

OEFN SCHEDULE 16 - REPORTING PLAYERS AND OFFICIALS

References to AFL Laws of the Game Rule 22.0 and as per below, as well as National Community Football Policy Handbook 25.5 (Suspension of a person) listed on page 4 of this schedule.

22.1 OBLIGATION TO REPORT

22.1.1 to Controlling Body

An Umpire shall report to the OEFN any Player or Official who commits or engages in conduct which may constitute a Reportable Offence:

- (a) during a Match; or
- (b) on the day of the Match and Within the Immediate Proximity of the Arena where the Match is conducted.

22.1.2 Other Appointed Persons

In addition to an Umpire, OEFN may authorise a person or persons to report any Player or Official who commits or engages in conduct which may constitute a Reportable Offence. Any person so authorised shall have the same powers and duties as imposed upon an Umpire under this AFL Laws of the game rule 22.

22.2 REPORTABLE OFFENCES

22.2.1 Degree of Intent – Clarification

Where any of the Reportable Offences listed in AFL Laws of the game rule 22.2.2 specify that conduct may be intentional or careless:

- (a) any report or notice of report which does not allege whether the conduct was intentional or careless shall be deemed to and be read as alleging that the conduct was either intentional or careless; and
- (b) the Tribunal or other body appointed to hear and determine the report may find the report proven if it is satisfied on the balance of probabilities that the conduct was either intentional or careless.

22.3 REPORTING PROCEDURE

22.3.1 Reports During a Match

- (a) Where an Umpire reports a Player or Official during the course of a Match, the Umpire shall use their best endeavours to inform the Player or Official of the report:
 - (i) at the time of the incident;
 - (ii) before the commencement of the next quarter; or
 - (iii) where the incident occurs in the final quarter, after the completion of the Match.
- (b) The Umpire shall use their best endeavours to inform the person against whom the Reportable Offence has been committed (if applicable).
- (c) An Umpire may inform the captain, acting captain or Official of a Team of the report where it is impracticable to inform the Player or Official who has been reported.
- (d) Apart from informing a Player or Official of the report, an Umpire shall not speak with the reported Player or Official or any other Player or Official about the report which has been made.

22.3.2 Completing Notice of Report

- (a) During or after the completion of the Match, the Umpire shall complete a notice of report in the form prescribed by OEFN.
- (b) OEFN shall adopt rules which prescribe the procedures for the lodgement and notification of notices of report.

22.4 SANCTIONS AND SUSPENSIONS

22.4.1 Controlling Body

- (a) OEFN shall hear and determine a report made against a Player or Official and if the report is proven, may impose such sanctions (including suspension for any term or a monetary sanction), make such orders and give such directions in each case as it in its absolute discretion thinks fit.
- (b) OEFN may prescribe set sanctions for Reportable Offences.

22.4.2 Delegation

OEFN may delegate the power to investigate, hear and determine a report to a Tribunal or other similar body duly established and constituted in accordance with OEFN's Constitution.

22.4.3 Rules

OEFN shall adopt Rules which prescribe the procedures for the hearing and determination of a report. Such Rules must prescribe that the person reported be given a reasonable opportunity to be heard.

22.4.4 Effect of Suspension

- (a) Unless Law 22.4.4(d) or 22.4.4(e) applies, a Player or Official suspended by OEFN is, for the period of the suspension, or while the suspension remains unserved, prohibited from playing or participating in a Match conducted by OEFN imposing the suspension and a Match conducted by any other Controlling Body.
- (b) Where a suspended Player or Official transfers from one Club to another Club competing in the same or another competition, the Player or Official shall complete the period of suspension with their new Club if that Club competes in a competition conducted during the same period as the Club from which the Player has transferred.
- (c) OEFN may still require a Player or Official to complete any period of a suspension imposed by OEFN, if the Player or Official returns to the competition conducted by OEFN within 12 months of completing the suspension in another competition. This Law applies even though the Player or Official has completed the suspension in another competition.
- (d) A Player or Official who has been suspended from playing or participating in a competition conducted primarily between 31 March and 30 September may, upon obtaining the prior written approval of OEFN who imposed the suspension, play or participate in a competition conducted primarily between 1 October and 31 March.
- (e) A Player or Official who has been suspended from playing or participating in a competition conducted primarily between 1 October and 31 March may, upon obtaining the prior written approval of OEFN which imposed the suspension, play or participate in a competition conducted primarily between 31 March and 1 October.

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Referencing 25.5 Suspension of a person

- (a) Where a sanction imposed under Section 22.3, 23.4(b)(ii) or 25.4 is a suspension that suspension must be expressed as a number of Matches.
- (b) A person suspended:
- (i) must serve such suspension in the grade in which the Person played or participated immediately prior to such suspension;
 - (ii) may not serve the suspension in any pre-season or off-season Matches but may participate in such Matches unless otherwise determined by OEFN.
 - (iii) may not serve the suspension in any practice or trial matches;
 - (iv) may participate in practice or trial matches unless otherwise determined by OEFN;
 - (v) may not serve the suspension in any Competition bye round or where the relevant Person's team has a bye;
 - (vi) may not serve the suspension in any cancelled or forfeited Matches unless otherwise determined by OEFN;
 - (vii) in a junior Competition and graduating to a senior Competition must serve the suspension in the senior Competition;
 - (viii) who is transferring from one Competition to another Competition will carry over any suspensions to the new Competition;
 - (ix) during a split round may not serve the suspension in that same round in another grade (including representative football);
 - (x) who is seeking to appeal the suspension is subject to Section 26.4(b) of the NCFPH;
 - (xi) who received more than one suspension in respect of the same Match or incident is subject to Clause 7(d) of Appendix 1 of the NCFPH;
 - (xii) (other than a Player suspended for a Reportable Offence) may not communicate with any Football Official on Match day for the duration of their suspension;
 - (xiii) (other than a Player suspended for a Reportable Offence), may not enter the playing area of Club change rooms at any Match of Match day for the duration of their suspension;
 - (xiv) may not perform any Football Official duties on Match day for the duration of their suspension, including any role that would require that Person to be entered on a team sheet. *[Guidance note: For example, a suspended Player cannot play or perform the role of runner or assistant coach during their suspension period.]*



- (c) Unless otherwise specified by OEFN in exceptional and compelling circumstances, a suspended Person will not be eligible to play, coach or otherwise be involved in representative football if the representative fixture occurs while the Person is serving the suspension. The representative fixture will not count as part of the suspension.
- (d) Where a Person is suspended, and a scenario arises with respect to the application of that suspension that is not specifically dealt with in Sections 25.5(b) and 25.5(c) of the NCFPH, then OEFN may apply the suspension at their discretion (acting reasonably and having regard to the principles set out in Section 25.5(b) and 25.5(c)) of the NCFPH. If two Controlling Bodies are involved, both Controlling Bodies must agree on the application of the suspension under this Section 25.5(d).
- (e) Where a matter cannot be resolved under Section 25.5(d) of the NCFPH, an involved Controlling Body may refer the matter to the AFL for resolution.
- (f) Law 22.4 of the Laws of the Game will apply in conjunction with this Section 25.5 in relation to all Persons suspended by the Tribunal.