

Football West Disciplinary & Grievance Regulations

Summary of Key Changes – January 2026

Clause	Issue / Rationale	Current	Change
Various	Change name of administrative body making disciplinary decisions to clarify its role	Football West Match Review Panel	Competition Management Committee.
Various	Ensure gender neutral language	“His” or “her”	“Their” or “they”
Various	Change term to reflect nature of document	References to Article and Paragraph.	References to ‘Regulation’.
2	No direct or clear reference to the National Disciplinary Regulations or Football Australia Code of Conduct and Ethics	No section	New conduct section that contains all “conduct” rules and clearly incorporates FIFA Regulations, Football Australia National Disciplinary Regulations and FA Code of Conduct and Ethics which apply to all FA Constituents.
2	Serious Offences	Specific provisions related to “Serious Offences” with FW power to issue Extended Suspension Notice which is not appealable.	Removed the Extended Suspension Notice. Serious misconduct can be dealt with through wider penalty minimums and maximums, and there should be an opportunity to appeal the severity of any suspension.
2.8	No reference to social media comment	No references to various FA and Football West policies.	Includes specific reference to FA Code of Conduct and Ethics.

Clause	Issue / Rationale	Current	Change
2.9	Application of these Regulations to MiniRoos Competitions	No section	Application of these Regulations to MiniRoos Competitions clarified: red and yellow card cautions are not issued at this level of competition; team personnel are subject to the Regulations; serious player misconduct may still be addressed but in line with FA Safeguarding Policy.
2.10	Match Official misconduct required to be heard by the Referee Technical Committee	Match Official misconduct required to be heard by the Referee Technical Committee, irrespective of the seriousness	Where Football West has concerns regarding Match Official's performance, Football West may undertake a Referee Performance Review. Football West may investigate any alleged misconduct as per 2.10.2 and Regulation 3.
3	Disciplinary Proceedings process	No section	Combined all preliminary steps in one place (e.g. Investigation, Provisional Action, Show Cause, Sanctions and Reciprocation). Ensured these steps were up to date with sporting disciplinary good practice.
3.5	Extending decisions made by other relevant organisations so they have effect in football in WA.	No section	Introduced a power to reciprocate penalties imposed by other football or disciplinary bodies, so they are adapted to football in WA. This is subject to procedural fairness having been followed in the initial decision.
4	Appointment of Judicial Body Panel Members	Unclear whether there are separate panels per Judicial Body or one pool of Judicial Body Panel Members.	Clarify that there is one pool of Judicial Body Panel Members appointed for four-year terms, from which FW can appoint members to specific Judicial Body Hearings for any one of the three bodies (though a member who sits on a first-instance hearing must

Clause	Issue / Rationale	Current	Change
			not subsequently sit as an appeal member for the same matter).
4.3	Judicial Body eligibility	No section	Clearer qualifications and exceptions for Judicial Body Members
5	The large volume of reports that must currently be actioned by FW administration and the volume of appeals.	Football West has jurisdiction to issue automatic suspensions.	Implementing the CMC to deal with non – Automatic Match Suspensions and rectify Obvious Error and Mistaken Identity to improve flexibility and due process.
5.2	Process and timeline to submit footage, photographs or written statements.	Currently it is unclear of the requirements to submit footage, photographs and written statements to Football West.	Clarify when footage or other evidence must be provided to Football West in order for the CMC to take it into account and impose limitations on subsequently tabling such evidence before the Disciplinary and Ethics Committee.
5.3	Evidence accepted for Mistaken Identity and Obvious Error and timeline to submit claim.	No video or photo evidence for Obvious Error or Mistaken Identity	Evidence, including video/photo and any other supporting materials, to be accepted for Obvious Error and Mistaken Identity and deadline to submit claim by.
5.5	Grounds of appealing a CMC decision	Broad ability to appeal decisions of Football West Match Review Panel to the Disciplinary Committee. Grounds of Appeal are only limited for appeals to Appeals Tribunal.	Appeals from decisions of the CMC to the Appeals Tribunal must fit within specific grounds of appeal (that align to administrative and sporting disciplinary standards).
6	The number of appeals heard by the Appeal Tribunal	All appeals of Football West decisions are referred to the Tribunal	Establishment of the Disciplinary and Ethics Committee to hear and determine matters referred by the CMC, Football West, appeals of decisions regarding Club Affiliation, to reciprocate a

Clause	Issue / Rationale	Current	Change
			determination and sanction or any other relevant matter.
6.2.5	Suspensions are lifted while a hearing is organised, but the hearing cannot take place until after their next match. This causes disputes from opposing clubs.	No clear rule on whether a suspension must continue when a hearing cannot be held before the next match.	If a hearing cannot occur before the next match, the CMC may require the Participant to serve a suspension in the interim pending the hearing. The Club may apply for a stay under Regulation 15.3, and any suspension served will count toward the final penalty. Prompt CMC decisions and timely Club submissions will also help avoid the need for interim suspensions, which should occur only in serious cases.
6.3 - 6.8	Disciplinary and Ethics Committee Proceedings	Formal Tribunal hearing	Hearings will be conducted in any matter the Disciplinary and Ethics committee deem appropriate provided that all parties are given a reasonable opportunity to be heard and the hearing is conducted with as little formality and as much expedition as proper consideration of the matters permit. Hearings are scheduled for one (1) hour or one and a half (1.5) hours in complex cases.
7.1.2	Very broad scope of matters that would be considered a “grievance” and thus referred to the General Purposes Tribunal.	Grievance means a dispute between two (2) or more parties who have a direct connection to Football in Western Australia concerning a dispute related to Football in Western Australia that has been escalated pursuant to the Complaints Policy. The GPT has authority to hear and determine these disputes.	Narrowed to exclude personal grievances but provides the opportunity for FW to refer a matter that it considers requires hearing by the GPT.

Clause	Issue / Rationale	Current	Change
7.2	Panel numbers for the General Purposes Tribunal	Default is three members for panel but can be one or two in extraordinary circumstances.	Default is one, unless complex or serious questions of fact or law.
8	Clarify and expand the process of managing disputes between Football West members	A short regulation dealing with 'grievances' which did not clearly outline the procedures applying to disputes between Football West members	Expand to outline the applicable procedures for resolution of disputes between Football West members before the Appeal Tribunal. Ensure such matters are resolved within the Football West framework consistent with the national process.
8.1	Jurisdiction of Appeals Tribunal	Parties can appeal a disciplinary decision twice, first to Disciplinary Tribunal and then to Appeals Tribunal. Decisions of the General Purposes Tribunal can be appealed to the Appeals Tribunal.	A CMC or Disciplinary and Ethics Committee decision can only be appealed once, to the Appeals Tribunal, subject to limited grounds of appeal.
8.2	Grounds of Appeal, to Appeal Tribunal	Grounds for appeal: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a party was not afforded a reasonable opportunity to be heard; or • the determination was affected by bias; or • the decision was one that was not reasonably open to the Tribunal having regard to the evidence before the Tribunal. 	Previous grounds still stand however; Include that the Determination was manifestly excessive or lenient as a ground of appeal, which is standard. Also include that the decision was so unreasonable that no decision maker acting reasonably could have come to that decision having regard to the evidence before it.
8.2.2	Clubs seeking to appeal by way of disputing the sanction imposed, or lifting of a sanction, on a Participant of another club	Unclear the parties with standing to appeal	Clarifying the parties with standing to appeal, and what does not qualify as being "directly affected" by the decision being appealed (e.g. having played or being scheduled to play at any point against the Participant, Club or Association that is the subject of the decision).

Clause	Issue / Rationale	Current	Change
8.4	Appeal Fee	Various appeal fee levels as per Competition level.	Competitions have been clarified with their respective fee level.
8.11	Suspensions are lifted while a hearing is organised, but the hearing cannot take place until after their next match. This causes disputes from opposing clubs.	No clear rule on whether a suspension must continue when a hearing cannot be held before the next match.	Clarify that pending an appeal against a suspension, the suspension shall stay in effect unless determined otherwise by the Appeal Tribunal.
11	Spectators	No reference to FA Code of Conduct. Minor reference to spectator conduct.	Include specific reference to FA Code of Conduct and the powers of Football West to enforce the FA Code of Conduct against Clubs, Players and Officials. Separately makes clear that FW can ban spectators not otherwise subject to FW's jurisdiction.
12-15	Match Suspensions	Various repetition and inconsistency across these Regulations, Competition Regulations and National Disciplinary Regulations.	Various amendments to remove repetition and ensure consistency across these Regulations and National Disciplinary Regulations. Inclusion of regulations relating to match suspensions in Cup Competitions.
15	Serving a Suspension	Confusing and unclear how a suspension is served.	Detailing the terms of restrictions imposed on suspended Players and Officials on match day.
17	Failure to Respect a Determination	No explicit section referencing the failure to respect a determination.	Detailing the potential consequences and the applicable process to Clubs, Players and Officials who fail to respect a determination, and afford Football West the necessary powers to enforce determinations.

Clause	Issue / Rationale	Current	Change
18	Football West and Judicial Body Immunity	No section.	Ensure Football West and Judicial Body have legal immunity for acts undertaken pursuant to these Regulations.
19	Substantial Compliance	No section.	Ensure that disciplinary processes, proceedings, determinations, notices etc will not be invalidated by procedural defects.
20	Applicable Law	No Section.	Ensure that the law in Western Australia must be applied to a dispute or hearing determined in accordance with these Regulations.
21	Amendment of Regulations, etc	No section	Make clear that the Football West Board has the power to amend the Regulations, as well as deviate from them in extraordinary circumstances, and address matters not provided for (if they arise).
22	Notices	No clear section	Updated to address use of Squadi competition management system.
23	Expand definitions to provide greater clarity	No defined term	<p>Various amendments to defined terms, including defined terms for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Australia Cup Preliminary Rounds • Automatic Match Suspension • Club Report • Competition Regulations • Cup Competitions • Determination • Disciplinary Hearing • Judicial Body • Judicial Body Panel

Clause	Issue / Rationale	Current	Change
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finals Series • Hearing • Minimum Sanction • National Disciplinary Regulations • Notice of Disciplinary Hearing • Serious Injury • State Cup • State Cup Final • Obvious Error • Referee
Schedule 1	Table of Offences	Table of Offences distinctly dissonant from the National Disciplinary Regulations	Incorporated a new Table of Offences table which provides greater detail regarding the minimum sanction applicable for first instances and second or subsequent instances with respect of each offence.
Schedule 2	Sanction Types	No Section	Added in list of sanction types consistent with FA Constitution and divided by natural person and legal persons, including Clubs.
Schedule 3	Three-Strike Policy	Currently limited to incidents pertaining to match-official abuse.	Expand the scope to include serious match-day abuse and misconduct at Clubs across WA. The policy will operate as a “three-strike” framework rather than creating standalone offences with separate penalties.