

Rule 9. Discipline:

9.1. General:

- i) Players and Club or team officials reported for misconduct shall be dealt with by their League, except as otherwise stipulated.
- ii) In all cases of alleged physical contact or attempted physical contact with a game official, by player or by a Club or team official, the accused shall be suspended until the case has been dealt with by the Association's Discipline Committee. In all such instances, the date of the hearing shall be set within fifteen (15) working days of receipt of the referee's report by the Association in Membership. The hearing has to be held with 25 working days of receipt of the misconduct report.
- iii) Every Club is responsible to the Association for the actions of its players, officials and spectators, who are allowed to take part in, or be present at, games on condition that they observe the Association's Constitution.
- iv) Every Club is required to take all precautions necessary to prevent its players, officials and spectators from threatening or assaulting anyone present at games, especially game officials.
- v) At all discipline hearings, the accused shall have the right to appear at his/her own expense.
- vi) Any person who has been suspended as the result of a discipline hearing shall not take part in any soccer activity without the express permission of the Disciplinary Committee until the completion of his sentence.
- vii) In all discipline cases dealt with by the Association, the decision shall be forwarded in writing to the parties involved within five (5) working days of the conclusion of the hearing.
- viii) Any failure by the Association or League to observe any deadlines contained in this Rule shall be considered as a matter of interpretation of this Rule, regardless of whether the decision involved is made at first instance or on appeal.

9.2 Hearings:

- i) Each Discipline Hearing held within the jurisdiction of this Association shall be conducted in accordance with the following:
 - (a) A Discipline Committee, shall have three (3) members, one of whom shall act as Chair. The Chair shall be selected amongst the three members prior to the start of the hearing;
 - (b) One of the Committee shall act as Recording Secretary, or a non- voting Recording Secretary, at the request of the Chair (not one of the Committee) may be appointed to be present for the whole hearing;

- (c) A presenter shall be responsible for calling the evidence, and.
- (d) The Recording Secretary shall record the minutes of the hearing.
- ii) Those who are required to attend a discipline hearing shall include:
 - (a) The accused person or organization, or that person's or organization's representative, and
 - (b) The person submitting the report.
- iii) All those accused of an offense which will require their presence at a discipline hearing shall be given five (5) working days notice, of the place, date and time of the hearing. Such notice shall be forwarded to the team or club when the offense involves a registered player or official representative of that team or club.
- iv) All those submitting reports involving alleged physical contact with game officials, and all those other than the accused whose presence is required by the Committee shall be given five (5) working days notice, of the place, date and time of the hearing, and they shall attend that hearing.
- v) All requests for the postponement of a hearing must be received by The Association no later than two (2) calendar days prior to the date of that hearing stating the reason for requesting such postponement.
- vi) Failure to appear at a discipline hearing when due notice has been given shall result in the suspension of the accused from all soccer activities.
- vii) A request for hearing under (vi) shall be accompanied by a non-refundable cheque or money order in the amount of \$100.00.

9.3 Action, General:

- i) Suspensions, unless otherwise specified, either in these rules or by a disciplinary committee shall be for a stated number of games.
- ii) Suspensions handed down for infractions incurred during League or Cup games cannot be served in tournament or friendly games.
- iii) Suspensions incurred in tournament and friendly games must be served during the next League or Cup game(s) if that is the next contest the suspended player's team is to play.
- iv) All suspensions listed in Rule 9.4 below are minimum, longer suspensions may be applied at the discretion of a Discipline Hearing Committee or affiliated league as circumstances dictate.
- v) In Rule 9.4, second and subsequent offences refer to offences that occur by the same individual in the same calendar year (365 day period).
- vi) In all instances involving those other than Youth age players, Discipline Committees may add monetary fines and/or bonds to any sentence. Such monetary fines and bonds must be paid by certified cheque or money order and they must be deposited with the Association

or League which imposed the penalty within fifteen days of the receipt of the decision or within the time stipulated by that Association or League.

- vii) Failure to pay fines and bonds within the time specified will result in the suspension of the person or organization penalized for a period of thirty days from the date of the receipt of the payment, without further notification.

9.4 Action, Specific:

i) CAUTIONS (Yellow Cards)

- (a) A player receiving three (3) cautions during the current season shall be suspended for one (1) game following receipt of the 3rd yellow card.
- (b) A player who receives another two (2) cautions during the same season shall be suspended for one (1) additional game following receipt of the 5th yellow card.
- (c) A player who receives a further single caution during the same season shall be suspended for two (2) additional games following receipt of the 6th yellow card.
- (d) A player who receives a further single caution during the same season shall be required to appear before a Discipline Committee, and if he/she is found guilty of the offenses for which that caution was issued, he/she shall be suspended for a minimum of four (4) additional games following receipt of the 7th yellow card.

ii) EJECTIONS (Red Cards) for actions against other players or team officials:

- (a) For foul language:
First offense - minimum of one (1) game
Second offense - minimum of one (1) game.
- (b) For abusive, threatening or insulting language and/or gestures:
First offense - minimum of two (2) games
Second offense - minimum of two (2) games.
- (c) For violent conduct:
First offense - minimum of two (2) games.
Second offense - minimum of four (4) games.
- (d) For serious foul play:
First offense - minimum of two (2) games.
Second offense - minimum of four (4) games.
- (e) For spitting at another person:
First offense - minimum of two (2) games.
Second offense - minimum of four (4) games.
- (f) For deliberate hand ball preventing a goal or goal scoring opportunity:
First offense - minimum of one (1) game.
Second offense - minimum of one (1) game.
- (g) For denying an obvious goal scoring opportunity to an opponent moving towards

the player's goal:

First offense - minimum of one (1) game.

Second offense - minimum of one (1) game..

- (h) For two yellow cards received in the same game
- minimum of (1) game.

(i) If, in the opinion of the Association, an action is considered to be severe, disciplinary hearing may be convened.

Note: for the purposes of these sanctions, foul language is defined as profanity not directed towards any individual, whereas abusive, threatening and/or insulting language is directed towards another individual

iii) **EJECTIONS (Red Cards)**

for actions against game officials:

- (a) Persistent criticism or disputing of decisions:
First offense - minimum of one (1) game.
Second offense - minimum of two (2) games.
Third offense - minimum of four (4) games.
- (b) Use of foul, abusive or insulting remarks:
First offense - minimum of two (2) games.
Second offense - minimum of four (4) games.
Third offense- minimum of eight (8) games.
- (c) Deliberate physical contact (i.e. pushing, pulling, charging, etc.) or attempted physical contact or threatening:
First offense - minimum six (6) months suspension.
Second offense - minimum one (1) year suspension.
- (d) Striking, spitting, kicking or any form of violent conduct, or attempted violent conduct:
First offense - minimum three (3) years suspension.
Second offense - minimum ten (10) years suspension

(e) In the cases of Rule 9.4 (iii).(a) and (b), the sanctions may be applied automatically without the necessity of a disciplinary hearing.

(f) In the cases of Rule 9.4 (iii).(c) and (d), a disciplinary hearing must take place.

iv) **REPEATED EJECTIONS**

Upon being found guilty of any third ejection (Red Card) offense in one calendar year (365 day period), a mandatory minimum suspension of 30 days shall be imposed, in addition to any sentence imposed at the hearing.

v) It shall be the responsibility of team management to ensure that all sanctions/suspensions are served in accordance with these Rules and Regulations.

vi) A player found guilty of playing prior to fully serving any suspension shall be ruled an ineligible player during the game in question and the game shall be awarded to the opposing team on the basis of using an ineligible player. The player and team management may also be subjected to further disciplinary measures.

9.5 Jurisdiction:

i) This Association shall have the power to deal with violations of the Laws of the Game, the Rules, Regulations and Bylaws of The Canadian Soccer Association, or misconduct by any of their clubs or Associations, or by any of their players, officials or members. In all cases, the party complained against shall have the right to appear and to offer a full answer or defence to any charges against him/her when the case is heard.

ii) Disposition of all cases dealt with under Rule 9.4. (iii).(c) and (d) must be reported to The Canadian Soccer Association.

iii) A Discipline Committee may, at its discretion, take action against any Club whose player, officials or spectators have been found guilty of misconduct and/or violence toward anyone present at a game and especially towards game officials.

iv) All suspensions resulting from an Association Disciplinary Hearing shall be from all soccer activities within the jurisdiction of the Association (play, coach, referee, manage, etc.) unless otherwise stipulated by the Discipline Committee.