

SECTION 4: SUSPENSIONS FOR PLAYERS IN MEN’S

FOOTBALL Part A Competitions

1. The leagues/divisions below are each a “Competition” for the purposes of this Section:

- Ladbrokes Premiership*
- Ladbrokes Championship*
- Ladbrokes League One*
- Ladbrokes League Two*
- Scottish Professional Football Development League**
- Scottish Professional Football Development League East**
- Scottish Professional Football Development League West**
- Scottish Highland Football League (“SHFL”)*
- GPH Aberdeenshire and District FA League
- Scottish Highland Football League U17 Championship
- North of Scotland FA U20 league
- Scottish Lowland Football League (“SLFL”)*
- South of Scotland Football League

* incorporating play-off competition

** categorised as a Reserve Team competition for the purposes of this Protocol

2. Serving of Suspensions in relation to offences committed in a Competition:

Offence	Suspension	Application of Suspension
Accumulation of six cautionable offences in the same Competition (including cautions incurred under Part D below)	1 match dated suspension (For every further accumulation of six cautionable offences, the suspension applied will be extended by one match.)	Effective from 14th day following date of match when sixth cautionable offence occurred and to be served in the same Competition.
Serious foul play (A1) Violent conduct (A2) Spitting at an opponent or any other person (A3)	2 match automatic suspension	Effective immediately to the player’s Recognised Team’s next two matches irrespective of competition (subject to Paragraph 5 below). Refer to Part F for further clarification.
Denying the opposing team or an opponent a goal or an obvious goal scoring opportunity (A4) Offensive, insulting or abusive language and/or gestures (A5) Receiving a second caution in the same match (A6)	1 match automatic suspension	Effective immediately to the next match in the Competition in which the sending-off offence was reported (subject to Paragraph 5 below).

3. Serving of Suspensions in relation to offences committed in SPFL/SHFL/SLFL Play-off Competition:

The play-off competition is regarded as a continuation of the relevant League Competition in terms of recording player misconduct. Any suspension(s) outstanding at the end of the League Competition will require to be served in the play-off competition.

4 Sending-Off Offences – Additional Suspension

- 4.1 Where a player is reported for a sending off offence, and that player has also been Determined by a Tribunal to have committed an additional sending off offence in the same match , or has previously been reported for a sending-off offence in the same Competition in a Season, an additional suspension of one match for each previous sending-off offence will be applied.
- 4.2 Any additional suspension shall become effective on the 14th day following the date of the match at which the sending-off offence occurred and shall apply to the player’s Recognised Team’s Competition.

5 SPFL Development Loans

- 5.1 Any suspension incurred by a player whilst on a SPFL Development Loan shall be served with the club, which the player was representing at the time the suspension was incurred, unless the terms of Paragraph 5.2 apply.
- 5.2 When a player has been on a SPFL Development Loan and such loan period ends, any suspension, or part thereof, which was incurred with the loan club and which remains outstanding when the loan period ends, shall be automatically applied to the player’s Recognised Team’s Competition/ Competition Group/Specified Cup Competition at his registered club. Similarly, when a player has been on a SPFL Development Loan and the player becomes registered for the loan/another club, any suspension, or part thereof, which was incurred with either the parent and/or loan club and which remains outstanding, shall be automatically applied to the player’s Recognised Team’s Competition/ Competition Group/Specified Cup Competition at his registered club.

6 Serving of Suspensions – Eligibility

A player’s suspension can only be served if the player is otherwise eligible for selection for a match.
 A player who is ineligible for a match due to the application of competition rules or other reason cannot regard that fixture as having served a suspension.

Part B Competition Groups

1. The groups of league and cup competitions in each of the boxes below are each a “Competition Group” for the purposes of this Section.

East of Scotland Football League East of Scotland Football League Cup East of Scotland Football Qualifying League East of Scotland Cup East of Scotland Shield King Cup East of Scotland Qualifying Cup Alex Jack Cup	North Caledonian League North Caledonian Cup Jock Mackay Cup Football Times Cup Tommy Ross Memorial Cup Chic Allan Cup
South of Scotland Football League Cup Southern Counties FA Challenge Cup Haig Gordon Memorial Trophy Potts Cup Cree Lodge Cup Tweedie Cup Southern Counties FA Alba Cup South and East Cup Winners Shield	Lowland and East of Scotland U20 Development League Lowland and East of Scotland U20 Development League Cup Lowland and East of Scotland U20 Development League Challenge Cup Lowland and East of Scotland U20 Development League Knock-out Cup

2. Serving of Suspensions in relation to offences committed in a Competition Group:

Offence	Suspension	Application of Suspension
Accumulation of six cautionable offences in the same Competition Group (including cautions incurred under Part D below)	1 match dated suspension (For every further accumulation of six cautionable offences, the suspension applied will be extended by 1 match.)	Effective from 14th day following date of match when sixth cautionable offence occurred and to be served in the same Competition Group.
Serious foul play (A1) Violent conduct (A2) Spitting at an opponent or any other person (A3)	2 match automatic suspension	Effective immediately to the player's Recognised Team's next two matches irrespective of competition. (subject to Paragraph 4 below). Refer to Part F for further clarification.
Denying the opposing team or an opponent a goal or an obvious goal scoring opportunity (A4) Offensive, insulting or abusive language and/or gestures (A5) Receiving a second caution in the same match (A6)	1 match automatic suspension	Effective immediately to the next match in the Competition Group in which the sending-off offence was reported.

3 Sending-Off Offences – Additional Suspension

- 3.1 Where a player is reported for a sending-off offence, and that player has also been Determined by a Tribunal to have committed an additional sending off offence in the same match, or has previously been reported for a sending-off offence in the same Competition Group in a Season, an additional suspension of one match for each previous sending-off offence will be applied.
- 3.2 Any additional suspension shall become effective on the 14th day following the date of the match at which the sending-off offence occurred and shall apply to the player's Recognised Team's Competition Group.

4 SPFL Development Loans

- 4.1 Any suspension incurred by a player whilst on a SPFL Development Loan shall be served with the club which the player was representing at the time the suspension was incurred, unless the terms of Paragraph 4.2 apply.
- 4.2 When a player has been on a SPFL Development Loan and such loan period ends, any suspension, or part thereof, which was incurred with the loan club and which remains outstanding when the loan period ends, shall be automatically applied to the player's Recognised Team's Competition/ Competition Group/Specified Cup Competition at his registered club. Similarly, when a player has been on a SPFL Development Loan and the player becomes registered for the loan/another club, any suspension, or part thereof, which was incurred with either the parent and/or loan club and which remains outstanding, shall be automatically applied to the player's Recognised Team's Competition/ Competition Group/Specified Cup Competition at his registered club.

5 Serving of Suspensions – Eligibility

A player's suspension can only be served if the player is otherwise eligible for selection for a match. A player who is ineligible for a match due to the application of competition rules or other reason cannot regard that fixture as having served a suspension.

Part C Specified Cup Competitions

1. The following competitions are “Specified Cup Competitions” for the purposes of this section:

William Hill Scottish Cup

Betfred Cup

IRN BRU Cup

Scottish Highland League Cup

Scottish Lowland Football League Cup

Scottish FA South Region Challenge Cup

Aberdeenshire and District FA Challenge Cup

Aberdeenshire and District FA Shield

North of Scotland Cup

Scottish FA Youth Cup

2. Serving of Suspensions in relation to offences committed in a Specified Cup Competition:

Offence	Suspension	Application of Suspension
<p>Accumulation of three cautionable offences in the William Hill Scottish Cup for clubs who enter the competition in the Preliminary Round(s), Rounds 1, 2 or 3 (caution totals revert to zero prior to start of semi-final rounds)</p> <p>Accumulation of three cautionable offences in the IRN BRU Cup for clubs who enter the competition in Rounds 1 or 2 (caution totals revert to zero prior to start of semi-final rounds)</p>	<p>1 match automatic suspension (For every further accumulation of two cautionable offences, the player will be suspended for one match.)</p>	<p>Effective immediately to the next match in the same Specified Cup Competition.</p>
<p>Accumulation of two cautionable offences in the William Hill Scottish Cup for clubs who enter the competition after Round 3 (caution totals revert to zero prior to start of semi-final rounds)</p> <p>Accumulation of two cautionable offences in the Betfred Cup (caution totals revert to zero prior to start of Round 2 and prior to the start of semi-final rounds)</p> <p>Accumulation of two cautionable offences in the IRN BRU Cup for clubs who enter the competition after Round 2 (caution totals revert to zero prior to the start of semi-final rounds)</p> <p>Accumulation of two cautionable offences in all other Specified Cup Competitions (caution totals revert to zero prior to start of semi-final rounds)</p>	<p>1 match automatic suspension</p>	<p>Effective immediately to the next match in the same Specified Cup Competition.</p>
<p>Serious foul play (A1)</p> <p>Violent conduct (A2)</p> <p>Spitting at an opponent or any other person (A3)</p>	<p>2 match automatic suspension*</p>	<p>One match will apply immediately to the player's Recognised Team's next match irrespective of competition: and One match will apply immediately to the next match the player's club plays in that Specified Cup Competition.</p>
<p>Denying the opposing team or an opponent a goal or an obvious goal scoring opportunity (A4)</p> <p>Offensive, insulting or abusive language and/or gestures (A5)</p> <p>Receiving a second caution in the same match (A6)</p>	<p>1 match automatic suspension</p>	<p>Effective immediately to the next match in the Specified Cup Competition in which the sending-off offence was reported.</p>

3. Sending-Off Offences – Additional Suspension

- 3.1 Where a player is reported for a sending-off offence and that player has also been Determined by a Tribunal to have committed an additional sending off offence in the same match, or has previously been reported for a sending-off offence in the same Specified Cup Competition in a Season, an additional suspension of one match for each previous sending-off offence will be applied.
- 3.2 Any additional suspension shall become effective on the 14th day following the date of the match at which the sending-off offence occurred and shall apply to the player's Recognised Team's League Competition/Competition Group.

4. SPFL Development Loans

- 4.1 Any suspension incurred by a player whilst on a SPFL Development Loan shall be served with the club which the player was representing at the time the suspension was incurred, unless the terms of Paragraph 4.2 apply.
- 4.2 When a player has been on a SPFL Development Loan and such loan period ends, any suspension, or part thereof, which was incurred with the loan club and which remains outstanding when the loan period ends, shall be automatically applied to the player's Recognised Team's Competition/ Competition Group/Specified Cup Competition at his registered club. Similarly, when a player has been on a SPFL Development Loan and the player becomes registered for the loan/another club, any suspension, or part thereof, which was incurred with either the parent and/or loan club and which remains outstanding, shall be automatically applied to the player's Recognised Team's Competition/ Competition Group/Specified Cup Competition at his registered club.

5. Clubs in membership of the Scottish Junior FA or Scottish Amateur FA participating in Scottish Cup Competition

- 5.1 A player of a club in membership of the Scottish Junior FA/Scottish Amateur FA and who is reported for a sending-off offence of Serious Foul Play, Violent Conduct or Spitting at an Opponent or Any Other Person will automatically be suspended for two matches, applied as follows:
- one match will apply immediately to the player's Recognised Team's next match in a competition included in the Scottish Junior FA/Scottish Amateur FA Register of Competitions and;
 - one match will apply immediately to the next match the player's club plays in the Scottish Cup.
- 5.2 Any Scottish Junior FA/Scottish Amateur FA player who is reported for a sending-off offence of Serious Foul Play, Violent Conduct or Spitting at an Opponent or any other person in a match immediately preceding their club's Scottish Cup fixture shall be ineligible to participate in that fixture.
- 5.3 In the event that an appeal submitted to the Scottish Junior FA against a sending-off offence for Serious Foul Play, Violent Conduct or Spitting at an Opponent or any other person has not been Determined prior to the player's club's participation in a Scottish Cup fixture, such player shall not be eligible to participate in that fixture. The foregoing is subject to there having been sufficient time, referring to the timescales set out at Paragraph 13.5.6 of this Protocol, to conclude appeal proceedings.

6 Serving of Suspensions – Eligibility

A player's suspension can only be served if the player is otherwise eligible for selection for a match. A player who is ineligible for a match due to the application of competition rules or other reason cannot regard that fixture as having served a suspension.

* The order in which 2 match suspensions are served in relation to A1, A2 and A3 offences, will be entirely dependent on fixture scheduling and suspensions cannot be served concurrently (i.e. should the next match for the player's Recognised Team be the next match in that Specified Cup Competition, only the "Specified Cup" suspension shall be regarded as served and the player will still have to serve a one match suspension in the then following match of the player's Recognised Team).

Part D: Other, Non-Specified Matches or Competitions and Friendlies

- Misconduct incurred in matches not taking place under Competitions or Competition Groups or Specified Cup Competitions, as listed at Parts A, B and C of this Section 4, will be applied to the player's Recognised Team within the relevant Competition or Competition Group as specified below at Paragraph 2.
- Serving of Suspensions in relation to offences committed in other, non-specified matches or competitions:

Offence	Suspension	Application of Suspension
Accumulation of six cautionable offences in player's Recognised Team disciplinary record.	1 match dated suspension (For every further accumulation of six cautionable offences, the suspension applied will be extended by one match.)	Effective from 14th day following date of match when sixth cautionable offence occurred and to be served in the player's Recognised Team's next Competition/Competition Group match as appropriate.
Serious foul play (A1) Violent conduct (A2) Spitting at an opponent or any other person (A3)	2 match automatic suspension	Effective immediately to the player's Recognised Team's next two matches irrespective of competition.
Denying the opposing team or an Opponent a goal or an obvious goal Scoring opportunity (A4) Offensive, insulting or abusive language and/or gestures (A5) Receiving a second caution in the same match (A6)	1 match automatic suspension	Effective immediately to the player's Recognised Team's next Competition/Competition Group match as appropriate.

- Misconduct Arising From Matches Under Jurisdiction of National Associations

Misconduct reports received from a National Association in respect of players of clubs bound by these Disciplinary Procedures shall be dealt with as detailed above. Misconduct shall be recorded and any resultant suspension(s) applied only if such reports are received within 14 days of the date of the match. Misconduct reported outwith this 14 day period shall not be recorded.

Part E General Rules for Player Suspensions

- Reference is made to Paragraph 11.6 of the Protocol.
- In the case of a player who becomes ineligible because of age conditions to play in a competition, any suspension or part thereof which remains outstanding and would have applied only to matches in that youth competition will apply instead to matches in the player's Recognised Team's League.
- During any period of suspension, a player may participate in international matches. During any period of suspension, with the exception of suspensions applied to all football (paragraph 14 refers), a player may participate in friendly matches. A player who is suspended as a result of a report made on a friendly match shall not serve any such suspension during any subsequent friendly match.
- An unregistered player who incurs a suspension and who is recognised to be a player of a club playing under the jurisdiction of the Scottish FA, may not play for a club in membership of an Affiliated National Association during the period of his suspension.

5. Where a registration of a player is transferred to another club or where a player becomes registered for another club, the player's Recognised Team disciplinary record(s) at the time of his registration for another club will be transferred from his previous to his new Recognised Team disciplinary record(s). Any suspension, or part thereof, which remains outstanding at the time of a player's transfer to/ registration for a club other than the club with which he was suspended, will similarly apply in his new Recognised Team's Competition/Competition Group and/or Cup competition(s) and be served in that/those competition(s).
6. A player who is suspended as a result of a report made on a match he played in as a trialist for a club that falls under the jurisdiction of these Disciplinary Procedures and who is registered for a club in membership of an Affiliated National Association will be required to serve the suspension in the grade of football in which he normally plays. The relevant Affiliated National Association will be requested to apply the suspension within the football played under its own jurisdiction.
7. A player who is registered by means of a Temporary Transfer or Youth Registration Form and who is suspended as a result of a report made on a match for his senior club will be required to serve the suspension in accordance with these Disciplinary Procedures.
8. An unregistered professional player under an outstanding suspension is free to play as a trialist and the suspension shall only commence when he is registered for a club.
9. A player who is suspended as a result of a report made on a match he played in as a trialist cannot serve the suspension until such time as he registers for a club. The serving of the suspension shall commence immediately upon the player becoming registered for a club.
10. In the event that a National Association indicates that a player is subject to a suspension, or part thereof, which remains outstanding at the time when his FIFA International Transfer Certificate is issued to the Scottish FA, such suspension shall apply 14 days after the Certificate is received and his registration put into effect.
11. A player who is registered for a club in membership of an Affiliated National Association, but is suspended as a result of a report made on a match he played in for a club under the jurisdiction of this Protocol and for which he regularly plays will be required to serve the suspension in accordance with these Disciplinary Procedures.
12. A player who is suspended as a result of a report made in a match governed by an Affiliated National Association, and whose clubs also plays regularly in a competition listed within this Protocol, will require to serve his suspension in accordance with the relevant Affiliated National Association procedures.
13. A player who is suspended as a result of a report made in a Glasgow Cup match will have the suspension applied to the most appropriate Recognised Team Competition/Competition Group/ Specified Cup Competition detailed within this Protocol and/or the Glasgow Cup competition, as appropriate. Such suspension shall not be served in the Club Academy Scotland competition.
14. A suspension as a result of a player breaching Disciplinary Rule 202 (Excessive Misconduct) shall apply to all football and will be served by the player's Recognised Team playing the requisite number of matches.
15. A suspension which has been imposed as a result of the application of these Disciplinary Procedures and which has not, for whatever reason, been served/transferred/re-applied for a period of three years following imposition shall be regarded as void. This provision shall not apply to any suspension imposed by a Tribunal in accordance with the Protocol.
16. Where a player is suspended in respect of a match but nevertheless represents his club at that match in breach of that suspension, that player cannot subsequently serve that suspension voluntarily. The period of suspension unserved can only be re-imposed along with any other sanction imposed, by a Tribunal, in the event that the said Tribunal Determines that a breach of suspension has occurred.

Part F Rules Regarding Suspensions for Serious Foul Play (A1), Violent Conduct (A2) and Spitting (A3)

Suspensions incurred as a result of a player being reported for the sending-off offences of Serious Foul Play, Violent Conduct or Spitting at an Opponent or Any Other Person will be served as follows:

1. Recognised First Team Players

- 1.1 A Recognised First Team Player sent off in a First Team match (other than in a Specified Cup Competition) will be suspended for his club's next two First Team matches, irrespective of the competition and including Specified Cup Competitions, as applicable.
- 1.2 A Recognised First Team Player sent off in a First Team Specified Cup Competition match will be suspended for two matches applied as follows:
 - one match will apply immediately to the player's club's next First Team match irrespective of competition and;
 - one match will apply immediately to the next match the player's club plays in that Specified Cup Competition.
- 1.3 A Recognised First Team Player sent off in a Reserve Team match will be suspended for his club's next two First Team matches, irrespective of the competition and including Specified Cup Competitions, as applicable.
- 1.4 A Recognised First Team Player sent off in a match played under the auspices of a District or County Football Association will be suspended for his club's next two First Team matches, irrespective of the competition and including Specified Cup Competitions, as applicable.
- 1.5 A Recognised First Team Player sent off in a match not included in the Scottish FA's Register of Competitions will be suspended for his club's next two First Team matches, irrespective of the competition and including Specified Cup Competitions, as applicable.

2. Recognised Reserve Team Players

- 2.1 A Recognised Reserve Team Player sent off in a Reserve Team match will be suspended for his club's next two Reserve Team matches, to include any match his club has in the Scottish FA Youth Cup.
- 2.2 A Recognised Reserve Team Player sent off in a First Team match (other than in a Specified Cup Competition) will be suspended for his club's next two Reserve Team/First Team matches, irrespective of the competition and including Specified Cup Competitions, as applicable.
- 2.3 A Recognised Reserve Team Player sent off in a First Team Specified Cup Competition match will be suspended for two matches applied as follows:
 - one match will apply immediately to the player's club's next Reserve Team/First Team match irrespective of competition and;
 - one match will apply immediately to the next match the player's club plays in that Specified Cup Competition.
- 2.4 A Recognised Reserve Team Player sent off in a Youth Team match (other than in a Specified Cup Competition) will be suspended for his club's next two Reserve Team matches.
- 2.5 A Recognised Reserve Team Player sent off in a Youth Team Specified Cup Competition match will be suspended for two matches applied as follows:
 - one match will apply immediately to the player's club's next Reserve Team match and;
 - one match will apply immediately to the next match the player's club plays in that Specified Cup Competition.
- 2.6 A Recognised Reserve Team Player sent off in a match played under the auspices of a District or County Football Association will be suspended for his club's next two Reserve Team matches.

- 2.7 A Recognised Reserve Team Player sent off in a match not included in the Scottish FA's Register of Competitions will be suspended for his club's next two Reserve Team matches.
- 2.8 A Recognised Reserve Team Player sent off in a Youth Team match will be suspended for his club's next two Reserve Team matches.

3. Recognised Youth Team Players

- 3.1 A Recognised Youth Team Player sent off in a Youth Team match (other than in a Specified Cup Competition) will be suspended for his club's next two Youth Team matches, irrespective of competition and including Specified Cup Competitions, as applicable.
- 3.2 A Recognised Youth Team Player sent off in a Youth Team Specified Cup Competition match will be suspended for two matches applied as follows:
- one match will apply immediately to the player's club's next Youth Team match irrespective of competition: and
 - one match will apply immediately to the next match the player's club plays in that Specified Cup Competition.
- 3.3 A Recognised Youth Team Player sent off in a First Team match (other than in a Specified Cup Competition) will be suspended for his club's next two Youth Team/First Team matches, irrespective of competition and including Specified Cup Competitions, as applicable.
- 3.4 A Recognised Youth Team Player sent off in a First Team Specified Cup Competition match will be suspended for two matches applied as follows:
- one match will apply immediately to the player's club's next Youth Team/First Team match irrespective of competition: and
 - one match will apply immediately to the next match the player's club plays in that Specified Cup Competition.
- 3.5 A Recognised Youth Team Player sent off in a Reserve Team match will be suspended for his club's next two Youth Team/Reserve Team matches, irrespective of competition and including Specified Cup Competitions, as applicable.
- 3.6 A Recognised Youth Team Player sent off in a match played under the auspices of a District or County Football Association will be suspended for his club's next two Youth Team matches, irrespective of competition and including Specified Cup Competitions, as applicable.
- 3.7 A Recognised Youth Team Player sent off in a match not included in the Scottish FA's Register of Competitions will be suspended for his club's next two Youth Team matches, irrespective of competition and including Specified Cup Competitions, as applicable.

