn may make closing submissions;
  - e** Each party in turn may question witnesses as they give evidence and the Disciplinary Commission may question parties and witnesses at any time;
- 11.9** Where the Alleged Offender admits a Charge, the Commission may dispense with evidence and hear submissions from The Association and the Alleged Offender in turn. Where the Alleged Offender admits some Charges and denies others, the commission will deal with denied Charges first.
- 11.10** The Disciplinary Commission may adjourn a hearing for such period and upon such terms (including as to costs) as it thinks appropriate.

- 11.11** The Disciplinary Commission shall have the power on the application of a party or otherwise to require a Participant to attend before the Disciplinary Commission to provide information (in which case questions may be put by the Disciplinary Commission and the parties) or to produce documents or records to the Disciplinary Commission either before or during a hearing.
- 11.12** The Disciplinary Commission may proceed at a hearing in the absence of the Alleged Offender where it is satisfied that there are no reasonable grounds for the failure to attend and shall do so in such manner as it considers appropriate.
- 11.13** The Disciplinary Commission may, in the event of a party failing to comply with an order, requirement or instruction of the Disciplinary Commission, take any action it considers appropriate in relation to such failure as if it were misconduct, including an award of costs against the offending party.

## **12. Decisions**

- 12.1** A decision of the Disciplinary Commission shall be determined by a majority (except where it can be made under the Rules by the Chairman of the Disciplinary Commission alone). Each member of the Disciplinary Commission shall have one vote, save that the Chairman shall have a second and casting vote in the event of a deadlock.
- 12.2** The standard of proof shall depend on the seriousness of the misconduct alleged, requiring the Disciplinary Commission to decide on a *balance of probabilities* for misconduct considered to be *of low seriousness*, and to be *satisfied beyond reasonable doubt* for misconduct *of high seriousness*. Anti-Doping offences shall be considered to be in the latter category.
- 12.3** The Disciplinary Commission shall announce its decision as to whether misconduct is proved or not as soon as reasonably practicable in such manner as it considers appropriate. Where the decision is reached at a hearing at which the Alleged Offender is present it shall, save where the Disciplinary Commission considers it appropriate to act otherwise, be announced immediately.
- 12.4** Where a Charge is admitted or proved, the Alleged Offender may make submissions in mitigation. Where a decision is announced at a hearing at which the Alleged Offender is present, submissions shall be made orally at that hearing.
- 12.5** The Disciplinary Commission shall, after considering any mitigation and the disciplinary record of the Alleged Offender, announce its decision as to any penalty or order to be imposed within seven days of the hearing and in such a manner as it considers appropriate. Where such decision is reached at a hearing at which the Alleged Offender is present it shall, save where the Disciplinary Commission considers it appropriate to act otherwise, be announced immediately.

## **13. Penalties**

- 13.1** The Disciplinary Commission shall have the power to impose any one or more of the following penalties on the Alleged Offender:
- a** A reprimand or warning as to future conduct;
  - b** A fine;

- c** Suspension from all or any specified korfball activity permanently or for a stated period;
  - d** Any order which may be made under the rules and regulations of a Competition in which the Alleged Offender participates or is associated, which shall be deemed to include the deduction of points and removal from a Competition at any stage of a Playing Season.
  - e** Expulsion from a Competition;
  - f** Expulsion from membership of The Association or an Affiliated Association; or
  - g** Such further or other penalty as it considers appropriate.
  
- 13.2** Where a Participant has breached the provisions of any doping control regulations ("a Doping Offence") then the provisions for punishment as laid down in those regulations must be followed. In addition, with the athlete's consent, a period of counselling may be imposed.
  
- 13.3** The Disciplinary Commission may order that a penalty imposed is suspended for a specified period, or until a specified event, and on such terms and conditions as it considers appropriate.
  
- 13.4** The Disciplinary Commission may, where it considers it appropriate, order the Alleged Offender to pay compensation to any Participant ("the Claimant"), instead of or in addition to any penalty or other order.
  
- 13.5** An order to pay compensation to a Claimant may be for such amount as the Disciplinary Commission considers appropriate.
  
- 13.6** The Disciplinary Commission may order compensation only:
  - a** On receipt in advance of its determination of whether or not a Charge has been proved of a written claim by, or on behalf of, the Claimant setting out the amount claimed and detailed reasons for the claim; and
  - b** Where it is satisfied that the Claimant has suffered loss as a consequence of the misconduct of the Alleged Offender; and
  - c** Where the Alleged Offender has had an opportunity of seeing the claim in advance and of making submissions to the Disciplinary Commission on it.
  
- 13.7** The Disciplinary Commission shall have power in its discretion to make such order as to costs as it considers appropriate.
  
- 13.8** Unless the Disciplinary Commission determines otherwise, a penalty or order shall come into effect immediately at the date of the announcement of the decision. A Disciplinary Commission shall have the power to suspend the effectiveness of any order pending the outcome of an appeal made pursuant to the Rules.
  
- 13.9** A Commission may issue such further order, requirement or instructions as it considers appropriate for the purpose of giving effect to its decision. Where a Disciplinary Commission is satisfied that an Alleged Offender has failed to observe or comply with a penalty or order imposed by a Disciplinary Commission, it shall have the power to order that the Alleged Offender be suspended immediately from all or any korfball activity for such period and on such conditions as it considers appropriate.

- 13.10** The obligation of the Alleged Offender to comply with a penalty or order of the Disciplinary Commission may be stayed where:
- a** The Alleged Offender has made a written application to the Disciplinary Commission; and
  - b** The Alleged Offender has made an appeal under the Rules against the decision of the Disciplinary Commission; and
  - c** The Disciplinary Commission had in its absolute discretion allowed a stay.
- 13.11** Payment of any fine, compensation or costs shall be made to The Association within 14 days of the date of the written decision unless otherwise ordered. The Association shall forward compensation to the person in whose favour the order was made within 7 days of receipt by it.

#### **14. Written Statement of Decision**

- 14.1** The Disciplinary Commission shall within seven days send to the Alleged Offender a written statement of its decision, which shall state:
- a** The charge(s) considered and whether admitted or denied;
  - b** The decision as to whether misconduct has been proved or not; and
  - c** Any penalty or other order imposed.
- 14.2** The written statement shall be signed and dated by the Chairman of the Disciplinary Commission and be the conclusive record of the Disciplinary Commission's decision. A copy of the written decision shall be forwarded to The Association.
- 14.3** The Disciplinary Commission shall, in the case of a proven case of doping, state in writing:
- a** The findings of fact made by it; and
  - b** The reasons for its decision finding the Charge(s) proved; and
  - c** The reasons for any penalty or order.
  - d** In such a case the decision will be notified to UK Sport and the Association's Anti-doping officer in addition to the Alleged Offender.
- 14.4** A decision of a Disciplinary Commission shall be final and binding, subject only to any right of appeal to an Appeal Board under the Rules.
- 14.5** If the penalty involves suspension then the National Executive Committee will inform the person's club of the period of the suspension. However, in the case of a proven charge of doping, the reasons may only be disclosed in accordance with rule 15.4 of the Doping Regulations.

## **Regulations for Appeals**

### **15. Commencement of Appeal**

- 15.1** An appeal shall be commenced by lodging a notice of appeal ("the Notice of Appeal") with The Association.
- 15.2** The Notice of Appeal shall be lodged within 7 days of the date of notification of the decision appealed against. In the case of an appeal from a decision of a Disciplinary Commission, the date of notification of the decision shall be the date of the written decision or, if applicable, the date of the written reasons for the decision. In relation to any other decision, the relevant date shall be the date on which it was first announced.
- 15.3** The Notice of Appeal must:
- a** Identify the specific decision(s) being appealed;
  - b** Set out the ground(s) of appeal and the reasons why it would be substantially unfair not to alter the original decision;
  - c** Set out a statement of the facts upon which the appeal is based;
  - d** Be accompanied by any deposit prescribed by Rule 23 of the BKA Rules and Constitution. Where an appeal is lodged by fax or e-mail, the deposit must be received not later than the third day following the day of despatch of the fax or e-mail (including both the day of despatch and receipt);
  - e** If the Appellant wishes to present new evidence, apply for leave to do so as set out in 15.6 below.
- 15.4** The grounds of appeal shall be that the body whose decision is appealed against:
- a** Misinterpreted or failed to comply with the rules or regulations relevant to its decision; and/or
  - b** Came to a decision to which no reasonable such body could have come; and/or
  - c** Imposed a penalty, award, order or sanction that is excessive.
- 15.5** Once an appeal has been commenced, it shall not be withdrawn except by leave of the Appeal Board, with such order for costs as the Appeal Board may consider appropriate.
- 15.6** In order to prevent unmeritorious appeals being made and to save unnecessary costs and other expenses being incurred, the National Executive Committee reserves the right to refuse to grant an appeal if insufficient grounds are shown. In such a case the findings of the Committee making the original decision shall stand.

### **16. Appeal Proceedings**

- 16.1** An Appeal Board shall proceed as set out below.
- 16.2** Reference to a party or parties means:
- a** The appellant (the "Appellant"); and
  - b** The Association in the case of an appeal against a decision of the Disciplinary Commission, or the Affiliated Association or Competition whose decision is appealed against (the "Respondent").

- 16.3** The Respondent shall nominate an individual or individuals to represent it before the Appeal Board.
- 16.4** The Respondent shall provide a written reply to the Notice of Appeal (the "Reply") to an Appellant and the Appeal Board within 14 days of the lodging of the Notice of Appeal. Where appropriate, the Reply must include any application for leave to present new evidence under 15.6 below.
- 16.5** The parties shall be entitled to make oral submissions to the Appeal Board but an appeal shall be by way of a review on documents only, without oral evidence, except where the Appeal Board gives leave to present new evidence under 15.6 below.
- 16.6** The Appeal Board shall hear new evidence only where it has given leave that it may be presented. An application for leave to present new evidence must be made in the Notice of Appeal or the Reply, setting out the nature and the relevance of the new evidence, and why it was not presented at the original hearing. Save in exceptional circumstances, the Appeal Board shall not grant leave to present new evidence unless satisfied with the reason given as to why it was not, or could not have been, presented at the original hearing and that such evidence is relevant. The Appeal Board's decision shall be final.
- 16.7** The Chairman of an Appeal Board may upon the application of a party or otherwise, give any instructions considered necessary for the proper conduct of the proceedings, including but not limited to
- a** Extending or abridging any time limit;
  - b** Amending or dispensing with any procedural steps set out in these Regulations;
  - c** Instructing that a transcript be made of the proceedings;
  - d** Ordering parties to attend a preliminary hearing;
  - e** Ordering a party to provide written submissions.
  - f** The decision of the Chairman of the Appeal Board shall be final.
- 16.8** The Appeal Board may adjourn a hearing for such period and upon such terms (including an order as to costs), as it considers appropriate.
- 16.9** The Appellant shall prepare a set of documents which shall be provided to the Appeal Board and Respondent at least seven days before the hearing and which shall comprise the following (or their equivalent):
- a** The Charge;
  - b** The Answer;
  - c** Any documents or other evidence referred to at the original hearing relevant to the appeal;
  - d** Any transcript of the original hearing;
  - e** The notification of decision appealed against and where they have been given the reasons for the decision;
  - f** Any new evidence;
  - g** The Notice of Appeal;
  - h** The Reply.
- 16.10** Where the Disciplinary Commission or other body appealed against has not stated the reasons for its decision, either
- a** The Appellant shall request written reasons from that body which shall be provided to the Appeal Board; or

**b** The Appeal Board shall require that a member of the body that made the decision shall attend (in which case, questions may be put by the Appeal Board at a hearing to satisfy itself as to the reasons for the decision. Cross-examination by the Appellant or Respondent shall not be permitted. Representations may be made by the parties to the Appeal Board who may then put questions to the member of the body that made the decision).

**16.11** Appeal hearings shall be conducted how, when and where the Appeal Board considers appropriate. The Appeal Board shall give a minimum of 7 days notice of the date, time and venue of the appeal.

**16.12** Where an application to present new evidence has been made, the party making the application shall address the Appeal Board first and the other party may respond; the Appeal Board shall then determine whether or not it will receive the new evidence.

**16.13** The following procedures shall be followed at an appeal hearing unless the Appeal Board thinks it appropriate to amend them:

- a** The Appellant to address the Appeal Board, summarising its case;
- b** Any new evidence to be presented by the Appellant;
- c** The Respondent to address the Appeal Board, summarising its case;
- d** Any new evidence to be presented by the Respondent;
- e** Each party to be able to put questions to any witness giving new evidence;
- f** The Appeal Board may put questions to the parties and any witness giving new evidence at any stage;
- g** The Respondent to make closing submissions;
- h** The Appellant to make closing submissions.

**16.14** The Appeal Board shall proceed in the absence of any party, unless it is satisfied that there are reasonable grounds for the failure of the party to attend, and shall do so in such manner as it considers appropriate.

**16.15** Appeal Board may, in the event of a party failing to comply with an order, requirement or instruction of the Appeal Board, take any action it considers appropriate, including an award of costs against the offending party.

## **17. Appeal Board Decisions**

**17.1** A decision, order, requirement or instruction of the Appeal Board shall be determined by a majority (except where it can be made under the Rules by the Chairman of the Appeal Board alone). Each member of the Appeal Board shall have one vote, save that the Chairman shall have a second and casting vote in the event of deadlock.

**17.2** A decision of the Appeal Board shall be final and binding and there shall be no right of further challenge.

**17.3** The Appeal Board shall have power to:

- a** Allow or dismiss the appeal;
- b** Exercise any power that the body against whose decision the appeal was made could have exercised, whether the effect is to increase or decrease any penalty, award, order or sanction originally imposed;
- c** Remit the matter for re-hearing;

- d** Order that any deposit be forfeited or returned as it considers appropriate;
- e** Make such further or other order as it considers appropriate or for the purpose of giving effect to its decision.

- 17.4** The Appeal Board shall have the power to make such order as to the costs of the original hearing and the appeal as it considers appropriate.
- 17.5** The Appeal Board shall announce its decision to the parties as soon as practicable in such a manner as it considers appropriate; and unless it directs otherwise, its decision shall come into effect immediately
- 17.6** As soon as practicable after the hearing, the Appeal Board shall publish a written statement of its decision, which shall state:
- a** The names of the parties, the decision(s) appealed against and the grounds of appeal;
  - b** Whether or not the appeal is allowed; and
  - c** The order(s) of the Appeal Board.
  - d** The written statement shall be signed and dated by the Chairman of the Appeal Board and be the conclusive record of the decision.
- 17.7** The Appeal Board shall, upon the request of the Appellant (such request to be received at The Association within 5 days of the date of the announcement of the decision), give written reasons for the decision.

**DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES FOR YELLOW & RED CARDS**  
**with effect from 1 July 2004**

**1 General**

- 1.1 These provisions shall apply to a player, substitute or coach. For any other person attached to a team then any disciplinary provisions will be dealt with by the Disciplinary Committee on a case by case basis.
- 1.2 The use of the word "player" in the following text shall also be taken to include a "coach" or "substitute". Where "he" is used it should also be taken, if appropriate, to be "she".
- 1.3 Yellow and red cards can only be awarded for misconduct during a match. For misconduct after a match the showing of a card is not possible but the disciplinary committee may treat the punishment of any misconduct as if a card had been given by the referee.

**2 Procedure**

- 2.1 Whenever a yellow or red card has been shown to a player and noted on the match form, the player and his club shall be deemed to have been given notice of the card.
- 2.2 The standard punishment for a yellow card will then be applied with any suspension taking place as shown below.
- 2.3 If the player feels that the standard punishment should not be applied then the player has two options which must be made within 7 days of the card being shown: -
  - 2.3.1 Make a response by letter stating clear reasons why he feels that the standard punishment should not be applied. This response will be discussed by a Disciplinary Commission who shall decide whether the alleged circumstances warranted a card and, if so, whether the standard punishment should be applied, reduced, set aside or increased and the player shall then be notified whether any suspension or fine involved is set aside, postponed or changed.
  - 2.3.2 Request that a personal hearing be convened where he can appear before a Commission to contest the reasons for issuing of the card and call any witnesses to support him/her. Should the player be subsequently found guilty of misconduct, i.e. the decision to give a card is upheld, then the player will pay the expenses of holding the hearing (i.e. referee's and commission's travelling expenses + hire of meeting place) as per the Disciplinary Regulations (clause 13.7).
  - 2.3.3 For supplementary fines and punishments, as mentioned below, a separate charge will be sent to the player.
  - 2.3.4 Whenever a red card for serious misconduct has been given to a player (i.e. not a red following two yellows in the same match) then the player will be charged with misconduct in a manner similar to the Disciplinary Regulations (clause 8.2) and given 7 days to respond (clause 9.1) and a Disciplinary Commission shall determine the case.

**3 Misconduct after a match**

- 3.1 Misconduct after a match may be assessed by a Disciplinary Commission as being equivalent to a yellow or red card depending on the circumstances and dealt with as above.
- 3.2 However, in all such cases the player and/or his club must be notified by the referee that alleged misconduct is being reported as soon as possible and before the referee leaves the venue of the match concerned. All such cases will be decided upon by issuing a charge under the Disciplinary Regulations (clause 8.2) with a response from the alleged offender made in line with clause 9.1.

**4 Definitions of Disciplinary periods**

**4.1 Initial Disciplinary period:**

- 4.1.1 An initial disciplinary period shall start on the day that a person with a 'clean' record gains his/her first card and shall last for 24 months from the date of the match in which the card is awarded.
- 4.1.2 If no further card has been given prior to the end of this 24 month period the player's record reverts to 'clean'.
- 4.1.3 The Disciplinary Commission may choose to reduce this period for players under the age of 16.

## **4.2 Subsequent Disciplinary period**

**4.2.1** At the end of the initial 24 month period any cards that were earned *after* the start of the initial period are used to start a new 24 month period from the date of the earliest of these cards.

**4.2.2** This shall apply on a rolling basis until the player has been clear of cards for 24 months.

## **5 Club/Representative matches**

**5.1** Records of cards earned whilst playing for one's club shall be kept separate from cards earned whilst playing for one's area/county.

**5.2** Supplementary punishments will not apply until either the number of equivalent cards wholly in club matches = 4; or wholly in representative matches = 4; or the combined total club + area/county = 5.

## **6 Further punishments**

**6.1** A person who has a particularly poor record within a disciplinary period may be further charged with "bringing the game into disrepute". If the person is found guilty, a longer punishment may be given in addition to the standard punishments for the cards.

**6.2** However, in such circumstances the Disciplinary Committee may choose to set that person's record for either club; or area/county; or both categories; back to zero when this extra punishment has been served.

## STANDARD PUNISHMENTS FOR YELLOW/RED CARDS

### Punishments:

- 1) The first time that a player is awarded a yellow card s/he shall be fined £15 and the card shall be recorded in the player's record. Unless a player receives another card within 24 months from the date of this first card then no further action will be taken and a new 24 month period shall start if and when the player next receives a yellow or red card.
- 2) If during the 24 month period referred to in 1 above a player receives a second or subsequent card, then s/he shall be fined £15, the card recorded in his/her record and a one match suspension shall be imposed on a date to be advised by the disciplinary committee (see dates of suspension below).
- 3) A red card given as the result of two yellow cards in the same match shall be dealt with as two separate yellow cards - i.e. the fine shall be two amounts of £15 and a one match suspension will be imposed as in 2 above.
- 4) If a player receives a direct red card given for serious misconduct, then the standard punishment shall be a fine of £40 and a two match suspension on a date to be advised by the disciplinary committee (see dates of suspension below). A red card given in these circumstances shall be recorded in the player's record as being the equivalent of three yellow cards and shall bring the player up to the limit for supplementary punishment as shown in 5 below.
- 5) Any player who has three cards (or equivalent) recorded against his name during an initial or supplementary disciplinary period shall have a supplementary fine of £10 and an extra one match suspension imposed for each card from the 4<sup>th</sup> (or equivalent) one onwards unless his record has been clear of cards for a period of 24 months.
- 6) For players who have received more than one card the provisions of the *Disciplinary Procedures for Red and Yellow Cards* clause 4.2 shall be in force. This means that as soon as the 24 month period for the first card has elapsed then a new 24 month period shall start from the date of the second card which would then be deemed to be the first card in a disciplinary period. This process shall normally continue on a rolling basis until the player has been clear of cards for 24 months.
- 7) Where supplementary suspensions in excess of those mentioned above are imposed then a Disciplinary Commission may deem that all or part of a player's record shall be set back to zero (clause 6.2 of the *Disciplinary Procedures for Red and Yellow Cards*). This means that any future cards do not add on to the previous record and therefore supplementary fines and suspensions would not come into force until the player once again reaches a 4<sup>th</sup> or subsequent card.
- 8) Exceptions:
  - 1) For yellow cards given to a coach or captain for a technical offence (e.g. making a substitution without informing the referee) the punishments shall be:  
1<sup>st</sup> occasion in a season; - £5 fine ; for further occasions in the same season: - £15 fine and the card recorded as being part of the person's record for the totting-up process.
  - 2) For players under the age of 16, the player shall not be fined but the club shall be charged a £5 administration charge.

### Dates of suspensions:

- 1) These shall be determined by the Disciplinary Commission that determines a case. However, whenever a player has not taken up his right to make a response by letter or ask for a personal hearing in accordance with clause 2.3.1 or 2.3.2 of the *Disciplinary Procedures for Red and Yellow Cards* then the first suspension date shall be 14 days following the issuing of the card that triggered the suspension.
- 2) The match(es) to be missed shall be for the same team that the player was playing for at the time of getting the card that triggered the suspension. On any day(s) that a person is serving a suspension s/he may not participate in any other match on the same day(s).
- 3) If the team concerned is not scheduled to play 14 days after the card was issued then the first available subsequent date that the team in question is scheduled to play shall normally be used.

- 4) Exceptions to clause 2 shall be:
  - 1) If a player already has a card on his record following playing in a National League or Senior Cup match and subsequently gets a card in an area competition match or age group competition, the suspension shall be served in the National League or Cup and not the area competition.
  - 2) If a player gets two yellows, or equivalent, in an age group tournament (or the county championships) and cannot serve the suspension in full before the close of the tournament, then the Disciplinary Committee shall determine which competition shall be used for serving the balance of the suspension.
- 5) Exception to clause 3: - The Disciplinary Committee can order a suspension on a youth or junior player to be served during the under 19 or under 23 championships if the next available date for the suspension would not be until the following season.
- 6) Since matches in age group championships may not be equivalent in length to normal competition matches, then the Disciplinary Committee shall rule exactly how many shorter matches need to be missed to serve the suspension
- 7) If more than one match is involved in a period of suspension, then the subsequent matches will be consecutive playing dates to the first match based on the team concerned.
- 8) All dates will be confirmed by the Disciplinary Committee to avoid any confusion.
- 9) In the case of a coach with more than one team competing in the National League or Cup Competitions, any suspension shall not be linked specifically to the team he was coaching when the card that caused the suspension was given. In this case the suspension can be served in successive first and second team matches, even if these are on the same day.