

COMPETITION MEMORANDUM



Date: Wednesday 24th August 2011

No: 11-23

From: Competitions Department.

Pages: 2.

Subject: Referees responsibility under the Laws of the Game for issue of Red/Yellow cards and submission of incident reports. Role of Competition Administrator.

Under FIFA Law 5 of the game, the powers and duties of a referee include:

- Take disciplinary action against players guilty of a cautionable and sending off offences. They are not obliged to take this action immediately but must do so when the ball next goes out of play.
- Take action against team officials who fail to conduct themselves in a responsible manner and may, at their discretion, expel them from the field and its immediate surrounds.
- Act on the advice of assistant referees regarding incidents which have not been seen by the referee.
- Provide the appropriate authorities (Competition Administrator) with a match report including information on any disciplinary action taken against players, and/or team officials and any other incidents which occurred before, during or after the match.

The Laws of the Game require **TWO** things of referees whenever they caution or send off a player or observe misconduct:

- **They must report the incident.**
- **They must complete a report and send it to the appropriate authority within the stipulate time.**

The misconduct report communicates information and it gives the referees version of an incident involving misconduct. **This report is to be treated as a factual document at a subsequent disciplinary hearing.**

FFA NATIONAL DISCIPLINARY: AUTHORITIES AND JURISDICTION

- 3.1.** Each Match is controlled by the Referee who has full authority to enforce the Laws of the Game in connection with the Match to which he or she has been appointed. The powers and duties of a Referee are as specified in the Laws of the Game and in particular, Law 5. The Referee has the authority to make disciplinary decisions, as from the moment the Referee enters the field of play until he or she leaves the field of play after the final whistle.
- 3.2.** During a Match, the Referee makes the disciplinary decisions and these decisions are final.
- 3.3.** At the end of each Match, the Referee must submit the Referees Report to the **Competition Administrator, who then determines if additional action needs to be undertaken in accordance with this clause 3 or clause 4.**

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3.4. A Competition Administrator may determine that the send-off of a Player or the expulsion of a Team Official was of such a nature as to warrant a sanction greater than the mandatory match suspension, including additional match suspensions and /or a fine. In imposing an additional match suspension, a Competition Administrator must determine that a sanction additional to a mandatory match suspension is imposed in accordance with Annexure A and the Table of Offences.

4. CITING A PARTICIPANT.

4.1. A Competition Administrator may cite a Participant to appear before its Disciplinary Committee in relation to:

- (a) a red card: or
- (b) a serious infringement that has escaped the Referee's attention.

4.2. A Disciplinary Committee may;

- (a) Sanction a red card;
- (b) Sanction a serious infringement that has escaped the Referee's attention; and
- (c) **On application from a Competition Administrator, rectify an obvious error in the Referee's disciplinary decision.**

4.3. The following guidelines apply to determine whether a Referee's decision amounted to an obvious error under clause 4.2 (c);

- (a) a disciplinary decision must have been made by the Referee to issue a yellow card or a red card;
- (b) it clearly must have been a wrong decision (**such as a right decision against a wrong player or mistaken identity**); and
- (c) **it must not have been a discretionary decision by a Referee as to whether an action was a foul or a yellow or red card.**

The above information is to clarify the position of a Referee and the Competition Administrator in the issue of a sanction and then the subsequent processing of that sanction.

The FIFA Laws of the Game and the FFA National Disciplinary Rules and Regulations. override any Association, or FNSW Regulations and By-Laws.



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