

OEFN SCHEDULE NINETEEN

Unbecoming Conduct – Investigation Rules and Procedure

30.2 Unbecoming Conduct:

- (a) (i) The League, League Executive members, Club, Player, League or an Outer East Football Netball appointed official, who alleges that a player or an official of a club, umpire, official of an umpires' Association, Outer East Football Netball Official, League official, Club, player advocate, or League appointed official has been guilty of conduct which is unbecoming to a player, umpire, such official, or club, or which has or is likely to bring the game of football into disrepute, may lodge with the League a Notice in writing setting out particulars of the allegation. Unless the notice is lodged by the League a deposit of \$500 shall accompany the notice which shall be forfeited in whole or part in the event that the Investigation Officer or Independent Tribunal considers it frivolous. A Notice under this paragraph must be lodged with the League within five days after the date of the act or omission to which it relates unless the League agrees to extend this period to a maximum of thirty (30) days. An extension agreed to by the League may be subject to such conditions as the League thinks fit and such request for an extension is to be provided to the League in writing outlining the reasons for the extension request. When a League grants an extension it shall do so in writing and advise all parties to the matter.
- (ii) Within two (2) days of the request for an investigation the League is required to provide all parties notification of the investigation outlining details of the requested incident or matter for investigation.
- (b) Notice of any allegation received under paragraph (a) shall be referred to the Investigation Officer for investigation by them. The Investigation Officer may investigate the allegation as he sees fit. Such investigation shall be completed within 10 days of the matter being referred to the Investigation Officer unless, at the completion of the 10 days, one (1) extension of time being not more than ten (10) days is then granted by the League at the request of the Investigation Officer. Request for extension of time must be received in writing by the League.
- (c) If the Investigation Officer, after investigation of the allegation, is of the opinion that the Player, Official or Club in question may have been guilty of conduct unbecoming to a Player, an Official or Club or is likely to bring the game of football into disrepute and that the allegation ought to be dealt with by the League Independent Tribunal as hereinafter provided, they may lodge with the League a Notice in writing setting out details of the allegation.
- (d) If a Notice is lodged with the League under paragraph (c), the League administrator who appointed the investigator may provide the alleged offender/s the discretion to plead guilty and take the relevant set penalty for the alleged offence as described in the set penalty schedule below. If a player wishes to enter an early guilty plea and accept the minimum set penalty offered by the League, the players club secretary must contact the League administrator no later than 12 noon on the first business day following the release of the Investigation officer's findings. Such request shall be made in writing and delivered by email to the League Secretary/General Manager/ CEO. If the alleged offence falls outside of the offences listed within the set penalty schedule below or either the investigation officer, player/s being investigated, the player/s allegedly offended against, the League or the President / Secretary of either club request that the matter proceeds to tribunal, by no later than 12 noon on the first business day following the release of the Investigation officer's findings, then no set penalty will be offered and the matter will be dealt with according to section (e) of Rule 30.2.

Set Penalty Schedule:

- (a) (i) intentionally striking another person (2 match set penalty) OR carelessly striking another person (1 match set penalty)
(iv) charging another person (2 match set penalty)
(v) intentionally engaging in rough conduct against an opponent (2 match set penalty) OR carelessly engaging in rough conduct against an opponent (1 match set penalty)
(ix) making unreasonable or unnecessary contact to the face of an opponent (1 match set penalty)
(x) scratching another person (1 match set penalty)
(xi) tripping another person whether by hand, arm, foot or leg (1 match set penalty)
(h) using abusive, insulting, or obscene language towards or in relation to an umpire (2 match set penalty)
(j) carelessly making contact with an umpire (2 match set penalty)
(k) disputing a decision of an umpire (1 match set penalty)
(m) attempting to strike another person (1 match set penalty)
(n) attempting to kick another person ((2 match set penalty)
(o) attempting to trip another person whether by hand, arm, foot or leg (1 match set penalty)
(p) making unreasonable or unnecessary contact with an injured player (2 match set penalty)
(q) engaging in a melee, (1 match set penalty)
(r) instigating a melee (2 match set penalty)
(s) wrestling another person (1 match set penalty)
(t) pinching another person (1 match set penalty)
(u) engaging in an act of staging (1 match set penalty)
(v) using abusive, insulting, threatening or obscene language (1 match set penalty)
(w) use of an obscene gesture (1 match set penalty)
(x) engaging in time wasting (1 match set penalty)
(y) interfering with a player kicking for goal (1 match set penalty)
(z) intentionally shaking, climbing or otherwise interfering with a goal or behind post (1 match set penalty)
(aa) failing to leave the playing surface when directed to do so by an umpire (2 match set penalty)
(bb) wearing boots, jewellery and equipment prohibited under Law 9 of the AFL Laws of Australian Football (1 match set penalty).
- (e) If a Notice is lodged with the League under paragraph (c), and the League determines that it should be heard at Tribunal the League Secretary shall fix a date, time and place for the hearing of the allegation before the League Independent Tribunal, being a date not later than 9 days after lodgement of the Notice and shall advise the Player, official or club, in question of those particulars and forward to the Player, Official, or club, care of the Club Secretary in question a copy, with a copy also to be forwarded to the Club Secretary of the Notice lodged under paragraph (c). Such notices shall be forwarded only to the charged player or official or club prior to the Hearing with such notice to be forwarded to the player and club at least 48 hours prior to the Hearing and the charged player or official or club shall be informed at the time as to whom it is proposed to call as witnesses.
Notices should include any other relevant information pertaining to the matter at hand.
- (f) In any proceeding brought before a Tribunal or Appeals Board under this rule the Investigation Officer may personally appear before it and lay the necessary charge or charges and act as the prosecuting officer for the League.



- (g) If the League Independent Tribunal is of the opinion that the Player, Official or Club in question has engaged in unbecoming conduct or conduct which has or is likely to bring the game of football into disrepute, it may make such orders and give such directions in the matter as it thinks fit. Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, the League Independent Tribunal:–
- (i) may impose a fine of such amount as it thinks fit on the Player, Official or club in question: or
 - (ii) must suspend the Player, Official or Club in question for such matches as it thinks fit, if the Player, Official or Club is found guilty.
- (h) In any hearing before an Outer East Football Netball Appeal Board the Investigations Officer will be the informant and witness for the league or Association but will usually not be the prosecuting advocate in the hearing.