

## **REGULATION 7**

### **PENALTIES FOR MISCONDUCT**

#### **1. INTRODUCTION**

- (a) This Regulation 7 shall apply to any player, coach, player-coach, referee, match official, club, Member (as that expression is defined in the NZF Rules), whether in an official capacity or not, spectator, parent or guardian of a player, or any other person in relation to whom NZF has jurisdiction to apply this Regulation 7, and without prejudice to the applicability of any criminal or other law.
- (b) In accordance with the FIFA Disciplinary Code, NZF is empowered to set a standard procedure for the imposition of penalties for all matches played under its jurisdiction. The standardised procedures defined within this Regulation 7 will apply to matches organised either directly by NZF or by any of the seven (7) District Federations.
- (c) Instances of misconduct by any person referred to in paragraph 1(a) of this Regulation 7 can be recorded and submitted on either a misconduct report or incident report (“Referee’s Report”). For the sake of clarity, any reference to the Referee’s Report shall include reports of referees, assistant referees; fourth officials, referee inspectors and match commissioners, and “Referee/s” and “referee/s” shall be construed accordingly, as the context permits.
- (d) The Referee’s Report shall be taken as fact except where there has been a case of mistaken identity.
- (e) Neither NZF nor any District Federation shall:
  - (i) Impose a lesser penalty than that provided for in this Regulation 7; or
  - (ii) Amend or alter the Referee’s Report as submitted.
- (f) Annexed to this Regulation 7 is NZF’s Code of Conduct, any breach of which by any person referred to in paragraph 1(a) of this Regulation 7 shall be deemed to be an instance of misconduct by that person for the purposes of this Regulation 7.
- (g) In this Regulation 7, reference to a “player” shall, in addition to the definition set out under paragraph 1(a) of Regulation 5, be deemed to include any person referred to in paragraph 1(a) of this Regulation 7, as the context requires.

## **2. DUTIES OF A REFEREE**

- (a) Referees shall administer cautions in accordance with the Laws of the Game.
- (b) When a Referee either cautions or sends a player from the field for misconduct they shall clearly state the offence to the player concerned.
- (c) The Referee shall submit to the offending player's District Federation or NZF for any match under NZF jurisdiction a copy of the Referee's Report, in a form as supplied by NZF to be received by the District Federation or NZF, within three (3) days of the match (Sundays excluded except where Sunday is the playing day). The report shall state:
  - (i) The nature of the offence;
  - (ii) The Law of the Game that has been broken;
  - (iii) A clear statement of all the circumstances surrounding the offence;
  - (iv) The first name, surname, and shirt number of the player;
  - (v) The club of the offending player; and
  - (vi) The date and venue of the game.
- (d) Where a Referee's Report is not received within the set time period, the local District Federation or NZF, where appropriate, may receive and action the Referee's Report provided the player has not been prejudiced by the delay.
- (e) When a player is ordered from the field, the player will automatically be under suspension until the appropriate penalty is assessed from the Referee's Report. In the event that no Referee's Report is received then the player who has been sent off will be suspended for the next playing day.

## **3. ACTION TO BE TAKEN BY NZF OR A DISTRICT FEDERATION ON RECEIPT OF A REFEREE'S REPORT**

- (a) On receipt of a Referee's Report NZF or the District Federation, where appropriate, shall:

- (i) Notify the club, in writing, of any period of suspension being imposed on the person;
- (ii) Maintain a register of cautions and/or suspensions in respect of every person for whom a Referee's Report has been received; and
- (iii) Forward a copy of the Referee's Report to the club.

**4. ACTION TO BE TAKEN BY OFFENDING PERSON'S CLUB WHEN A REFEREE'S REPORT IS RECEIVED FROM NZF OR THE DISTRICT FEDERATION**

- (a) The club shall immediately notify the person of the details of the Referee's Report and the penalty imposed.
- (b) The person may only request a hearing by the Disciplinary Committee of NZF or the District Federation, where appropriate, where:
  - (i) They allege that there has been a case of mistaken identity or that the Referee is wrong in his interpretation of the Laws of the Game;
  - (ii) They have been suspended for more than three (3) playing days; or
  - (iii) More than the standard penalty has been applied by the District Federation or NZF.
- (c) A person or club wishing to be heard by the Disciplinary Committee of NZF or the District Federation (as applicable) shall within three (3) days of the club's receipt of the Referee's Report, pursuant to paragraph 3 of this Regulation 7, request NZF or the District Federation, in writing, to convene a meeting of the Disciplinary Committee. Such request must clearly state the reasons for the hearing.
- (d) NZF or the District Federation shall convene a meeting of the Disciplinary Committee within seven (7) days of the request.
- (e) The person concerned may be accompanied by another official of their club who may give evidence or make a plea on behalf of that person.

**5. RESPONSIBILITIES OF A DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE**

- (a) A Disciplinary Committee shall:

- (i) Convene a meeting in accordance with this Regulation 7;
  - (ii) Consider all reports and submissions made to it; and
  - (iii) Determine such penalty as it deems suitable, subject to a minimum suspension of three (3) playing days. Where a sine die suspension is imposed such suspension must be for a minimum period of one year and such suspension must, within 7 days of final determination, be advised in writing to NZF. A sine die suspension may only be lifted by consent of the Board of NZF.
- (b) The Disciplinary Committee may impose a fine of no less than \$25.00 for each playing day of the suspension on the person's club and a further penalty on the person as it deems fair in the circumstances.
- (c) If a person or club fails to attend the meeting of a Disciplinary Committee then such case may be dealt with in their absence. The Disciplinary Committee shall notify the club of its decision in writing.

## **6. APPEALS**

- (a) In the event of a person being suspended for more than three (3) playing days a right of appeal to the Appeal Committee (as that expression is defined in the NZF Rules) will be available under Regulation 8.

## **7. CAUTION OFFENCES**

- (a) Where a player is cautioned in terms of the Laws of the Game, the player's club shall be liable to a fine of \$25.00 in respect of each single caution received. All fines will be imposed and retained by the player's District Federation or NZF where appropriate.

## **8. SCHEDULE OF SUSPENSIONS AND FINES RESULTING**

### **– Cautionary misconduct**

- (a) Where the relevant player receives a second caution in the same match, the following shall occur:
- (i) The player shall incur an expulsion (indirect red card);
  - (ii) The two cautions that incurred the red card shall be rescinded;

- (iii) The player shall be sent off;
  - (iv) The player's club shall be fined \$50.00 (unless a NZFC or National Youth League team in which case the Regulations for those competitions will determine the appropriate fine); and
  - (v) The player shall automatically serve a one (1) playing day suspension.
- (b) Where a player after having been cautioned commits a further offence which in itself warrants being sent off then the following shall apply:
- (i) The player shall be sent off;
  - (ii) The player shall be automatically suspended for the number of playing days that are stipulated herein for the sending off offence;
  - (iii) In addition to the sending off offence, the caution previously received in the same match by the player shall be upheld; and
  - (iv) The player's club shall be fined \$25.00 for the initial caution plus a further \$50.00 per playing day suspension (unless an NZFC or National Youth League team in which case the Regulations for those competitions will determine the appropriate fine).

**– Other misconduct excluding violence or misconduct under paragraph 8(e) of this Regulation 7**

- (c) Where a player is sent from the field of play for any of the following offences:
- (i) Serious foul play;
  - (ii) Denying the opposing team a goal or an obvious goal scoring opportunity by deliberately handling the ball. (This does not apply to a goalkeeper within his own penalty area);
  - (iii) 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; or
  - (iv) Using offensive or insulting or abusive language and/or gestures,

then such player shall:

- (i) Be automatically suspended for one (1) playing day; and
- (ii) The player's club shall be fined \$50.00 (unless an NZFC or NYL team in which case the Regulations for those competitions will determine the appropriate fine).

**- Violent conduct including spitting**

(d) Where a player is sent from the field of play for any of the following offences:

- (i) Violent conduct; or
- (ii) Spitting at an opponent or any other person,

then such player shall:

- (i) Be automatically suspended for a minimum of two (2) playing days;
- (ii) If required, attend in person a meeting of the Disciplinary Committee of NZF or the District Federation, where appropriate, or provide a written submission at least forty-eight (48) hours prior to the convening of such Disciplinary Committee meeting;
- (iii) Observe such penalties as may be imposed by the Disciplinary Committee; and
- (iv) The player's club shall be fined \$50.00 in respect of each playing day the player is suspended. Such a fine is to be limited in accordance with the ruling from the Disciplinary Committee. For example a Sine Die suspension must have a fixed fine where a fine, in addition to the suspension, is deemed to be appropriate.

**- Other misconduct**

(e) Where a player commits a second or subsequent sending off offence in the same game then:

- (i) The player shall be automatically suspended until such time as the appropriate Disciplinary Committee has met and a final decision conveyed;
- (ii) The player shall attend in person a meeting of the Disciplinary Committee of the District Federation or NZF, where appropriate is convened pursuant to paragraph 5(a) of this Regulation 7; and
- (iii) Observe such penalties which may be imposed by the appropriate Disciplinary Committee.

## **9. CAUTIONS ACCUMULATED BY A PLAYER**

- (a) A person accumulating five (5) cautions or multiples thereof shall automatically receive a one match suspension. The player shall be suspended from all football until the team, for which the player received the majority of the five (5) cautions, has played the required number of games.
- (b) The District Federation shall forthwith, on receipt of the fifth caution, notify the players club in writing that the player has received five (5) cautions and that they are suspended.
- (c) Clubs and players shall be deemed to have knowledge of their disciplinary records and failure to receive notification pursuant to paragraph 3 of this Regulation 7 shall not be a defence or excuse for not observing the mandatory period of suspension.

## **10. SUSPENSIONS**

- (a) Except where paragraph 10(c) of this Regulation 7 is in effect, a player sent off is under suspension until such time as the team in which the player was playing at the time they were suspended has played the required number of games. If a match is abandoned, cancelled or forfeited, suspension is only considered to have been served if the team to which the suspended player belongs is not responsible for the facts that led to the abandonment, cancellation or forfeit of the match.
- (b) For the sake of clarity, a suspension is a ban from taking part in a future match or competition and on attending it in the area immediately surrounding the field of play including the technical areas and the dressing rooms.
- (c) Suspensions imposed on players in representative competitions or matches shall be served in the next match for that representative team.

- (d) In respect of all international matches involving New Zealand teams, NZF shall be responsible for administering any disciplinary matters in the manner provided for by the Rules and Regulations of FIFA.
- (e) Suspensions and/or cautions imposed in a tournament shall be confined to that tournament.
- (f) Where a player is disciplined as prescribed in paragraph 8(e) of this Regulation 7, such matters shall be dealt with as prescribed and not as part of any tournament or representative fixture results.

## **11. CONCLUSION OF SEASON**

- (a) At the conclusion of the season all single cautions accumulated by any player shall be cancelled.
- (b) Any period of suspension, which remains outstanding at the conclusion of the season, shall be served in the League or Division it was obtained at the commencement of the following season.
- (c) For the purposes of this clause the words “conclusion of the season” shall mean that all competition matches of the club team for which the player normally plays have been completed.
- (d) A player suspended in a League or Division carried over from the previous season will stand down regardless of their transfer or clearance for however many playing days remain from the previous season. Eg – final game was Regional League Division One, two match suspension imposed, must stand down for the first two games of the Regional League Division One. Eg – playing Regional Division Two in new season, Division One does not start at the same time, can play until it commences then must stand down for the playing days of the first two games of Division One, can then play again.

## **12. CHARGES IN RESPECT OF EACH MISCONDUCT REPORT**

- (a) Each club shall pay the following amounts in respect of each misconduct report received by a District Federation or NZF in respect of players under its control:
  - (i) Such sum as the District Federation and/or NZF may charge for processing and recording misconduct reports with a maximum fee of \$10.00 (ten dollars) plus GST;
  - (ii) The reasonable costs of convening a Disciplinary Committee hearing; and

- (iii) The fines imposed by the District Federation and/or NZF in accordance with these Regulations.

**13. NOTIFICATION TO NEW ZEALAND FOOTBALL INC.**

- (a) District Federations shall, on demand, and within ten (10) days of such demand, provide NZF with the following:
  - (i) A schedule of all cautions and sending off reports received; and
  - (ii) Details of the penalty imposed in each case.

**14. PENALTIES FOR NON-COMPLIANCE WITH THIS REGULATION**

- (a) Any District Federation, club or referee who fails to comply with any of the provisions of this Regulation 7 may be fined by NZF up to \$500.00 for each act of non-compliance.