



Prescribed Form 7 – Determination of Disciplinary Tribunal

Charged Party

Name	Cory Mcnelis	Club	Dianella White Eagles SC	Reg No	11237834
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Fixture Details

Date	12/08/2025	Time	07:30 PM
Clubs	Kingsley Westside FC vs Dianella White Eagles SC		
Competition	State League Division 1	Grade/Age	First Team

Offence Details

Offence Number	2b
Offence Description	Serious Violent Conduct: <i>When not challenging for the ball: uses or attempts to use excessive force or brutality against a person, or deliberately strikes the head, face or neck of another person unless the force is negligible.</i>
Automatic Match Suspension	1 Match (may not be challenged)
Additional Suspension	4 Matches
TOTAL SUSPENSION	5 Matches

Hearing Outcome

Finding	Guilty
Penalty	I. a suspension from participating in any Night Series 2026 fixture; and II. a suspension from participating in the first 2 regular season games of 2026.
Summary of Determination	The matter that was before the Disciplinary Tribunal (Tribunal) concerned the matter of Corey Mcnelis. <u>Preliminary matters/standing</u> Mr Mcnelis was charged with Serious Violent Conduct under Sch 1 offence number 2B of the FW Disciplinary & Grievance Regulations (to hereby be referred to as the Regulations) for his alleged conduct in a State League Division 1 game between his team, Dianella White Eagles FC (hereby referred to as Dianella FC) and Kingsley Westside FC on 12 August 2025. The offence of Serious Violent Conduct reads as follows:



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When not challenging for the ball [the player]:

- *uses or attempts to use excessive force or brutality against a person, or*
- *deliberately strikes the head, face or neck of another person unless the force is negligible.*

The penalty for a breach of Sch 1 R 2B of the Regulations includes:

- 1) an Automatic Match Suspension (**AMS**) in accordance with Articles 7.6 and 7.8 of the Regulations. The AMS was served by Mr Mcnelis by missing Round 21 against Mandurah FC on 16 August 2025; and
- 2) an additional 4-match suspension in accordance with Article 7.8 of the Regulations, which was postponed by FW until the outcome of this Hearing in accordance with Article 24 of the Regulations.

Dianella FC received the relevant Disciplinary Infringement Notice pursuant to Article 16 of the Regulations on 14 August 2025. Dianella FC submitted a challenge to the Infringement Notice in accordance with Article 16.5 of the Regulations on 19 August 2025 and as such, was entitled to be heard by this Disciplinary Tribunal.

Mr Mcnelis challenged the original charge of Serious Violent Conduct.

Facts

The Tribunal was provided the referee's report of the incident and video footage of the incident.

I summarise the relevant portions of the referee's report as follows:

"The reported player [Mr Mcnelis] struck an opponent in the face with his fist using excessive force whilst not challenging for the ball, knocking him to the ground. I showed the reported player a red card and sent him from the field of play for violent conduct. I was approximately 10 metres from the incident with an unobstructed view."

Based on the video footage and Mr Mcnelis' testimony, the facts are briefly summarised as follows:

- I. Immediately prior to the alleged offence, Mr Mcnelis took a heavy touch around the 6-yard box which resulted in him inflicting a careless tackle on the opposing goalkeeper.
- II. the victim of the alleged offence approached Mr Mcnelis to remonstrate for the careless tackle on his teammate.



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- III. Mr Mcnelis then struck the opposing player in the upper neck/lower jaw, knocking him to the ground.
- IV. Mr Mcnelis was almost instantly issued a red card for the offence.

Grounds for appeal

The basis of Mr Mcnelis' challenge was the referee's account that he struck the opponent in the face "*with his fist*". Mr Mcnelis argued that he instead hit the opponent with an open hand.

Decision

Under Article 15.6 of the Regulations, the facts contained in the referee's report are presumed to be accurate. The Tribunal found insufficient evidence to overturn this presumption.

In any event, the offence of Serious Violent Conduct makes no reference to a closed or open fist.

Based on the video footage of the incident, as well as Mr Mcnelis' own testimony that he deliberately struck the opponent in the neck and jaw, the Tribunal was satisfied that Mr Mcnelis' grounds to challenge the offence of Serious Violent Conduct were irrelevant.

The Tribunal was satisfied that Mr Mcnelis was guilty of Serious Violent Conduct for the following reasons:

1. Mr Mcnelis was not challenging the ball:

It was self-evident based on the video footage and testimony that the ball had gone out of bounds and play had been stopped immediately prior to the incident.

2. Mr Mcnelis used excessive force against a person and the force was not negligible:

The impact of the strike was clearly felt by the opponent, who immediately fell to the ground in either shock or pain from the force of the strike. The Tribunal concluded that due to the force of the strike, there was a serious risk of injury. Therefore, the Tribunal concluded that the force against the opposing player was excessive and not negligible.

3. Mr Mcnelis deliberately struck the head or neck of the opposing player:



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	Mr Mcnelis admitted himself that the contact occurred to the upper neck and lower face region and the contact was deliberate. As such, the Tribunal found that the incident in question satisfied all the required elements of Serious Violent Conduct. Furthermore, Article 17.7 of the Regulations makes it clear that it is not a defence to the charge that an alleged offender was retaliating against the actions of another person. and subsequently found Mr Mcnelis guilty of Serious Violent Conduct. <u>Penalty</u> Under Article 18 and Sch 1 offence number 2B of the Regulations, if the Tribunal upholds the charge of Serious Violent Conduct the Tribunal may impose a minimum 6 game additional suspension, including additional penalties at the discretion of the Tribunal pursuant to Article 18 of the Regulations. The penalty imposed by the Tribunal on Mr Mcnelis is as follows: I. a suspension from participating in any Night Series 2026 fixtures; and II. a suspension from participating in the first 2 regular season games of 2026.
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Date of Notice	22/09/2025
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Right to Appeal

The decision of the Disciplinary Tribunal may be appealed in accordance with Article 21 of the Disciplinary & Grievance Regulations 2022.