

ON-FIELD DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES

PART 4

For Players associated with teams competing in the National League (North and South Divisions), the Isthmian League, the Northern Premier League and the Southern League.

1. GENERAL

- (a) Clubs may participate in a pilot programme of The Association as set out by Council and will be required to abide by the regulations and terms of that programme.
- (b) The Standard Directions set out at Schedule B and C will also apply to Misconduct Charges brought by The Association under these Procedures for teams competing in the National League (North and South Divisions), the Isthmian League, the Northern Premier League and the Southern League, save that any time limits provided for in those Schedules shall not apply.

2. REPORTING OF OFFENCES BY MATCH OFFICIALS

- (a) **Caution Offences**
Referees must submit to The Association within two days of the match (Sundays not included) a report stating the offence and giving a description of the incident.
- (b) **Sending Off Offences**
Referees and Assistant Referees must submit to The Association within two days of the match (Sundays not included) a report stating the offence(s) and giving a description of the incident(s).
- (c) If a Referee omits to show the appropriate card when taking action against a Player, this does not nullify the caution or sending off offence. However, the attention of the Referee should be drawn to the correct procedure.

3. CAUTION OFFENCES

A Player who has been cautioned in any match, will be notified through his Club by The Association of the offence reported by the Referee, the total number of cautions recorded against the Player during the current playing season and at the same time, will be advised of any punishment resulting from the accumulation of cautions. An administration fee of £10.00 will be charged for the processing of each report. Any such punishment will take effect regardless of whether or not the notification of it from The Association is received before it is due to take effect in accordance with these Procedures.

4. SENDING OFF OFFENCES

A Player who has been sent off in any match under the provisions of Law 12 will be notified through his Club by The Association of the offence reported by the Referee, and at the same time advised that he will be subject to the agreed standard punishment (see paragraph 8 below). An administration fee of £10.00 will be charged for the processing of each report. Any such punishment will take effect regardless of whether or not the notification of it from The Association is received before it is due to take effect in accordance with these Procedures.

5. SUSPENSIONS

During periods of automatic suspensions the Player is suspended from playing only for Saturday football (including midweek fixtures) at Step 4 of the National League System and above, save for dismissal for Law 12(1) (2) and (3) in accordance with paragraphs 11(e) and 11(f) below where the suspension is from all Saturday football at all categories of football. If the suspension is as a result of a Misconduct charge, during the whole period of suspension the Player is suspended from playing all football (including friendly matches and other Cup

Competitions). The categories of football affected by this paragraph are Saturday, Sunday, Midweek, Veterans and Representative football. This will be deemed as a suspension from playing only, unless specified otherwise by a Regulatory Commission.

If an automatic suspension arises from a send-off, or as a result of cautions accumulated under paragraph 11(a) below, a Player will remain eligible to play in matches that cannot be used to clear a Player's suspension outlined above.

In exceptional cases where an application has been made to The Association by the Player that the suspension is disproportionately harsh, due to the period taken to serve it, the matter may be reviewed only by The Association and may be amended to a category-specific suspension, at The Association's discretion.

6. CLAIMS OF MISTAKEN IDENTITY

In the case of a claim of alleged mistaken identity concerning a Player cautioned or sent off in a match, the Players concerned and the Club must within three working days of the match submit in writing to The Association particulars upon which the claim is founded, including the right to claim wrongful dismissal. If The Association is satisfied that the claim warrants further investigation, a Regulatory Commission shall be convened and will meet within the 14 days before any automatic penalty is due to take effect. If the Regulatory Commission is satisfied that mistaken identity has been proven in a case, the record of the offence will be transferred to the appropriate offender, who will be subject to disciplinary action in accordance with these Procedures.

The relevant fee is £125 which is only payable in the event that the claim is unsuccessful. The Association may collect the fee in any manner it deems appropriate.

7. CLAIMS OF WRONGFUL DISMISSAL

In the case of a claim of wrongful dismissal for offences with a penalty imposed under the Laws of the Game of an immediate dismissal (this excludes Law S6, the use of offensive or insulting or abusive language/gestures and Law S7 - receiving a second caution in the same match), an indication by e-mail (disciplinary@thefa.com) by 5pm on the second working day following the game is required to alert The Association that a claim is to be submitted. Evidence upon which the claim is founded, which must include a video and/or DVD recording showing the incident, must be submitted by the Player concerned and his Club, and must be received by The Association by 5pm on the fourth working day following the match (as follows).

Saturday	-	Thursday
Sunday	-	Thursday
Monday	-	Friday
Tuesday	-	Monday
Wednesday	-	Tuesday
Thursday	-	Wednesday
Friday	-	Thursday

(If Bank Holidays fall within the period, the appropriate number of extra days will be made available.)

Once the claim is lodged with The Association and it is confirmed that the video and/or DVD shows the incident as reported by the Referee/Assistant Referee and the claim has conformed with the criteria, the Club will then be advised whether the claim has been accepted or not.

An accepted claim will be placed before a Regulatory Commission by the 8th working day following the match and in all cases by 6pm on the day before the commencement

of the scheduled commencement of the sanction. The Club, Player and Match Officials will NOT be invited to attend. The Regulatory Commission will be dealing with the level of punishment only. The dismissal from the field of play will always remain on the record of the Club and the Player and be the subject of the administration fee and the appropriate number of penalty points for a sending off.

A claim may be withdrawn at any stage prior to it being heard by a Regulatory Commission without the relevant fee being payable.

The only decisions available to the Regulatory Commission are:-

- (i) The punishment will remain with the fee being payable;
- (ii) Only where the Regulatory Commission is satisfied that the Referee made an obvious error in dismissing the Player, the punishment will be withdrawn, the fee waived and that paragraph 11(g) below will not be invoked if the Player is sent off again following the offence.

The relevant fee is £125, which is only payable in the event that the claim is unsuccessful. The Association may collect the fee in any manner it deems appropriate.

8. NON-FIRST TEAM MATCHES

Misconduct reported from matches not deemed to be a FTCM (First Team Competitive Match) will be dealt with by the County Association to which the Club is affiliated. The Player will have the right to request an appeal against decisions of County Associations in accordance with the Rules and Regulations of The Association.

DISMISSALS – EXCEPTIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES

Paragraphs 9 and 10 below are intended to apply only in truly exceptional circumstances. Regulatory Commissions considering cases under these paragraphs will be specifically instructed to approach them in this way. It is envisaged that, in the vast majority of dismissals, the standard punishments set out in these Procedures will be appropriate and will be applied.

The facilities available under paragraphs 9 and 10 below are provided only so exceptional cases may be rectified. They are not intended to encourage or lead to the systematic, regular review of standard punishments, and are reserved for truly exceptional cases.

9. DISMISSALS – CLAIMS THAT THE STANDARD PUNISHMENT IS CLEARLY EXCESSIVE

- (a) A Player and his Club may in very limited circumstances seek to limit the disciplinary consequences of the dismissal of a Player from the field of play by demonstrating to The Association that the circumstances of a particular dismissal were truly exceptional, such that the standard punishment applicable to that dismissal (as set out in paragraph 11 below) would be clearly excessive.
- (b) All Players dismissed from the field of play shall be subject to at least a one match suspension, save for where a successful claim for wrongful dismissal is brought.
- (c) Claims that the standard punishment is clearly excessive brought under this paragraph 9 may be lodged only for on-field offences which result in a sending off under Law 12(6) (offensive or insulting or abusive language/gestures), 12(1) (serious foul play), 12(2) (violent conduct) or 12(3) (spitting).
- (d) The Regulatory Commission that considers a claim of this type is concerned with only the question of whether the standard punishment should not be imposed in view of the truly exceptional facts of the case. This role is not to usurp the role of the Referee and the correctness of the dismissal from the field of play shall not be subject to any scrutiny by the Regulatory Commission, will remain on the record of the Club and the Player, will remain the subject of the administration fee and will accrue the appropriate number of penalty points for a first team sending off.

- (e) The Club on behalf of the Player must, by 5pm on the second working day following the game, notify The Association by e-mail (Disciplinary@TheFA.com) of their intention to submit a claim. The claim will NOT proceed if this deadline is not met. The evidence upon which the claim is founded (which must include a video and/or DVD recording showing the incident from all available angles), must be submitted by the Player concerned or his Club by 5pm on the fourth working day following the incident. The claim must explain why the case is truly exceptional. The relevant fee is £125.

The fee is only payable in the event that the claim is unsuccessful. The Association may collect the fee in any manner it deems appropriate.

Failure to pay the fee in these circumstances will result in disciplinary action against the claimant.

A claim may be withdrawn at any stage prior to it being heard by a Regulatory Commission without the relevant fee being payable.

- (f) The Claim will be determined based on video and/or DVD and written evidence only.
The Match Officials, Club and Player are not entitled to be present or represented at the Regulatory Commission.
- (g) Players and Clubs should note that the time limits set out above are strict. Only complete claims submitted before the relevant deadlines will be considered by The Association.
- (h) Once the claim is lodged with The Association it will confirm that the video and/or DVD shows the incident as reported by the Referee/Assistant Referee and the claim has conformed with the criteria.
- (i) If possible, prior to the commencement of the suspension, but in all cases before the second match that the Player would miss were the standard punishment to apply to the dismissal that is the subject of the claim, a Regulatory Commission will be convened to decide the matter on any relevant documentary and video and/or DVD evidence submitted. The following procedures will be used at a Regulatory Commission unless the Regulatory Commission thinks it appropriate to amend them:

The Regulatory Commission Secretary will produce:

- I.
 - (i) The Referee's report, reports from any other Match Official and any other evidence supporting the Referee's action.
 - (ii) All statements and video and other evidence provided in support of the claim, including details of the Player;
- II. After considering the evidence, the Regulatory Commission will decide whether the claim should be rejected or successful.
- III. A claim will only be successful under this paragraph 9 where a Claimant satisfies the Regulatory Commission so that it is sure that –
 - (a) The circumstances of the dismissal under review are truly exceptional, such that the standard punishment should not be applied; and
 - (b) As a result of the truly exceptional circumstances the standard punishment would be clearly excessive.
- IV. In considering the matters at paragraph 9(i)(III) above, the Regulatory Commission shall have regard to:
 - (a) The applicable Law(s) of the Game and any relevant FIFA instructions and/or guidelines;
 - (b) The nature of the dismissal offence, and in particular any intent, recklessness, negligence or other state of mind of the Player;
 - (c) Where applicable, the level of force used;

- (d) Any injury to an opponent caused by the dismissal offence;
- (e) Any other impact on the game in which the dismissal occurred;
- (f) The prevalence of the type of offence in question in football generally;
- (g) The wider interests of football in applying consistent punishments for dismissal offences.
- V. If the Regulatory Commission's decision is to reject the claim, it will, in every case, go on to consider whether or not the Player's punishment should be increased. If the Regulatory Commission considers that the rejected claim had no prospect of success and/or amounts to an abuse of process, the Regulatory Commission shall have the discretion to increase the penalty up to twice the standard punishment set out in these Procedures.
- In all other cases where a claim is rejected, the Player reported by the Referee shall serve the standard punishment as set out in these Procedures. In all cases where a claim is rejected the fee shall be forfeited.
- VI. If the Regulatory Commission's decision is that the claim is successful, the standard punishment set out in these Procedures is set aside.
- The Regulatory Commission will then decide on the punishment to be applied to the Player in respect of the dismissal. This shall be in all cases a suspension of at least one match.
- In deciding on such punishment, the Regulatory Commission shall have regard to those factors listed at paragraph 9(i)(IV)(a) to (g) above.
- The decision shall be conveyed to the Regulatory Commission Secretary who shall prepare minutes of the decision of the Regulatory Commission and communicate the decision to the Club that day. The Club must provide the Regulatory Commission with contact details. The fee shall be returned to the Club if it has already been paid.
- (j) As a general guide, the following schedule will apply:
- | Match Day | Notice of Claim | Claim Lodged | Regulatory Commission |
|-------------|-----------------|--------------|-----------------------|
| Fri/Sat/Sun | Monday | Wednesday | Thursday |
- (k) In the event that a Club submits a notification of their intention to claim but fails to complete the claim or withdraws a complete claim prior to it being considered by a Regulatory Commission, and The Association believes that the notification or claim had no prospect of success or amounted to an abuse of process, The Association may issue a charge of Misconduct under Rule E3 of the Rules of The Association.
- (l) The decision of the Regulatory Commission in relation to a claim under this paragraph 9 is final and binding on all parties and is not subject to appeal.
- 10. DISMISSALS – CLAIMS THAT THE STANDARD PUNISHMENT IS CLEARLY INSUFFICIENT**
- (a) All Players dismissed from the field of play shall be subject to at least a one match suspension, save only for where a successful claim for wrongful dismissal is brought.
- (b) The Association may seek to increase the disciplinary consequences of the dismissal of a player from the field of play, where The Association is satisfied that the standard punishment that would otherwise apply following the dismissal is clearly insufficient.
- (c) Claims may be brought under this paragraph 10 only for on-field offences which have resulted in a sending off under Law 12(1) (serious foul play), Law 12(2) (violent conduct), or Law 12(3) (spitting).
- (d) Where The Association brings such a claim, a Referee's report showing that a Player was dismissed for serious foul play under Law 12(1), violent conduct under Law 12(2), or spitting

under Law 12(3) shall be conclusive evidence that the player has breached the relevant Law and shall not be subject to challenge, save for where any such dismissal is subject to a claim for wrongful dismissal.

- (e) The Regulatory Commission that considers a claim of this type is concerned with only the question of whether the standard punishment should not be imposed in view of the truly exceptional facts of the case. This role is not to usurp the role of the Referee and the correctness of the dismissal from the field of play shall not be subject to any scrutiny by the Regulatory Commission, will remain on the record of the Club and the Player, will remain the subject of the administration fee and will accrue the appropriate number of penalty points for a first team sending off.
- (f) Claims brought under this paragraph 10 must be brought by 6pm on the third working day following the game in which the relevant dismissal occurred. Such a claim must include the evidence upon which the claim is founded (which must include the Referee's report and a video and/or DVD recording showing the incident from all available angles).
- (g) A Player must submit any written reply to the claim, including all evidence in support of that response, by 6pm on the third working day following the issue of the claim. If no Reply is received by The Association, the Regulatory Commission shall consider the claim as if it had been denied by the Player.
- (h) Claims brought under this paragraph 10 shall be determined based on video and/or DVD and written evidence only. The Match Officials, Club and Player are not entitled to be present or represented at the Regulatory Commission.
- (i) If possible, prior to the commencement of the suspension, but in all cases before the second match that the Player would miss were the standard punishment to apply to the dismissal that is the subject of the claim, a Regulatory Commission will be convened to decide the matter on any relevant documentary and video and/or DVD evidence submitted. The following procedures will be used at the Regulatory Commission unless the Regulatory Commission thinks it appropriate to amend them:

The Regulatory Commission Secretary will produce:

- I.
 - (i) The Referee's report, reports from any other Match Official and any other evidence supporting the Referee's action.
 - (ii) All statements and video and other evidence provided in support of the claim.
 - (iii) The Reply and all evidence and submissions provided by the Player in response to the claim.
- II. After considering the evidence, the Regulatory Commission will decide whether the claim should be rejected or successful.
- III. A claim will only be successful under this paragraph where The Association satisfies the Regulatory Commission so that it is sure that:
 - (i) The circumstances of the dismissal under review are truly exceptional, such that the standard punishment should not be applied; and
 - (ii) The standard punishment would be clearly insufficient.
- IV. In considering the matters at paragraph 10(i)(III) above, the Regulatory Commission shall have regard to those factors listed at paragraph 9(i)(IV)(a) to (g).
- V. If the Regulatory Commission's decision is to reject the claim, it shall deliberate no further on the claim and the Player shall serve the standard punishment.
- VI. If the Regulatory Commission's decision is that the claim is successful, the standard punishment set out in these Procedures is set aside.

The Regulatory Commission will then decide on the punishment to be applied to the Player in respect of the dismissal.

In deciding on such punishment, the Regulatory Commission shall have regard to the matters at paragraph 10(i)IV above.

Any punishment imposed by the Regulatory Commission shall be limited to a suspension from playing a specified number of matches in addition to the standard punishment ordinarily applicable to the relevant dismissal. The Regulatory Commission shall not impose any other punishment on the Player.

The decision shall be conveyed to the Regulatory Commission Secretary who shall prepare minutes of the decision of the Regulatory Commission and communicate the decision to the Club that day. The Club must provide the Regulatory Commission with contact details.

- (j) As a general guide, the following schedule will apply:

Match Day	Notice and Evidence of Claim	Reply	Regulatory Commission
Fri/Sat/Sun	Wednesday	Following Monday	Following Tuesday

- (k) The decision of the Regulatory Commission in relation to a claim under this paragraph 10 shall be subject to appeal only (i) in the event that the penalty imposed (in addition to the ordinarily applicable standard punishment) is in excess of three matches; (ii) on the single ground that the additional suspension is excessive; and (iii) in respect of that part of the additional suspension in excess of the additional three matches (for example, where a Player is suspended for 8 matches following a dismissal for violent conduct, he may appeal only in respect of the two matches in excess of the three standard and three additional match suspension). Appeals under this paragraph 10 shall proceed pursuant to Schedule C (Standard Directions for Appeals against decisions of Regulatory Commissions).

11. PUNISHMENTS

(a) CAUTIONS ADMINISTERED ON THE FIELD OF PLAY

- (i) If a Player accumulates five cautions in any Competition between the opening day of the playing season and the 30 November in the same playing season, he will be suspended automatically for a period covering: -
One First Team Match plus a fine of £20
- (ii) If a Player accumulates five cautions in any Competition between the opening day of the playing season and the last day of the same playing season, he will be: -
“Warned as to his Future Conduct”
- (iii) A Player who has already been subject to disciplinary action as a result of receiving five cautions and then goes on to receive a further five cautions during the same playing season, will be subject to the following punishments: -
- (iv) If a Player accumulates ten cautions in any Competition between the opening day of the Playing Season and the second Sunday of March in the same playing season, he will be suspended automatically for a period covering: -

Two First Team matches plus a fine of £20

If in the final match before the second Sunday of March a Player accumulates his tenth caution in any Competition since the opening day of the playing season and then receives a second caution in the same match and consequently is dismissed, the Player will be suspended automatically for a period covering two First Team Matches (as specified at paragraph 11(a) (viii) below) plus a fine of £20. This two match suspension will automatically apply in such cases, instead of the one match automatic suspension which would otherwise apply to a Player who is sent off for receiving two cautions in the same match.

- (v) If a Player accumulates ten cautions in any Competition between the opening day of the Playing Season and the last day of the same playing season, he will be: -
“Severely Censured and Warned as to his future Conduct”
- (vi) If a Player accumulates fifteen cautions in any Competition between the opening date of the playing season and the last day of the same playing season, he will be suspended automatically for a period covering: -
Three First Team matches plus a fine of £20
- (vii) A Player who has already been subject to disciplinary action as a result of receiving five, ten and fifteen cautions, and who goes on to receive 20 cautions in the same playing season, shall be required to attend a Regulatory Commission, within 14 days of the date of the last caution. The Regulatory Commission shall have the power to deal with the Player in such manner as it deems fit. The same procedure will apply for every further five cautions received by the Player.
- (viii) Any period of suspension arising from cautions shall commence on the 7th day following the date of his last offence. The suspension shall cover all domestic League, League Cup, FA Challenge Cup and Trophy matches and Friendly matches until such time as his Club’s recognised Senior Team has completed the number of matches appropriate to the punishment in approved Competitions during the period covered by its opening match in the National League (North and South Divisions)/Isthmian/Northern Premier/Southern League and ending with the final match in which the Club is playing in a domestic Competition organised by The Association, the National League (North and South Divisions)/Isthmian /Northern Premier/Southern League or matches concerning a Club’s nominated County Senior Cup Competition.
- (ix) Any period of suspension or part thereof which remains outstanding at the end of a playing season must be served at the commencement of the next following playing season.
- (b) **PLAYERS SENT OFF UNDER LAW 12 (7)**
- Subject to the paragraph 11.(a)(iv) above, a Player who is dismissed from the field of play for receiving a second caution in the same match will be suspended automatically from all domestic League, League Cup, FA Challenge Cup and Trophy matches and Friendly matches commencing on the 7th day following the match in which he was sent off , until such time as his Club’s recognised Senior Team has completed one match in an approved Competition during the period covered by its opening match in the National League (North and South) Divisions/Isthmian/Northern Premier/Southern League and ending with the final match in which the Club is playing in a domestic Competition organised by The Association, the National League (North and South Divisions)/Isthmian/Northern Premier/Southern League or matches concerning a Club’s nominated County Senior Cup Competition plus a fine of £20
- (c) **PLAYERS SENT OFF UNDER LAW 12 (4) and (5)**
- A Player who is dismissed from the field of play for denying a goal or an obvious goal scoring opportunity by physical means or by handling the ball, will be suspended automatically from all domestic League, League Cup and FA Challenge Cup and Trophy matches and Friendly matches commencing on the 7th day following the match in which he was sent off, until such time as his Club’s recognised Senior Team has completed one match in an approved Competition during the period covered by its opening match in the National League (North and South Divisions)/Isthmian/Northern Premier/Southern League and ending with the final match in which the Club is playing in a domestic Competition organised by The Association, the National League (North and South Divisions)/Isthmian/Northern Premier/Southern League or matches concerning a Club’s nominated County Senior Cup Competition plus a fine of £20

(d) PLAYERS SENT OFF UNDER LAW 12 (6)

A Player who is dismissed from the field of play for using offensive or insulting or abusive language/gestures whether he has previously been cautioned in the match or not, will be suspended automatically from all domestic League, League Cup, FA Challenge Cup and Trophy matches and Friendly matches commencing on the 7th day following the match in which he was sent off, and until such time as his Club's recognised Senior Team has completed two matches in approved Competitions during the period covered by its opening match in the National League (North and South Divisions)/Isthmian/Northern Premier/Southern League and ending with the final match in which the Club is playing in a domestic Competition organised by The Association, the National League (North and South Divisions)/Isthmian/Northern Premier/Southern League or matches concerning a Club's nominated County Senior Cup Competition plus a fine of £30

(e) PLAYERS SENT OFF UNDER LAW 12 (1) and (2)

A Player who is dismissed from the field of play for serious foul play under Law 12(1) or violent conduct under Law 12(2), or whether he has previously been cautioned in the match or not, will be suspended automatically from all Saturday football at all categories commencing on the 7th day following the match in which he was sent off and until such time as his Club's recognised Senior Team has completed three matches in approved Competitions during the period covered by its opening match in the National League (North and South Divisions)/Isthmian/Northern Premier/Southern League and ending with the final match in which the Club is playing in a domestic Competition organised by The Association, the National League (North and South Divisions)/Isthmian/Northern Premier/Southern League or matches concerning a Club's nominated County Senior Cup Competition plus a fine of £40

(f) PLAYERS SENT OFF UNDER LAW 12 (3)

A Player who is dismissed from the field of play for spitting at an opponent or any other person, whether he has previously been cautioned in the match or not, will be suspended automatically from all Saturday football at all categories commencing on the 7th day following the match in which he was sent off and until such time as his Club's recognised Senior Team has completed six matches in approved Competitions during the period covered by its opening match in the National League (North and South Divisions)/Isthmian/Northern Premier/ Southern League and ending with the final match in which the Club is playing in a domestic Competition organised by The Association, the National League (North and South Divisions)/Isthmian/Northern Premier/Southern League or matches concerning a Club's nominated County Senior Cup Competition plus a fine of £40.

(g) ADDITIONAL SENDINGS OFF

Players dismissed from the field of play for a second time in the same playing season, in addition to the automatic suspension applicable to the offence, will be suspended for one extra match.

A Player dismissed for a third time in the same playing season will be suspended for an extra two matches, and so on. A Regulatory Commission, when dealing with a claim of wrongful dismissal (paragraph 7 above) has the power not to invoke a further one match suspension if it so desires.

(h) OUTSTANDING SUSPENSIONS

Any suspension or part thereof which remains outstanding at the end of a playing season, must be served at the commencement of the next following playing season.

(i) PLAYERS MOVING BETWEEN CLUBS

Where a Player moves between Clubs at a time when he is subject to a suspension from playing resulting from either these Procedures or any charge of Misconduct, the following shall apply –

- (a) Until the Player moves, the suspension shall be served by reference to matches completed by the Club that the Player moves from;
- (b) Where the Club that the Player moves to competes at the same level as the Club that the Player moves from, any remaining period of suspension at the time that the Player moves shall be served by reference to matches completed by the Club that the Player moves to;
- (c) Where the Club that the Player moves to competes at a different level from the Club that the Player moves from, any remaining period of suspension at the time that the Player moves shall continue to be served by reference to matches completed by the Club that the Player moves from unless dispensation has been granted in writing by The Association for the suspension to be served with reference to matches completed by the Club that the Player moves to.

For the purposes of this paragraph, Clubs compete at three different levels. Each level is comprised as follows –

- (i) Premier League, EFL and National League;
- (ii) The National League (North and South Divisions), the Isthmian League, the Northern Premier League and the Southern League;
- (iii) Steps 5 to 7 of the National League System, or any other league outside of the National League System which operates a match-based disciplinary system.

This paragraph applies to all moves by Players between Clubs which are completed and evidenced to the satisfaction of The Association, however they occur.

This includes, but is not limited to, all transfers, loans and the expiration of loans, and Players whose registration is cancelled by the Club that the Player moves from, where that Player is subsequently registered by the Club that the Player moves to.

(j) **RULE E1 OF THE ASSOCIATION**

A charge of Misconduct (as defined in and pursuant to Rule E1 of the Rules of The Association) may be brought against a Player in relation to an incident whether or not the same incident has been dealt with by the Referee and/or pursuant to these Procedures. In deciding whether or not to bring a charge under this paragraph, The Association will have particular (but not exclusive) regard to the following:

- (a) Any applicable Law(s) of the Game or Rules and Regulations or FIFA instructions and/or guidelines;
- (b) The nature of the incident, and in particular any intent, recklessness, negligence or other state of mind of the Player;
- (c) Where applicable, the level of force used;
- (d) Any injury to any Participant caused by the incident;
- (e) Any other impact on the game in which the incident occurred;
- (f) The prevalence of the type of incident in question in football generally;
- (g) The wider interests of football in applying consistent sanctions.

A Regulatory Commission considering a charge under Rule E1 of the Rules of The Association in such circumstances shall have regard to any punishment imposed under these Procedures for the same incident when considering any punishment under Regulation 8.1 (Penalties) of the Disciplinary Regulations.

(k) **PAYMENT TO PLAYERS UNDER SUSPENSION**

Clubs must not pay a Player more than his basic wage during the period of a suspension.

- (l) **CLUBS IMPOSING FINES**
The responsibility for fining Players for field offences is left with the Club, who must notify The Association, without delay, the details of the fine in each case.
- (m) **RE-ARRANGED MATCHES**
A Regulatory Commission shall have discretionary power to rule that a match shall not count towards the completion of a suspension if it is satisfied that the game has been arranged by the Club with a view to enabling the Player to complete his suspension and thus qualify him to play in a specific match.
- (n) **COLLECTION OF ADMINISTRATION FEES AND FINES**
- (i) It will be the responsibility of the Club Secretary to collect the £10.00 administration fees from the Players concerned and forward them to The Association when requested so to do.
 - (ii) Fines levied on Players must be collected by the Club Secretary from the Player concerned and forwarded to The Association when requested to do so.

12. DISCIPLINARY ACTION ON CLUBS FOR MISCONDUCT BY THEIR PLAYERS

- (a) Any Club that has six or more individual Players cautioned or dismissed from the field of play in the same match will be offered a Standard Punishment. The sum of £500 will be the Standard Punishment for Clubs in the National League (North and South), and the Premier Divisions of the Isthmian, Northern Premier and Southern Leagues, and a fine of £250 will be the Standard Punishment for all other divisions for the first occasion during the playing season. For a second/third/fourth etc. occasion in the same playing season, the Standard Punishment on the Club will be a fine of £1000/£500, £1500/£750, £2000/£1000 etc. All clubs offered a Standard Punishment may either accept it or request the opportunity to mitigate at a personal hearing before the Regulatory Commission.

Following such mitigation, the Regulatory Commission may impose, decrease or increase the Standard Punishment as it thinks fit.

- (b) Any Club whose Players accumulate a total number of penalty points (as calculated in accordance with this paragraph 12(b)) in First Team matches between the start of the playing season and 31 December (including any First Team match played on that day) which is 40% or more above the median number of points per game average in the same League, will be required to appear before the Regulatory Commission to explain the conduct of its Players.

Following such explanation, the Regulatory Commission may order that a visit be made to the Club by representatives of The Association and/or PGMO or other appropriate body, in order to discuss and/or offer advice on the Club's disciplinary record.

Any Club whose Players accumulate a total number of penalty points in First Team matches during the whole playing season which is 40% or more above the median number of points per game average in the same League, will be required to appear before the Regulatory Commission to explain the conduct of its Players.

If the Club cannot provide a reasonable explanation for such occurrence, the Club will be liable to be warned and/or fined up to £1,000 for the Premier Divisions and £500 for all other Divisions for having permitted its Players to breach, or not having prevented its Players from breaching, the Laws of the Game in contravention of Rule E1(a) of the Rules of The Association.

Where the Club concerned accumulated a total number of penalty points which is between 40% and 50% above the median number of points per game average in the same League, any fine will normally be suspended in whole or in part for a period of one year, unless the Regulatory Commission determines that this is not appropriate, in which case it will be imposed immediately.

Where the Club concerned accumulated a total number of penalty points which is more than 50% above the median number of points per game average in the same League, any fine will normally be imposed immediately, unless the Regulatory Commission determines that this is not appropriate, in which case it will be suspended in whole or in part for a period of one year.

In addition, the Regulatory Commission shall be entitled to order the Club to pay the cost of the hearing to The Association. Any action taken by the Club to discipline its Players under paragraph 11(l) above will be taken into consideration by the Regulatory Commission in its findings.

In so far as this paragraph shall apply, the following penalty points will be recorded against a Club for First Team offences: -

For all recorded First team cautions	-	4 Points
For Sending off under Law 12 (4)(5) & (7)	-	10 Points
For Sending off under Law 12 (1)(2)(3) & (6)	-	12 Points
For First Team Players found guilty of Charges Under Rule E3 of the Rules of The Association	-	12 Points

Where any sending off is subject to a successful claim for wrongful dismissal, no points shall be added to a Club's accumulated points total in respect of it.

- (c) Proceeds of fines imposed under this paragraph shall be disbursed as decided by The Association.
- (d) A Club required to appear before a Regulatory Commission in accordance with this paragraph 12 shall be represented by at least one of its Directors and the Manager.
- (e) The Association reserves the right to prefer a Charge against a Club at any time during the playing season arising from Field Offences committed by Players of the Club, all records will be reviewed to the 31st December annually and Clubs may be ordered to attend a Regulatory Commission to discuss a record that is deemed to be poor at that stage of the playing season.

13. ASSAULTS ON MATCH OFFICIALS

Assaults on Match Officials are always regarded by The Association as serious and invariably attract substantial periods of suspension. Where a Match Official has reported an assault against him by a Player or official associated with a Club in the Premier League, English Football League or National League, The Association may use the powers set out at Rule E18 of the Rules of The Association to impose an interim suspension order.

There are three categories of assault for the purposes of the results: -

- (i) MINOR ASSAULTS - for instance, jostling, holding, pushing
- (ii) ASSAULTS CAUSING BODILY HARM - for instance, more forceful degrees of (i) above
- (iii) SERIOUS ASSAULTS - for instance, where serious harm is caused, such as severe bruising or a broken nose.

14. SUSPENSION PENDING MISCONDUCT HEARING

In addition to the power of a Regulatory Commission to issue a suspension before charge pursuant to Rule E16 of the Rules of The Association, The Association shall have the power under this paragraph to order that a Club Official, Club Employee or Player associated with the National League (North and South Divisions)/Isthmian/Northern Premier/Southern Leagues shall be suspended from all or any specific football activity for such period and on such terms and conditions as The Association considers fit (an "Interim Suspension Order").



For All

An Interim Suspension Order issued under this paragraph shall apply when the Club Official, Club Employee or Player has been charged by The Association in relation to an alleged act of serious Misconduct or with a criminal offence or by the League in connection with serious disciplinary action pursuant to relevant Regulations.

As soon as reasonably practicable, notification of an Interim Suspension Order shall be communicated to the Club Official, Club Employee or Player and/or the Club and will be lifted when the charge of Misconduct is dealt with by a Regulatory Commission or the criminal charges are withdrawn or found not to be proven.