

ANNEX C

DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES FOR PLAYERS

SECTION 1: GENERAL

1.1 This Annex is set out in five sections:-

Section 1: General

Section 2: Offences/Excessive Misconduct

Section 3: Schedule of Offences

Section 4: Suspensions for players in Men's football

Part A: Competitions

Part B: Competition Groups

Part C: Specified Cup Competitions

Part D: Other, Non-Specified Competitions and Friendlies

Part E: General Rules for player Suspensions

Part F: Rules Regarding Suspensions for Serious Foul Play, Violent Conduct, Spitting

Section 5: Suspensions for players in Women's football

1.2 These Disciplinary Procedures shall apply to football involving:

- i) member clubs;
- ii) clubs playing in competitions included in the Scottish FA's Register of Competitions involving a member club; and
- iii) clubs in membership of the Scottish Junior FA which are eligible to compete in the Scottish Cup, in respect of their participation in that competition.
- iv) competitions organised by the Scottish Women's Premier League, the Scottish Women's Football Leagues and Scottish Women's Football played under the jurisdiction of the Scottish FA:
 - a) The Scottish Women's Premier League
 - b) The Scottish Women's Premier League Cup
 - c) The Scottish Women's Football Leagues
 - d) The Scottish Women's Football League Cup
 - e) The Scottish Women's Development League
 - f) The Scottish Women's Cup

1.3 These Disciplinary Procedures shall apply to all players registered or playing for clubs as defined by the foregoing paragraph, and also to players who are not participating in a match as either a player or named substitute.

1.4 Match officials shall report cautionable and sending-off offences and/or Excessive Misconduct by players at a match in terms of these Disciplinary Procedures. For the avoidance of doubt, references to cautionable and sending-off offences and/or Excessive Misconduct "at a match" shall include incidents and/or any breaches of the Disciplinary Rule(s) occurring at or in the environs of or associated with a match.

1.5 The Scottish FA shall administer suspensions of players under these Disciplinary Procedures.

1.6 Any sending-off offence reported in a match which is abandoned or declared void will apply notwithstanding the abandonment/voiding of the match.

- 1.7 Any cautions reported in a match that is abandoned or declared void shall not apply except where the match is abandoned or declared void due to a player acting in breach of the Disciplinary Rules.
- 1.8 The applicable suspension for sending-off offences shall apply to both reported offences and Determinations in respect of a CO Reference.
- 1.9 If a club is in any doubt whatsoever regarding which match(es) a player is suspended for, they should contact the Scottish FA for clarification.
- 1.10 Failure to contact the Scottish FA for clarification will constitute a waiver of a club/player's right to argue that they were not aware of which match(es) a player was due to be suspended for.
- 1.11 Definitions for this Annex C:
- 1.11.1 A player's Recognised Team is defined as the team in which the player normally plays (i.e. First Team/ Reserve Team/Youth Team). In cases where a player is regularly listed for more than one of his club's teams, his level of participation for each team will be used to Determine by which Category the player should be recognised (i.e. whichever team he has the most appearances for will be the one used for categorisation purposes). If a player has the same number of appearances for two or more teams, the highest Category team will be his Recognised Team.
- 1.11.2 The following definitions shall apply:-
- "Recognised First Team Player"
a player who has been named in the team list for any of his club's (or his previously registered club's) 25 first team matches preceding the date of his offence.
- "Recognised Reserve Team Player"
a player who has been named in the team list for any of his club's (or his previously registered club's) 25 reserve team matches preceding the date of his offence.
- "Recognised Youth Team Player"
a player who has been named in the team list for any of his club's (or his previously registered club's) 25 youth team matches preceding the date of his offence.

SECTION 2: OFFENCES/EXCESSIVE MISCONDUCT

1. Reporting of Offences by Match Officials

- 1.1 The referee shall administer cautions and sendings-off in accordance with the Laws of the Game and report them to the Scottish FA.
- 1.2 A caution or sending-off is not nullified by a referee failing to show the player the appropriate card when administering the caution or sending-off to the player or by any other omission by a referee.
- 1.3 The referee shall also report offences by players, providing details, where the referee cannot administer a caution or sending-off for the offence but otherwise would have done so (for example because the player has already been dismissed during the match). Such offences, and offences for which a caution or sending-off has been administered, shall all be treated as cautionable or sending-off offences, as applicable, in these Disciplinary Procedures.
- 1.4 Where the referee intends to report an offence under clause 1.3, he shall generally inform an appropriate member of Team Staff or Team Official of his intention as soon as possible after the match.
- 1.5 Where a match official considers that a player has committed Excessive Misconduct at a match that should be referred to the Disciplinary Tribunal, they shall submit an Excessive Misconduct Report.

2. Recording of Offences

2.1 General

2.1.1 The Scottish FA records cautionable and sending-off offences committed by players of:

- 2.1.1.1 member clubs;
- 2.1.1.2 clubs playing in competitions included in the Scottish FA's Register of Competitions involving a member club;
- 2.1.1.3 clubs in membership of the Scottish Junior FA which are eligible to compete in the Scottish Cup, in respect of their participation in that competition; and
- 2.1.1.4 women's clubs playing in the competitions listed at paragraph 1.2 (iv) of Section 1 of this Annex.

2.1.2 The Scottish FA records cautionable and sending-off offences committed by the players referred to at clause 2.1.1 above at matches in cup competitions which are not Specified Cup Competitions (as detailed in Section 4 of these Disciplinary Procedures) and/or matches in competitions not listed within the Scottish FA's Register of Competitions, including where reports are received from other National Associations, the confederations or FIFA in respect of matches played outside Scotland, in which cases the cautionable and sending-off offences shall be recorded in the player's recognised League disciplinary record.

2.1.3 The Scottish FA maintains appropriate disciplinary records in order to give effect to suspensions in accordance with Sections 4 and 5 of these Disciplinary Procedures.

2.2 Cautionable Offences

2.2.1 The Scottish FA records cautionable offences reported by referees and confirms to players, via their clubs, the cautionable offences recorded against them and the total number of cautionable offences recorded against them to date.

2.2.2 Where a player is sent off for receiving a second caution in the same match, such cautions shall not be recorded against the player's accumulation of cautionable offences.

2.3 Sending-off Offences

2.3.1 The Scottish FA records sending-off offences reported by referees and confirms to players, via their clubs, the sending-off offences recorded against them and that they are subject to an automatic suspension under Section 4 or 5 of these Disciplinary Procedures. For the avoidance of doubt an automatic suspension applies immediately and is not dependent upon confirmation by the Scottish FA.

2.3.2 The Scottish FA records and confirms a sending-off offence for "receiving a second cautionable offence in the same match" where the referee administers a caution to a player at a match under clause 1.1, and reports a subsequent cautionable offence by that player at the same match under clause 1.3.

2.4 Excessive Misconduct

2.4.1 Where match officials submit Excessive Misconduct Reports relating to sending-off offences, the Scottish FA records the sending-off offences and confirms to players, via their clubs, the sending-off offences recorded against them and that they are subject to an automatic suspension applicable under Section 4 or 5 of these Disciplinary Procedures. For the avoidance of doubt an automatic suspension applies immediately and is not dependent upon confirmation by the Scottish FA. The Scottish FA also refers Excessive Misconduct Reports to the Compliance Officer.

2.5 Misconduct in Non Specified Matches

2.5.1 In cases where cautionable and/or sending off offences involving players are reported from a match or Competition not specified within this Annex C, such offences will be recorded against the players' Recognised Team disciplinary record as per Part D of this Annex C.

SECTION 3: SCHEDULE OF OFFENCES

Sending-Off Offences

- A1 Serious foul play
- A2 Violent conduct
- A3 Spitting at an opponent or any other person
- A4 Denying the opposing team or an opponent a goal or an obvious goal scoring opportunity as defined by law 12
- A5 Offensive, insulting or abusive language and/or gestures
- A6 Receiving a second caution in the same match

Cautionable Offences

- B1 Unsporting Behaviour

There are different circumstances when a player must be cautioned for unsporting behaviour which include, but are not limited to, when a player:

- a) Impedes an opponent with contact
- b) Recklessly trips or attempts to trip an opponent
- c) Recklessly tackles or challenges an opponent
- d) Recklessly kicks or attempts to kick an opponent
- e) Denies an opponent an obvious goal scoring opportunity as defined by Law 12
- f) Holds or pushes an opponent
- g) Commits an offence which interferes with or stops a promising attack outwith the penalty area
- h) Excessively celebrates the scoring of a goal as defined by Law 12
- i) Handles the ball deliberately
- j) Shows a lack of respect for the game
- k) Commits an act of simulation
- l) Commits any other offence(s) deemed by a match official to be unsporting behaviour

- B2 Dissent by Word or Action
- B3 Persistently offending against Laws of the Game
- B4 Delaying the restart of play
- B5 Failing to respect the required distance at restart of play
- B6 Entering or re-entering or deliberately leaving the field of play without the referee's permission

