

Regulations

I - REGULATION CHANGES – NOTE TO PARTICIPANTS

Participants should be aware that any of The Association's Regulations may be amended during the season following publication of The FA Handbook. Reference should be made to The FA's website, located at www.TheFA.com, for updated versions of the Regulations.


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9 - DISCIPLINARY REGULATIONS

Unless otherwise stated, definitions are as set out in Rule A of The Association and Appendix I of these Regulations.

The Disciplinary Regulations shall comprise:

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A - GENERAL PROVISIONS

1 These General Provisions are split into two parts:

1.1 The provisions in Section One shall apply to Inquiries, Commissions of Inquiry, Regulatory Commissions, Disciplinary Commissions, Appeal Boards and Safeguarding Review Panels.

1.2 The provisions in Section Two shall apply to Regulatory Commissions and, where stated in paragraph 27, Disciplinary Commissions.

SECTION ONE: ALL PANELS

SCOPE

2 This Section One shall apply to Inquiries, Commissions of Inquiry, Regulatory Commissions, Disciplinary Commissions, Appeal Boards and Safeguarding Review Panels.

3 In relation to proceedings before a Disciplinary Commission, references in this Section One to The Association shall be taken to mean the relevant Affiliated Association.

GENERAL

4 The bodies subject to these General Provisions are not courts of law and are disciplinary, rather than arbitral, bodies. In the interests of achieving a just and fair result, procedural and technical considerations must take second place to the paramount object of being just and fair to all parties.

5 All parties involved in proceedings subject to these General Provisions shall act in a spirit of co-operation to ensure such proceedings are conducted expeditiously, fairly and appropriately, having regard to their sporting context.

6 The bodies subject to these General Provisions shall have the power to regulate their own procedure.

7 Without limitation to paragraph 6 above, any breach of procedure by The Association, or a failure by The Association to follow any direction given (including any time limit), shall not invalidate the proceedings or its outcome unless the breach is such as to seriously and irredeemably prejudice the position of the Participant Charged.

8 Save where otherwise stated, the applicable standard of proof shall be the civil standard of the balance of probabilities.

EVIDENCE

9 A panel to which these General Provisions apply:

9.1 shall not be obliged to follow the strict rules of evidence;

9.2 shall not be bound by any enactment or rule of law relating to the admissibility of evidence in proceedings before a court of law;

9.3 may admit such evidence as it thinks fit and accord such evidence such weight as it thinks appropriate in all the circumstances; and

9.4 may draw such inference from the failure of a witness (including the Participant Charged) to give evidence or answer a question as it considers appropriate.

REPRESENTATION

10 A Participant Charged attending a personal hearing, or an individual attending a Safeguarding Review Panel, may be represented by an or individuals (including a legal representative), provided that they notify The Association both of the fact that they are to be represented and of the identity of the representatives by the date on which the Reply is served. The representatives may speak on behalf of the Participant Charged / the individual.

11 An individual acting as a representative for a Participant Charged shall not be allowed to give evidence.

12 The Association may nominate an individual or individuals to represent it at a personal hearing.

CONSOLIDATION OF PROCEEDINGS

13 Where the subject matter of or facts relating to a Charge or Charges against one or more Participant(s) is sufficiently linked (including, but not limited to, where offences are alleged to have been committed in the same Match or where there is common evidence of The Association or the defence) and where appropriate for the timely and efficient disposal of the proceedings, The Association and/or the relevant panel shall have the power to consolidate proceedings so that they are conducted together and the Charges may be determined at a joint hearing. In respect of such matters:

13.1 evidence adduced by or on behalf of a Participant shall be capable of constituting evidence against another Participant (the relevant panel shall give appropriate weight to such evidence);

13.2 Participants or their representatives shall be entitled to cross-examine other Participants and their witnesses; and

13.3 the relevant panel may hear evidence in any order and shall have complete discretion to take matters out of order for the timely, efficient and appropriate disposal of the proceedings.

CONFIDENTIALITY / PUBLICATION

14 The proceedings of a Commission of Inquiry, a Regulatory Commission, a Disciplinary Commission, Appeal Board and Safeguarding Review Panel shall take place in private.

15 All oral or written representations, submissions, evidence and documents created in the course of any proceedings shall be subject to qualified privilege.

16 Subject to paragraphs 17 to 19 below, all oral or written representations, submissions, evidence and documents created in the course of any proceedings are confidential between The Association and the individual or body concerned.

17 The Association shall have the power to publish in the public press, on a web site or in any other manner considered appropriate:

17.1 the outcome of any proceedings or inquiry (irrespective of whether a Charge is issued in respect of that inquiry);

17.2 reports of any hearing, order, requirement, instruction, decision, proceedings, acts, resolution, finding and penalty; or

17.3 any representations, submissions, evidence and documents created in the course of any proceedings or inquiry (including but not limited to the written reasons of a Regulatory Commission and Appeal Board) whether or not this reflects on the character or conduct of a Participant.

18 Each Participant will take part in any Commission of Inquiry, Regulatory Commission, Disciplinary Commission, Appeal Board, or Safeguarding Review Panel as required to ensure the appropriate discharge of these Regulations, and acknowledges that reports of decisions will be published.

19 The Association shall have the right to use and rely upon any representations, submissions, evidence and documents that are provided to it during the course of any inquiry pursuant to Rule F (or otherwise) and/or are created or otherwise generated during the proceedings of a panel to which these General Provisions apply for the purpose of carrying out its regulatory functions and monitoring and implementing compliance with its Rules and Regulations (including, but not limited to, taking action against any Participant under Rule E).

SERVICE OF DOCUMENTS

20 A document may be served by:

20.1 giving it to the person to whom it is addressed;

20.2 leaving it at, or sending it by first class post to, the last known address of the addressee or, in the case of an individual, the Club with which they are associated; or

20.3 sending it by e-mail or by fax to the last known email address or fax number of the addressee or, in the case of an individual, the Club with which they are associated.

FEES

21 Where a Participant lodges a Notice of Appeal in respect of:

21.1 a decision of a Regulatory Commission, they must pay an appeal fee of £100;

21.2 a decision of an Affiliated Association, they must pay an appeal fee of £50;

21.3 any other decisions of The Association subject to appeal, or a decision of Competition, they must pay an appeal fee as follows:

RELEVANT COMPETITION	FEE
Premier League, EFL Championship, EFL League One, EFL League Two, National League and WSL	£500
Steps 2 to 4 of the National League System and WCH	£250
Steps 5 to 6 of the National League System	£100
Any other Competition (including those outside the National League System)	£50

22 In respect of other matters where fees are payable, the relevant fees shall be as prescribed in the relevant regulations.

OTHER PROCEEDINGS

23 The fact that a Participant is liable to face or has pending any other criminal, civil, disciplinary or regulatory proceedings (whether public or private in nature) in relation to the same matter shall not prevent or fetter The Association commencing, conducting and/or concluding proceedings under the Rules.

24 The result of any proceedings referred to in paragraph 23 (save for an acquittal) and findings upon which such result is based shall be presumed to be correct and true unless it is shown, by clear and convincing evidence, that this is not the case. An acquittal or equivalent result in civil, disciplinary or regulatory proceedings (and any finding upon which such result is based) shall only be presumed to be correct if the applicable standard of proof in those proceedings was the same or lower than the applicable standard of proof in the proceedings brought under the Rules.

EXCLUSION OF LIABILITY

25 Panel members to which these General Provisions apply and any executive staff member of The Association involved in any proceedings subject to these General Provisions, shall not be held liable for any acts or omissions in relation to any such proceedings.

SECTION TWO: REGULATORY COMMISSIONS

SCOPE

26 This Section Two sets out provisions applicable to matters of Misconduct proceeding before Regulatory Commissions. Further detail, to include the timetable to be followed in respect of such matters, is found in:

26.1 Part B: Non-Fast Track Regulations (where the matter proceeds according to the ordinary timetable);

26.2 Part E: Fast Track Regulations (where the matter proceeds according to an expedited timetable).

As such, the procedures set out at Part B: Non-Fast Track Regulations and Part E: Fast Track Regulations should be read in conjunction with these provisions.

27 In addition, the following paragraphs of this Section Two shall apply to matters of Misconduct proceeding before Disciplinary Commissions: paragraphs 28, 31, 39 to 43, 47 and 48 and 50 to 52.1 and Appendix 1 to Part A: Section One: General Provisions. The content of those paragraphs shall be construed accordingly (e.g. references to The Association shall be taken to mean the relevant Affiliated Association).

THE COLLECTION OF EVIDENCE

28 In accordance with Rule F, all Participants must take all reasonable measures to assist The Association in the collection of evidence. Where The Association requests the production of evidence from any Participant, that Participant shall (subject to considerations of legal professional privilege) be under an obligation to provide it.

29 Where on-field offences are concerned, The Association may request that a Club provides or procures the delivery of video evidence to assist it in investigating possible Misconduct. Clubs must provide such video evidence to The Association as soon as reasonably practicable and in any event no later than 12 noon on the next Business Day following The Association's request (or a later date if stipulated by The Association). Failure to provide such evidence within this deadline may result in The Association issuing a Charge against the Club.

CHARGE

30 The decision that facts or matters may give rise to Misconduct and that a Charge be brought will be made by the Chief Regulatory Officer (or their nominee) on behalf of The Association.

31 The Chief Regulatory Officer (or their nominee) may issue a written warning to a Participant where there are facts or matters which may give rise to Misconduct but where the Chief Regulatory Officer (or their nominee) determines in their sole discretion not to bring a Charge.

32 Where any facts or matters give rise to alleged Misconduct by a Participant, The Association will serve on the Participant a Charge which shall:

32.1 state briefly the nature of the alleged Misconduct;

32.2 identify the provision(s) alleged to have been breached; and

32.3 enclose copies of documents or other material referred to in the Charge.

33 The Charge may include a request for the provision of a summary of the current terms and conditions of employment of a Participant.

34 A copy of the Charge shall be forwarded to the Judicial Panel Chairman who shall appoint a Regulatory Commission in accordance with, and subject to, the Terms of Reference for the Composition and Operation of the Judicial Panel.

TIME LIMITS AND DIRECTIONS

General

35 The standard directions for a Regulatory Commission processing a matter under these Regulations shall be as set out in Part B: Non-Fast Track Regulations and Part E: Fast Track Regulations.

36 In complex cases the standard directions may, at the discretion of the Regulatory Commission, be the subject of a directions hearing which may be conducted in accordance with paragraph 26 of Part B: Non-Fast Track Regulations.

37 Timings and Directions

37.1 Upon an application by The Association or a Participant, the Judicial Panel Chairman (or their nominee) may amend, suspend, reduce or dispense with the relevant time limits set out in Part B: Non-Fast Track Regulations and Part E: Fast Track Regulations provided that the Judicial Panel Chairman (or their nominee) is satisfied that it would be impractical or unfair not to do so.

37.2 Where a Regulatory Commission has not yet been convened, the Judicial Panel Chairman (or their nominee) may make an order in respect of (i) time limits, (ii) hearing dates or (iii) the timetable in respect of disclosure.

38 Examples of circumstances in which the processing of a Charge would be impractical or unfair within the time limits set out in Part B: Non-Fast Track Regulations and Part E: Fast Track Regulations are where:

38.1 there is a pending police investigation; or

38.2 the seriousness or complexity of the matter necessitates a longer period of investigation; or

38.3 substantial evidence needs to be obtained from non-Participants.

REGULATORY COMMISSION DELIBERATIONS

39 Deliberations of a Regulatory Commission shall take place in private.

40 The decision of the Regulatory Commission shall be determined by majority. Each member of the Regulatory Commission shall have one vote, save that the Chairman of the Regulatory Commission shall have a second and casting vote in the event of a deadlock.

PENALTIES AND ORDERS

General

41 Save where expressly stated otherwise, a Regulatory Commission shall have the power to impose any one or more of the following penalties or orders on the Participant Charged:

41.1 a reprimand and/or warning as to future conduct;

41.2 a fine;

41.3 suspension from all or any specified football activity from a date that the Regulatory Commission shall order, permanently or for a stated period or number of Matches;

41.4 the closure of a ground permanently or for a stated period;

41.5 the playing of a Match or Matches without spectators being present, and/or at a specific ground;

41.6 any order which may be made under the rules and regulations of a Competition in which the Participant Charged participates or is associated, which shall be deemed to include the deduction of points and removal from a Competition at any stage of any playing season;

41.7 expulsion from a Competition;

41.8 expulsion from membership of The Association or an Affiliated Association;

41.9 such further or other penalty or order as it considers appropriate.

42 In imposing penalties, a Regulatory Commission must apply any:

42.1 applicable standard sanctions as may be communicated by The Association from time to time. A Regulatory Commission may only depart from such standard sanctions where it deems it appropriate having regard to the facts of an individual case (for example, where a particular act of Misconduct is sufficiently serious that the guideline sanction would not constitute a sufficient penalty for the Misconduct that has taken place);

42.2 mitigating and/or aggravating factors, to include but not limited to the disciplinary record of the Participant and other factors that may be communicated by The Association from time to time.

Suspended Penalty

43 Save where any Rule or regulation expressly requires an immediate penalty to be imposed, and subject to paragraphs 44-46 below, the Regulatory Commission may order that a penalty imposed is suspended for a specified period or until a specified event and on such terms and conditions as it considers appropriate.

44 When considering imposing a suspended penalty, a Regulatory Commission must:

a) Determine the appropriate penalty for the breach, irrespective of any consideration of it being suspended; and

b) Consider whether there is a clear and compelling reason(s) for suspending that penalty; if so

i. Set out what the clear and compelling reason(s) are; and

ii. Decide the period of the suspension, or event, until which the penalty will be suspended; and

iii. Upon what other terms or conditions, if any, the penalty will be suspended.

45 Where a Participant has committed a breach of Rules E5, E8 or E14, the Regulatory Commission must consider suspending a portion of the penalty imposed if:

45.1 that Participant has provided assistance and/or information to any Competition, The Association, UEFA, FIFA, other national football association, a law enforcement agency or professional disciplinary body; and

45.2 the assistance and/or information provided results in the discovery or establishment of any criminal offence or the breach of disciplinary rules by another person relating to betting or integrity (not including anti-doping, in respect of which the Anti-Doping Regulations shall apply) in football or sport generally.

46 Where the Regulatory Commission, in exercising its discretion under paragraph 45, considers it to be appropriate to suspend a portion of the penalty, the extent to which the penalty may be suspended will be based on the significance of the assistance provided by the Participant to the effort to eliminate corruption from sport.

Aggravated Breaches (Rule E3.2)

47 Where an Aggravated Breach is found proven, a Regulatory Commission shall apply The Association's sanction guidelines for Aggravated Breaches set out at Appendix 1 to Part A: Section One: General Provisions.

48 Where a Regulatory Commission sanctions a Club in accordance with Rule E3.4, it may impose any sanction it considers appropriate, taking into account any aggravating or mitigating factors present.

Drug Rehabilitation and Counselling

49 Where a Participant has breached the provisions of the Anti-Doping Regulations or the Social Drugs Regulations, a Regulatory Commission may order a compulsory period of target testing, rehabilitation and counselling, and attach such conditions as it considers appropriate.

Compensation Orders

50 The Regulatory Commission may, where it considers it appropriate, order the Participant Charged to pay compensation to another Participant (the **"Compensation Claimant"**), instead of or in addition to any penalty or other order. Such an order may be for such amount as the Regulatory Commission considers appropriate.

51 The Regulatory Commission may order compensation only where:

51.1 it receives, in advance of its determination as to whether a Charge has been proven, a written claim by or on behalf of the Compensation Claimant which sets out the amount claimed and detailed reasons for the claim;

51.2 it is satisfied that the Compensation Claimant has suffered loss as a consequence of the Misconduct of the Participant Charged; and

51.3 the Participant Charged has had an opportunity both of seeing the claim in advance of an order being made and of making submissions to the Regulatory Commission in relation to it.

COSTS ORDERS

52 Save where otherwise provided, any costs incurred:

52.1 in bringing or defending a Charge will be borne by the party incurring the costs; and

52.2 by a Regulatory Commission, which are considered by the Chairman of the Regulatory Commission to be appropriate, may be ordered to be paid in full or in part by either party (such costs may include, but are not limited to, the costs of the Regulatory Commission and related expenses).

53 The applicable deadlines for any appeal against only the quantum of costs shall be those set out in paragraph 5 of Part C: Appeals – Non-Fast Track. Any such appeal shall be heard and determined by a single person appointed by Sport Resolutions (UK) (or similar independent body as determined by The Association from time to time). That person shall decide all matters of procedure for how such an appeal will be conducted.

54 A Notice of Appeal against a decision of a Regulatory Commission shall be deemed not to have been lodged unless either:

54.1 all financial orders, including costs orders, relating to the Participant in question have been paid in full; or

54.2 the Chairman of the Regulatory Commission has made an order to set aside the relevant financial orders pending the outcome of the Appeal.

55 In the event of an appeal being lodged, where applicable payments of costs made will be held in escrow by The Association.

COMPLIANCE WITH PENALTIES AND ORDERS

56 Unless the Regulatory Commission determines otherwise, a penalty or order shall come into effect immediately at the date of the notification of the decision.

57 A Regulatory Commission may issue such further order, requirement or instruction as it considers appropriate for the purpose of giving effect to its decision.

58 Where a Regulatory Commission is satisfied that a Participant Charged has failed to observe or comply with a penalty or order imposed by the Regulatory Commission, it shall have the power to order that the Participant Charged be suspended immediately from all or any football activity for such period and on such conditions as it considers appropriate.

59 In respect of any appeal made by a Participant Charged against a decision of a Regulatory Commission, the Regulatory Commission shall have the power, upon application and its absolute discretion, to stay the effect of, or compliance by the Participant Charged with, a penalty or order of a Regulatory Commission.

PAYMENT OF FEES, FINES AND COMPENSATION ORDERS

60 Payment of any administration fee, fine or compensation shall be made to The Association by such deadline and under such terms as ordered by The Association at the time of the written notification or decision.

61 The failure to make payment within the deadline ordered may result in an automatic increase of 25% of the amount due. Failure to pay within a further 35 days from the deadline ordered may result in the automatic suspension of the Participant until such time as payment has been received. Where the Participant is a person, such suspension will be from all football and football activity. Where the Participant is a Club, such suspension will be from playing in any Match or Competition.

WRITTEN DECISION

62 The Regulatory Commission shall as soon as practicable send to the Participant Charged and the Chief Regulatory Officer (or their nominee) a written statement of its decision, which shall state:

62.1 the Charge(s) considered and whether admitted or denied;

62.2 the decision as to whether Misconduct has been proven or not; and

62.3 any penalty or other order imposed.

63 The final, dated, written decision of the Regulatory Commission shall be the conclusive record of the Regulatory Commission's decision. A copy of the written decision shall be forwarded to The Association.

WRITTEN REASONS

64 Where the relevant parts of Part B: Non-Fast Track Regulations and Part E: Fast Track Regulations so provide, written reasons may be requested and provided.

65 Where written reasons are provided they shall state in writing:

65.1 the findings of fact made by the Regulatory Commission;

65.2 the reasons for the Regulatory Commission's decision finding the Charge(s) proven; and

65.3 the reasons for any penalty or order.

APPEALS

66 The rights of appeal shall be as set out in Part B: Non-Fast Track Regulations or Part E: Fast Track Regulations.

APPENDIX 1 - STANDARD SANCTIONS AND GUIDELINES FOR AGGRAVATED BREACHES

PLAYERS, MANAGERS AND TECHNICAL AREA OCCUPANTS

Sanction Range

A finding of an Aggravated Breach against a Player, Manager or Technical Area Occupant will attract an immediate suspension of between 6 Matches and 12 Matches (**"Sanction Range"**).

A Regulatory Commission shall take all aggravating and mitigating factors into account, including but not limited to those listed in these guidelines when determining the level of sanction within the Sanction Range.

The lowest end of the Sanction Range (i.e. 6 Matches) shall operate as a standard minimum punishment (the **"Standard Minimum"**).

Where a Player is aged 12-15 (inclusive) a Regulatory Commission may suspend any number of Matches on terms and for such period as it considers appropriate provided that a suspension of no less than one Match is served.

A Regulatory Commission may impose an immediate suspension in excess of 12 Matches in circumstances where aggravating factors of significant number or weight are present.

Exceptions to the Standard Minimum

A Regulatory Commission may only consider imposing a suspension below the Standard Minimum where the following specific (and exhaustive) circumstances arise such that the Regulatory Commission determines that the Standard Minimum would be excessive:

Where the offence was committed in writing only or via the use of any communication device **and**:

- Where the Regulatory Commission is satisfied that there was no genuine intent on the part of the Participant Charged to be discriminatory or offensive in any way and could not reasonably have known that any such offence would be caused; or
- The age of the Participant at time of the offence (e.g. where the Participant was a minor at the time the offence was committed); or
- The age of the offence (e.g. a social media post made a considerable time ago).

For the avoidance of doubt, the existence of the circumstances above will not necessarily result in a departure from the Standard Minimum. A Regulatory Commission must be satisfied that the unique circumstances and facts of a particular case are of such significance that a departure from the Standard Minimum is justified to avoid an unjust outcome for the Participant Charged. In reaching a decision, the Regulatory Commission must also consider whether or not it is in the best interests of the game in tackling all forms of discrimination to depart from the Standard Minimum. In any event, a Regulatory Commission shall impose a suspension of no less than 3 Matches.

Where a Player is aged 12-15 (inclusive) a Regulatory Commission may suspend any number of Matches on terms and for such period as it considers appropriate provided that a suspension of no less than one Match is served.

TIME-BASED SUSPENSIONS

A Regulatory Commission may assess that a Match-based suspension is not appropriate due to the specific circumstances of a case; the nature of the role of a Participant, and/or whether they are currently engaged by a Club. A Regulatory Commission should have regard to the Sanction Range as set out in this Appendix as well as the mitigating and aggravating factors when determining sanction. However, a Regulatory Commission shall be entitled to impose an appropriate time-based suspension that is commensurate with the breach, having regard to the specific roles and responsibilities of the Participant.

EDUCATION

Any Participant who is found to have committed an Aggravated Breach shall be made subject to an education programme, the details of which will be provided to the Participant by The Association.

OTHER PENALTIES

A Regulatory Commission may impose any one or more of the other penalties as provided by paragraph 41 of Part A to the Disciplinary Regulations.

FACTORS TO BE CONSIDERED WHEN DETERMINING SANCTION

A Regulatory Commission will have due regard to the circumstances and seriousness of the incident when determining the appropriate sanction and whether (and to what extent) to depart from the Sanction Range or when setting an appropriate time-based suspension. For the avoidance of doubt, any departure from the Sanction Range below the Standard Minimum may only be considered by a Regulatory Commission where the specific (and exhaustive) circumstances listed above arise.

In so doing, the Regulatory Commission shall give consideration to any aggravating and mitigating factors, to include but not limited to:

Aggravating factors

- Repeated use of discriminatory language or conduct during commission of the offence or offences.
- Multiple offences over a period of time.
- The public nature of the offence(s) (e.g. the commission of the offence(s) in a public place, via broadcast media or a social media platform (particularly via an account on a social media platform with a high number of followers in relative terms)).
- The profile of the Participant, including where they hold a position of responsibility within their Club or organisation (e.g. Club captain, Manager, Chairman, member of senior management).
- The relative ages of the Participant and the victim(s) at the time of the offence, particularly where the victim was a minor and the Participant was not.
- Failure to co-operate with The Association.
- Previous disciplinary record of the Participant.
- Any attempt to conceal the breach.
- The extent of any premeditation.
- Lack of remorse or insight and/or failure to understand and/or appreciate the severity of the conduct and/or its impact.

Mitigating Factors

- Admission at the earliest opportunity where the factual conduct forming the basis for the charge would be capable of being disputed.
- Demonstration of genuine remorse.
- Co-operation with The Association.
- Where it is accepted that the Participant had a legitimate expectation of privacy.
- Inexperience of the Participant by reference to their age or background at the time of the offence.
- In respect of social media posts, the age of the post and the Participant's age at the time of the post. For example, depending on the other circumstances and characteristics of the offence, it may be considered a mitigating factor where the post was made a considerable time ago and/or where it was made at a time when the Participant was a minor.

SECOND OR FURTHER OFFENCES

Second or further offences will be treated with the utmost seriousness.

There will be a presumption that the sanction for a second or further offence will be higher than the top end of the Sanction Range (i.e. 12 Matches), however the Regulatory Commission shall in any event impose an immediate suspension of no fewer than 7 Matches. Where a Regulatory Commission deems it appropriate to issue a time-based suspension it should consider all relevant factors including but not limited to the number and severity of any previous offences when determining sanction. A Regulatory Commission should have regard to the Sanction Range as set out in this Appendix as well as the mitigating and aggravating factors when determining sanction. However, in all cases a Regulatory Commission shall be able to impose any punishment it deems appropriate and proportionate in the circumstances.

Where a Player is aged 12-15 (inclusive) and commits a second or further Aggravated Breach, in determining the suspension to be imposed, a Regulatory Commission shall use as an entry point, an immediate suspension of 11 matches. The Regulatory Commission may depart from the entry point where aggravating or mitigating factors are present but, in any case, must impose an immediate suspension of no fewer than 7 matches.

Regulatory Commissions shall still be entitled to take all aggravating and mitigating factors into account when determining sanction.

MULTIPLE AGGRAVATED BREACHES

Where a Regulatory Commission finds a Participant to have committed two or more Aggravated Breaches on separate occasions which have been considered by a Regulatory Commission during the same proceedings, the Regulatory Commission may impose a Match or time-based suspension depending on what it deems appropriate in the circumstances. A Regulatory Commission should have regard to the Sanction Range as set out in this Appendix as well as the mitigating and aggravating factors when determining sanction. However, a Regulatory Commission shall have the power to impose any sanction which is appropriate and proportionate to the nature of the Aggravated Breaches committed. This includes being able to depart from the Sanction Range particularly in very serious cases to impose a time-based suspension of any duration.

PLAYERS AGED UNDER 12

Where an Aggravated Breach is committed by a Player aged under 12, no disciplinary charge will be brought. In such cases, the Player will be subject to an education programme, the details of which will be provided to the Player by The Association.

B - NON-FAST TRACK REGULATIONS

SCOPE

1 These Non-Fast Track Regulations shall apply to all matters of Misconduct proceeding before Regulatory Commissions, save for those matters which are stated in Part E: Fast Track Regulations to be conducted in accordance with the expedited timetables set out therein.

2 For the avoidance of doubt, the matters which shall proceed under these Non-Fast Track Regulations shall include (but are not limited to):

2.1 any Aggravated Breach of Rule E3.1; or where it is thought any such charge may arise when an investigation is initiated;

2.2 breaches of integrity and betting matters in accordance with Rules E5 and E8;

2.3 breaches of a Participant's reporting obligations in accordance with Rule E14;

2.4 the conduct of a Club's spectators, supporters or followers in accordance with Rule E20;

2.5 breaches of the Anti-Doping Regulations;

3 Unless otherwise stated, any reference to a day or days in these Non-Fast Track Regulations shall not include Bank Holidays.

CHARGE

4 Disciplinary proceedings shall be commenced by the service of a Charge in accordance with paragraphs 30 to 34 of Part A: General Provisions, Section Two.

REPLY

5 Subject to paragraph 7 below, the Participant Charged must serve on The Association a Reply by e-mail (as directed by The Association) within seven days of the service of the Charge which:

5.1 admits or denies each Charge or part of the Charge;

5.2 states whether they wish the matter to be dealt with:

5.2.1 on written submissions alone; or

5.2.2 at a personal hearing (in which case a fee of £100 must be submitted to The Association, in such manner as may be prescribed by The Association from time to time);

and

5.3 where requested in the Charge (or accompanying documents), provides a summary of the current terms and conditions of employment of the Participant Charged.

6 The Reply must also include:

6.1 a clear explanation of the nature and extent of the Participant's admission or denial of the Charge(s) or any part of a Charge;

6.2 a signed written statement of each witness upon whom the Participant intends to rely which sets out their evidence in full;

6.3 copies of any documentation, evidence, mitigation or other relevant material (of whatever nature) on which the Participant intends to rely.

7 In complex or exceptional cases, a Participant Charged may apply (on notice to The Association) to the Judicial Panel Chairman or the Chairman of the Regulatory Commission (if appointed) for an extension of time in which to provide the Reply.

8 Where the Participant Charged fails to:

8.1 serve their Reply within seven days (or, where applicable, within any period set by the Judicial Panel Chairman or the Chairman of the Regulatory Commission in accordance with paragraph 7); or

8.2 comply with any of the requirements at paragraphs 5 to 6 above;

the Regulatory Commission shall determine the Charge in such manner and upon such evidence as it considers appropriate.

FURTHER EVIDENCE OR MATERIAL

9 Upon review of the Reply, The Association may provide to the Participant and the Regulatory Commission any further evidence or relevant material on which it intends to rely.

10 Where a Participant is provided with material in accordance with paragraph 9, they may provide The Association with such further evidence or relevant material on which they intend to rely provided that they do so at the earliest opportunity and in any event no later than seven days before the date on which the Regulatory Commission is to determine the matter (whether at a hearing or on the papers). Evidence or material not provided within time may not be relied upon at the hearing.

11 The purpose of the provisions relating to the Reply and further evidence or material at paragraphs 5 to 10 above is to:

11.1 clarify for all parties and the Regulatory Commission the issues to be determined at a hearing; and

11.2 ensure the just, timely and efficient disposal of the case,

and the parties shall cooperate with one another in so far as they are able in order to achieve this purpose.

REGULATORY COMMISSION APPOINTMENT

12 The Regulatory Commission shall be appointed in accordance with, and subject to, the Terms of Reference for the Composition and Operation of the Judicial Panel.

13 Where a matter is to be dealt with at a hearing in accordance with paragraph 30 below, a party may, within seven days of the Charge and on notice to all other parties, make an application to the Judicial Panel Chairman for an order that the Chairman of the Regulatory Commission shall be a Specialist Panel Member, who is a solicitor or barrister of seven or more years' standing. Approval by the Judicial Panel Chairman shall not be unreasonably withheld or delayed. Any additional costs incurred in respect of appointing such Specialist Panel Member may be borne by the party who made the application, as determined by the Chairman of the Regulatory Commission in accordance with paragraph 54 of Part A: General Provisions.

PRELIMINARY APPLICATIONS AND PRELIMINARY HEARINGS

14 A party to disciplinary proceedings may make a Preliminary Application. A Preliminary Application must be made as soon as practicable following service of the Charge, and in any case no later than ten Business Days prior to the full hearing date.

15 Where a party wishes to have the Preliminary Application determined by a separate Regulatory Commission to that appointed to determine the Charge, the party may submit the Preliminary Application to the Judicial Panel Chairman who shall determine whether it will be considered by the Regulatory Commission appointed to determine the Charge or by a separate Regulatory Commission. In the absence of such an application, the Preliminary Application will be conducted by the Regulatory Commission appointed to determine the Charge.

16 The relevant Regulatory Commission, or the Chairman of the relevant Regulatory Commission, shall have the power to decide the procedure to be followed in determining the Preliminary Application, including for the Preliminary Application to be heard by the Chairman of the relevant Regulatory Commission alone.

17 In determining the Preliminary Application the relevant Regulatory Commission, or the Chairman of the relevant Regulatory Commission, shall have the power to:

17.1 dismiss the Preliminary Application summarily;

17.2 order that the issues raised in the Preliminary Application be dealt with as part of the main proceedings and not on a preliminary basis;

17.3 allow or dismiss the Preliminary Application in full or in part; or

17.4 make such further order as it considers appropriate.

18 The decision relating to a Preliminary Application shall be final and binding and there shall be no right of further challenge

PROVISIONAL SUSPENSIONS AND PROVISIONAL HEARINGS UNDER THE ANTI-DOPING REGULATIONS

19 In respect of a Provisional Suspension imposed upon a Participant pursuant to the Anti-Doping Regulations, that Participant may apply for a Provisional Hearing before or after they have been issued with a Charge for a breach of Rule E25 to which the Provisional Suspension relates.

Prior to a Charge

20 Where the Participant has not been issued with a Charge, the Participant may apply to the Judicial Panel Chairman to request a Provisional Hearing. Upon such request, the Judicial Panel Chairman will appoint a Regulatory Commission to conduct the Provisional Hearing.

After a Charge

21 Where the Participant has been issued with a Charge, but wishes to have the Provisional Hearing conducted by a separate Regulatory Commission to that appointed to determine the Charge, the Participant may apply to the Judicial Panel Chairman who shall determine whether it will be conducted by the Regulatory Commission appointed to determine the Charge or by a separate Regulatory Commission. In the absence of such an application, the Provisional Hearing will be conducted by the Regulatory Commission appointed to determine the Charge.

Procedure

22 Save that the Provisional Hearing may be conducted orally or in writing, the relevant Regulatory Commission shall have the power to decide the procedure to be followed in conducting the Provisional Hearing.

23 In conducting the Provisional Hearing, the relevant Regulatory Commission, shall have the power to:

23.1 order that the issues raised at the Provisional Hearing be dealt with as part of the main proceedings and not at the Provisional; Hearing;

23.2 order that the Provisional Suspension remain in place; or

23.3 order that the Provisional Suspension be removed, save that it may only do so on one or more of the bases provided for in the Anti-Doping Regulations.

24 The decision of a Regulatory Commission at a Provisional Hearing shall be subject to appeal only as provided for in the Anti-Doping Regulations.

DIRECTIONS

25 The Regulatory Commission may give any further directions considered necessary for the proper conduct of the proceedings, including but not limited to:

25.1 establishing the date, time and place of the hearing;

25.2 extending or reducing any time limit;

25.3 amending or dispensing with any of the procedural steps set out in these Regulations;

25.4 instructing that a transcript be made of the proceedings;

25.5 determining that issues be dealt with as preliminary issues, or at a preliminary hearing;

25.6 requiring that the parties make written submissions, or submit skeleton arguments in advance of the Regulatory Commission's hearing;

25.7 requiring that the disclosure be made of specific and identifiable documents in the possession of The Association, the Participant Charged or any third-party Participant which are considered by the Regulatory Commission to be relevant to the Charge; or

25.8 determining who shall attend a hearing;

25.9 whether on the application of one of the parties or otherwise, requiring a Participant (whether before or during a hearing) to:

25.9.1 attend before the Regulatory Commission to provide information, in which case questions may be put by the Regulatory Commission, The Association and any Participant Charged; or

25.9.2 produce documents or records to the Regulatory Commission.

26 The Regulatory Commission may order for there to be a directions hearing which it may direct to be conducted by way of oral hearing, telephone or video conference or by written submissions. If satisfied that all matters are agreed prior to the time set for the directions hearing, the Regulatory Commission may direct that no hearing take place and that the agreed directions shall stand as the decision of the Regulatory Commission.

27 The Regulatory Commission will circulate a note of its directions within three Business Days of a directions hearing.

28 A decision of a Regulatory Commission concerning any matters referred to in paragraphs 5 to 27 is final and not subject to appeal.

DETERMINATION

On Written Submissions

29 Where the Participant Charged states, in accordance with paragraph 5.2.1, that they wish for the matter to be dealt with on written submissions, the Regulatory Commission may dispense with an oral hearing. In such cases, the Regulatory Commission shall determine the Charge, and the sanction if the Charge is found proven, in the absence of the Participant Charged and shall make such penalty or order as it deems appropriate.

At a Hearing

30 Where the Participant Charged states, in accordance with paragraph 5.2.2, that they wish for the matter to be dealt with at a hearing, the Regulatory Commission shall proceed in accordance with this paragraph 30:

30.1 The Participant Charged must, if an individual, attend a hearing of the Regulatory Commission in person. If the Participant Charged is not an individual, it shall attend through a Club Official.

30.2 The Association, through the Chief Regulatory Officer (or their nominee), shall nominate an individual or individuals to present the Charge, call evidence and make submissions in support of the Charge.

30.3 The Regulatory Commission may adjourn a hearing for such period and upon such terms (including as to the costs of the Regulatory Commissions) as it considers appropriate.

30.4 Any Participant Charged appearing before the Regulatory Commission has the right to be represented in accordance with and subject to the requirements of paragraphs 10 to 11 of Part A: General Provisions.

30.5 Where a Participant Charged gives evidence in their own defence, they must give their evidence first (i.e. before any other defence witness gives evidence). All other witnesses of fact for The Association or the defence cannot enter the hearing until they are called to give their evidence.

30.6 The Regulatory Commission may proceed at a hearing in the absence of the Participant Charged where it is satisfied that there are no reasonable grounds for the failure to attend, and will do so in such manner as it considers appropriate.

30.7 Where a party fails to comply with an order, requirement, direction or instruction of the Regulatory Commission, it may take such action as it considers appropriate in relation to such failure and may make an award of costs against that party.

DECISION ON CHARGE

Deliberation

31 The Regulatory Commission will first consider whether or not a Charge is proven. In doing so, it will have regard to any admission of all or part of the Charge made by the Participant Charged. Where a Charge is denied, or where it is admitted but there remains a factual dispute between the Participant Charged and The Association, the Regulatory Commission shall consider the witness and other evidence placed before it together with each party's submissions in order to make findings in respect of any factual dispute(s) in order to determine: (i) whether a Charge is proven; (ii) if so proven or admitted, the factual basis on which the Charge is proven.

Notification of the decision on Charge

32 The Regulatory Commission shall notify parties of its decision as to whether a Charge is proven. The Regulatory Commission may cite such findings as it considers appropriate to enable the parties to understand its decision. The Regulatory Commission shall notify parties of its decision as soon as reasonably practicable and in such manner as it considers appropriate. Where such decision is reached at a hearing at which the Participant Charged is present it should be notified immediately, save where the Regulatory Commission considers it appropriate to act otherwise.

PENALTY

33 As regards penalty, the Regulatory Commission may impose any penalty that it considers to be appropriate in accordance with its general powers as set out in paragraphs 39 to 53 of Part A: General Provisions.

Matters relevant to the decision on penalty

34 Where a Charge is proven following determination at a hearing, the parties shall be invited to address the Regulatory Commission as to any matter relevant to its consideration of penalty, which shall include the disciplinary record of the Participant Charged and any mitigation raised.

35 Where a Charge is proven following determination on written submissions, the Regulatory Commission shall then consider the disciplinary record of the Participant together with any mitigation, and any other matters it considers relevant in its consideration of penalty.

Notification of decision on penalty

36 The Regulatory Commission shall notify parties of its decision as to any penalty or other order to be imposed as soon as is reasonably practicable and in such manner as it deems appropriate. Where such decision is reached at a hearing at which the Participant Charged is present it should be notified immediately, save where the Regulatory Commission considers it appropriate to act otherwise.

COSTS

37 Costs shall fall to be determined in accordance with paragraph 52 of Part A: General Provisions.

WRITTEN DECISION

38 A Regulatory Commission shall provide a written statement of its decision in accordance with paragraphs 64 and 65 of Part A: General Provisions.

WRITTEN REASONS

39 Where the Chief Regulatory Officer (or their nominee) or Participant Charged requires written reasons, they must make a written request to the secretary of the Regulatory Commission (by email to JudicialServices@TheFA.com) within seven days of receipt of the written decision.

APPEALS

40 Participants and The Association shall have the right to appeal a decision of a Regulatory Commission to an Appeal Board in accordance with Part C: Appeals – Non-Fast Track. There shall be no further right of challenge in respect of a decision of a Regulatory Commission, which is otherwise final and binding.

C - APPEALS - NON-FAST TRACK

These Regulations set out the provisions relating to appeals conducted in accordance with the Rules, save for appeals arising from matters proceeding under Part E: Fast Track Regulations (which shall be conducted in accordance with Part E: Fast Track 7: Appeals – Fast Track therein).

Unless otherwise stated, any reference to a day or days in this Part C: Appeals – Non-Fast Track shall not include Bank Holidays.

GROUNDS OF APPEAL

1 The grounds of appeal available to The Association shall be that the body whose decision is appealed against:

1.1 misinterpreted or failed to comply with the Rules and/or regulations of The Association relevant to its decision; and/or

1.2 came to a decision to which no reasonable such body could have come; and/or

1.3 imposed a penalty, award, order or sanction that was so unduly lenient as to be unreasonable.

2 The grounds of appeal available to Participants shall be that the body whose decision is appealed against:

2.1 failed to give that Participant a fair hearing; and/or

2.2 misinterpreted or failed to comply with the Rules and/or regulations of The Association relevant to its decision; and/or

2.3 came to a decision to which no reasonable such body could have come; and/or

2.4 imposed a penalty, award, order or sanction that was excessive.

3 Where an appeal is brought by FIFA, UKAD or WADA against a decision of a Regulatory Commission pursuant to the Association's Anti-Doping Regulations, any of the grounds set out at paragraphs 1 and 2 above may be relied upon.

APPEAL PROCESS

Commencement of Appeal and Response

4 Appeal timings shall run from the date of notification of the decision being appealed against (**"Notification Date"**). The Notification Date shall be:

4.1 the date of provision of the written decision; or

4.2 where the relevant rules or regulations provide that written reasons may be produced or requested, the date of provision of the written reasons.

5 In the case of an appeal from a decision of a Regulatory Commission or Disciplinary Commission;

5.1 notification of the intention to appeal shall be made in writing to The Association (or to the relevant Participant, where The Association is the appellant) within seven days of the Notification Date.

5.2 a notice of appeal (the **"Notice of Appeal"**) with The Association by email to JudicialServices@TheFA.com (or, where The Association is the appellant, with the relevant Participant) within 14 days of the Notification Date.

6 In case of all other appeals, the timings set out in paragraph 5 above shall apply, unless the relevant rules provide otherwise.

7 The Notice of Appeal must:

7.1 identify the specific decision(s) being appealed;

7.2 set out the ground(s) of appeal and the reasons why it would be substantially unfair not to alter the original decision;

7.3 set out a statement of the facts upon which the appeal is based;

7.4 save for where the appellant is The Association, in which case no appeal fee will be payable, be accompanied by the relevant appeal fee as set out in paragraph 21 of Part A: General Provisions. Where an appeal is lodged electronically, the appeal fee must be received not later than the third day following the day of despatch of the electronic notification (including both the day of despatch and receipt);

7.5 where appropriate, apply for leave to present new evidence under paragraph 10 below.

8 The respondent shall serve a written reply to the Notice of Appeal (the **"Response"**) on an appellant and the Appeal Board within 21 days of the lodging of the Notice of Appeal. Where appropriate, the Response must include an application for leave to present new evidence under paragraph 10 below.

9 Where the Regulatory Commission or other body appealed against has not stated the reasons for its decision:

9.1 the appellant shall request written reasons from that body which shall be provided to the Appeal Board; or

9.2 the Appeal Board shall require that a member of that body attends the appeal hearing. In which case: (i) questions may be put by the Appeal Board at a hearing to satisfy itself as to the reasons for the decision); (ii) cross-examination by the appellant or respondent shall not be permitted; (iii) representations may be made by the parties to the Appeal Board who may then put questions to the member of the body that made the decision.

9.3 In addition to the above, The Association may also request written reasons from a Disciplinary Commission where it is acting as secretariat to a relevant Appeal Board.

New Evidence

10 The Appeal Board shall hear new evidence only where it has given leave that it may be presented. An application for leave to present new evidence must be made in the Notice of Appeal or the Response. Any application must set out the nature and the relevance of the new evidence, and why it was not presented at the original hearing. Save in exceptional circumstances, the Appeal Board shall not grant leave to present new evidence unless satisfied (i) with the reason given as to why it was not, or could not have been, presented at the original hearing and (ii) that such evidence is relevant. The Appeal Board's decision shall be final. Where leave to present new evidence has been granted, in all cases the other party will be given an opportunity to respond.

Appeal Board Proceedings

11 The appellant shall prepare a set of documents which shall be provided to the Appeal Board and respondent at least seven days before the hearing and which shall comprise the following (or their equivalent):

11.1 the Charge;

11.2 the Reply;

11.3 any documents or other evidence referred to at the original hearing relevant to the appeal;

11.4 any transcript of the original hearing;

11.5 the notification of decision appealed against and, where they have been given, the reasons for the decision;

11.6 any new evidence;

11.7 the Notice of Appeal;

11.8 the Response.

12 An appeal shall be by way of a review on documents only and shall not involve a rehearing of the evidence considered by the body appealed against. The parties shall however be entitled to make oral submissions to the Appeal Board. Oral evidence will not be permitted, except where the Appeal Board gives leave to present new evidence under paragraph 10 above.

13 Once an appeal has been commenced, it shall not be withdrawn except by leave of the Appeal Board (or the Judicial Panel Chairman (or their nominee) if an Appeal Board has not yet been convened). Where an appeal is so withdrawn, the Appeal Board may make such order for costs, or such order in respect of any bond lodged pursuant to paragraphs 27 to 37 below, as it considers appropriate.

14 The chairman of an Appeal Board (or the Judicial Panel Chair (or their nominee) if an Appeal Board has not yet been convened) may upon the application of a party or otherwise, give any instructions considered necessary for the proper conduct of the proceedings, including but not limited to:

14.1 extending or reducing any time limit;

14.2 amending or dispensing with any procedural steps set out in these Regulations;

14.3 instructing that a transcript be made of the proceedings;

14.4 ordering parties to attend a preliminary hearing;

14.5 ordering a party to provide written submissions.

The decision of the chairman of the Appeal Board or the Judicial Panel Chair (or their nominee) (as applicable) shall be final.

15 The Appeal Board may adjourn a hearing for such period and upon such terms (including an order as to costs) as it considers appropriate.

16 The Appeal Board shall proceed in the absence of any party, unless it is satisfied that there are reasonable grounds for the failure of the party to attend, and shall do so in such manner as it considers appropriate.

17 The following procedures shall be followed at an appeal hearing unless the Appeal Board thinks it appropriate to amend them:

17.1 the appellant to address the appeal board, summarising its case;

17.2 any new evidence to be presented by the appellant;

17.3 the respondent to address the appeal board, summarising its case;

17.4 any new evidence to be presented by the respondent;

17.5 each party to be able to put questions to any witness giving new evidence;

17.6 the Appeal Board may put questions to the parties and any witness giving new evidence at any stage;

17.7 the respondent to make closing submissions;

17.8 the appellant to make closing submissions.

18 The Appeal Board may, in the event of a party failing to comply with an order, requirement or instruction of the Appeal Board, take any action it considers appropriate, including an award of costs against the offending party.

APPEAL BOARD DECISIONS

General

19 A decision, order, requirement or instruction of the Appeal Board shall (save where to be made under the Rules by the Chairman of the Appeal Board alone) be determined by a majority. Each member of the Appeal Board shall have one vote, save that the Chairman shall have a second and casting vote in the event of deadlock.

20 The Appeal Board shall notify the parties of its decision to the parties as soon as practicable in such a manner as it considers appropriate; and unless it directs otherwise, its decision shall come into effect immediately.

21 The Appeal Board shall have power to:

21.1 allow or dismiss the appeal;

21.2 exercise any power which the body against whose decision the appeal was made could have exercised, whether the effect is to increase or decrease any penalty, award, order or sanction originally imposed;

21.3 remit the matter for re-hearing;

21.4 order that any appeal fee be forfeited or returned as it considers appropriate;

21.5 make such further or other order as it considers appropriate, generally or for the purpose of giving effect to its decision.

21.6 order that any costs, or part thereof, incurred by the Appeal Board be paid by either party or be shared by both parties in a manner determined by the Appeal Board.

22 Decisions of the Appeal Board shall be final and binding and there shall be no right of further challenge, except in relation to appeals:

22.1 to CAS brought by FIFA or WADA pursuant to the Anti-Doping Regulations; or

22.2 concerning the amount of costs any party is ordered to pay by the Appeal Board (which is considered in paragraph 24 below).

Other Costs

23 Any costs incurred in bringing, or responding to, an appeal shall normally be borne by the party incurring the costs. In exceptional circumstances the Appeal Board may order one party to pay some or all of the other party's costs. Such costs will not include any legal costs. Any applications for such costs must be made at the Appeal Board and must include details of the exceptional circumstances.

24 An appeal against only the quantum of costs ordered to be paid shall be heard and determined by either:

24.1 a single person appointed by Sport Resolutions (UK) (or a similar independent body as determined by The Association from time to time). That person shall decide all matters of procedure for how such an appeal will be conducted; or

24.2 where the appeal proceedings relate to a decision of an Affiliated Association; or a league operating at Step 5 or below of the National League System; or a league operating at Tier 3 and below of the Women's Football Pyramid, it shall be determined by the Judicial Panel Chairman, who shall decide all matters of procedure for how the appeal will be conducted.

Guidance: *with regard to costs appeals under Paragraph 24.2, the Judicial Panel Chair may invite submissions from the National Game Disciplinary Chair (as defined in the National Game Chair Terms of Reference) when determining the matter.*

Written Decision and Written Reasons

25 As soon as practicable after the hearing, the Appeal Board shall publish a written statement of its decision, which shall state:

25.1 the names of the parties, the decision(s) appealed against and the grounds of appeal;

25.2 whether or not the appeal is allowed; and

25.3 the order(s) of the Appeal Board.

26 The Appeal Board shall, upon the request of the appellant or the respondent (such request to be received at The Association within three Business Days of the date of the notification of the decision), give written reasons for the decision.

APPEALS FROM DECISIONS OF LEAGUES: BOND APPLICATIONS

27 The provisions relating to bond applications at paragraphs 28 to 37 shall only apply where an appellant is appealing a decision of a League (save for decisions of the Premier League or the EFL).

28 Within seven days of lodging the Notice of Appeal, the League (as respondent) may make an application for the Appeal Board to require a bond to be lodged by the appellant before the appeal may progress.

29 Whilst such a bond application is being processed, no Response to the Notice of Appeal will be due from the Respondent in accordance with paragraph 8 above.

30 Any bond application must be copied to the appellant, and must:

30.1 state the grounds for the application; and

30.2 state the amount applied for.

31 The appellant may provide a response to the bond application within seven days of its submission.

32 Whether or not the appellant has provided any response to it, the Appeal Board shall consider the bond application as soon as practicable after the seventh day following its submission. The Appeal Board may, in its discretion, consider the bond application on papers alone, or require the parties to attend a personal hearing. Any such personal hearing shall be conducted according to such timings and procedure as the Appeal Board may determine at its discretion.

33 The test to be applied by the Appeal Board is whether it is satisfied that there is a real risk that the appellant will not pursue the appeal to a final determination by the Appeal Board. Where it is so satisfied, the Appeal Board may order the appellant to lodge a bond with The Association on such date and in such amount as it considers appropriate. The Appeal Board's decision in this respect shall be final and binding with no further right of appeal. For the avoidance of doubt, consideration of a bond may only be given by an Appeal Board following submission of an application by a respondent in accordance with paragraph 28.

34 Where an Appeal Board orders a bond to be lodged with The Association, the Appeal may not proceed until the bond is duly lodged. In any such appeal, notwithstanding the terms of paragraph 8 above, the respondent shall serve its response to the Notice of Appeal within 14 days from the date that the bond is lodged with The Association.

35 Where an Appeal Board decides not to order a bond to be lodged with The Association, notwithstanding the terms of paragraph 8 above, the respondent shall serve its response to the Notice of Appeal within 14 days from the date of the Appeal Board's decision.

36 Any bond lodged with The Association pursuant to paragraph 33 above will be held by The Association until the final determination of the appeal by an Appeal Board. Following such final determination, the bond shall in all cases be returned to the appellant in full.

37 Notwithstanding the terms of paragraph 23 above, in any case where a bond has been lodged with The Association, and the appeal is not pursued by the appellant to a final determination by the Appeal Board, the Appeal Board shall have a discretion to order the forfeiture of any part or all of the bond, such amount to be paid in full to the respondent to cover any costs it has so far incurred in responding to the appeal.

D - ON-FIELD REGULATIONS

SCOPE

1 Save where otherwise stated, Section One of these On-Field Regulations applies to Players associated with:

1.1 **Category 1:** Clubs in the Premier League, EFL Leagues, the National League, WSL and WCH playing First Team Competitive Matches;

1.2 **Category 2:** Clubs in the Premier League, EFL Leagues, the National League playing Non-First Team Competitive Matches in male open aged teams, Under 19s, Under 18s and Academy teams; and

1.3 **Category 3:** a team competing in the National League (North and South Divisions), the Isthmian League, the Northern Premier League and the Southern League playing Matches in any League, League cup competition, the FA Challenge Cup and the FA Trophy.

2 Section Two of these On-Field Regulations applies to Players associated with:

2.1 **Category 4:** Clubs in the Premier League, EFL Leagues, the National League, WSL and WCH playing Friendly Matches.

3 Section Three of these On-Field Regulations applies to Players (and, where stated, other Participants) associated with:

3.1 **Category 5:**

a) a team competing in all divisions of Leagues at Steps 5 to 6 of the National League System playing Matches in any Competition;

b) a team competing outside the National League System playing in Saturday Football, Sunday Football, Midweek Football, Representative Football, Veterans Football, and Education Football (as recognised by The Association from time to time); and

c) any affiliated team of a Club to which Categories 1 to 4 above do not apply playing Matches in any Competition.

4 Section Four of these On-Field Regulations applies to Technical Area Occupants associated with:

4.1 Clubs in Category 1 playing First Team Competitive Matches; and

4.2 Clubs or teams in Category 3 and Category 5 (as set out above).

SECTION ONE: PROVISIONS APPLICABLE TO CATEGORIES 1, 2 AND 3

CHARGES

5 The Association may issue a Charge 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 this Section One. In deciding whether or not to issue a Charge, The Association will have particular (but not exclusive) regard to the following:

5.1 any applicable Law(s) of the Game or Rules and Regulations or FIFA instructions and/or guidelines;

5.2 the nature of the incident, and in particular any intent, recklessness, negligence or other state of mind of the Player;

5.3 where applicable, the level of force used;

5.4 any injury to any Participant caused by the incident;

5.5 any other impact on the Match in which the incident occurred;

5.6 the prevalence of the type of incident in question in football generally;

5.7 the wider interests of football in applying consistent sanctions.

6 A Regulatory Commission considering a Charge pursuant to paragraph 5 above shall have regard to any standard punishment imposed pursuant to paragraphs 23 to 32 below for the same incident when considering any penalty in accordance with paragraph 41 of Part A: General Provisions Section Two.

7 The Association may issue a Charge against a Club at any time during the playing season in relation to cautionable or sending-off offences committed by Players of the Club.

MATCH OFFICIALS' REPORTING OF OFFENCES TO THE ASSOCIATION

8 Where a Referee fails to show a Player the appropriate card when communicating a caution or a sending-off, the relevant disciplinary action shall not be invalidated. However, the attention of the Referee should be drawn to the correct procedure.

9 Referees must submit a report to The Association following a Match stating the cautionable and/or sending-off offences. In the case of sending-off offences, the Assistant Referees must also submit a report.

10 The deadline for the submission of report(s) to The Association under paragraph 9 is:

10.1 for Matches falling within Category 1, 12 noon the day following the Match; or

10.2 for Matches falling within Categories 2 and 3, within two days of the Match (excluding Sundays).

NOTIFICATION OF CAUTIONABLE AND SENDING-OFF OFFENCES

11 A Player who has been cautioned or sent off in a Match will be notified by The Association, through their Club, of:

11.1 the cautionable and/or sending-off offence reported by the Referee to The Association;

11.2 in the case of a cautionable offence, the total number of cautions accumulated by the Player under this Section One during the current playing season; and

11.3 any automatic suspension, fine or other consequences resulting from an accumulation of cautions or the sending-off offence pursuant to paragraphs 23 to 32 below. Any automatic suspension will take effect regardless as to whether the notification is received by the Club from The Association before it is due to take effect in accordance with this Section One.

12 An administration fee of £10.00 will be charged to the Player through their Club for the cost of processing each notification made in accordance with paragraph 11. It is the responsibility of the Club to collect the administration fee from the Player and forward it to The Association upon request.

MISTAKEN IDENTITY (CAUTIONABLE AND SENDING-OFF OFFENCES)

13 Where a Player has been cautioned or sent off in a Match but claims they have been the victim of mistaken identity, that Player or their Club may make a claim of mistaken identity in relation to that cautionable or sending-off offence in accordance with the procedure set out in Fast Track 3 of the Fast Track Regulations.

14 Where, despite there being clear evidence that there is a case of mistaken identity, a Player or their Club does not submit a claim within the specified time limits, The Association may within seven days of the incident request a Regulatory Commission to review the matter. A Club failing to submit a claim for mistaken identity may be charged with Misconduct by The Association if there is reason to believe that the Club sought to gain an advantage by remaining silent on the matter.

WRONGFUL DISMISSAL (SENDING-OFF OFFENCES)

15 Where a Player has been sent off in a Match but claims that the dismissal was wrongful, that Player and their Club may seek to limit the disciplinary consequences of that dismissal by making a claim of wrongful dismissal in accordance with the procedure set out in Fast Track 4 of the Fast Track Regulations. In order to demonstrate that the decision was wrongful, the Player / their Club must establish that the Referee made an obvious error in sending off the Player.

16 A Player and their Club may make a claim of wrongful dismissal for any sending-off offence under the provisions of Law 12 of the Laws of the Game, save for where the Player is sent off for a receiving a second caution in the same Match.

17 Notwithstanding the outcome of the claim of wrongful dismissal, the relevant sending-off offence will remain on the record of the Club and the Player.

18 Where a Player or their Club:

18.1 submits a notification of their intention to claim wrongful dismissal in accordance with the provisions of Fast Track 4 of the Fast Track Regulations but fails to complete the claim; or

18.2 withdraws a complete claim prior to it being considered by a Regulatory Commission,

and, in either case, The Association believes that the notification or claim of wrongful dismissal had no prospect of success or amounted to an abuse of process, the Participant may be charged with Misconduct by The Association.

19 A Player or Club may be charged with Misconduct by The Association if there is evidence that video footage showing the incident from all available angles was in their possession but was not submitted to The Association when a claim of wrongful dismissal was made.

CLEARLY EXCESSIVE OR CLEARLY INSUFFICIENT CLAIMS (SENDING-OFF OFFENCES)

20 **20.1** A Player and their Club may seek to limit the disciplinary consequences of a sending-off offence by making a claim that the standard punishment would be clearly excessive in accordance with the procedure set out in Fast Track 5 of the Fast Track Regulations. In bringing such a claim, the Player / their Club must establish that it is clear and obvious that the standard punishment otherwise applicable to that sending-off offence would be clearly excessive. Such claims may only be made by a Player and their Club for the following sending-off offences: (a) using offensive, insulting or abusive language and/or gestures; (b) serious foul play; (c) violent conduct; or (d) spitting at an opponent or any other person.

20.2 The Association may seek to increase the disciplinary consequences of a sending-off offence by making a claim that the standard punishment is clearly insufficient in accordance with the procedure set out in Fast Track 6 of the Fast Track Regulations. The Association may bring such a claim where it is satisfied that the standard punishment otherwise applicable to that sending-off offence would be clearly insufficient. Such claims may only be made by The Association for the following sending-off offences: (a) serious foul play; (b) violent conduct; or (c) spitting at an opponent or any other person.

21 The ability to claim under paragraphs 20.1 and 20.2 above is provided only so exceptional cases may be rectified. It is not intended to lead to the systematic, regular review of standard punishments. Regulatory Commissions will be instructed to approach such cases with these principles in mind and it is envisaged that, for the vast majority of sending-off offences, the standard punishments applicable pursuant to paragraph 27 below will be appropriate and will be applied.

22 Notwithstanding the outcome of a claim made pursuant to paragraph 20.1 or paragraph 20.2 above:

22.1 the Player will be suspended for at least one Match, save where a successful claim for wrongful dismissal is made pursuant to paragraph 15 above; and

22.2 the sending-off offence:

22.2.1 will remain on the record of the Club and the Player;

22.2.2 will remain the subject of the administration fee set out in paragraph 12 above; and

22.2.3 will still accrue the applicable number of penalty points as set out in paragraph 62 below.

23 Where a Participant:

23.1 submits a notification of their intention to make a claim that the standard punishment is clearly excessive in accordance with the provisions of Fast Track 5 of the Fast Track Regulations but fails to complete the claim; or

23.2 withdraws a complete claim prior to it being considered by a Regulatory Commission,

and, in either case, The Association believes that the notification or claim had no prospect of success or amounted to an abuse of process, the Participant may be charged with Misconduct by The Association.

STANDARD PUNISHMENTS

Accumulation of Cautions

24 The accumulation of a set number of cautions by a Player in certain Competitions during a playing season will, subject to any applicable cut-off points, result in that Player receiving an automatic suspension and/or fine.

25 The relevant number of cautions, automatic suspensions and/or fines, the applicable cut-off points and the Competition(s) in which the automatic suspensions are to be served are as set out in:

25.1 **Category 1:** Table 1;

25.2 **Category 2:** Table 3; and

25.3 **Category 3:** Table 5.

26 Unless otherwise stated, such automatic suspensions shall only be served in the Competition in which the cautions were accumulated.

27 Where a Player accumulates 20 cautions in certain Competitions (as set out in Tables 1, 3 and 5) during a playing season, that Player shall be required to attend a Regulatory Commission within seven 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 that Player.

28 Subject to paragraph 26 above, where a Player accumulates any cautions after the final applicable cut-off point in a particular Competition during a playing season (as set out in Tables 1, 3 and 5), the accumulation of those cautions shall not count towards or result in that Player receiving an automatic suspension and/or fine.

29 Where a Player moves between Clubs participating in different Leagues falling within Category 1 (as set out in Table 1) during a playing season, any cautions accumulated by the Player in the League in which their former Club participates shall be deemed as cautions accumulated by the Player in the League in which their new Club participates for the purposes of paragraphs 24 to 28 above.

Sending-Off Offences

30 The commission of a sending-off offence by a Player will result in that Player receiving an automatic suspension and/or fine.

31 The relevant automatic suspensions and/or fines arising from a sending-off offence by a Player and the Competition(s) in which the automatic suspensions are to be served are as set out in:

31.1 **Category 1:** Table 2;

31.2 **Category 2:** Table 4; and

31.3 **Category 3:** Table 6.

Additional Sending-Off Offences

32 **Category 1:** subject to paragraph 34 below, a Player who, in the same playing season, has previously been sent off in a Match falling within Category 1 (or suspended by a Regulatory Commission under Fast Track 1 of the Fast Track Regulations in relation to a Match falling within Category 1) will be automatically suspended for one extra Match for each such previous sending-off offence or suspension, in addition to the automatic suspension applicable to the latest sending-off offence.

For the purposes of this paragraph 32, a sending-off offence committed by a Player in a Match falling within Category 2 will only be taken into account where it was for a) violent conduct, b) serious foul play or c) spitting at any opponent or any other person.

33 **Category 2:** subject to paragraph 34 below, a Player who, in the same playing season, has previously been sent off in a Match falling within Categories 1 or 2 will be automatically suspended for one extra Match falling within Category 2 for each such previous sending-off offence, in addition to the automatic suspension applicable to the latest sending-off offence.

For the purposes of this paragraph 34, a sending-off offence committed by a Player in a Match falling within Category 1 (or a suspension under Fast Track 1 of the Fast Track Regulations) will only be taken into account where it was for a) violent conduct, b) serious foul play or c) spitting at any opponent or any other person.

34 **EFL Trophy only:** a Player who, in the same playing season, has previously been sent off in an EFL Trophy Match (or suspended by a Regulatory Commission under Fast Track 1 of the Fast Track Regulations in relation to an EFL Trophy Match) will be automatically suspended for one extra EFL Trophy Match for each such previous sending-off offence or suspension, in addition to the automatic suspension applicable to the latest sending-off offence.

National League Cup only: a Player who, in the same playing season, has previously been sent off in a National League Cup Match (or suspended by a Regulatory Commission under Fast Track 1 of the Fast Track Regulations in relation to a National League Cup Match) will be automatically suspended for one extra National League Cup Match for each such previous sending-off offence or suspension, in addition to the automatic suspension applicable to the latest sending-off offence.

35 **Category 3:** a Player who, in the same playing season, has previously been sent off in a Match falling within Category 3 will be automatically suspended for one extra Match falling within Category 3 for each such previous sending-off offence, in addition to the automatic suspension applicable to the latest sending-off offence.

Commencement of Suspension

36 **Categories 1 and 2:** subject to paragraph 38 below, a period of suspension arising from an accumulation of cautions or a sending-off offence by a Player associated with a Club in Categories 1 and 2 will commence immediately, save for where a Player / their Club have brought a claim under paragraph 13 in relation to Mistaken Identity or paragraph 15 in relation to Wrongful Dismissal and that claim has not been determined by a Regulatory Commission before the next applicable fixture.

37 **Category 3:** subject to paragraph 38 below, a period of suspension arising from an accumulation of cautions or a sending-off offence by a Player of a team in Category 3 will commence either: (a) on the seventh day following either the date of the last offence (in relation to an accumulation of cautions) or the date of the relevant offence (in relation to sending-off offences), immediately before the play-off matches where the date of the last offence (in relation to an accumulation of cautions) or the date of the relevant offence (in relation to sending-off offences) is less than seven days prior to the first play-off match or (c) immediately following the date of the relevant offence (in relation to sending-off offences) where it is committed in a play-off match save for where a Player / their Club have brought a claim under paragraph 13 in relation to a cautionable or sending-off offence or paragraph 15 in relation to a sending-off offence.

Multiple Suspensions arising from a single Match

38 **Categories 1, 2 and 3:** where multiple periods of suspension arise from a single Match, those periods of suspension will be served in the following order of precedence: (a) any period of suspension arising from a sending-off offence followed by (b) any period of suspension arising from an accumulation of cautions.

Scope of Suspension

39 **Category 1:** a period of suspension applicable to a Player associated with a Club in Category 1 will, where the period of suspension arises from either an accumulation of cautions or a sending-off offence apply only to the relevant number and type of First Team Competitive Matches as set out in Tables 1 or 2.

40 **Category 2:** a period of suspension applicable to a Player associated with a Club in Category 2 will, where the period of suspension arises from either an accumulation of cautions or a sending-off offence, apply to the relevant number of Non-First Team Competitive Matches (as set out in Tables 3 and 4) played during the period between the opening date in the League in which their Club's first team participates to the final Match of any Competition in which their Club is participating during that playing season. During this period, only one Non-First Team Competitive Match per day for which the Player is eligible shall count towards the service of that period of suspension.

Any dispute in relation to this paragraph 40 above shall only be dealt with by a Regulatory Commission on written submissions. Such written submissions must be received by The Association within three days of the suspension notice being received by the Player's Club.

41 **Category 3:** a period of suspension applicable to a Player associated with a team in Category 3 will:

41.1 only constitute a suspension from playing Saturday Football for teams competing at Steps 2-4 of the National League System, save for a period of suspension arising from a Charge issued pursuant to paragraph 5 above.

41.2 where the period of suspension arises from a sending-off offence, encompass a suspension from Friendly Matches during the relevant period (Friendly Matches will not however count towards the service of such a suspension); and

41.3 where a suspension is as a result of a Charge, also constitute a suspension from playing any Match falling within Category 5.

42 In exceptional cases, a Player may make a claim to The Association that a suspension is disproportionately harsh, due to the period of time required to serve the suspension. In such circumstances, The Association may at its absolute discretion amend the suspension to a Football Category-specific suspension.

Multiple Automatic Suspensions

43 Subject to paragraph 38 above, a Player shall serve automatic suspensions arising from this Section One in a chronological order of precedence.

Example:

Player A receives (a) an automatic suspension of 3 Matches for accumulating 15 cautions in Premier League Matches prior to the applicable cut-off point (which only applies to the Club's next 3 Matches in the Premier League) and arising from his Club's next FTCM (a Match in the FA Challenge Cup), Player A receives (b) an automatic suspension of 3 Matches arising from a sending-off for violent conduct (which applies to the Club's next 3 FTCM - save for any Match in the EFL Trophy).

Player A's Club's next 6 FTCM are as follows: (i) Premier League, (ii) FA Challenge Cup, (iii) Premier League, (iv) FA Challenge Cup (v) EFL Cup and (vi) Premier League.

Player A's automatic suspension for accumulating 15 cautions in Premier League Matches was received first and would therefore apply to the 3 Premier League Matches listed above. Player A's automatic suspension for the sending-off offence would apply to the 2 FA Challenge Cup Matches and the EFL Cup Match (as Player A is already suspended from Premier League Matches as a consequence of the first automatic suspension).

Re-arranged Matches

44 A Regulatory Commission may determine that a Match shall not count towards the service of a suspension if it is satisfied that the Match has been arranged by the Club with a view to enabling a Player to complete their suspension so that the Player may be eligible to play in a particular Match.

Collection of Fines

45 The Player's Club is responsible for collecting from the Player any fine payable pursuant to paragraph 24 and/or 30 above and forwarding the amount to The Association upon request.

Imposition of Fines by a Club under a Player's Employment Contract

46 Clubs may impose a fine on Players for cautionable and sending-off offences under their employment contract (where applicable). If a Club chooses to impose such a fine it must, without delay, notify The Association of the details of the fine.

47 Clubs in Categories 1 and 2 are required to submit a nil return for any offence under the guidelines on Club discipline issued from time to time by the Professional Football Negotiating Consultative Committee for which a Player was not fined.

Outstanding Suspensions

48 Subject to paragraph 49 below, any period of suspension or part thereof arising from this Section One or as a result of a Charge which remains outstanding at the end of the playing season:

48.1 Categories 1 and 3: must be served at the commencement of the following playing season; and

48.2 Category 2: must be served at the commencement of the relevant period outlined in paragraph 36 above in the following playing season.

49 Any period of suspension or part thereof arising from an accumulation of cautions in relation to the FA Challenge Cup, EFL Cup, EFL Trophy, FA Trophy, National League Cup, Women's FA Challenge Cup or FA Women's League Cup which remains outstanding at the end of the playing season will be repealed and need not be served at the commencement of the following playing season.

Transfer of Outstanding Suspensions

50 Where a Player, who is subject to an outstanding suspension arising from a sending-off offence in: (a) an EFL Trophy Match or (b) a National League Cup Match either:

50.1 remains registered to the same Club, but that Club becomes ineligible for or does not enter the EFL Trophy or National League Cup (as applicable); or

50.2 moves to a different Club that is ineligible or does not enter the EFL Trophy or National League Cup (as applicable);

that period of suspension shall be transferred so that it may be served with reference to Matches other than those in the EFL Trophy or National League Cup (to which the suspension originally applied).

Players Moving Between Clubs

51 Where a Player moves between Clubs at a time when that Player is subject to a suspension, the following shall apply:

51.1 until the Player moves, the suspension shall be served by reference to Matches completed by the Club from which that Player moves (for which the Player is eligible to play);

51.2 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 to which that the Player moves (for which the Player is eligible to play);

51.3 where the Club that the Player moves to competes at a different level as 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 to which that Player moves.

52 For the purposes of paragraph 51, Clubs compete at three different levels. Each level is comprised as follows:

52.1 Premier League, EFL Leagues and the National League;

52.2 The National League (North and South Divisions), the Isthmian League, the Northern Premier League and the Southern League;

52.3 Steps 5 to 6 of the National League System, or any other League outside the National League System which operates a match-based disciplinary system.

53 Paragraph 51 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 to which that Player moves.

Suspensions Notified on an International Transfer Certificate

54 Where The Association is notified of a relevant outstanding suspension on a Player's International Transfer Certificate:

54.1 subject to paragraph 54.2, that suspension shall be applied to the Player with reference to the applicable number of First Team Competitive Matches, Non-First Team Competitive Matches, or other Matches; and

54.2 where that suspension would have only applied to a cup competition in which the Player's former club participates, the suspension shall be applied to the Player with reference to the applicable number of First Team Competitive Matches in cup competitions only.

DISCIPLINARY ACTION AGAINST CLUBS – MULTIPLE OFFENCES IN A SINGLE MATCH

55 The Association will take disciplinary action against a Club if six or more of the Club's Players or Technical Area Occupants are either cautioned or sent off in a Match falling within Category 1 or Category 3.

56 On the first occasion that this happens in a playing season, The Association may offer the Club a standard punishment as set out in the following table:

LEAGUE	FINE
Premier League	£25,000
EFL Championship	£5,000
EFL League One	£2,500
EFL League Two	£1,000
National League	£750
National League (North and South)	£500
Northern Premier League, Southern League and the Isthmian League	£250
Women's Super League	£750
Women's Championship	£500

57 For each successive occasion that this happens in the same playing season, the standard punishment offered will be a fine that is double and then treble (and so on) the amount set out in the table at paragraph 56 above.

58 A Club may either; a) accept The Association's offer of a standard punishment or; b) make written representations in mitigation before a Regulatory Commission no later than 28 days following the date of the offence. In the event the written representations in mitigation are rejected, the Regulatory Commission may consider whether or not the standard punishment should be increased.

DISCIPLINARY ACTION AGAINST CLUBS – ACCUMULATION OF PENALTY POINTS BY A CLUB'S PLAYERS

General

59 For the purposes of paragraphs 60 to 76 below, in relation to Category 3, references to a Club's Players shall mean a reference to Players of a Club's team competing in Matches falling with Category 3.

60 The purpose of the penalty points system is to assess the disciplinary record of a Club's Players across two periods during a playing season:

60.1 penalty points period 1: the beginning of a playing season to 31 December (inclusive); and

60.2 penalty points period 2: the beginning of a playing season to the end of a playing season (inclusive).

61 The number of penalty points accumulated by a Club is calculated in accordance with paragraphs 63 to 67 below.

62 In determining whether to issue a Charge against a Club, The Association will (in accordance with paragraphs 70 and 72 below) compare the number of penalty points accumulated by a Club during each penalty point period against the number of penalty points accumulated by other Clubs competing in the same League during the same penalty points period.

63 A Club required to appear before a Regulatory Commission for matters related to an accumulation of penalty points must be represented by at least one of its Directors and its Manager.

64 A Club's disciplinary record will be subject to interim review as at 31 December annually. Any such record may be requested from the Club by The Association pursuant to Rule F2. Clubs may be ordered to attend a Regulatory Commission to discuss a disciplinary record that is deemed to be poor at that stage of the playing season.

Calculating Penalty Points Totals

65 Each cautionable or sending-off offence committed by a Club's Players in each Match falling within Category 1 or Category 3 during a playing season will incur that Club a set number of penalty points in accordance with the table at paragraph 67 below.

66 Cautionable or sending-off offences committed by a Club's Players in Matches falling within Category 2 will not incur that Club any penalty points.

67 The number of penalty points incurred for a cautionable offence and each sending-off offence is as follows:

OFFENCE	PENALTY POINTS INCURRED
Any cautionable offence	4 penalty points
Denying the opposing team a goal or an obvious goal-scoring opportunity by a handball offence	10 penalty points
Denying a goal or an obvious goal-scoring opportunity to an opponent whose overall movement is towards the offender's goal by an offence punishable by a free kick	10 penalty points
Serious foul play	12 penalty points
Spitting at an opponent or any other person	12 penalty points
Violent conduct	12 penalty points
Using offensive, insulting or abusive language and/or gestures	12 penalty points
Receiving a second caution in the same Match	10 penalty points

68 In relation to teams in Category 3 only, Players of those teams charged with Misconduct for a breach of Rule E3 which is subsequently found proven will incur 12 penalty points.

69 Where any sending-off offence is subject to a successful claim for wrongful dismissal under paragraph 15 above, any penalty points that the sending-off offence would otherwise have incurred shall be disregarded for the purposes of calculating a Club's cumulative total of Penalty Points in accordance with paragraphs 64 and 67 above.

Accumulation of Penalty Points and Sanctions

Penalty Points Period 1

70 A Club whose Players accumulate a total number of penalty points (as calculated in accordance with paragraphs 64 to 69 above) in Matches between the start of the playing season and 31 December (including any Match played on that day) which is 40% or more above the median number of penalty points per Match average in the same League, will be required to appear before a Regulatory Commission to explain the conduct of its Players.

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

Penalty Points Period 2

72 A Club whose Players accumulate a total number of penalty points (as calculated in accordance with paragraphs 64 to 69 above) in Matches during the whole playing season which is 40% or more above the median number of penalty points per Match average in the same League, will be required to appear before a Regulatory Commission to explain the conduct of its Players.

73 If the Regulatory Commission considers that the Club is not able to provide a reasonable explanation for such occurrence, the Club may be warned and/or ordered to pay a fine up to the relevant amount set out in the following table:

LEAGUE	FINE (MAXIMUM)
Premier League	£100,000
EFL Championship	£50,000
EFL League One	£25,000
EFL League Two	£12,500
National League	£6,000
National League (North and South)	£1,000
Northern Premier League, Southern League and the Isthmian League	£500
Women's Super League	£6,000
Women's Championship	£1,000

74 Where any Club's Players accumulate a total number of penalty points which is between 40% and 50% (inclusive) above the median number of penalty points per Match average in the same League, any fine will normally be suspended in whole or in part for a period of one playing season, unless the Regulatory Commission determines that this is not appropriate, in which case it will be imposed immediately.

75 Where any Club's Players accumulate a total number of penalty points which is more than 50% above the median number of penalty points per Match 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 playing season.

76 In addition, the Regulatory Commission may 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 46 above may be taken into consideration by the Regulatory Commission.

SECTION TWO: PROVISIONS APPLICABLE TO CATEGORY 4

CHARGES

1 The Association may issue a Charge 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 this Section Two.

2 A Regulatory Commission considering a Charge pursuant to paragraph 1 above shall have regard to any standard punishment imposed pursuant to paragraphs 6 to 9 below for the same incident when considering any penalty in accordance with paragraph 41 of Part A: General Provisions Section Two.

MATCH OFFICIALS' REPORTING OF OFFENCES TO THE ASSOCIATION

3 Where a Referee fails to show a Player the appropriate card when communicating a caution or a sending-off, the relevant disciplinary action shall not be invalidated. However, the attention of the Referee should be drawn to the correct procedure.

4 Referees must submit a report to The Association following a Match stating the cautionable and/or sending-off offences. In the case of sending-off offences, the Assistant Referees must also submit a report to The Association.

5 The deadline for the submission of report(s) to The Association under paragraph 4 above is within two days of the Match (excluding Sundays).

STANDARD PUNISHMENTS

Cautionable Offences

6 The Association shall not impose any standard punishments in respect of cautionable offences.

7 Where standard punishments are imposed on Players in respect of cautionable offences with their agreement (for example, as part of tournament rules), any such standard punishment can only apply to Matches played by Clubs falling within Category 4, as determined by The Association.

Sending-Off Offences

8 The commission of a sending-off offence by a Player will result in that Player receiving an automatic suspension of one Match.

9 Such automatic suspension can only apply to Matches played by Clubs falling within Category 4, as determined by The Association.

SECTION THREE: PROVISIONS APPLICABLE TO CATEGORY 5

GENERAL

1 Each Affiliated Association must set out in its rules or regulations a copy of this Section Three, which is to be followed where a Participant of a Club in Category 5 commits an alleged act of Misconduct and where a Player commits a cautionable or sending-off offence in a Match.

2 Nothing in this Section Three shall preclude:

2.1 an Affiliated Association delegating to The Association or to another Affiliated Association its powers and duties to investigate and/or adjudicate in cases where it may be advantageous so to do; or

2.2 the exercise by The Association of its powers pursuant to Rule G1.

3 All written communications from a Player to the Affiliated Association Secretary must be sent by the secretary of the Player's Club unless the Player is no longer registered with that Club (in which case written communications must be sent by the Player or the secretary of the Club to which that Player has moved).

4 Where a Club receives a notification pursuant to this Section Three, it is the duty of the Club Secretary and the Participant, by the deadline stated on any notification, to ensure that a response has been provided via the electronic system operated by The Association from time to time with such information that includes:

4.1 the full name and email address of the Participant; and

4.2 the Participant's date of birth (and other personal identification data requested).

Where the Participant is not available to assist with the provision of a response, the Club should nevertheless provide the response indicating the reason why the Participant was not available to assist together with the administration fee and confirmation as to whether or not the Participant has been made aware of the contents. Where the Club provides a response via the electronic system operated by The Association from time to time, in doing so the Club Secretary acknowledges that the Participant has been made aware of the contents. Any suspension order resulting from failure to comply with this paragraph 4 shall be imposed upon the Club and the individual Participant, subject to paragraph 105 below.

5 Clubs may participate in a pilot programme as set out by the Board and will be required to abide by the regulations and terms of that programme.

6 Payment of any fine or costs in respect of disciplinary matters must be paid within 14 days of the invoice date. Failure to pay within this timeframe will result in an additional late-payment fee of £10, to be paid within 7 days. Failure to pay both the invoice and the late-payment fee within that 7-day period will result in the Participant and the team associated with the outstanding payment being suspended until payment is made in full. Where a fine is imposed by these Regulations for a cautionable offence or a sending-off offence committed by a Player who is under the age of 18 and participating in Youth Football, the relevant Club at the time the offence was committed must pay the fine.

7 Unless approval has been granted by The Association for such suspensions to be extended across all levels of football, any period of suspension under this Section Three shall apply only to football at Step 5 and below of the National League System. For example, a Player serving a period of suspension arising from this Section Three would not be precluded from participating in a Match in the FA Challenge Cup for a Club or team participating in any League above Step 5 of the National League System.

CHARGES

8 An administration fee of £15.00 will be charged to the Participant through their Club for the cost of processing a Charge (or Charges, where more than one is issued to a Participant in relation to the same incident or connected incidents).

9 References to cautionable offences in this Section Three shall include those punished by a temporary dismissal.

10 An Affiliated Association may issue a Charge against a Participant in relation to an incident whether or not the same incident has been dealt with by the Referee and/or pursuant to this Section Three. In deciding whether or not to issue a Charge, an Affiliated Association will have particular (but not exclusive) regard to the following:

10.1 any applicable Law(s) of the Game or rules and regulations or FIFA instructions and/or guidelines;

10.2 the nature of the incident, and in particular any intent, recklessness, negligence or other state of mind of the Participant;

10.3 where applicable, the level of force used;

10.4 any injury to any Participant caused by the incident;

10.5 any other impact on the Match in which the incident occurred;

10.6 the prevalence of the type of incident in question in football generally;

10.7 the wider interests of football in applying consistent sanctions.

11 A Disciplinary Commission considering a Charge pursuant to paragraph 10 above shall have regard to any automatic suspension or sanction imposed pursuant to paragraphs 52 and 57 for the same incident when considering any sanction.

MATCH OFFICIALS' REPORTING OF OFFENCES TO AFFILIATED ASSOCIATIONS

12 Where a Referee fails to show a Player the appropriate card when communicating a caution or a sending-off, the relevant disciplinary action shall not be invalidated. However, the attention of the Referee should be drawn to the correct procedure.

13 Referees must submit a report to the relevant Affiliated Association within two days of the Match (excluding Sundays) stating the cautionable, sending-off offences and/or extraordinary incidents. In the case of sending-off offences and extraordinary incidents, the Assistant Referees may also submit a report.

14 Reports related to Players participating in Matches in County Representative and FA County Youth Cup football must be sent to the Affiliated Association of the Club of the offending Player. A copy of each such report must also be provided to The Association.

15 An Affiliated Association may reserve the right not to process a caution if the report is deemed to be invalid for any reason.

NOTIFICATION OF CAUTIONABLE AND SENDING-OFF OFFENCES

16 A Player who has been cautioned or sent off in a Match will be notified by the relevant Affiliated Association, through their Club, of:

16.1 the cautionable and/or sending-off offence reported by the Referee to the Affiliated Association;

16.2 in the case of a cautionable offence, the total number of cautions accumulated by the Player under this Section Three during the current playing season; and

16.3 any automatic suspension, fine or other consequences resulting from an accumulation of cautions, sending-off offence and/or multiple temporary dismissals pursuant to paragraphs 52 and 57 below. Any automatic suspension will take effect regardless as to whether the notification is received by the Club from The Association before it is due to take effect in accordance with this Section Three.

17 A fee will be charged to the Player through their Club for the cost of processing each notification made in accordance with paragraph 16 above. The applicable fee is £12.00 for each notification of a cautionable offence and £15.00 for each notification of a sending-off offence. It is the responsibility of the Club to collect the fee from the Player and forward it to the Affiliated Association upon request.

MISTAKEN IDENTITY (CAUTIONABLE OR SENDING-OFF OFFENCES)

18 Where a Player has been cautioned or sent off in a Match but claims they have been the victim of mistaken identity, that Player or their Club may make a claim of mistaken identity in relation to that cautionable or sending-off offence in accordance with the procedure set out at paragraphs 19 to 20 below.

Making a Claim of Mistaken Identity

19 To make a claim of mistaken identity, the Players concerned and their Club must submit to the Affiliated Association:

19.1 written particulars upon which the claim is founded (which must include identifying specifically the name of the Player responsible for the relevant offence);

19.2 any evidence in support of the claim; and

19.3 the relevant fee as set out in paragraph 38.

20 The relevant timings for a Player or their Club to make a claim of mistaken identity are as follows:

	TIMINGS	GENERAL GUIDE*
Claim / Evidence	5pm on the third Business Day following the incident	Wednesday
Disciplinary Commission	To be determined prior to the suspension being served.	Friday

*based on a Match taking place on Saturday or Sunday

Disciplinary Commission Procedure

21 If the Affiliated Association is satisfied that the claim of mistaken identity warrants further investigation, a Disciplinary Commission shall be convened and will meet before any automatic suspension is due to take effect.

22 The Disciplinary Commission shall determine the matter on video and/or written evidence only, and parties shall not be present or represented in person. For the avoidance of doubt, none of the Match Officials nor the Club or Player are entitled to be present or represented in person at the Disciplinary Commission established for such purpose.

23 If the appointed Disciplinary Commission is satisfied that the claim of mistaken identity has been proven, the record of the offence will be transferred to the appropriate offender, who will be subject to any applicable disciplinary consequences in accordance with this Section Three.

24 The decision of the Disciplinary Commission is final and binding and there shall be no right of appeal from decisions made by Disciplinary Commissions in respect of claims of mistaken identity made pursuant to paragraph 18 above.

WRONGFUL DISMISSAL (SENDING-OFF OFFENCES)

General

25 Where a Player has been sent off in a Match but claims that the dismissal was wrongful, that Player and their Club may seek to limit the disciplinary consequences of that dismissal by making a claim of wrongful dismissal in accordance with the procedure set out in paragraphs 27 to 29 below. In order to demonstrate that the decision was wrongful, the Player and/or their Club must establish that the Referee made an obvious error in dismissing the Player.

26 A Player and their Club may make a claim of wrongful dismissal for any sending-off offence under the provisions of Law 12 of the Laws of the Game, save for where the Player is sent off for a) receiving a second caution in the same Match or b) using offensive, insulting or abusive language and/or gestures.

Making a Claim of Wrongful Dismissal

27 Where a Player and their Club intend to make a claim of wrongful dismissal, they must notify the Affiliated Association that they intend to make such a claim. Notification can be provided to the Affiliated Association by email or via the electronic system operated by The Association from time to time. If confirmation is provided via email it should be sent to discipline@[insert name of county]fa.com – for example discipline@kentfa.com.

28 To make a claim of wrongful dismissal, the Player and their Club must submit to the Affiliated Association:

28.1 written particulars upon which the claim is founded;

28.2 any evidence in support of the claim (this must include video footage showing the incident if available); and

28.3 the relevant fee as set out in paragraph 38.

29 The relevant timings for a Player and their Club to make a claim of wrongful dismissal are as follows:

	TIMINGS	GENERAL GUIDE*
Notification of Intention to Submit a Claim	5pm on the second Business Day following the incident	Tuesday
Claim / Evidence	5pm on the fourth Business Day following the incident	Thursday
Disciplinary Commission	To be determined prior to the suspension being served.	Friday

*based on a Match taking place on Saturday or Sunday

30 Upon receipt of a claim of wrongful dismissal by the Affiliated Association, it will determine whether the claim is capable of acceptance by determining whether the claim complies with the requirements set out at paragraph 28 above and the timings set out at paragraph 29 above.

31 Claims of wrongful dismissal accepted by the Affiliated Association will be placed before a Disciplinary Commission for consideration as soon as possible but no later than the date upon which an automatic suspension is due to take effect.

Disciplinary Commission Procedure

32 The Disciplinary Commission shall determine the matter on video and/or written evidence only, and parties shall not be present or represented in person. For the avoidance of doubt, none of the Match Officials nor the Club or Player are entitled to be present or represented in person at the Disciplinary Commission established for such purpose.

33 After considering the evidence, the Disciplinary Commission will decide whether the claim of wrongful dismissal is rejected or is successful. A claim will only be successful where the Disciplinary Commission is satisfied that the Referee made an obvious error in dismissing the Player.

34 If the claim of wrongful dismissal is successful, the automatic suspension will be withdrawn the fee is returned to the Player and their Club. If the claim is unsuccessful, the fee is not returned to the Player and their Club.

35 Where the standard punishment is withdrawn, the sending-off offence shall not be counted for the purposes of paragraph 59 below.

36 Notwithstanding the outcome of a claim of wrongful dismissal, the relevant sending-off offence will remain on the record of the Club and the Player.

37 The decision of the Disciplinary Commission is final and binding and there shall be no right of appeal from decisions made by Disciplinary Commissions in respect of claims of wrongful dismissal made pursuant to paragraph 25 above.

FEE FOR CLAIMS OF MISTAKEN IDENTITY OR WRONGFUL DISMISSAL

38 The following fees apply in respect of claims of mistaken identity or wrongful dismissal proceeding under this Section Three:

LEVEL OF CLUB	FEE
Steps 5-6 of the National League System	£50
Outside of the National League System	£30

CLEARLY INSUFFICIENT CLAIMS (SENDING-OFF OFFENCES)

General

39 In truly exceptional circumstances, an Affiliated Association may seek to increase the disciplinary consequences of a sending-off offence by making a claim that the standard punishment is clearly insufficient. An Affiliated Association may bring such a claim where it is satisfied that the standard punishment otherwise applicable to the sending-off offence would be clearly insufficient. Such claims may only be made by an Affiliated Association for the following sending-off offences: (a) serious foul play; (b) violent conduct; or (c) spitting at an opponent or any other person.

40 The ability for an Affiliated Association to bring a claim under paragraph 39 above is provided only so exceptional cases may be rectified. It is not intended to lead to the systematic, regular review of standard punishments. Disciplinary Commissions will be instructed to approach such cases with these principles in mind and it is envisaged that, for the vast majority of sending-off offences, the standard punishments applicable pursuant to paragraph 58 below will be appropriate and will be applied.

41 Where an Affiliated Association brings such a claim:

41.1 a Referee's report showing that a Player was sent off for a) serious foul play; (b) violent conduct; or (c) spitting at an opponent or any other person shall be conclusive evidence that the Player committed the relevant sending-off offence under Law 12 of the Laws of the Game and shall not be subject to challenge, save for where a sending-off is subject to a claim for wrongful dismissal pursuant to paragraph 25 above; and

41.2 the Player will be provided notice of the claim together with any evidence in support of the claim and will be invited to submit a written reply to the claim together with any evidence and submissions in support of that reply.

42 A Disciplinary Commission that considers a claim of wrongful dismissal is concerned with only the question of whether any sanction of a suspension from play is one which should be imposed in view of the facts of the case. This role is not to usurp the role of the Referee.

43 Notwithstanding the outcome of a claim made by an Affiliated Association pursuant to paragraph 39 above:

43.1 the Player will be suspended for at least one Match, save where a successful claim for wrongful dismissal is made pursuant to paragraph 25 above; and

43.2 the sending-off offence:

43.2.1 will remain on the record of the Club and the Player;

43.2.2 will remain the subject of the administration fee set out in paragraph 17 above; and

43.2.3 will still accrue the applicable number of penalty points as set out in paragraph 85 below.

Disciplinary Commission

44 A claim made by an Affiliated Association pursuant to paragraph 39 above will be determined by a Disciplinary Commission on the basis of video and/or written evidence only, and parties shall not be present or represented in person. For the avoidance of doubt, none of the Match Officials nor the Club or Player are entitled to be present or represented in person at the Disciplinary Commission established for such purpose.

45 Claims pursuant to paragraph 39 above will be placed before a Disciplinary Commission for consideration prior to the commencement of the automatic suspension (if possible) but in any event no later than the date upon which an automatic suspension is completed.

46 A Disciplinary Commission will be convened to decide the matter on any relevant video and written evidence submitted.

47 The following procedures will be used at a Disciplinary Commission unless the Disciplinary Commission thinks it appropriate to amend them:

47.1 the Disciplinary Commission Secretary will produce:

47.1.1 the Referee's report, reports from any other Match Official and any other evidence supporting the Referee's action;

47.1.2 any video and written evidence provided in support of the claim.

47.1.3 the written reply and all evidence and submissions provided by the Player in response to the claim.

47.2 after considering the evidence, the Disciplinary Commission will decide whether the claim should be successful or rejected.

47.3 The claim will only be successful where the Affiliated Association satisfies the Disciplinary Commission so that it is sure that:

47.3.1 the circumstances of the sending-off offence under review are truly exceptional, such that the standard punishment should not be applied; and

47.3.2 the standard punishment would be clearly insufficient.

47.4 in considering the matters at paragraph 47.3, the Disciplinary Commission shall have regard to those factors set out at paragraphs 10.1 to 10.7 above.

47.5 in the event the claim is rejected, the Player shall serve the standard punishment.

47.6 in the event the claim is successful, the Disciplinary Commission will then decide on the additional punishment to be applied to the Player in respect of the sending-off offence. In deciding on such punishment, the Disciplinary Commission shall have regard to the matters at paragraphs 10.1 to 10.7 above.

48 The decision will be subject to appeal only:

48.1 in the event that the additional suspension imposed (over and above the automatic suspension) is in excess of three Matches; and

48.2 on the single ground that the additional suspension is excessive; and

48.3 in respect of that part of the additional suspension in excess of the additional three Matches, not accounting for any additional Matches included in the penalty as a result of a Player having served a suspension earlier in the same playing season.

For example, where a Player is suspended for 8 Matches following a sending-off for violent conduct, they may appeal only in respect of the two Matches in excess of the three automatic and three additional Match suspension.

49 Appeals shall proceed in accordance with Part C: Appeals - Non-Fast Track.

STANDARD PUNISHMENTS

Friendly Matches

Cautionable Offences

50 An Affiliated Association shall only impose standard punishments in respect of cautionable offences committed by Players during Friendly Matches where Participants have agreed, for example as part of tournament rules, that such punishments apply. Any such punishment may only apply to Friendly Matches.

Sending-Off Offences

51 The commission of a sending-off offence by a Participant in a Friendly Match will result in that Participant receiving an automatic suspension from Friendly Matches until such time as their Club has completed its next Friendly Match, as decided by the relevant Affiliated Association.

Competitive Matches

Accumulation of Cautions

52 The accumulation of a set number of cautions by a Player in the same Football Category or Competition during a playing season will, subject to any applicable cut-off points, result in that Player receiving an automatic suspension and/or fine.

53 The relevant automatic suspensions and/or fines, the applicable cut-off points and the Football Categories or Competition in which the automatic suspensions are to be served are as set out in Table 7. Unless otherwise stated, such automatic suspensions shall only be served in the Football Category or Competition in which the cautions were accumulated.

54 Where a Player accumulates 20 cautions in the same Football Category (as set out in Table 7) during a playing season, that Player shall be required to attend a Disciplinary Commission within seven days of the date of the last caution. The Disciplinary 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 that Player during the same playing season.

55 For the avoidance of doubt, the accumulation of cautions by a Player in relation to Matches in the same Football Category shall include those that are punished by a temporary dismissal.

Sending-Off Offences

56 The commission of a sending-off offence by a Player will result in that Player receiving an automatic suspension and/or fine.

57 The relevant automatic suspensions and/or fines arising from a sending-off offence by a Player and the Football Category and Competition(s) in which the automatic suspensions are to be served are as set out in Table 8.

Additional Sending-Off Offences

58 A Player who, in the same playing season, has previously been sent off in a Match, will be automatically suspended for one extra Match for each such previous sending-off offence in addition to the automatic suspension applicable to the latest sending-off offence as set out in Table 8.

Commencement of Suspension

59 Any period of suspension arising from an accumulation of cautions or a sending-off offence will commence on the seventh day following either the date of the last offence (in relation to an accumulation of cautions) or the date of the relevant offence(s) (in relation to sending-off offences), irrespective of whether paperwork has been received from the relevant Affiliated Association.

Period of Suspension

60 During a period of suspension, a Participant will

60.1 be suspended only from playing in any Matches in the Football Category (or Competition) to which the suspension applies; and

60.2 be suspended from acting as a Match Official.

61 If the suspension is as a result of a Charge, during the whole period of suspension the Player is suspended from playing all football (including Friendly Matches). The Football Categories affected by this paragraph are Saturday, Sunday, Midweek, Veterans, Education and Representative Football. This will be deemed to be a suspension from playing only, unless specified otherwise by a Disciplinary Commission.

62 A period of suspension will be complete once the Player's team has completed the appropriate number of Matches in the Football Category or Competition in which the suspension must be served as set out in Tables 7 and 8. In respect of suspensions arising from County Association and League Representative Football, any such suspension will be from Representative Football only and not any other Football Category unless a Disciplinary Commission has specified that the suspension is to be from all football.

63 In exceptional cases, the Player may make a claim to the Affiliated Association that:

63.1 a suspension from all football is disproportionately harsh due to the period taken to serve the suspension. In such circumstances, The Association may at its absolute discretion amend the suspension so that it applies only to a single Football Category.

63.2 a match-based suspension from a particular Football Category is disproportionately harsh due to the period taken to serve the suspension. In such circumstances, The Association may at its absolute discretion amend the suspension so that it applies and may be served in relation to one or more additional Football Categories.

64 Where a Player has to serve more than one suspension at the same time the following criteria will apply:

64.1 any suspensions arising from this Section Three and due to commence on the same date will result in the total number of Matches involved running consecutively.

64.2 any suspensions that overlap (i.e. where a suspension starts before the pervious suspension ends) will also run consecutively.

64.3 Matches cannot be used more than once to cover two or more suspensions.

Payment to Players Under Suspension

65 During a Player's applicable period of suspension, Clubs must not pay a Player more than the basic wage payable under the Player's contract (where applicable).

Outstanding Suspensions

66 Subject to paragraph 67 below, any period of suspension or part thereof arising from this Section Three or as a result of a Charge which remains outstanding at the end of playing season must be served at the commencement of the following playing season.

67 Any period of suspension or part thereof arising from an accumulation of cautions in relation to the FA Cup or FA Vase which remains outstanding at the end of the playing season will be repealed and need not be served at the commencement of the following playing season.

68 Affiliated Associations will impose split suspension periods where suspensions have to be carried over to the following playing season. The last day of the first suspension period shall be the Player's team's last competitive Match of the playing season. The suspension will recommence upon that team's start of the following playing season.

Players Moving Between Clubs

69 Where a Player moves between Clubs at a time when that Player is subject to a suspension, the following shall apply:

69.1 until the Player moves, the suspension shall be served by reference to Matches completed by the Club from which the Player moves;

69.2 where the Club that the Player moves to is within 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 to which the Player moves;

69.3 where the Club that the Player moves to is within a different level as 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 to which the Player moves.

70 For the purposes of paragraph 69, Clubs compete at three different levels. Each level is comprised as follows:

70.1 Premier League, EFL Leagues and the National League;

70.2 The National League (North and South Divisions), the Isthmian League, the Northern Premier League and the Southern League;

70.3 Steps 5 to 7 of the National League System, or any other League outside the National League System which operates a match-based disciplinary system.

71 Paragraph 69 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.

72 Players who are otherwise eligible (i.e. but for any suspension) to play for two or more Clubs competing at the level referred to at paragraph 70.3 above will not be taken to have moved between those Clubs for the purposes of this paragraph by virtue only of the fact that they are so eligible to play for them.

Re-arranged Matches

73 A Disciplinary Commission may determine that a Match shall not count towards the completion of a suspension if it is satisfied that the Match has been arranged by the Club with a view to enabling a Player to complete their suspension and thus enable the Player to play in a specific Match.

DISCIPLINARY ACTION AGAINST CLUBS – MULTIPLE OFFENCES IN A SINGLE MATCH

74 An Affiliated Association will take disciplinary action against a Club if six or more Players in one of a Club's teams are either cautioned or sent off in a single Match.

Clubs at Steps 5 to 6 of the National League System

75 On the first occasion that this happens in a playing season, the Affiliated Association will impose an automatic fine on the Club in accordance with the following table:

STEP OF THE NATIONAL LEAGUE SYSTEM	FINE
Step 5	£150
Step 6	£150

76 For each successive occasion that this happens in the same playing season, the automatic fine imposed by the Affiliated Association will be a fine that is double and then treble (and so on) the amount set out in the table at paragraph 75 above.

Clubs Outside the National League System

77 On the first occasion that this happens in a playing season, the Affiliated Association will issue a Charge against the Club and warn the Club as to the future conduct.

78 On the second occasion that this happens in the same playing season, the Affiliated Association will impose an automatic fine on the Club of £25. For each successive occasion that this happens in the same playing season, the automatic fine imposed by the Affiliated Association will increase by £25.

Plea in Mitigation

79 In truly exceptional circumstances, a Club may submit a written plea in mitigation against the imposition of a fine under paragraphs 75, 76 or 78 above.

DISCIPLINARY ACTION AGAINST CLUBS – ACCUMULATION OF PENALTY POINTS

General

80 The purpose of the penalty points system is to assess the disciplinary record of each of a Club's teams across a playing season.

81 The number of penalty points accumulated by one of a Club's teams is calculated in accordance with paragraphs 82 to 84 below.

82 References to a Charge in paragraph 84 below include a Charge issued to:

82.1 a Player or Technical Area Occupant associated with the relevant team at the date of the alleged Misconduct; and

82.2 a Club in respect of the conduct of the relevant team's Participants and/or supporters pursuant to FA Rules E20 or E21.

83 References to a Charge in paragraph 84 below exclude any Charge issued against a Club in respect of these paragraphs 81 to 87.

Calculating Penalty Points Totals

84 The number of penalty points incurred for each cautionable offence, each sending-off offence and each proven Charge during a playing season are as follows:

TYPE OF OFFENCE/PROVEN CHARGE	PENALTY POINTS INCURRED
Cautionable Offences	
Dissent	4 penalty points
Sending-Off Offences	
Spitting at an opponent or any other person (other than a Match Official)	10 penalty points
Violent conduct	7 penalty points
Using offensive, insulting, or abusive language and/or gestures	7 penalty points
Receiving a second caution in the same Match (but only where both cautions are for dissent)	6 penalty points (to be incurred in addition to the penalty points incurred in respect of the first caution for dissent)
Charges	
Proven Charge	5-10 penalty points (at the discretion of the Disciplinary Commission) 7-10 penalty points (at the discretion of the Disciplinary Commission where the Charge is determined by The FA's National Serious Case Panel)

Accumulation of Penalty Points

85 Where a team accumulates 25 penalty points during a playing season, that team's Club shall be issued with a warning which may (amongst other things) include details as to how the Club may seek assistance from its Affiliated Association to improve its disciplinary record.

86 Where a team accumulates 50 penalty points during a playing season, a fine of £75 shall be imposed on that team's Club.

87 Where a team accumulates 100 penalty points during a playing season, a Charge shall be issued against that team's Club and, where proven, the following sanctions may be imposed:

87.1 a fine;

87.2 the imposition of an action plan;

87.3 the suspension or cancellation of that Club's affiliation and/or England Football accreditation status; and/or

87.4 an order that a subsequent Charge may be brought against the Club in the event that the same team accumulates a specified number of additional penalty points.

DISCIPLINARY ACTION AGAINST CLUBS - CUMULATIVE OFFENCES

88 A Club may be liable for a Charge of Misconduct where:

88.1 There have been four occasions during a 12 month period where one or more Participants from the Club have committed a proven offence of violent conduct. A Club may also be Charged on the fifth and every subsequent occasion such a proven offence is committed by one or more of its Participants during a 12 month period.

88.2 There have been two occasions during a 12 month period where one or more Participants from a Club commits Misconduct for an offence against a Match Official of the sort described at paragraphs 92.2 and 92.3 below. A Club may also be Charged on the third and every subsequent occasion such a proven offence is committed by one or more of its Participants during a 12 month period.

Guidance: *Paragraph 88 is only intended to capture behaviour by a specific team within a Club, it is not an accumulation of offences across all teams within a Club. For youth teams, the intention is to track the same team as it passes through the age groups, so for the purposes of determining liability, the 12 month look back period will include any time spent in a lower age bracket.*

ABANDONED MATCHES

89 If a Referee's report indicates that a Match has been abandoned due to alleged acts of Misconduct of either team, the Affiliated Association shall without delay conduct an investigation in to the matter.

90 Following the investigation, if an Affiliated Association decides to issue a Charge against the Club or the relevant Participants it must do so within 28 days of the abandoned Match unless prior dispensation has been granted by The Association to extend the applicable time limits

91 A Charge against a Club and/or Participant for Misconduct relating to an abandoned Match must be heard by a Disciplinary Commission within 42 days of the Affiliated Association being first notified of the Misconduct which led to the abandoned Match taking place. Where an extension of time to issue a Charge has been provided under paragraph 90, the 42-day time limit under this paragraph shall be extended by an equivalent amount of time.

OFFENCES AGAINST MATCH OFFICIALS

Categories of Offence

92 The three categories of offence against Match Officials are as follows:

92.1 Threatening behaviour: threatening a Match Official (whether through words or actions and regardless of whether the Match Official believes that they have been threatened). Examples include but are not limited to: the use of words that imply (directly or indirectly) that the Match Official may be subjected to any form of physical abuse either immediately or later, whether realistic or not; the raising of hands to intimidate the Match Official; pretending to throw or kick an object at the Match Official.

92.2 Physical contact or attempted physical contact: physical actions (or attempted actions) that are unlikely to cause injury to the Match Official but are nevertheless confrontational, examples include but are not limited to: pushing the Match Official or pulling the Match Official (or their clothing or equipment).

92.3 Assault or attempted assault: acting in a manner which causes or attempts to cause injury to the Match Official (whether or not it does in fact cause injury), examples include, but are not limited to, spitting (whether it connects or not), causing and/or attempting to cause injury by striking, or attempting to strike, kicking or attempting to kick, butting or attempting to butt, barging or attempting to barge, kicking or throwing any item directly at the Match Official.

Investigation and Process

93 If a Match Official's report indicates that an offence has been committed against a Match Official (as categorised in paragraph 92 above), the Affiliated Association will without delay investigate the Match Official's report.

94 Following the investigation, the Affiliated Association, if it is satisfied that a prima facie case can be made out against the alleged offender, may:

94.1 issue a Charge against the Participant; and

94.2 may issue an Interim Suspension Order in accordance with paragraph 109 below which shall only be lifted in accordance with paragraph 111 below.

95 The Affiliated Association will take all reasonable steps to notify the Participant (and their Club, where applicable) of the Interim Suspension Order issued in accordance with paragraph 94.2 above.

96 The Charge must be adjudicated by a Disciplinary Commission within 28 days of the Interim Suspension Order being issued unless the period is extended by the Association providing written dispensation prior to the expiry of 28 days.

97 Where a Charge issued in accordance with paragraph 94.1 above has been found proven against the Participant, a Disciplinary Commission shall impose sanctions in accordance with this paragraph 97:

Sanction range (Suspension)

A Disciplinary Commission shall impose an immediate suspension within a range based on the category of offence committed (as set out below). A Disciplinary Commission shall take all aggravating and mitigating factors into account, including, but not limited to, those listed in paragraph 98, when determining the level of sanction within the range.

Unless otherwise stated, the lowest end of the applicable range shall operate as a standard minimum suspension. A Disciplinary Commission may impose an immediate suspension in excess of the upper limit in circumstances where aggravating factors of significant number or weight are present.

Guidance:

where any part of a suspension period under this Paragraph is due to fall during the Close Season, the Disciplinary Commission or Appeal Board should add an additional day to the suspension period to account for each day of the Close Season the suspension period falls under (up to a maximum of 30 days). This is to take into account the fact that Matches rarely take place during the Close Season. By way of an example, if a suspension period of 90 days was due to commence on 1 June, a Disciplinary Commission or Appeal Board would be expected to issue a 120 day suspension and note in its decision that an additional 30 days was added to take into account the Close Season. A Disciplinary Commission may also add such further period as it determines appropriate to take into account a period of time, in addition to the Close Season, where the Participant Charged is unlikely to take part in any fixtures, subject to imposing a maximum additional period of 60 days.

Threatening behaviour:

97.1 suspension from all football activity for a period determined in accordance with the table at paragraph 97.11 below.

97.2 a fine of up to £200, with a mandatory minimum fine of £100.

97.3 an order that the Participant completes an education programme before the time-based suspension is served.

Physical contact or attempted physical contact:

97.4 suspension from all football activity for a period determined in accordance with the table at paragraph 97.11 below.

97.5 a fine of up to £250, with a mandatory minimum fine of £150.

97.6 an order that the Participant completes an education programme before the time-based suspension is served or within 28 days of the Disciplinary Commission's decision, whichever is the later.

Assault or attempted assault (other than spitting):

97.7 suspension from all football activity for a period determined in accordance with the table at paragraph 97.11 below.

97.8 an order that the Participant completes an education programme before the time-based suspension is served.

Assault or attempted assault: spitting:

97.9 suspension from all football activity for a period determined in accordance with the table at paragraph 97.11 below.

97.10 an order that the Participant completes an education programme before the time-based suspension is served or within 28 days of the Disciplinary Commission's decision, whichever is the later.

Suspension Period

97.11 A Disciplinary Commission shall determine the applicable period of suspension in accordance with the following table:

CATEGORY OF OFFENCE	SANCTION RANGE	RECOMMENDED ENTRY POINT	ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS
Threatening behaviour	112 – 182 days	147 days	The recommended entry point is prior to consideration of any aggravating or mitigating factors pursuant to paragraph 98. For the offence of assault (other than spitting), the standard minimum suspension shall be 10 years where the assault causes serious injury to the Match Official. Where the subject of the Charge is a Participant aged between 12 and 15 years old (inclusive) at the time of the alleged offence, the applicable sanction range, recommended entry point and standard minimum suspension shall be reduced by 50% (rounded to the nearest whole number of days). For example, the applicable sanction range and recommended entry point for a 15 year old issued with a Charge for threatening behaviour against a Match Official would be 56 – 91 days with an entry point of 74 days (rounded up from 73.5 days).
Attempted Physical Contact	112 days – 1 year	238 days	
Physical contact	182 days – 2 years	1 year	
Attempted assault (other than spitting)	3 – 5 years	4 years	
Assault (other than spitting)	5 – 10 years	7 years	
Assault and attemtpted assault (spitting)	2 – 8 years	4 years	

98 Factors to be considered when determining sanction

A Disciplinary Commission will have due regard to the circumstances and seriousness of the incident when determining the appropriate sanction and whether (and to what extent) to depart from any sanction range applicable to the offence (subject to any applicable standard minimum suspensions).

The Disciplinary Commission shall consider any aggravating and mitigating factors, to include, but not limited to:

Aggravating factors

- The degree of force or threatening behaviour used.
- The profile of the Participant, including where they hold a position of responsibility within their Club or organisation (e.g. Club captain, Club chair, a member of the Club's senior management).
- The relative ages of the Participant and the Match Official at the time of the offence, particularly where the Match Official was a minor and the Participant was not.
- Failure to co-operate with the Affiliated Association.
- Previous disciplinary record of the Participant.
- Any attempt to conceal the breach.
- The extent of any premeditation.
- The overall impact on the reputation and integrity of the game

Mitigating factors

- Admission at the earliest opportunity.
- Demonstration of genuine remorse.
- Co-operation with the Affiliated Association.
- Age of the Participant.
- Previous disciplinary record of the Participant.

99 A Match Official who has reported a Participant for an offence against them may make a written request for notification of the decision and any sanctions imposed, which must be made available to the Match Official at the earliest opportunity.

ASSAULTS BY PARTICIPANTS

100 If a Match Official's report indicates that a Participant has perpetrated an assault on another Participant or any other person causing serious injury before, during or after a Match, the Affiliated Association shall without delay investigate the Match Official's report.

Guidance:

Use of the term "serious injury" in this paragraph and those that follow is not intended to import any specific definition or standard (e.g. from criminal law), and it should instead be given its plain meaning.

101 Following the investigation, the Affiliated Association, if it is satisfied that a prima facie case can be made out against the alleged offender, may:

101.1 issue a Charge; and

101.2 may issue an Interim Suspension Order in accordance with paragraph 109 below against the alleged offender from all football activity until a Disciplinary Commission has adjudicated on the matter.

102 A Disciplinary Commission shall meet to consider the Charge within 28 days of (the date of) the Charge letter.

103 The recommended (or mandatory, where stated) sanctions where a Charge issued in accordance with paragraph 101.1 above has been found proven against the Participant are as follows:

PARTICIPANT CHARGED	RECOMMENDED / MANDATORY MINIMUM SANCTIONS
Player	1. Mandatory minimum: suspension for all football activity for 140 days 2. £150 fine
Club Official	
Match Official	1. Mandatory suspension from all football and football activity for 5 years from the date of suspension. Where the assault causes serious injury the suspension period should be extended to 10 years. 2. A recommendation to the relevant Referees' Committee that the Match Official's registration is removed and no request for reinstatement is to be allowed until the suspension has been completed or removed.

FAILURE TO COMPLY

104 Where a Participant fails to comply with any applicable deadlines or other procedural requirements set out in this Section Three, the Participant's right to a personal hearing or right to make a plea in mitigation is forfeited and the Disciplinary Commission may deal with the reported Misconduct on such evidence as is available.

105 Where a Participant or their Club (where applicable) fails to respond to a request for information (to include, but not limited to, a request pursuant to paragraph 4 above):

105.1 a warning will be imposed and a further seven days given to respond;

105.2 failure to respond within the further seven days will result in the Participant and the Participant's team (where applicable) being suspended from all football activities from the following Monday; and

105.3 may result in a Charge against the Participant, their Club (where applicable) (or both).

106 The Club Secretary must make Participants aware of the applicable punishment where an automatic suspension and/or sanction applies. In any event, by making payment via the electronic system operated by The Association from time to time, the Club Secretary is confirming that they have made the Participant aware of the applicable punishment.

107 Where a Participant has been issued with a Charge the Participant and/or the Club Secretary (if applicable) will be required to reply via the electronic system operated by The Association from time to time.

108 When dealing with compliance issues the Affiliated Association must consider the following:

108.1 whether the Participant has responded to their Club;

108.2 whether the Club has failed to pass on the Participant's reply;

108.3 whether the Club has informed the Affiliated Association that the Participant has failed to respond; and

108.4 whether the Participant has left the Club.

SUSPENSION PENDING MISCONDUCT HEARING

109 An Affiliated Association shall have the power, in consultation with and upon the agreement of The Association, to issue an Interim Suspension Order in relation to a Participant affiliated to, or registered with, that Affiliated Association where the Participant has been:

109.1 issued with a Charge by the Affiliated Association in relation to an alleged act of serious Misconduct;

109.2 charged with a criminal offence; or

109.3 charged by a League in connection with disciplinary action pursuant to the relevant regulations of the League.

110 As soon as reasonably practicable, notification of an Interim Suspension Order shall be communicated to the Participant and/or their Club.

111 The Interim Suspension will be lifted when either the Charge is dealt with by a Disciplinary Commission, the criminal charges are withdrawn or found not to have been proven or the charge has been dealt with by the League.

DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS BEFORE DISCIPLINARY COMMISSIONS

General

112 These provisions should be read in conjunction with:

112.1 Part A: General Provisions;

112.2 Part G: Appendix II: Affiliated Associations – Hearings before Disciplinary Commissions.

113 Subject to paragraph 114, the Charge must be heard by a Disciplinary Commission no later than 90 days from receipt by the Affiliated Association of the first report of the alleged Misconduct. In the event of non-compliance with these time limits, the disciplinary proceedings shall be void, unless written dispensation is requested from The Association prior to expiry of the time limits to extend or dispense with either or both of these time limits. If deemed reasonable, any period of delay requested or caused by the Participant shall not count towards these time limits.

114 Where an Interim Suspension Order has been imposed or where the Misconduct relates to playing whilst suspended, the Affiliated Association must aim to conclude disciplinary proceedings within 28 days.

115 A Disciplinary Commission shall comprise of a single Chair or three members.

Guidance:

The default position is that Disciplinary Commissions shall comprise a single Chair, and The Association shall issue separate guidance on which cases may be suitable for determination by a Disciplinary Commission comprising three members. This position shall operate as pilot for Season 2025/26 and shall be reviewed at the end of that season.

116 The Disciplinary Commission shall have no previous personal knowledge of the events or any involvement with any of the Participants concerned.

Personal Hearings

Right to Request a Personal Hearing

117 A Participant issued with a Charge has the right to a personal hearing on request.

118 A Disciplinary Commission may, whether on the application of one of the parties or otherwise, require a Participant (whether before or during a hearing) to attend before it to provide information, in which case questions may be put to them by the Disciplinary Commission.

119 Where the Participant accepts the Charge, the relevant Match Official(s) and other Participants will not be required to attend a Disciplinary Commission. If the Participant denies the Charge, the relevant Match Official(s) and other Participants may be required to attend the Disciplinary Commission.

120 The Participant, through their Club Secretary (were applicable), shall be notified of:

120.1 the date, time and venue fixed for the hearing; and

120.2 the attendance of any witnesses in support of the Charge, in particular the Match Official(s) on whose report the Charge has been issued.

121 Both the Participant issued with the Charge and any witness, including the Match Official(s) concerned, should be given a minimum 14 days' notice of details of the personal hearing unless; an interim suspension order is in place following the Charge; the case arises out of an abandoned game; or where a charge has been brought for a breach of FA Rule E10 and / or E12, in which case a minimum of 7 days' notice shall be provided. Any written request to the Disciplinary Commission for a postponement of the personal hearing should be given consideration. If the reason submitted is considered valid, then a postponement should be granted, and in such circumstances costs may be charged. A request for a second postponement by the same party should not ordinarily be granted.

Personal Hearing Procedures

122 In the case of a Participant under 18 years of age on the date fixed for the hearing, the hearing shall take place either in the presence of a parent or guardian of the Participant or another appropriate adult.

123 At a personal hearing a Disciplinary Commission may adopt such procedures as it considers appropriate and expedient for the just determination of the Charge.

124 Subject to paragraph 123 above, a Disciplinary Commission shall follow the procedure set out in "County and Other Affiliated Associations – Hearings before Disciplinary Commissions" (at Part G: Appendix II).

Disciplinary Commission Decisions and Costs

125 Save where otherwise provided, a Disciplinary Commission may impose such penalties as provided for in paragraph 41 of Part A: General Provisions Section Two.

126 Where the Charge is found not proven, any record of it will be expunged from the Participant's record.

127 Where the Charge is found proven the Disciplinary Commission will decide what punishment, if any, is to be imposed. In so doing, the Disciplinary Commission must consider the overall nature and effect of the offence(s) and the Participant's disciplinary record during the current playing season and the previous five playing seasons and any plea in mitigation. In cases where the Disciplinary Commission can order costs in accordance with paragraph 128 below, it shall take into account any deposit lodged by the Participant.

128 Where a personal hearing is requested in accordance with paragraph 117, and the Charge is subsequently found proven at that hearing, the Disciplinary Commission may, in addition to any other penalty, order:

128.1 the Participant to pay all or part of the costs of the personal hearing. Such costs may include some or all of the costs incurred in relation to the holding of the Disciplinary Commission.

128.2 any deposit lodged by the Participant be forfeited.

129 Where:

129.1 a personal hearing is requested in accordance with paragraph 117, and the Charge is subsequently not found proven at that hearing;

129.2 a Participant is instructed to attend a personal hearing by the Affiliated Association or the relevant Disciplinary Commission; or

129.3 a case is considered on written submissions only, there shall be no costs order made against the Participant. In such cases, any deposit lodged by the Participant shall be returned.

130 Save where an appeal has been submitted in accordance with paragraph 135 below, any fines or costs that are ordered by a Disciplinary Commission must be paid within 14 days of the invoice date. Failure to pay within this timeframe will result in an additional late-payment fee of £10, to be paid within 7 days. Failure to pay both the invoice and the late-payment fee within that 7-day period will result in the Participant and the team associated with the outstanding payment being suspended until payment is made in full.

131 The Participant and their Club are jointly and severally responsible for payment of any fine and costs. The Club shall take such action as may be necessary to recover any sum paid on the Participant's behalf.

Notification of Disciplinary Commission Decisions

132 Decisions of Disciplinary Commissions will be provided to the Participant or (in the cases of multiple Participants) Club Secretaries of all Clubs for whom the Participant is known to be currently registered or associated with and to the Participant's email address if known. Each of these Club Secretaries is responsible for informing the Participant of the decision.

133 The commencement date of any suspension imposed on a Participant is at the discretion of the Disciplinary Commission, subject to:

133.1 the suspension starting on a Monday; and

133.2 such date allowing for the time permitted for notification of an intention to appeal,

save where it is expressly provided in these regulations that the Disciplinary Commission may impose an immediate suspension.

134 A Disciplinary Commission decision may be notified to the relevant Match Officials, subject to (a) the Participant being aware of the decision, and (b) the Match Officials having requested to be so notified.

APPEALS FROM DISCIPLINARY COMMISSION DECISIONS

135 Participants shall have the right to appeal decisions of a Disciplinary Commission to an Appeal Board in accordance with Part C: Appeals – Non-Fast Track. A Participant wishing to appeal must:

135.1 lodge notification of an intention to appeal within seven days of notification of the decision being appeal against;

135.2 submit their appeal within 14 days of notification of the decision being appeal against.

136 The Association shall also have the right to appeal decisions of a Disciplinary Commission to an Appeal Board. Where The Association wishes to appeal it must submit its appeal within 28 days following the receipt of the reasons of the Disciplinary Commission.

137 In respect of any appeal made by a Participant against a decision of a Disciplinary Commission, upon application and its absolute discretion, the Judicial Panel Chairman may stay the effect of, or compliance by the Participant Charged with, a penalty or order of a Disciplinary Commission.

FURTHER DISCIPLINARY ACTION

138 The rules or regulations of an Affiliated Association must provide for disciplinary action to be taken against a Participant who fails to reimburse their Club where the Club has had a claim upheld in accordance with the Football Debt Recovery Regulations.

139 An Affiliated Association in formulating its rules and regulations for Misconduct may adopt and include the power to make an order that a Club whose Players are persistently the subject of proven Charges:

139.1 is censured and/or fined in accordance with the penalty point system in accordance with paragraphs 80 to 87 above;

139.2 may have its affiliation suspended or cancelled;

139.3 is subject to any other power approved in writing by The Association.

140 A power approved by The Association pursuant to paragraph 139.3 shall continue from year to year until such time as the approval is withdrawn. Such approval may be withdrawn by The Association giving notice in writing before 30 April in any year.

SECTION FOUR: PROVISIONS APPLICABLE TO TECHNICAL AREA OCCUPANTS

CHARGES

1 The Association may issue a Charge against a Technical Area Occupant in relation to an incident whether or not the same incident has been dealt with by the Referee and/or pursuant to this Section Four.

2 A Regulatory Commission considering a Charge pursuant to paragraph 1 above shall have regard to any automatic suspension or sanction imposed pursuant to paragraphs 9 to 12 below for the same incident when considering any penalty in accordance with paragraph 41 of Part A: General Provisions Section Two.

MATCH OFFICIALS' REPORTING OF CAUTIONS TO THE ASSOCIATION

3 Referees must submit a report to The Association following a Match stating the cautions and providing a description of the incident(s).

4 The deadline for the submission of a report to The Association under paragraph 3 above is:

4.1 for Matches involving Clubs in Category 1 playing in First Team Competitive Matches, 12 noon on the day following the Match; and

4.2 for Matches involving Clubs or teams in Category 3 and Category 5, within two days of the Match (excluding Sundays).

NOTIFICATION OF CAUTIONS

5 A Technical Area Occupant who has received a caution in a Match will be notified by The Association, through their Club, of:

5.1 the caution reported by the Referee to The Association;

5.2 the total number of cautions accumulated by the Technical Area Occupant under this Section Four during the current playing season; and

5.3 any automatic touchline suspension or other consequences resulting from an accumulation of cautions pursuant to paragraph 9 below. Any automatic touchline suspension will take effect regardless as to whether the notification is received by the Club from The Association before it is due to take effect in accordance with this Section Four.

MISTAKEN IDENTITY (CATEGORY 1 AND 3 ONLY)

6 Where a Technical Area Occupant affiliated to a Club in Category 1 or Category 3 has been cautioned in a Match but claims they have been the victim of mistaken identity, that Technical Area Occupant or their Club may make a claim of mistaken identity in relation to that cautionable offence in accordance with the procedure set out in Fast Track 3 of the Fast Track Regulations.

7 Where, despite there being clear evidence that there is a case of mistaken identity, a Technical Area Occupant or their Club does not submit a claim within the specified time limits, The Association may within seven days of the incident request a Regulatory Commission to review the matter. A Club failing to submit a claim for mistaken identity may be charged with misconduct by The Association if there is reason to believe that the Club sought to gain an advantage by remaining silent on the matter.

8 Where, under the provisions of Law 12 of the Laws of the Game, a Technical Area Occupant (which in this instance will be the senior team coach present) has been cautioned because the individual who has committed the offence cannot be identified at the time the caution is issued, that Technical Area Occupant or their Club may not make any claim of mistaken identity.

STANDARD PUNISHMENTS

Accumulation of cautions

9 The accumulation of a set number of cautions by a Technical Area Occupant during a playing season will, subject to paragraph 14 below, result in that Technical Area Occupant receiving an automatic touchline suspension.

10 The relevant automatic touchline suspensions and the Competitions in which the automatic touchline suspensions are to be served are set out in Table 9.

11 Where an automatic touchline suspension is imposed on a Technical Area Occupant associated with a team in Category 5 in accordance with paragraphs 9 and 10 above, that individual shall be banned from entering the ground at which the relevant Match is to be played.

12 Where a Technical Area Occupant accumulates the highest number of relevant cautions set out in Table 9 during a playing season, that Technical Area Occupant shall be required to attend a Regulatory Commission within seven days of the date of the last caution. The Regulatory Commission shall have the power to deal with the Technical Area Occupant in such manner as it deems fit. The same procedure will apply for every further three cautions received by that Technical Area Occupant in the Competitions listed in Table 9.

Commencement of Suspension

13 Subject to paragraph 14 below, any period of suspension arising from an accumulation of cautions by Technical Area Occupants under this Section Four will:

13.1 for Matches involving Clubs in Category 1 playing First Team Competitive Matches commence forthwith, save for where a Technical Area Occupant / their Club have brought a claim under paragraph 6 in relation to Mistaken Identity and that claim has not been determined by a Regulatory Commission before the next applicable fixture; and

13.2 for Matches involving Clubs or teams in Category 3 and Category 5, commence on the seventh day following the date of the last offence.

Matches Exempt from an Automatic Period of Suspension arising from an Accumulation of cautions

14 The following Matches shall be exempt from any automatic period of suspension arising from an accumulation of cautions by Technical Area Occupants under paragraph 9 above:

14.1 Play-Off Matches (Semi-Finals and Finals) in the EFL Leagues, and National League System Leagues from Steps 1 to 4;

14.2 the final of the FA Challenge Cup;

14.3 the final of the EFL Cup;

14.4 the final of the EFL Trophy; and

14.5 the final of the FA Trophy;

14.6 the final of the FA Women's Challenge Cup;

14.7 the final of the FA Women's League Cup; and

14.8 the final of the National League Cup.

For the avoidance of doubt, this paragraph 14 shall not apply to any period of suspension ordered by a Regulatory Commission pursuant to paragraph 12 above.

Outstanding Suspensions

15 Any period of suspension or part thereof arising from this Section Four which remains outstanding at the end of the playing season will be repealed and need not be served at the commencement of the following playing season.

Technical Area Occupants Moving Between Clubs

16 Where a Technical Area Occupant moves between Clubs to which this Section Four applies at a time when they are subject to a suspension, the following shall apply:

16.1 until the Technical Area Occupant moves, the suspension shall be served by reference to Matches completed by the Club from which that Technical Area Occupant moves;

16.2 upon the Technical Area Occupant moving Club, any remaining period of suspension at the time the Technical Area Occupant moves shall be served by reference to Matches completed by the Club to which the Technical Area Occupant moves.

17 Where a Technical Area Occupant moves to a Club to which this Section Four does not apply, the suspension shall be suspended until such time as the Technical Area Occupant moves to a Club to which this Section Four does apply.

AUTOMATIC SUSPENSIONS AND SANCTIONS

TABLES 1 - 2

CATEGORY 1 - PLAYERS OF CLUBS IN THE PREMIER LEAGUE, EFL LEAGUES, NATIONAL LEAGUE, THE WSL AND THE WCH PLAYING FIRST TEAM COMPETITIVE MATCHES

Table 1 : Accumulation of Cautions

COMPETITION IN WHICH CAUTIONS ACCUMULATED	NUMBER OF CAUTIONS ACCUMULATED	CUT-OFF POINT (UP TO AND INCLUDING)	
Premier League	5	19 Premier League Matches	
	10	32 Premier League Matches	
	15	Last day of the same playing season	
	20	Last day of the same playing season	
EFL Leagues	5	19 EFL League Matches	
	10	37 EFL League Matches	
	15	Last day of the relevant league playing season prior to the Play-Off matches	
	20	Last day of the relevant league playing season prior to the Play-Off matches	
National League	5	19 National League Matches	
	10	37 National League Matches	
	15	Last day of the relevant playing season prior to the Play-Off matches	
	20	Last day of the relevant playing season prior to the Play-Off matches	
WSL	5	N/A	
	10		
	15		
	20		
WCH	5	N/A	
	10		
	15		
	20		

	AUTOMATIC SUSPENSION/SANCTION	COMPETITIONS TO WHICH AUTOMATIC SUSPENSION/SANCTION APPLIES
	1 Match	Premier League
	2 Matches	
	3 Matches	
	As determined by a Regulatory Commission	
	1 Match	EFL Leagues
	2 Matches	
	3 Matches	
	As determined by a Regulatory Commission	
	1 Match	National League
	2 Matches	
	3 Matches	
	As determined by a Regulatory Commission	
	1 Match	WSL
	2 Matches	
	3 Matches	
	As determined by a Regulatory Commission	
	1 Match	WCH
	2 Matches	
	3 Matches	
	As determined by a Regulatory Commission	

COMPETITION IN WHICH CAUTIONS ACCUMULATED	NUMBER OF CAUTIONS ACCUMULATED	CUT-OFF POINT (UP TO AND INCLUDING)
FA Cup	4 (where Player's Club enters in Qualifying Competition) and for every 2 further cautions	Fourth Qualifying Round (where Player's Club enters in Qualifying Competition)
	2 (where Player's Club progresses to or enters in Competition Proper) and for every 2 further cautions	Sixth Round (Quarter Finals)
EFL Cup	2	Quarter Finals
	4	
EFL Trophy	2	Quarter Finals
	4	
FA Trophy	2	Quarter Finals
	4	
	6	
National League Cup	2	Quarter Finals
	4	
Women's FA Cup	4 (where Player's Club enters in or before the Second Round proper) and for every 2 further cautions	Quarter Finals
	2 (where Player's Club enters in or after the Third Round Proper) and for every 2 further cautions	
FA Women's League Cup	2 and for every 2 further cautions	End of Group Stage

	AUTOMATIC SUSPENSION/SANCTION	COMPETITIONS TO WHICH AUTOMATIC SUSPENSION/SANCTION APPLIES
	1 Match	FA Cup
	1 Match	EFL Cup
	1 Match	EFL Trophy
	2 Matches	
	1 Match	FA Trophy
	1 Match	National League Cup
	2 Matches	
	1 Match	Women's FA Cup
	1 Match	FA Women's League Cup

Table 2: Sending-Off Offences

SENDING-OFF OFFENCE	AUTOMATIC SUSPENSION	COMPETITIONS TO WHICH AUTOMATIC SUSPENSION APPLIES
Denying the opposing team a goal or an obvious goal-scoring opportunity by a handball offence	1 Match	a) Relevant League in which Player's Club competes; b) FA Cup; c) EFL Cup (as applicable); d) FA Trophy (as applicable); e) Women's FA Cup (as applicable); f) FA Women's League Cup (as applicable). (**EFL Trophy:** Unless specified by The Association: (a) If the sending-off offence occurs in an EFL Trophy Match, the relevant automatic suspension must be served exclusively in the EFL Trophy and (b) if the sending-off offence occurs in any other FTCM, an EFL Trophy Match cannot be used to serve any part of the relevant automatic suspension.) (**National League Cup:** Unless specified by The Association: (a) If the sending-off offence occurs in a National League Cup Match, the relevant automatic suspension must be served exclusively in the National League Cup and (b) if the sending-off offence occurs in any other FTCM, a National League Cup Match cannot be used to serve any part of the relevant automatic suspension.)
Denying a goal or an obvious goal-scoring opportunity to an opponent whose overall movement is towards the offender's goal by an offence punishable by a free kick	1 Match	
Serious foul play	3 Matches	
Spitting at an opponent or any other person	6 Matches	
Violent conduct	3 Matches	
Using offensive, insulting or abusive language and/or gestures	2 Matches	
Receiving a second caution in the same match	1 Match	

TABLES 3 - 4

CATEGORY 2 - PLAYERS OF CLUBS IN THE PREMIER LEAGUE, EFL LEAGUES AND NATIONAL LEAGUE PLAYING NON-FIRST TEAM COMPETITIVE MATCHES IN MALE OPEN AGED TEAMS, UNDER 19S, UNDER 18S AND ACADEMY TEAMS

Table 3: Accumulation of Cautions

COMPETITION IN WHICH CAUTIONS ACCUMULATED	NUMBER OF CAUTIONS ACCUMULATED	CUT-OFF POINT (UP TO AND INCLUDING)	AUTOMATIC SUSPENSION/ SANCTION	COMPETITIONS TO WHICH AUTOMATIC SUSPENSION/ SANCTION APPLIES
NFTM (excluding EFL Trophy and National League Cup)	5	31 December	1 Match	NFTM (excluding EFL Trophy and National League Cup)
	10	Second Sunday of April	2 Matches	
	15	Last day of the same playing season	3 Matches	
	20	Last day of the same playing season	As determined by a Regulatory Commission	
EFL Trophy	2	Quarter Finals	1 match	EFL Trophy
	4		2 Matches	
National League Cup	2	Quarter Finals	1 match	National League Cup
	4		2 Matches	

Table 4: Sending-Off Offences

SENDING-OFF OFFENCE	AUTOMATIC SUSPENSION	COMPETITIONS TO WHICH AUTOMATIC SUSPENSION APPLIES
Denying the opposing team a goal or an obvious goal-scoring opportunity by a handball offence	1 Match	Automatic suspension to be served exclusively in NFTM (excluding EFL trophy and National League Cup) (**EFL Trophy:** Unless specified by The Association: (a) If the sending-off offence occurs in an EFL Trophy Match, the relevant automatic suspension must be served exclusively in the EFL Trophy and (b) if the sending-off offence occurs in any other NFTM, an EFL Trophy Match cannot be used to serve any part of the relevant automatic suspension.) (**National League Cup**: Unless specified by The Association: (a) If the sending-off offence occurs in a National League Cup Match, the relevant automatic suspension must be served exclusively in the National League Cup and (b) if the sending-off offence occurs in any other NFTM, a National League Cup Match cannot be used to serve any part of the relevant automatic suspension.)
Denying a goal or an obvious goal-scoring opportunity to an opponent whose overall movement is towards the offender's goal by an offence punishable by a free kick	1 Match	
Serious foul play	3 Matches	
Spitting at an opponent or any other person	6 Matches	
Violent conduct	3 Matches	
Using offensive, insulting or abusive language and/or gestures	2 Matches	
Receiving a second caution in the same match	1 Match	

TABLES 5 - 6

CATEGORY 3- PLAYERS ASSOCIATED WITH A TEAM COMPETING IN THE NATIONAL LEAGUE (NORTH AND SOUTH DIVISIONS), THE ISTHMIAN LEAGUE, THE NORTHERN PREMIER LEAGUE AND THE SOUTHERN LEAGUE PLAYING MATCHES IN ANY LEAGUE, LEAGUE CUP COMPETITION, THE FA CHALLENGE CUP AND FA TROPHY

Table 5: Accumulation of Cautions

<table>
<tr><th>COMPETITION IN WHICH CAUTIONS ACCUMULATED</th><th>NUMBER OF CAUTIONS ACCUMULATED</th><th>CUT-OFF POINT (UP TO AND INCLUDING)</th><th>AUTOMATIC SUSPENSION/ SANCTION</th><th>FINE</th><th>COMPETITIONS TO WHICH AUTOMATIC SUSPENSION/ SANCTION APPLIES</th></tr>
<tr><td rowspan="4">a) National League (North and South Divisions), the Isthmian League, the Northern Premier League or the Southern League; and
b) League cup competition</td><td>5</td><td>30 November</td><td>1 Match</td><td rowspan="3">£20.00</td><td rowspan="4">a) League in which Player's team competes; and
b) League cup competition</td></tr>
<tr><td>10</td><td>Second Sunday in March</td><td>2 Matches</td></tr>
<tr><td>15</td><td>Last day of the relevant playing season prior to the Play-Off matches</td><td>3 Matches</td></tr>
<tr><td>20</td><td>Last day of the relevant playing season prior to the Play-Off matches</td><td colspan="2">As determined by a Regulatory Commission</td></tr>
<tr><td rowspan="2">FA Cup</td><td>4 (where Player's Club enters in Qualifying Competition) and for every 2 further cautions</td><td>Fourth Qualifying Round (where Player's Club enters in Qualifying Competition)</td><td rowspan="2">1 Match</td><td rowspan="2">N/A</td><td rowspan="2">FA Cup</td></tr>
<tr><td>2 (where Player's Club progresses to or enters in Competition Proper) and for every 2 further cautions</td><td>Sixth Round (Quarter Finals)</td></tr>
</table>

COMPETITION IN WHICH CAUTIONS ACCUMULATED	NUMBER OF CAUTIONS ACCUMULATED	CUT-OFF POINT (UP TO AND INCLUDING)	AUTOMATIC SUSPENSION/ SANCTION	FINE	COMPETITIONS TO WHICH AUTOMATIC SUSPENSION/ SANCTION APPLIES
FA Trophy	2 (where Player's Club progresses to or enters in Competition Proper) and for every 2 further cautions	Sixth Round (Quarter Finals)	1 Match	N/A	FA Trophy Only

Table 6: Sending-Off Offences

SENDING-OFF OFFENCE	AUTOMATIC SUSPENSION	FINE	COMPETITIONS TO WHICH AUTOMATIC SUSPENSION/ SANCTION APPLIES
Denying the opposing team a goal or an obvious goal-scoring opportunity by a handball offence	1 Match	£20.00	a) League in which Player's team competes; b) League cup competition in which Player's team competes; c) FA Cup; and d) FA Trophy.
Denying a goal or an obvious goal-scoring opportunity to an opponent whose overall movement is towards the offender's goal by an offence punishable by a free kick	1 Match		
Serious foul play	3 Matches	£40.00	
Spitting at an opponent or any other person	6 Matches		
Violent conduct	3 Matches		
Using offensive, insulting or abusive language and/or gestures	2 Matches	£30.00	
Receiving a second caution in the same match	1 Match	£20.00	

TABLES 7 - 8

CATEGORY 5 - PLAYERS ASSOCIATED WITH:

A) A TEAM COMPETING IN ALL DIVISIONS OF LEAGUES AT STEPS 5 TO 6 OF THE NATIONAL LEAGUE SYSTEM PLAYING MATCHES IN ANY COMPETITION;

B) A TEAM COMPETING OUTSIDE THE NATIONAL LEAGUE SYSTEM PLAYING IN SATURDAY FOOTBALL, SUNDAY FOOTBALL, MIDWEEK FOOTBALL, COUNTY ASSOCIATION REPRESENTATIVE FOOTBALL, LEAGUE REPRESENTATIVE FOOTBALL, VETERANS FOOTBALL, AND EDUCATION FOOTBALL (AS RECOGNISED BY THE ASSOCIATION FROM TIME TO TIME); AND

C) ANY AFFILIATED TEAM OF A CLUB TO WHICH CATEGORIES 1 TO 4 DO NOT APPLY PLAYING MATCHES IN ANY COMPETITION.

Table 7: Accumulation of Cautions

FOOTBALL CATEGORY/ COMPETITION IN WHICH CAUTIONS ACCUMULATED	NUMBER OF CAUTIONS ACCUMULATED IN THE FOOTBALL CATEGORY	CUT-OFF POINT (UP TO AND INCLUDING)	AUTOMATIC SUSPENSION/ SANCTION	FINE	FOOTBALL CATEGORY/ COMPETITION TO WHICH AUTOMATIC SUSPENSION/ SANCTION APPLIES
a) Saturday Football; b) Sunday Football; c) Midweek Football; d) Representative Football; e) Veteran Football; or f) Education Football;	5	31 December	1 Match	£15.00	The Football Category in which the cautions were accumulated.
	10	Second Sunday in April	2 Matches		
	15	Last day of the playing season	3 Matches		
	20	Last day of the playing season	As determined by a Disciplinary Commission		All Football Categories and Friendly Matches.
FA Cup	4 (where Player's Club enters in Qualifying Competition) and for every 2 further cautions	Fourth Qualifying Round (where Player's Club enters in Qualifying Competition)	1 Match	N/A	FA Cup
	2 (where Player's Club progresses to or enters in Competition Proper) and for every 2 further cautions	Sixth Round (Quarter Finals)			

FOOTBALL CATEGORY/ COMPETITION IN WHICH CAUTIONS ACCUMULATED	NUMBER OF CAUTIONS ACCUMULATED IN THE FOOTBALL CATEGORY	CUT-OFF POINT (UP TO AND INCLUDING)	AUTOMATIC SUSPENSION/ SANCTION	FINE	FOOTBALL CATEGORY/ COMPETITION TO WHICH AUTOMATIC SUSPENSION/ SANCTION APPLIES
FA Vase	2 and for every 2 further cautions	Sixth Round (Quarter Finals)	1 Match	N/A	FA Vase Only

Table 8: Sending-Off Offences

FOOTBALL CATEGORY/ COMPETITION IN WHICH SENDING-OFF OFFENCE OCCURS	SENDING-OFF OFFENCE	AUTOMATIC SUSPENSION/ SANCTION	FINE	FOOTBALL CATEGORY AND COMPETITIONS TO WHICH AUTOMATIC SUSPENSION APPLIES
a) Saturday Football; b) Sunday Football; c) Midweek Football; d) Representative Football; e) Veteran Football; f) Education Football; g) FA Cup; or h) FA Vase	Denying the opposing team a goal or an obvious goal-scoring opportunity by a handball offence	1 Match	£20.00	a) the Football Category in which the sending-off offence occured; ** b) FA Cup; and c) FA Vase. (**if the sending-off offence occured in an FA Cup or FA Vase Match, the automatic suspension shall apply to Matches in the Football Category in which the Player's team usually competes, in addition to FA Cup or FA Vase Matches where applicable)
	Denying a goal or an obvious goal-scoring opportunity to an opponent whose overall movement is towards the offender's goal by an offence punishable by a free kick	1 Match		
	Serious foul play	3 Matches	£40.00	
	Spitting at an opponent or any other person	6 Matches		
	Violent conduct	3 Matches		
	Using offensive, insulting or abusive language and/or gestures	2 Matches	£30.00	
	Receiving a second caution in the same match	1 Match	£20.00	

TABLE 9

SECTION 4 - TECHNICAL AREA OCCUPANTS ASSOCIATED WITH CLUBS IN CATEGORIES 1, 3 AND 5

Table 9: Accumulation of Cautions

ACCUMULATION OF CAUTIONS	NUMBER OF CAUTIONS ACCUMULATED	AUTOMATIC TOUCHLINE SUSPENSION/ SANCTION	COMPETITIONS TO WHICH AUTOMATIC TOUCHLINE SUSPENSION/SANCTION APPLIES
a) Premier League; b) EFL Leagues; c) National League; d) WSL; e) WCH; f) National League (North and South Divisions); g) Isthmian League; h) Northern Premier League; i) Southern League; j) any Football Category; k) FA Cup; l) EFL Cup; m) EFL Trophy; n) FA Trophy; o) FA Vase; p) National League Cup q) The Women's FA Cup; or r) FA Women's League Cup.	3	1 Match	a) Premier League; b) EFL Leagues; c) National League; d) WSL; e) WCH; f) National League (North and South Divisions); g) Isthmian League; h) Northern Premier League; i) Southern League; j) any Football Category; k) FA Cup; l) EFL Cup; m) EFL Trophy; n) FA Trophy; o) FA Vase; p) National League Cup q) The Women's FA Cup; or r) FA Women's League Cup.
	6	2 Matches	
	9	3 Matches	
	12	As determined by a Regulatory Commission	

E - FAST TRACK REGULATIONS

GENERAL PRINCIPLES

1 Matters proceeding under these Fast Track Regulations shall be conducted before a Regulatory Commission in accordance with a 'fast track' process in accordance with Table 10 below.

2 These Regulations give effect to the general principle that it is in the interest of the timely and efficient disposal of disciplinary proceedings that standard directions be given.

3 The directions set out in these Regulations may be deviated from at the discretion of the Judicial Panel Chairman or the Regulatory Commission dealing with any given case if the circumstances of that case so dictate (to include, for the avoidance of doubt, assigning a case to the timetable set out in Part B: Non-Fast Track Regulations).

SCOPE

4 In these Fast Track Regulations, references to categories shall be a reference to one or more of the following:

4.1 Category 1: Clubs in the Premier League, the EFL Leagues, the National League, The WSL and The WCH playing in First Team Competitive Matches;

4.2 Category 2: Clubs in the Premier League, the EFL Leagues, the National League playing in Non-First Team Competitive Matches in male open aged teams, Under 19s, Under 18s and Academy teams; and

4.3 Category 3: a team competing in the National League (North and South Divisions), the Isthmian League, the Northern Premier League and the Southern League playing Matches in any League, League cup competition, the FA Challenge Cup and the FA Trophy.

5 Table 10 below sets out the: (i) the seven Fast Track processes; (ii) the matters proceeding under each Fast Track; and (iii) the scope of each Fast Track.

Table 10: Matters falling to be determined in accordance with the Fast Track Process

TRACK	CASE TYPE	DESCRIPTION	RELEVANT RULE / REGULATION	SCOPE OF TRACK
Fast Track 1	**Not Seen Incidents**	Incidents of Misconduct concerning one of the below incidents occurring on or around the field of play (excluding the tunnel area) falling within Law 12 of the Laws of the Game which were not seen and dealt with by Match Officials but were caught on video: (i) serious foul play; (ii) violent conduct; (iii) spitting at an opponent or any other person; or (iv) offensive, insulting, abusive language or gestures.	A charge of Misconduct contrary to Rule E1.1	Category 1
	Successful Deception	Incidents of Misconduct relating to the successful deception of a Match Official by way of: (a) clear act of simulation which leads either to a penalty being awarded or the dismissal of an opposing Player; or (b) handling the ball in a direct and successful attempt to score a goal.	A charge of Misconduct contrary to Rule E3.1 (improper conduct)	

TRACK	CASE TYPE	DESCRIPTION	RELEVANT RULE / REGULATION	SCOPE OF TRACK
Fast Track 2	Fast Track 2 will apply where The Association charges a Participant with Misconduct under the Rules for an incident before, during, or after a game, on or around the field of play (including the tunnel area), for an incident outside the jurisdiction of Match Officials but reported to The Association or for media comments. The case types are broken down below.			
	Incidents on or around the field of play	Incidents of Misconduct reported to The Association which occurred on or around the field of play whether before, during or after a game. Examples include, but are not limited to: - Threatening, abusive, indecent or insulting words or behaviour by Players or Managers or behaviour which otherwise is improper or brings the game into disrepute; - Not Seen Incidents (as set out in Fast Track 1), but where there is no video of the incident; - Technical area misconduct; - Incidents that occur in the tunnel area or in close vicinity of the stadium.	A charge of Misconduct contrary to Rule E1 or E3.1	Categories 1, 2 and 3
	Incidents outside of the jurisdiction of Match Officials	Incidents of Misconduct reported to The Association which occurred on or around the field of play, but which were outside of the jurisdiction of the Match Officials. Examples include, but are not limited to: - an incident of Misconduct by a Player committed following them having been sent off; - an incident of Misconduct by a Player committed after the Referee has left the field of play.	A charge of Misconduct contrary to Rule E1 or E3.1	
	Surrounding a Match Official	Incidents where Players, Managers or others surround a Match Official in a manner which is improper, violent, threatening, abusive, indecent or uses insulting or provocative words or behaviour.	A charge of Misconduct contrary to Rule E20 (failing to ensure Players conduct themselves in an orderly fashion etc.)	

TRACK	CASE TYPE	DESCRIPTION	RELEVANT RULE / REGULATION	SCOPE OF TRACK
	Mass Confrontations	Incidents where Players, Managers or others engage in a mass confrontation.	A charge of Misconduct contrary to Rule E20 (failing to ensure Players conduct themselves in an orderly fashion etc.)	Categories 1 and 3
	Media Comments	Comments made in the media, to include social media, which constitute improper conduct and / or bring the game into disrepute.	A charge of Misconduct contrary to Rule E3.1	
Fast Track 3	**Mistaken Identity**	Where a Player or Technical Area Occupant has been cautioned or where a Player has been dismissed from the field of play, but claims they have been the victim of mistaken identity.	A claim made by the Player or Technical Area Occupant (or Club on behalf of the Player or Technical Area Occupant) in accordance with Part D: On-Field Regulations	Categories 1. 2 and 3 (Players) Categories 1 and 3 (Technical Area Occupants)
Fast Track 4	**Wrongful Dismissal**	Where a Player has been dismissed from the field of play (except as a result of two cautions leading to a dismissal), but claims that the Referee made an obvious error in dismissing the Player.	A claim made by the Player (or Club on behalf of the Player) in accordance with Part D: On-Field Regulations	Categories 1, 2 and 3
Fast Track 5	**Clearly Excessive claims**	Where a Player has been dismissed from the field of play for: - offensive or insulting or abusive language / gestures; - serious foul play; - violent conduct; or - spitting, but seeks to limit the disciplinary consequences of that dismissal by demonstrating that the circumstances were truly exceptional, such that the standard punishment applicable to that dismissal would be clearly excessive.	A claim made by the Player (or Club on behalf of the Player) in accordance with Part D: On-Field Regulations	Categories 1, 2 and 3

TRACK	CASE TYPE	DESCRIPTION	RELEVANT RULE / REGULATION	SCOPE OF TRACK
Fast Track 6	**Clearly Insufficient claims**	Where a Player has been dismissed from the field of play for: - serious foul play; - violent conduct; or - spitting, but where The Association seeks to increase the disciplinary consequences of the dismissal by demonstrating that the circumstances were truly exceptional, such that the standard punishment applicable to that dismissal would be clearly insufficient.	A claim made by the Player (or Club on behalf of the Player) in accordance with Part D: On-Field Regulations	Categories 1, 2 and 3
Fast Track 7	**Appeals - Fast Track**	Where a Fast Track provides for a right of appeal, such appeals shall proceed according to the Fast Track Appeals provisions.		

FAST TRACK 1: NOT SEEN INCIDENTS AND SUCCESSFUL DECEPTION

GENERAL PRINCIPLES

General

1 This Fast Track 1 sets out the standard directions for charges relating to Not Seen Incidents and Successful Deception matters proceeding before Regulatory Commissions. It shall apply to Players of Clubs in Category 1 only.

2 Matters falling within this Fast Track 1 shall ordinarily proceed in accordance with timetable set out herein. The timetable seeks to give effect to the principle that it is in the interest of the parties and of sporting integrity that, wherever possible, matters falling within the scope of this Fast Track 1 are concluded ahead of the Player's next fixture. As a general guide, the following schedule will ordinarily apply:

GENERAL GUIDE (WHERE THE INCIDENT TAKES PLACE ON FRI/SAT/SUN)		
CHARGE	REPLY / SUBMISSIONS	REGULATORY COMMISSION
Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday

3 Where a Player charged has been suspended due to a dismissal or has otherwise been suspended in accordance with this Fast Track 1 in the same playing season prior to the issue of the charge, the penalty offered shall be increased to include, in addition to the applicable standard punishment, one game for each occasion that the Player has been so suspended. For these purposes a dismissal in, or suspension arising from, Non-First Team Competitive Matches prior to issue of the charge will only be considered where it is for violent conduct, serious foul play or spitting.

4 Matters falling within this Fast Track 1 will be determined on video and written evidence only, and parties shall not be present or represented in person.

Not Seen Incidents

5 In relation to Not Seen Incidents only:

5.1 A written statement by Match Officials that they did not witness a particular incident shall be conclusive evidence of that fact.

5.2 Where one or more of the Match Officials sees only part of an incident, an act of Misconduct that occurs during or immediately after that incident may be regarded as not seen by the Match Officials where, without limitation:

5.2.1 an act of violent conduct occurs secondarily to a challenge for the ball, and so is not seen as the Match Officials are concentrating on the challenge for the ball; or

5.2.2 the Match Officials' view of the incident was such that none of them had an opportunity to make a decision on any act of Misconduct that took place within it.

CHARGE

6 A Charge shall ordinarily be issued by 6pm on the second Business Day following the incident which shall be accompanied by all evidence, documents and written submissions upon which The Association intends to rely.

7 In respect of Successful Deception matters, the Charge shall also set out the applicable standard punishment.

8 In respect of Not Seen Incidents only:

8.1 the Charge will ordinarily offer the standard punishment that would have applied to the offence had it been seen and reported by the Match Official(s) during the Match.

8.2 in exceptional circumstances, the Charge may not be accompanied by an offer of the standard punishment. In such circumstances, the Charge will state that The Association claims that the standard punishment would be clearly insufficient and will set out the basis for that claim.

REPLY

9 The Player must serve on The Association a Reply by 6pm on the first Business Day following receipt of the Charge, by e-mail (as directed by The Association), in which they:

9.1 admit the Charge and, where applicable, the standard punishment;

9.2 deny the Charge; or

9.3 in respect of Not Seen Incidents only:

9.3.1 admit the Charge but claim that the standard punishment would be clearly excessive (having regard to the factors set out at paragraphs 22.1 to 22.7 below);

9.3.2 deny the Charge and claim that the standard punishment would be clearly excessive (having regard to the factors set out at paragraphs 22.1 to 22.7 below); or

9.3.3 where no offer of the standard punishment is made in the Charge, admit or deny the Charge, and in either case may contest any claim by The Association that the standard punishment would be clearly insufficient.

10 The Reply shall be accompanied by copies of all evidence, documents and written submissions upon which the Player intends to rely.

11 In the absence of a Reply, the matter will be dealt with directly at the next available Regulatory Commission, and written submissions from the Player may not be considered by the Regulatory Commission.

12 In the event that the offered punishment is accepted in accordance with paragraph 9.1, the suspension will commence forthwith upon receipt by The Association of the consent of the Judicial Panel Chairman and the matter shall not proceed to a Regulatory Commission.

REGULATORY COMMISSION PROCEDURES

13 Save in the circumstances set out in paragraph 12 above, a Regulatory Commission will be convened to consider the matter. Where practicable, it shall be convened on the first Business Day following receipt of the Reply.

14 The Secretary of the Regulatory Commission shall put before the Regulatory Commission:

14.1 reports along with any other evidence, including video evidence, in support of the Charge;

14.2 all statements and video or other evidence in defence of the Charge.

15 In respect of Successful Deception matters only, where subject matter of or facts pertaining to a Charge brought against a Player is linked to a claim of wrongful dismissal pursued by a Player and their Club under paragraphs 15 to 18 of Section One of Part D: On-Field Regulations, and where the Regulatory Commission believes it appropriate for the timely and efficient disposal of the proceedings, the relevant Regulatory Commission shall have the power to consolidate proceedings so they are conducted together and both the charge and the claim of wrongful dismissal may be determined at the same hearing.

DECISIONS

General

16 Where a Charge is denied, the Regulatory Commission will decide whether the Charge is proven or not proven.

17 Where a Charge is not proven, the Charge will be dismissed.

18 Where a Charge is proven, or admitted in accordance with paragraph 9.3.1:

18.1 in respect of Not Seen Incidents only, the Regulatory Commission will decide on the penalty to be served by the Player. The standard punishment may be decreased or increased by the Regulatory Commission only in the exceptional circumstances set out at paragraphs 21 to 25 below. In all other cases, the penalty shall be the standard punishment.

18.2 in respect of Successful Deception incidents, the standard punishment will commence forthwith.

19 The decision of the Regulatory Commission will be communicated verbally to the Player on the same day as the decision is reached, and in writing by the end of the following Business Day.

Not Seen Incidents: Increasing and decreasing the standard punishment

20 The provisions relating to increasing or decreasing the standard punishment at paragraphs 21 to 25 below shall apply only in respect of Not Seen Incidents.

Decreasing the standard punishment

21 Where the offer of the standard punishment is made in the Charge, the Regulatory Commission may only decrease that standard punishment where the Player has claimed in their Reply that the standard punishment would be clearly excessive.

22 In such cases the Regulatory Commission shall decrease the standard punishment only where it is satisfied so that it is sure that the circumstances of the incident under review are truly exceptional, such that the standard punishment should not be applied, and the standard punishment would be clearly excessive, having regard to the following:

22.1 the applicable Law(s) of the Game and any relevant FIFA instructions and / or guidelines;

22.2 the nature of the incident including the Player's state of mind, in particular any intent, recklessness or negligence;

22.3 where applicable, the level of force used;

22.4 any injury to an opponent caused by the incident;

22.5 any other impact on the game in which the incident occurred;

22.6 the prevalence of the type of incident in question in football generally;

22.7 the wider interests of football in applying consistent punishments for dismissal offences.

Increasing the standard punishment

23 Subject to paragraph 25 below, where no offer of the standard punishment is made in the Charge, the Regulatory Commission may only increase the standard punishment where The Association has claimed in the Charge that the standard punishment would be clearly insufficient.

24 In such cases, the Regulatory Commission shall increase the standard punishment only where it is satisfied so that it is sure that the circumstances of the incident under review are truly exceptional, such that the standard punishment should not be applied, and the standard punishment would be clearly insufficient, having regard to the those factors listed at paragraphs 22.1 to 22.7 above.

25 In all cases, the Regulatory Commission may increase any punishment if it believes a denial of the Charge, or any claim by the Player that the standard punishment would be clearly excessive in their case, to have been an abuse of process or without any significant foundation.

Successful Deception: Withdrawal of Associated Caution or Dismissal

26 The provisions relating to the withdrawal of an associated caution or dismissal at paragraphs 27 to 29 shall apply only in respect of Successful Deception matters which relate to an act of simulation.

27 In the event that a Charge relating to Successful Deception is proven or admitted, the Regulatory Commission shall, in its absolute discretion, consider whether or not to withdraw any associated caution or dismissal received by an opposing Player as a result of the act of simulation.

28 Where the Regulatory Commission determines that an associated caution or dismissal should be withdrawn, the standard punishment set out in paragraphs 24 to 32 of Section One of Part D: On-Field Regulations applicable to the relevant opponent Player shall not apply and any applicable fee returned. In these circumstances, any dismissal shall not be counted for the purposes of paragraphs 30 to 32 of Section One of Part D: On-Field Regulations.

29 If the effect of the decision of the Regulatory Commission is that one of two cautions received by the opponent Player during the relevant Match is withdrawn, that Player's punishment shall be reduced from that of a dismissal to a caution and the provisions of paragraph 24, rather than paragraph 30 of Section One of Part D: On-Field Regulations shall apply.

APPEALS

30 Subject to paragraph 31 below, there shall be no right of appeal from decisions made by Regulatory Commissions under this Fast Track 1.

31 In respect of Not Seen Incidents, the Player will have a right of appeal only:

31.1 in the event that the penalty imposed (over and above the automatic suspension) is in excess of three Matches; and

31.2 on the single ground that the additional suspension is excessive; and

31.3 in respect of that part of the additional suspension in excess of the additional three Matches, not accounting for any additional Matches included in the penalty as a result of a Player having served a suspension earlier in the same playing season.

For example, where a Player is suspended for eight Matches following a dismissal for violent conduct, they may appeal only in respect of the two Matches in excess of the three standard and three additional Match suspension).

32 Where permitted in accordance with the appeal provisions above, appeals shall proceed in accordance with Part E: Fast Track 7: Appeals - Fast Track.

WRITTEN REASONS

33 A request for written reasons in respect of the decision of the Regulatory Commission may be made to the Regulatory Commission, in which case the request must be made on the day the parties were notified of the decision. If requested, written reasons will be provided by 6pm on the first Business Day following the decision of the Regulatory Commission.

FAST TRACK 2: INCIDENTS ON OR AROUND THE FIELD OF PLAY, INCIDENTS OUTSIDE THE JURISDICTION OF MATCH OFFICIALS, SURROUNDING A MATCH OFFICIAL, MASS CONFRONTATIONS AND MEDIA COMMENTS

GENERAL PRINCIPLES

1 This Fast Track 2 sets out the standard directions for:

1.1 charges relating to incidents on or around the field of play, incidents outside the jurisdiction of Match Officials, surrounding a Match Official, mass confrontations and media comments proceeding before Regulatory Commissions (as set out in Table 10); and

1.2 any other Charge brought in respect of any incident of alleged Misconduct which the Judicial Panel Chairman, of their own volition or following the application of any party, orders to proceed under this Fast Track 2. Such an order may be made, but is not limited to, cases where the incident concerned arises from the same facts as, or is otherwise sufficiently linked to, an incident which is otherwise to proceed under this Fast Track 2.

2 This Fast Track 2 shall apply to Participants in Categories 1, 2 and 3, save that any time limits set out herein (other than the time limits stated in paragraphs 7 to 9 below) shall not apply to Participants within Category 2 and Category 3. Subject to the foregoing, the time limits applicable to Participants within Category 2 and Category 3 shall be those set out in Part B: Non-Fast Track Regulations.

REPRESENTATION

3 In matters proceeding under this Fast Track 2, Participants may be represented in accordance with, and subject to, the provisions of paragraphs 10 to 11 of Part A: General Provisions.

4 For the avoidance of doubt, failure to comply with the notification requirements set out in paragraph 10 of Part A: General Provisions will result in the right to representation being forfeited. The date of any personal hearing that takes place pursuant to this Fast Track 2 shall be in accordance with the timings set out herein, regardless of the availability or otherwise of the Participant's chosen representative.

OBSERVATIONS

5 In certain cases, particularly those concerning media comments, as a preliminary step a Participant may be required by The Association to provide their observations.

STANDARD SANCTION OFFER (CATEGORY 3 ONLY)

6. In respect of Participants affiliated to Clubs in Category 3 only, before a Charge is issued The Association may in its absolute discretion issue a Standard Sanction Offer. In exercising that discretion, The Association shall issue a Standard Sanction Offer only in circumstances where it considers that it would designate the case as a "Standard Case" in accordance with paragraph 14.

7. The Association shall issue any Standard Sanction Offer to the Participant by no later than 6pm on the third Business Day after the relevant incident is reported to it.

8. The Participant shall accept or decline the Standard Sanction Offer by 6pm on the second Business Day after it is issued.

9. Where the Standard Sanction Offer is accepted by the Participant, the sanction shall thereafter come into immediate effect. For the avoidance of doubt, the prior ratification of the Judicial Panel Chair is not required.

10. Where the Standard Sanction Offer is declined or no response is received by The Association and the Participant is later issued a Charge, the applicable Standard Penalties shall apply (where The Association designates the case as a Standard Case).

11. In all cases the Standard Sanction Offer shall be lower than the Standard Penalties.

CHARGE

12 A Charge shall be issued which shall be accompanied by all evidence, documents and written submissions upon which The Association intends to rely.

13 A Charge shall ordinarily be issued by 5pm on the third Business Day following:

13.1 the incident; or

13.2 where the incident relates to media comments, any media comments being brought to the attention of The Association; or

13.3 where observations are requested in accordance with paragraph 5 above, provision of those observations to The Association.

STANDARD PENALTIES

14 The Association may in its absolute discretion designate a case as a "Standard Case".

15 In exercising that discretion, The Association shall not designate any case as a "Standard Case" where any one or more of the following exceptional circumstances applies:

15.1 where the particular facts of the alleged Misconduct are of a serious and/or unusual nature, as determined by The Association;

15.2 in respect of Participants in Category 1, where the Participant Charged has been issued a Charge for a similar matter, as determined by The Association, which took place in the preceding 12 months, and that Charge was found proven;

15.3 in respect of Participants in Category 3, where two or more Charges and/or Standard Sanction Offers for similar matters have been found proven against / accepted by the Participant Charged in the preceding 12 months (where similar matters are determined by The Association); and/or

15.4 where the Charge is issued in relation to media comments made by the Participant.

16 Where a case is designated as a Standard Case:

16.1 Standard Penalty 1 shall be offered in the Charge and will come into effect where such a Charge is admitted and the Standard Penalty is accepted;

16.2 Standard Penalty 2 shall come into effect when the Charge is denied and is subsequently found proven by a Regulatory Commission.

Guidance

In respect of Participants affiliated to Clubs in Category 3, Standard Penalty 1 and Standard Penalty 2 will vary depending on whether or not a Charge for a similar matter has been found proven in respect of the Participant Charged in the preceding 12 months.

17 In all cases Standard Penalty 1 shall be lower than Standard Penalty 2.

18 Where a case is not designated as a Standard Case (a "non-Standard Case"), a Standard Penalty will not be offered and, where such a Charge is admitted or found proven, the Regulatory Commission shall have a discretion to impose any such penalty as it considers appropriate.

REPLY

19 The Participant Charged must serve on The Association a Reply by 6pm on the third Business Day after the Charge, by e-mail (as directed by The Association), in which they admit or deny the Charge in accordance with the provisions below relating to Standard Cases and non-Standard Cases (as applicable).

20 The Reply must include a clear explanation of the nature and extent of the Participant's admission or denial of the Charge(s) or any part of a Charge and shall be accompanied by copies of all evidence, documents and written submissions upon which the Participant Charged intends to rely. Any evidence, documents and written submissions not provided within the time limits set out in paragraph 19 above may not be considered by the Regulatory Commission.

21 In the absence of a Reply, the matter will be dealt with directly at the next available Regulatory Commission, and evidence, documents and written submissions from the Participant Charged may not be considered by the Regulatory Commission.

Standard Cases

22 In a Standard Case, by way of Reply the Participant Charged may:

22.1 admit the Charge and accept Standard Penalty 1. In such cases Standard Penalty 1 shall come into effect immediately upon receipt of the consent of the Judicial Panel Chairman (or their nominee) and the matter shall not proceed to a Regulatory Commission;

22.2 admit the Charge and submit general written mitigation and / or an application for Standard Penalty 1 to be reassessed on the basis of the income of the Participant Charged. Such cases will be considered by a Regulatory Commission on written submissions;

22.3 deny the Charge and request to contest it at a personal hearing before a Regulatory Commission; or

22.4 deny the Charge and submit written material for a Regulatory Commission to consider on written submissions (such material to include, where relevant, an application for Standard Penalty 2 to be reassessed on the basis of the income of the Participant Charged).

23 Where a Charge is denied and subsequently found proven by a Regulatory Commission, before making a determination on penalty the Regulatory Commission may consider any general written mitigation and / or an application for Standard Penalty 2 to be reassessed on the basis of the income of the Participant Charged, as submitted by the Participant with the Reply to the Charge.

Non-Standard Cases

24 In a non-Standard Case, by way of Reply to the Charge the Participant Charged may:

24.1 admit the Charge and submit any written mitigation in writing for a Regulatory Commission to consider on written submissions;

24.2 admit the Charge but request a personal hearing before a Regulatory Commission in order to present mitigation;

24.3 deny the Charge and request to contest it at a personal hearing before a Regulatory Commission; or

24.4 deny the Charge and submit written material for a Regulatory Commission to consider on written submissions.

RESPONSE TO REPLY

25 Where a Participant Charged:

25.1 denies a Charge; or

25.2 admits a Charge but submits mitigation or other material for consideration by the Regulatory Commission,

The Association may provide a response to the Reply, evidence, documents and written submissions provided by the Participant Charged.

26 Any such response to the Reply:

26.1 must be provided to the Participant Charged and the Regulatory Commission within three Business Days of receipt of the Reply; or

26.2 where Charges have been consolidated in accordance with paragraph 13 of Part A: General Provisions, must be provided to the Participant(s) Charged and the Regulatory Commission within three Business Days of receipt of the latest Reply received.

27 Written submissions, evidence and any other relevant material not submitted the relevant time limit in paragraph 26 above may not be considered by the Regulatory Commission.

TIMING OF HEARING

28 Where the circumstances of paragraphs 22.2, 24.1 or 24.2 apply, the hearing will take place within three Business Days (i) of confirmation by The Association that it does not intend to provide a response to the Reply in accordance with paragraph 25, or (ii) where a response to the Reply is to be provided, of receipt of that response to the Reply by the Participant Charged.

29 Where the circumstances of paragraphs 22.3 or 24.3 apply, the hearing will take place within ten Business Days (i) of confirmation by The Association that it does not intend to provide a response to the Reply in accordance with paragraph 25, or (ii) where a response to the Reply is to be provided, of receipt of that response to the Reply by the Participant Charged.

30 Where the circumstances of paragraph 22.4 or 24.4 apply, the hearing will take place within three Business Days (i) of confirmation by The Association that it does not intend to provide a response to the Reply in accordance with paragraph 25, or (ii) where a response to the Reply is to be provided, of receipt of that response to the Reply by the Participant Charged.

31 Where Charges have been consolidated in accordance with paragraph 13 of Part A: General Provisions, the timelines in paragraphs 28 to 30 above shall run from: (a) the date at which the last relevant Reply is received from a Participant Charged in accordance with paragraph 19, or (b) the date at which the response to the Reply is received by the Participants Charged in accordance with paragraph 26 (where applicable).

32 In the instance of a case concerning Incidents Outside the Jurisdiction of Match Officials, wherever possible the hearing will take place prior to the next Match in which the Player would be eligible to play.

PROCEDURES

33 The following procedures shall be followed at a personal hearing before a Regulatory Commission, unless the Regulatory Commission considers it appropriate to amend them:

33.1 The Association may address the Regulatory Commission, summarise the case against the Participant Charged, and then adduce its evidence.

33.2 The Participant Charged may then summarise its case and adduce evidence of any matter of which notice has been given in the Reply.

33.3 Each party in turn may question witnesses as they give evidence and the Regulatory Commission may question parties and witnesses at any time.

33.4 After the conclusion of the evidence of the Participant Charged, The Association and the Participant Charged in turn may make closing submissions.

33.5 Where the Participant Charged admits the Charge(s), the Regulatory Commission may dispense with hearing the evidence and consider submissions from The Association and the Participant Charged in turn. Where the Participant Charged denies a Charge or part thereof, or where it is admitted but there remains a factual dispute between the Participant Charged and The Association, the Regulatory Commission shall consider the witness and other evidence placed before it together with each party's submissions in order to make findings in respect of any factual dispute(s) in order to determine: (i) whether a Charge is proven; (ii) if so proven or admitted, the factual basis on which the Charge is proven.

DECISIONS AND PENALTY

34 The Regulatory Commission will decide whether each denied Charge is proven or not proven.

35 Where a Charge is not proven, the Charge will be dismissed.

36 Where a Charge is proven or admitted, subject to the application of any Standard Penalty, the Regulatory Commission may impose any penalty that it considers to be appropriate in accordance with its general powers set out in paragraphs 41 to 44 and 52 of Part A: General Provisions.

37 The decision of the Regulatory Commission will be communicated verbally to the Participant Charged on the same day as the decision is reached, and in writing by the end of the following Business Day.

Standard Cases only

38 This provision gives effect to the principal that, in a Standard Case, either Standard Penalty 1 or Standard Penalty 2 shall not be reduced unless truly exceptional mitigation exists, or a Participant Charged can demonstrate that the Standard Penalty would be disproportionately harsh due to their level of income.

39 In a Standard Case where the Participant Charged:

39.1 admits the Charge, but submits general written mitigation and / or an application for Standard Penalty 1 to be reassessed in accordance with paragraph 22.2;

39.2 denies the Charge, by submits general written mitigation and / or an application for Standard Penalty 2 to be reassessed in accordance with paragraph 23, the Regulatory Commission shall proceed in accordance with paragraphs 40 to 42 below.

Where the Participant Charged submits general mitigation

40 Having considered the general mitigation, the Regulatory Commission will have a discretion to impose any penalty that it considers appropriate, including increasing the penalty above the applicable Standard Penalty. A Regulatory Commission may decrease the Standard Penalty only where it is satisfied that any mitigation put forward is truly exceptional and so merits a reduction. Where it is so satisfied, it may impose any penalty that it considers to be appropriate in accordance with its general powers.

Where the Participant Charged submits an application for reassessment of the Standard Penalty

41 Where a Participant Charged can demonstrate that any financial element of a Standard Penalty would be disproportionately harsh due to the level of their income, they may make an application to have the financial element of the penalty reassessed by reference to that income.

42 Where such an application is made, and the Regulatory Commission does accept that the Standard Penalty would be disproportionately harsh, the Standard Penalty will not apply and the Regulatory Commission may impose any penalty that it considers to be appropriate in accordance with its general powers.

APPEALS

43 Participants and The Association shall have the right to appeal against the decision of, or penalty imposed by, a Regulatory Commission to an Appeal Board. Appeals shall proceed in accordance with Part E: Fast Track 7: Appeals - Fast Track.

WRITTEN REASONS

44 A request for written reasons in respect of the decision of the Regulatory Commission may be lodged with the Regulatory Commission, in which case the request must be made at the time of verbal notification of the decision (i.e. on the same day as the Regulatory Commission). If requested, written reasons will be supplied to parties by 6pm on the third Business Day following the hearing.

COSTS

45 Costs shall fall to be determined in accordance with paragraph 54 of Part A: General Provisions.

FAST TRACK 3: MISTAKEN IDENTITY

GENERAL PRINCIPLES

1 This Fast Track 3 sets out the process in respect of Players and Technical Area Occupants who have been cautioned or Players who have been dismissed from the field of play but claim that they were the victim of mistaken identity in relation to the imposition of such sanction.

2 This Fast Track 3 shall apply to:

2.1 Players of Clubs in Categories 1, 2 and 3; and

2.2 Technical Area Occupants of Clubs in Categories 1 and 3.

3 The procedures set out in this Fast Track 3 shall proceed in accordance with the applicable timetable set out at Table 11 below. The time limits and other requirements are to be strictly applied, and only complete claims submitted before the relevant deadline will be considered. The timetable seeks to give effect to the principle that it is in the interest of the parties and of sporting integrity that matters falling within the scope of this Fast Track 3 are concluded ahead of the suspension being served.

4 Where claims are submitted for both mistaken identity in accordance with this Fast Track 3 and wrongful dismissal in accordance with Fast Track 4 for the same incident, the matter of mistaken identity will be considered first.

5 Matters falling within this Fast Track 3 will be determined on video and written evidence only, and parties shall not be present or represented in person. For the avoidance of doubt, none of the Match Officials nor the Club, Player or Technical Area Occupant are entitled to be present or represented in person at the Regulatory Commission established for such purpose.

TIMETABLE

Table 11: Fast Track 3 Timings

	CATEGORY 1		CATEGORY 2		CATEGORY 3	
	TIMINGS	GENERAL GUIDE*	TIMINGS	GENERAL GUIDE*	TIMINGS	GENERAL GUIDE*
Notification of Intention to Submit a Claim	1pm on next Business Day following the incident	Monday	1pm on next Business Day following the incident	Monday	5pm on second Business Day following the incident	Tuesday
Claim / Evidence	1pm on second Business Day following the incident	Tuesday	1pm on second Business Day following the incident	Tuesday	5pm on fourth Business Day following the incident	Thursday
Regulatory Commission	To be determined prior to the suspension being served.	Thursday	To be determined prior to the suspension being served.	n/a	To be determined prior to the suspension being served	Thursday

* based on Match taking place on Friday, Saturday or Sunday

FEES

6 The following fees apply in respect of claims proceedings under this Fast Track 3. 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.

RELEVANT LEAGUE(S)	FEE
Premier League	£1,500
EFL Championship	£750
EFL League One	£500
EFL League Two	£350
National League	£300
National League (North and South), Isthmian League, Northern Premier League and Southern League	£125
Women's Super League	£300
Women's Championship	£125

PROCEDURE

Notification of Intention to Submit a Claim

7 The Player, Technical Area Occupant or their Club, wishing to bring a claim of mistaken identity must notify The Association by email (as directed by The Association) of their intention to submit a claim.

Claim

8 The Player, Technical Area Occupant or their Club must submit their claim, along with the evidence upon which their claim is founded, to The Association by email (as directed by The Association). Wherever possible, the claim should include a written statement from the Player or Technical Area Occupant who is responsible for the offence. In any event, the evidence must include:

8.1 a signed statement from the Player or Technical Area Occupant originally reported by the Referee that they were not responsible for the offence reported and identifying specifically the name of the person responsible; and

8.2 video footage of the incident.

Regulatory Commission

9 The Association will convene a Regulatory Commission to examine the claim, which shall consider the matter prior to any suspension being served.

10 The following procedures shall be followed before a Regulatory Commission, unless the Regulatory Commission considers it appropriate to amend them:

10.1 the Secretary to the Regulatory Commission will produce:

10.1.1 the Referee's report, reports from any other Match Official and any other evidence supporting the Referee's action; and

10.1.2 all statements, video footage and other evidence provided in support of the claim.

10.2 After considering the evidence, the Regulatory Commission will decide whether the claim is rejected or is successful.

10.3 In the event the claim is rejected, the Regulatory Commission will in every case go on to consider whether or not the Player's or Technical Area Occupant's punishment should be increased. Where the Regulatory Commission considers that the claim had no prospect of success and/or amounts to an abuse of process, it shall have the discretion to increase the penalty up to twice the standard punishment. In all other cases, the penalty shall be the standard punishment.

10.4 In the event the claim is successful, the standard punishment shall be transferred from the record of the Player or Technical Area Occupant reported by the Referee to the identified offender.

10.5 A record of the decision will be provided to the relevant Player's or Technical Area Occupant's Club on the same day the decision is made.

EXCEPTIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES: NO OR INSUFFICIENT BUSINESS DAYS

11 Where, due to there being no or insufficient Business Days between two Matches in the relevant Competition(s), it would not be possible for a claim to be determined before the suspension is to be served the following will apply:

11.1 Where there are no Business Days between two Matches in the relevant Competition(s), the Club shall notify The Association by email (JudicialServices@TheFA.com) by 1pm the day following the incident. If this notification is properly submitted, the Player will be eligible to play / the Technical Area Occupant will be eligible to occupy the Technical Area in the second Match. Submission of the claim will still be required as set out in Table 11.

11.2 Where there are insufficient Business Days between two Matches in the relevant Competition, the timetable as set out in Table 11 will still apply. However, the Player will be eligible to play / the Technical Area Occupant will be eligible to occupy the Technical Area in Matches prior to the claim being determined by a Regulatory Commission (provided that The Association has been notified in accordance with paragraph 7 above).

APPEALS

12 The decision of the Regulatory Commission is final and binding, and there shall be no right of appeal from decisions made by Regulatory Commissions under this Fast Track 3.

FAST TRACK 4: WRONGFUL DISMISSAL

GENERAL PRINCIPLES

1 This Fast Track 4 sets out the process in respect of Players who have been dismissed from the field of play (except as a result of two cautions leading to a dismissal), but claim that the Referee made an obvious error in dismissing the Player.

2 This Fast Track 4 shall apply to Players of Clubs in Categories 1, 2 and 3.

3 A Regulatory Commission that considers a claim of wrongful dismissal is concerned with only the question of whether any sanction of a suspension from play is one which should be imposed in view of the facts of the case. This role is not to usurp the role of the Referee and the dismissal from the field of play will remain on the record of the Club and the Player.

4 The procedures set out in this Fast Track 4 shall proceed in accordance with the applicable timetable set out at Table 12. The time limits and other requirements are to be strictly applied, and only complete claims which adhere to the relevant deadlines will be considered. The timetable seeks to give effect to the principle that it is in the interest of the parties and of sporting integrity that matters falling within the scope of this Fast Track 4 are concluded ahead of the suspension being served.

5 Matters falling within this Fast Track 4 will be determined on video and written evidence only, and parties shall not be present or represented in person. For the avoidance of doubt, none of the Match Officials nor the Club or Player are entitled to be present or represented in person at the Regulatory Commission established for such purpose.

TIMETABLE

Table 12: Fast Track 4 Timings

	CATEGORY 1		CATEGORY 2		CATEGORY 3	
	TIMINGS	GENERAL GUIDE*	TIMINGS	GENERAL GUIDE*	TIMINGS	GENERAL GUIDE*
Notification of Intention to Submit a Claim	1pm on next Business Day following the incident	Monday	1pm on next Business Day following the incident	Monday	5pm on the second Business Day following the incident	Tuesday
Claim / Evidence	1pm on second Business Day following the incident	Tuesday	1pm on second Business Day following the incident	Tuesday	5pm on the fourth business day following the incident	Thursday
Regulatory Commission	To be determined prior to the suspension being served.	Thursday	To be determined prior to the suspension being served.	n/a	To be determined prior to the suspension being served.	Thursday

*based on Match taking place on Friday, Saturday or Sunday

FEES

6 The following fees apply in respect of claims proceedings under this Fast Track 4. Subject to paragraph 7 below, the fee shall only be payable in the event that the claim is unsuccessful. The Association may collect the fee in any manner it deems appropriate.

LEAGUE	FEE
Premier League	£1,500
EFL Championship	£750
EFL League One	£500
EFL League Two	£350
National League	£300
National League (North and South), Isthmian League, Northern Premier League and Southern League	£125
Women's Super League	£300
Women's Championship	£125

7 Where a claim is submitted, but is withdrawn after 5pm on the first Business Day after the incident, The Association shall have the power to retain the fee. In circumstances where the fee is to be retained: (i) where the fee has yet to be paid, it will be required to be paid to The Association; and (ii) failure to pay the fee in these circumstances will result in disciplinary action being taken. Where a claim is withdrawn before the 5pm deadline, the fee shall be refunded (or, if not already paid, will not be required).

PROCEDURE

Notification of Intention to Submit a Claim

8 The Player, or their Club, wishing to bring a claim of wrongful dismissal must notify The Association by email (JudicialServices@TheFA.com) of their intention to submit a claim.

Claim

9 The Player or their Club must submit their claim, along with the evidence upon which their claim is founded (which must include video footage showing the incident from all available angles), to The Association by email (as directed by The Association).

10 Once the claim has been lodged with The Association, The Association will confirm that the claim has been made in accordance with the time limits and other requirements of this Fast Track 4 (to include, but not limited to, submitting video footage of the incident).

Regulatory Commission

11 The Association will convene a Regulatory Commission to examine the claim, which shall consider the matter prior to any suspension being served.

12 The following procedures shall be followed before a Regulatory Commission, unless the Regulatory Commission considers it appropriate to amend them:

12.1 The Secretary to the Regulatory Commission will produce:

12.1.1 the Referee's report, reports from any other Match Official and any other evidence supporting the Referee's action; and

12.1.2 all statements, video footage and other evidence provided in support of the claim, including details of the Player.

12.2 After considering the evidence, the Regulatory Commission will decide whether the claim is rejected or is successful. A claim will only be successful where the Regulatory Commission is satisfied that the Referee made an obvious error in dismissing the Player.

12.3 In the event the claim is rejected, the Regulatory Commission will in every case go on to consider whether or not the Player's punishment should be increased. Where the Regulatory Commission considers that the claim had no prospect of success and/or amounts to an abuse of process, it shall have the discretion to increase the penalty up to twice the standard punishment. In all other cases, the penalty shall be the standard punishment.

12.4 In the event the claim is successful, the standard punishment shall be withdrawn. The dismissal shall not be counted for the purposes of paragraphs 30 to 32 of Section One of Part D: On-Field Regulations.

12.5 A record of the decision will be prepared and provided to the Club of the relevant Player on the same day the decision is made.

EXCEPTIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES: NO OR INSUFFICIENT BUSINESS DAYS

13 Where, due to there being no or insufficient Business Days between two Matches in the relevant Competition(s), it would not be possible for a claim to be determined before the suspension is to be served the following will apply:

13.1 The Club shall notify The Association by email (JudicialServices@TheFA.com) by 1pm the day following the dismissal and shall lodge their claim, along with the evidence upon which their claim is founded, by 5pm that same day;

13.2 In such cases the Regulatory Commission will consider the claim no later than 6pm on the day before the next fixture.

14 Should a Player play in a Match without having given the appropriate notification as set out in paragraph 13.1 above, this shall constitute Misconduct.

APPEALS

15 The decision of the Regulatory Commission is final and binding, and there shall be no right of appeal from decisions made by Regulatory Commissions under this Fast Track 4.

FAST TRACK 5: CLEARLY EXCESSIVE

GENERAL PRINCIPLES

1 This Fast Track 5 sets out the process where a Player or their Club seeks to limit the disciplinary consequences of the dismissal of the Player from the field of play by demonstrating that the circumstances of the dismissal were truly exceptional such that the standard punishment, set out in Part D: On-Field Regulations, would be clearly excessive. It shall apply to Players of Clubs in Categories 1, 2 and 3.

2 The ability to claim under this Fast Track 5 is provided only so exceptional cases may be rectified. It is not intended to lead to the systematic, regular review of standard punishments. Regulatory Commissions should approach such cases with these principles in mind and it is envisaged that, in the vast majority of dismissals, the standard punishments will be appropriate and will be applied.

3 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 nor to scrutinise the correctness of the dismissal from the field of play, which shall 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.

4 Claims under this Fast Track 5 may only be lodged in relation on-field offences which result in a dismissal for offensive or insulting or abusive language / gestures, serious foul play, violent conduct, or spitting.

5 The procedures set out in this Fast Track 5 shall proceed in accordance with the applicable timetable set out at Table 13. The time limits and other requirements are to be strictly applied, and only complete claims which adhere to the relevant deadlines will be considered. The timetable seeks to give effect to the principle that it is in the interest of the parties and of sporting integrity that matters falling within the scope of this Fast Track 5 are concluded, where possible, ahead of the suspension being served.

6 Matters falling within this Fast Track 5 will be determined on video and written evidence only, and parties shall not be present or represented in person. For the avoidance of doubt, none of the Match Officials nor the Club or Player are entitled to be present or represented in person at the Regulatory Commission established for such purpose.

TIMETABLE

Table 13: Fast Track 5 Timings

	CATEGORY 1		CATEGORY 2		CATEGORY 3	
	TIMINGS	GENERAL GUIDE*	TIMINGS	GENERAL GUIDE*	TIMINGS	GENERAL GUIDE*
Notification of Intention to Submit a Claim	1pm on next Business Day following the incident	Monday	1pm on next Business Day following the incident	Monday	5pm on the second Business Day following the incident	Tuesday
Claim / Evidence	1pm on second Business Day following the incident	Tuesday	1pm on second Business Day following the incident	Tuesday	5pm on the fourth Business Day following the incident	Thursday
Regulatory Commission	To be determined, where practicable, prior to the suspension being served and in all cases before the second Match that the Player would miss were the standard punishment to apply.	Thursday	To be determined, where practicable, prior to the suspension being served and in all cases before the second Match that the Player would miss were the standard punishment to apply.	Thursday	To be determined, where practicable, prior to the suspension being served and in all cases before the second Match that the Player would miss were the standard punishment to apply.	Thursday

* based on Match taking place on Friday, Saturday or Sunday

FEES

7 The following fees apply in respect of claims proceedings under this Fast Track 5. Subject to paragraph 8 below, the fee shall only be payable in the event that the claim is unsuccessful. The Association may collect the fee in any manner it deems appropriate.

LEAGUE	FEE
Premier League	£1,500
EFL Championship	£750
EFL League One	£500
EFL League Two	£350
National League	£300
National League (North and South), Isthmian League, Northern Premier League and Southern League	£125
Women's Super League	£300
Women's Championship	£125

8 Where a claim is submitted, but is withdrawn after 5pm on the first Business Day after the incident, The Association shall have the power to retain the fee. In circumstances where the fee is to be retained: (i) where the fee has yet to be paid, it will be required to be paid to The Association; and (ii) failure to pay the fee in these circumstances will result in disciplinary action being taken. Where a claim is withdrawn before the 5pm deadline, the fee shall be refunded (or, if not already paid, will not be required).

PROCEDURE

Notification of Intention to Submit a Claim

9 The Player, or their Club, wishing to bring a 'clearly excessive' claim must notify The Association by email (JudicialServices@TheFA.com") of their intention to submit a claim.

Claim

10 The Player or their Club must submit their claim, along with the evidence upon which their claim is founded (which must include video footage showing the incident from all available angles), to The Association by email (as directed by The Association). The claim must explain why the case is truly exceptional.

11 Once the claim has been lodged with The Association, The Association will confirm that the claim has been made in accordance with the time limits and other requirements of this Fast Track 5 (to include, but not limited to, submitting video footage of the incident).

Regulatory Commission

12 The Association will convene a Regulatory Commission to examine the claim which shall, where practicable, consider the matter prior to any suspension being served but shall in all cases consider the matter before the second Match that the Player would miss were the standard punishment to apply.

13 The following procedures shall be followed before a Regulatory Commission, unless the Regulatory Commission considers it appropriate to amend them:

13.1 The Secretary to the Regulatory Commission will produce:

13.1.1 the Referee's report, reports from any other Match Official and any other evidence supporting the Referee's action; and

13.1.2 all statements, video footage and other evidence provided in support of the claim, including details of the Player.

13.2 After considering the evidence, the Regulatory Commission will decide whether the claim is rejected or is successful. A claim will only be successful where the Regulatory Commission is satisfied so that it is sure that:

13.2.1 the circumstances of the dismissal under review are truly exceptional, such that the standard punishment should not be applied; and

13.2.2 as a result of the truly exceptional circumstances the standard punishment would be clearly excessive.

13.3 In considering the matters at paragraph 13.2 above, the Regulatory Commission shall have regard to:

13.3.1 the applicable Law(s) of the Game and any relevant FIFA instructions and / or guidelines;

13.3.2 the nature of the dismissal offence including the Player's state of mind, in particular any intent, recklessness or negligence;

13.3.3 where applicable, the level of force used;

13.3.4 any injury to an opponent caused by the dismissal offence;

13.3.5 any other impact on the game in which the incident occurred;

13.3.6 the prevalence of the type of incident in question in football generally;

13.3.7 the wider interests of football in applying consistent punishments for dismissal offences.

13.4 In the event the claim is rejected, the Regulatory Commission will in every case go on to consider whether or not the Player's punishment should be increased. Where the Regulatory Commission considers that the claim had no prospect of success and/or amounts to an abuse of process, it shall have the discretion to increase the penalty up to twice the standard punishment.

13.5 In the event the claim is successful, the standard punishment shall be withdrawn. The Regulatory Commission will go on to decide the punishment to be applied to the Player in respect of the dismissal. In all cases, this shall be a suspension of at least one Match. In deciding on the appropriate punishment, the Regulatory Commission shall have regard to those factors listed at paragraphs 13.3.1 to 13.3.7 above.

13.6 A record of the decision will be prepared and provided to the Club of the relevant Player on the same day the decision is made.

APPEALS

14 The decision of the Regulatory Commission is final and binding, and there shall be no right of appeal from decisions made by Regulatory Commissions under this Fast Track 5.

FAST TRACK 6: CLEARLY INSUFFICIENT

GENERAL PRINCIPLES

1 This Fast Track 6 sets out the process where The Association seeks to increase the disciplinary consequences of the dismissal of the Player from the field of play by demonstrating that the circumstances of the dismissal were truly exceptional such that the standard punishment, set out in Part D: On-Field Regulations, would be clearly insufficient. It applies to Players of Clubs in Categories 1, 2 and 3.

2 The ability to claim under this Fast Track 6 is provided only so exceptional cases may be rectified. It is not intended to lead to the systematic, regular review of standard punishments. Regulatory Commissions should approach such cases with these principles in mind and it is envisaged that, in the vast majority of dismissals, the standard punishments will be appropriate and will be applied.

3 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 nor to scrutinise the correctness of the dismissal from the field of play, which shall 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 sending-off.

4 Claims under this Fast Track 6 may only be lodged in relation on-field offences which result in a dismissal for serious foul play, violent conduct, or spitting.

5 The procedures set out in this Fast Track 6 shall proceed in accordance with the applicable timetable set out at Table 14. The timetable seeks to give effect to the principle that it is in the interest of the parties and of sporting integrity that matters falling within the scope of this Fast Track 6 are concluded, where possible, ahead of the suspension being served.

6 A Referee's report showing that a Player was dismissed for serious foul play, violent conduct, or spitting shall be conclusive evidence that the Player has breached the relevant Law of the Game and shall not be subject to challenge, save for where any such dismissal is subject to a claim for wrongful dismissal.

7 Matters falling within this Fast Track 6 will be determined on video and written evidence only, and parties shall not be present or represented in person. For the avoidance of doubt, none of the Match Officials nor the Club or Player are entitled to be present or represented in person at the Regulatory Commission established for such purpose.

TIMETABLE

Table 14: Fast Track 6 Timings

	CATEGORY 1		CATEGORY 2		CATEGORY 3	
	TIMINGS	GENERAL GUIDE*	TIMINGS	GENERAL GUIDE*	TIMINGS	GENERAL GUIDE*
Claim / Evidence	1pm on the second Business Day following the incident	Tuesday	1pm on the second Business Day following the incident	Tuesday	6pm on the third Business Day following the incident	Wednesday
Reply	6pm on the second Business Day following the issue of the claim	Thursday	6pm on the second Business Day following the issue of the claim	Thursday	6pm on the third Business Day following the issue of the claim	Following Monday
Regulatory Commission	To be determined, where practicable, prior to the suspension being served and in all cases before the second Match that the Player would miss were the standard punishment to apply.	Friday	To be determined, where practicable, prior to the suspension being served and in all cases before the second Match that the Player would miss were the standard punishment to apply.	Friday	To be determined, where practicable, prior to the suspension being served and in all cases before the second Match that the Player would miss were the standard punishment to apply.	Following Tuesday

*based on Match taking place on Friday, Saturday or Sunday

PROCEDURE

Claim

8 The Association shall submit its claim, along with the evidence upon which their claim is founded (which must include the Referee's report and where available and The Association is in possession of it, video footage showing the incident from all available angles), and must send it to the Player and/or the Player's Club.

Reply

9 The Player must submit to The Association a written reply to the claim (which must include all evidence in support of the reply) by email (as directed by The Association). Where no reply is received, the Regulatory Commission shall consider the claim as if it had been denied by the Player.

Regulatory Commission

10 A Regulatory Commission will be convened to examine the claim. The Regulatory Commission will, where practicable, consider the matter prior to any suspension being served but will, in all cases, consider the matter before the second Match that the Player would miss were the standard punishment to apply.

11 The following procedures following procedures shall be followed before a Regulatory Commission, unless the Regulatory Commission considers it appropriate to amend them:

11.1 The Secretary to the Regulatory Commission will produce:

11.1.1 the Referee's report, reports from any other Match Official and any other evidence supporting the Referee's action;

11.1.2 all statements, video footage and other evidence provided in support of the claim; and

11.1.3 the written reply and evidence provided in support.

11.2 After considering the evidence, the Regulatory Commission will decide whether the claim is rejected or is successful. A claim will only be successful where the Regulatory Commission is satisfied so that it is sure that:

11.2.1 the circumstances of the dismissal under review are truly exceptional, such that the standard punishment should not be applied; and

11.2.2 as a result of the truly exceptional circumstances the standard punishment would be clearly insufficient.

11.3 In considering the matters at paragraph 11.2 above, the Regulatory Commission shall have regard to:

11.3.1 the applicable Law(s) of the Game and any relevant FIFA instructions and / or guidelines;

11.3.2 the nature of the dismissal offence including the Player's state of mind, in particular any intent, recklessness or negligence;

11.3.3 where applicable, the level of force used;

11.3.4 any injury to an opponent caused by the dismissal offence;

11.3.5 any other impact on the game in which the incident occurred;

11.3.6 the prevalence of the type of incident in question in football generally;

11.3.7 the wider interests of football in applying consistent punishments for dismissal offences.

11.4 In the event the claim is rejected, the Regulatory Commission shall deliberate no further on the claim and the Player shall serve the standard punishment.

11.5 In the event the claim is successful, the standard punishment shall be set aside. The Regulatory Commission will go on to decide the punishment to be applied to the Player in respect of the dismissal. In deciding on the appropriate punishment, the Regulatory Commission shall have regard to those factors listed at paragraphs 11.3.1 to 11.3.7 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 penalty.

11.6 A record of the decision will be prepared and provided to the Club of the relevant Player on the same day as the decision is made.

APPEALS

12 The decision will be subject to appeal only:

12.1 in the event that the penalty imposed (over and above the standard penalty) is in excess of three Matches; and

12.2 on the single ground that the additional suspension is excessive; and

12.3 in respect of that part of the additional suspension in excess of the additional three Matches, not accounting for any additional Matches included in the penalty as a result of a Player having served a suspension earlier in the same playing season.

For example, where a Player is suspended for eight Matches following a dismissal for violent conduct, they may appeal only in respect of the two Matches in excess of the three standard and three additional Match suspension).

13 Appeals shall proceed in accordance with Part E: Fast Track 7: Appeals – Fast Track.

FAST TRACK 7: APPEALS – FAST TRACK

GENERAL

1 These Regulations set out the provisions relating to appeals arising from matters proceeding under a Fast Track. For the avoidance of doubt, there shall only be a right of appeal from matters proceeding under Fast Track 1, Fast Track 2 and Fast Track 6.

2 Where an appeal is made from a Fast Track 2 matter by a Participant affiliated to a Club at Category 3, any time limits set out herein shall not apply.

3 A decision relating to a Preliminary Application made in a matter proceeding under a Fast Track shall be final and binding and there shall be no right of further challenge.

4 Submissions, evidence and any other relevant material not submitted within the time limits set out herein may not be considered by the Appeal Board.

GROUNDS OF APPEAL

5 Save where otherwise stated, the grounds of appeal available to The Association shall be that the body whose decision is appealed against:

5.1 misinterpreted or failed to comply with the Rules and/or regulations of The Association relevant to its decision; and/or

5.2 came to a decision to which no reasonable such body could have come; and/or

5.3 imposed a penalty, award, order or sanction that was so unduly lenient as to be unreasonable.

6 Save where otherwise stated, the grounds of appeal available to Participants shall be that the body whose decision is appealed against:

6.1 failed to give that Participant a fair hearing; and/or

6.2 misinterpreted or failed to comply with the Rules and/or regulations of The Association relevant to its decision; and/or

6.3 came to a decision to which no reasonable such body could have come; and/or

6.4 imposed a penalty, award, order or sanction that was excessive.

REPRESENTATION

7 In matters proceeding under this Appeals Fast Track, Participants shall have the right to attend and may be represented in accordance with, and subject to, the provisions of paragraph 10 of Part A: General Provisions. For the avoidance of doubt, failure to comply with the notification requirements set out in paragraph 10 of Part A: General Provisions will result in the right to representation being forfeited.

8 An Appeal Board may also conduct a hearing on the basis of written submissions only, should the appellant not wish to be present or represented in person.

PROCEDURE

Notification of Intention to Submit an Appeal

9 Where the Participant of The Association intends to lodge an appeal, they must notify The Association by email (JudicialServices@TheFA.com):

9.1 by 12 noon on the first Business Day following the Regulatory Commission; or

9.2 in cases where written reasons are requested, by 12 noon on the first Business Day following receipt of the written reasons.

10 Once an appeal has been commenced, it shall not be withdrawn except by leave of the Appeal Board (or the Judicial Panel Chairman (or their nominee) if an Appeal Board has not yet been convened). Where an appeal is so withdrawn, the Appeal Board may make such order for costs as it considers appropriate.

Submissions

11 The appellant (whether the Participant or The Association) must, by 6pm on the first Business Day following notification of intention to appeal, provide The Association and the Judicial Panel Chairman (or their nominee) with copies of all submissions, evidence and any other relevant material upon which they intend to rely. Where the appellant is a Participant, they must also provide the appeal fee of £100.

12 An appeal shall be by way of a review of documents and oral submissions only and shall not involve a rehearing of the evidence considered by the Regulatory Commission. The Association will ensure that all documents relating to the original Regulatory Commission hearing are provided to the Appeal Board.

Responses

13 The respondent (whether the Participant or The Association) must, within two Business Days of receipt of the appellant's submissions evidence and material, provide its responses to the appellant and the Appeal Board.

New Evidence

14 New evidence may be admitted with the permission of the Chairman of the Appeal Board. An application for leave to present new evidence must be made when providing submissions or Response (as applicable). Such application must set out the nature and the relevance of the new evidence, and why it was not presented at the original hearing. Save in exceptional circumstances, the appeal board shall not grant leave to present new evidence unless satisfied with the reason given as to why it was not, or could not have been, presented at the original hearing and that such evidence is relevant. The decision of the Chairman of the Appeal Board shall be final. Where leave to present new evidence has been granted, in all cases the other party will be given an opportunity to respond. The Appeal Board's decision shall be final.

Appeal Board

15 The Appeal Board will hear the appeal at the earliest available opportunity but, in any case, no earlier than on the second day after submission of responses.

16 The following procedures shall be followed at a personal hearing before an Appeal Board, unless the Appeal Board considers it appropriate to amend them:

16.1 the appellant to address the appeal board, summarising its case;

16.2 any new evidence to be presented by the appellant;

16.3 the respondent to address the appeal board, summarising its case;

16.4 any new evidence to be presented by the respondent;

16.5 each party to be able to put questions to any witness giving new evidence;

16.6 the Appeal Board may put questions to the parties and any witness giving new evidence at any stage;

16.7 the respondent to make closing submissions;

16.8 the appellant to make closing submissions.

16.9 the Appeal Board to decide whether the appeal is allowed or dismissed.

DECISIONS

17 A decision of the Appeal Board shall be final and binding and there shall be no right of further challenge.

18 The Appeal Board shall have power to:

18.1 allow or dismiss the appeal;

18.2 increase or decrease the penalty, award or sanction originally imposed;

18.3 make such further or other order as it considers appropriate.

COSTS

19 Costs shall fall to be determined in accordance with the provisions of paragraphs 52 to 53 of Part A: General Provisions.

F - INTERIM SUSPENSION ORDER REGULATIONS

GENERAL PRINCIPLES

1 These Interim Suspension Order Regulations apply to Interim Suspension Orders made pursuant to Rule E16, whether before or after a Charge.

2 A Regulatory Commission may deviate from the provisions of these Regulations at their discretion, save that any Review Period must not be more than 21 days in any case. Where a Regulatory Commission deviates from any other time limit set out in these Regulations, it will do so subject to the overall aim of ensuring that applications proceed on an expedited basis in all cases, whilst ensuring a fair process (to include that the Participant has a fair opportunity to make representations in response to an application).

3 Any failure to follow these Regulations will not in itself invalidate any application or order made.

4 References in these Regulations to Chief Regulatory Officer or Judicial Panel Chairman include any nominee acting on their behalf.

5 Any general provisions relating to Regulatory Commissions in force from time to time shall apply to hearings conducted pursuant to these Regulations, subject to modifications concerning representation (at paragraphs 6 to 8) and costs (at paragraph 36).

REPRESENTATION

6 In matters proceeding under these Regulations, parties have the right to be present and/or represented at any hearing convened in accordance with these Regulations. Where a party wishes to be represented, this fact together with the identity of any representative, shall be submitted at the same time as any application or response (as applicable).

7 The Regulatory Commission may, at its discretion, proceed to hear an application in the absence of any party.

8 The Regulatory Commission may consider any matter pursuant to these Regulations on the basis of written submissions only, should the applicant and Participant not wish to be present or represented in person.

APPLICATION FOR AN INTERIM SUSPENSION ORDER BEFORE A CHARGE

Notice of Application

9 The Chief Regulatory Officer must give simultaneous written notice of the application to the Judicial Panel Chairman and the Participant in respect of whom the application is being made.

10 The notice must:

10.1 set out a brief summary of the basis of the application; and

10.2 confirm that the applicant has obtained the agreement of the relevant League and, where applicable, the Professional Footballers' Association in accordance with Rule E16 (such confirmation shall be conclusive evidence of the fact that such agreement has been obtained).

Composition of the Regulatory Commission

11 Upon receipt of the application, the Judicial Panel Chairman shall select a Regulatory Commission to consider the application. Subject to paragraph 12 below, such selection shall be in accordance with any applicable selection policy in force from time to time.

12 The Regulatory Commission considering the application shall be chaired by a barrister or solicitor of seven or

more years' standing.

Application

13 Within two Business Days of providing the notice of application, the applicant must provide to the Chairman of the Regulatory Commission (via The Association's Legal and Governance department) and the Participant full details of the application, to include the written submissions and all evidence or material of whatever nature relied upon in support of the application.

Responses

14 Within two Business Days of receipt of the application and supporting evidence / material, the Participant must provide to the Chairman of the Regulatory Commission (via The Association's Legal and Governance department) and the applicant their written submissions and all evidence or material of whatever nature to be relied upon in response to the application.

15 The applicant shall have two Business Days to provide a response, if any, to the Participant's submissions and supporting evidence / material provided in accordance with paragraph 14 above. This response must be provided to the Chairman of the Regulatory Commission and the Participant.

Regulatory Commission Procedure

Timing

16 The Regulatory Commission shall hear the application at the earliest opportunity, but no earlier than the second day after the provision of either:

16.1 the response by the Participant in accordance with paragraph 14 above; or

16.2 where applicable, the response by the applicant in accordance with paragraph 15 above.

Hearing

17 The following procedures shall be followed, unless the Regulatory Commission considers it appropriate to amend them:

17.1 a summary of the basis for the application will be put forward by the applicant, followed by the Participant who shall put forward a summary of the points to be raised on their behalf;

17.2 the applicant and the Participant, in that order, may then address the Regulatory Commission and put forward all submissions and all evidence of whatever nature relied upon;

17.3 each party and the Regulatory Commission shall have the opportunity to put questions in respect of any matter presented by either party;

17.4 in conclusion, the applicant and the Participant in that order may make a closing submission.

18 Where a party seeks to rely on submissions, evidence or material of whatever nature at the hearing but has not given notice in accordance with these Regulations, the Regulatory Commission shall have a discretion whether or not to take that matter into account.

Decision

19 The Regulatory Commission may:

19.1 make an Interim Suspension Order, but only:

19.1.1 where the applicant has established to the satisfaction of the Regulatory Commission the matters set out in Rule E16.1.1 and E16.1.2; and

19.1.2 in accordance with Rule E16.3.

19.2 dismiss the application;

19.3 make any other order as it considers appropriate.

20 Where the Regulatory Commission makes an Interim Suspension Order, it must determine and state as part of the Interim Suspension Order, the Review Period. The Review Period for Interim Suspension Orders made in accordance with paragraphs 9 to 19 shall be no more than 21 days from the date of the Interim Suspension Order.

PERIODIC REVIEW

General

21 A Participant in respect of whom an Interim Suspension Order has been made may apply to have the Interim Suspension Order reviewed by a Regulatory Commission:

21.1 in respect of an Interim Suspension Order issued by a Regulatory Commission before a Charge in accordance with Rule E16.1, before the expiry of the Review Period; or

21.2 in respect of an Interim Suspension Order issued by the Chief Regulatory Officer after a Charge in accordance with Rule E16.4, once the Interim Suspension Order has been issued.

Notice of Application for Review

22 The Participant must give simultaneous written notice of the application to the Judicial Panel Chairman and the Chief Regulatory Officer. The notice may be sent by email, fax or post.

23 The notice must set out a brief summary of the basis of the application.

Composition of the Regulatory Commission

24 Upon receipt of the application, the Judicial Panel Chairman shall select a Regulatory Commission to consider the application. Such selection shall be in accordance with any applicable selection policy in force from time to time. Subject to any representations by the parties, a Regulatory Commission which considers a review application may include all or any of the same Regulatory Commission members that imposed the Interim Suspension Order or any of the Regulatory Commission members that subsequently reviewed it.

Application

25 Within two Business Days of providing the notice of application, the Participant must provide to the Chairman of the Regulatory Commission (via The Association's Legal and Governance department) and the Chief Regulatory Officer full details of the application, to include the written submissions and all evidence or material of whatever nature relied upon in support of the application.

Responses

26 Within two Business Days of receipt of the application and supporting evidence / material, the Chief Regulatory Officer must provide to the Chairman of the Regulatory Commission (via The Association's Legal and Governance department) and the Participant their written submissions and all evidence or material of whatever nature to be relied upon in response to the application.

27 The applicant shall have two Business Days to provide a response, if any, to the Participant's submissions and supporting evidence / material provided in accordance with paragraph 26 above.

Regulatory Commission Procedure

Timing

28 The Regulatory Commission shall hear the application at the earliest opportunity, but no earlier than the second day after the provision of either:

28.1 the response by the Chief Regulatory Officer in accordance with paragraph 26 above; or

28.2 where applicable, the response by the Participant in accordance with paragraph 27 above.

29 The Association shall notify the parties of the hearing location and arrangements.

Hearing

30 The following procedures shall be followed, unless the Regulatory Commission considers it appropriate to amend them:

30.1 a summary of the basis for the application will be put forward by the Participant, followed by the Chief Regulatory Officer who shall put forward a summary of the points to be raised on their behalf;

30.2 the Participant and the Chief Regulatory Officer, in that order, may then address the Regulatory Commission and put forward all submissions and all evidence of whatever nature relied upon;

30.3 each party and the Regulatory Commission shall have the opportunity to put questions in respect of any matter presented by either party;

30.4 in conclusion, the Participant and the Chief Regulatory Officer in that order may make a closing submission.

31 Where a party seeks to rely on submissions, evidence or material of whatever nature at the hearing but has not given notice in accordance with these Regulations, the Regulatory Commission shall have a discretion whether or not to take that matter into account.

Decision

32 The Regulatory Commission may make any order in respect of the Interim Suspension Order as it considers appropriate including, but not limited to, ordering that it continue in force, extending it, modifying it or removing it.

33 The Regulatory Commission may only order an Interim Suspension Order to continue in force:

33.1 where the Chief Regulatory Officer has established to the satisfaction of the Regulatory Commission the matters set out in Rule E16.1.1 and E16.1.2; and

33.2 in accordance with Rule E16.3.

34 Where the Regulatory Commission orders that an Interim Suspension Order is to continue in force, it must determine and state as part of the order, the Review Period. The Review Period shall be no more than 21 days from the date of the last review.

Further Review

35 For as long as an Interim Suspension Order remains in place, a Participant in respect of whom an Interim Suspension Order has been made shall be entitled to apply to have the Interim Suspension Order further reviewed by a Regulatory Commission before the expiry of the Review Period.

COSTS

36 Any costs incurred in bringing, or responding, to an application for (or review of) an Interim Suspension Order shall be borne by the party incurring the costs. Any costs incurred in relation to the selection and conduct of the Regulatory Commission may be ordered by the Regulatory Commission to be paid by either party.

CHALLENGE

37 A decision of the Regulatory Commission made pursuant to these Regulations shall be final and binding with no right of further challenge.

G - APPENDICES

APPENDIX I: DEFINITIONS

Affiliated Association Secretary means the secretary of the appropriate Affiliated Association and any person nominated to discharge a part of the regulatory and disciplinary administration of the Affiliated Association;

Aggravated Breach means Misconduct of a manner prescribed in Rule E3.1;

Anti-Doping Rule Violation means a breach of Anti-Doping Regulations 3-12 (inclusive);

Assistant Referee means a person qualified under The Association's Regulations for the Registration and Control of Referees who may be appointed as a Match Official;

CAS means the Court of Arbitration for Sport;

Charge means written notice served on a Participant by The Association which sets out facts and matters of alleged Misconduct committed by that Participant and which serves to commence disciplinary proceedings against them;

Club Secretary means the secretary of the appropriate Club and any person nominated to discharge a part of the regulatory and disciplinary administration of the Club;

Compensation Claimant shall have the meaning given to it in paragraph 50 of Part A: General Provisions to these Disciplinary Regulations;

Council Panel Members means those individuals who are appointed by the Committees Appointment Panel of Council from among Members of Council from time to time by the Judicial Panel Monitoring Group to be Panel Members in accordance with the Terms of Reference for the Composition and Operation of the Judicial Panel;

Disciplinary Commission means a commission established by the appropriate Affiliated Association or by The Association on behalf of an Affiliated Association;

Disciplinary Commission Secretary means a person appointed to act as a secretary to a Disciplinary Commission;

EFL means The English Football League Limited;

EFL Leagues mean the Leagues organised by the EFL for Clubs in membership of the EFL;

First Team Competitive Match (or FTCM) means a first team competitive Match in the following Competitions: FA Challenge Cup, FA Challenge Trophy, Premier League, EFL Leagues, EFL Cup, EFL Trophy, National League, National League Cup, WSL, WCH, FA Women's Challenge Cup and FA Women's League Cup;

Football Category means one of the following categories of football played in (and outside) the National League System: Saturday Football, Sunday Football, Midweek Football, Representative Football, Veterans Football, Education Football;

Football Panel Members means those individuals with appropriate experience of the game of association football who are appointed from time to time to be Panel Members in accordance with the Terms of Reference for the Composition and Operation of the Judicial Panel;

Friendly Match means any Match sanctioned or regarded by The Association or an Affiliated Association as a friendly Match (including FA Community Shield and Women's FA Community Shield Matches);

International Transfer Certificate means a certificate issued by a member association of FIFA in respect of an international transfer of a player between member associations, in accordance with FIFA's Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players;

Judicial Panel means the judicial panel of The Association appointed by Council (or from 29 September 2023 onwards the Board) from time to time from which Regulatory Commissions and Appeal Boards are appointed to hear disciplinary and other cases and appeals;

Judicial Panel Chairman means the chairman of the Judicial Panel, as appointed by Council (or from 29 September 2023 onwards the Board) from time to time in accordance with the Terms of Reference for the Composition and Operation of the Judicial Panel, or their nominee;

Judicial Panel Monitoring Group means the group of that name established by the Football Regulatory Authority;

League means a league competition sanctioned by The Association and/or an Affiliated Association;

Non-First Team Competitive Match (or NFTM) means all Matches other than (i) First Team Competitive Matches and (ii) Friendly Matches;

Notice of Appeal shall have the meaning given to it in paragraph 5 of Part C: Appeals - Non-Fast Track to these Disciplinary Regulations;

Notification Date shall have the meaning given to it in paragraph 4 of Part C: Appeals - Non-Fast Track to these Disciplinary Regulations;

Panel Members means together, the Council Panel Members, the Football Panel Members and the Specialist Panel Members of the Judicial Panel from time to time;

Participant Charged means a Participant that has been served with a Charge;

Preliminary Application means an application made by a party to disciplinary proceedings for issues to be dealt with on a preliminary basis;

Provisional Hearing means an expedited abbreviated hearing on notice that occurs prior to the full hearing of a Charge and provides the Player with an opportunity to make representations, whether written or oral, in respect of a Provisional Suspension only;

Provisional Suspension means a Player or other person is barred temporarily from participating in any football or football activity prior to the final decision in respect of an Anti-Doping Rule Violation at a Regulatory Commission hearing;

Referee means a person qualified under The Association's Regulations for the Registration and Control of Referees who may be appointed as a Match Official;

Reply means a written response to a Charge;

Respect Offence shall have the meaning given to it in paragraph 69 of Section Three of Part D: On-Field Regulations to these Disciplinary Regulations;

Response shall have the meaning given to it in paragraph 8 of Part C: Appeals - Non-Fast Track to these Disciplinary Regulations;

Review Period means, in relation to an Interim Suspension Order, the period during which the Participant will be entitled to have the Interim Suspension Order reviewed by a Regulatory Commission;

Rules shall mean the Rules of the Association (and Rule shall be construed accordingly);

Specialist Panel Member means professionally qualified and/or appropriately experienced individuals (who, if Barristers or Solicitors, shall be of seven or more years' standing) who are appointed from time to time by the Judicial Panel Monitoring Group to be Panel Members in accordance with clauses 4.1.3, 4.2 and 4.5 of the Terms of Reference for the Composition and Operation of the Judicial Panel;

Standard Case means a case designated as such by The Association in accordance with the provisions of Part E: Fast Track Regulations to these Disciplinary Regulations;

Standard Penalty means a standard penalty, determined by The Association in accordance with a tariff of standard penalties in force from time to time, to be applied in relation to Standard Cases in accordance with the provisions of Part E: Fast Track Regulations to these Disciplinary Regulations;

Standard Sanction Offer means the offer of a discounted sporting and/or financial sanction, determined by The Association by reference to the Standard Penalty that would otherwise be offered or applied following a Charge being issued;

Technical Area shall have the meaning given to it in Law 1 of the Laws of the Game;

Technical Area Occupant means a person (other than a Player) permitted to occupy the Technical Area under the rules or regulations of the relevant Competition;

WCH means Women's Championship;

WSL means Women's Super League;

Youth Football means any Matches played in youth football that do not fall within Category 2 as set out in paragraph 1.2 of Part D: On-Field Regulations to these Disciplinary Regulations.

APPENDIX II: AFFILIATED ASSOCIATIONS –HEARINGS BEFORE DISCIPLINARY COMMISSIONS

Disciplinary Commission Members and Secretaries

1 A Disciplinary Commission must be chaired by a Chairman that has completed The FA Chairman training and passed the online assessment within the previous two years.

2 At least one member of the Disciplinary Commission shall be independent.

3 Members of a Disciplinary Commission may be appointed from outside of the Affiliated Association Council. Members of the National Serious Case Panel and Regional Discipline Panel are eligible for all Disciplinary Commission appointments.

4 All Disciplinary Commission members must have completed and passed the relevant online assessment as communicated by The Association from time to time.

5 A Disciplinary Commission Secretary must attend all Disciplinary Commissions. Neither the Chairman of the Disciplinary Commission nor any of the members of the relevant Disciplinary Commission may act as Disciplinary Commission Secretary.

6 The Disciplinary Commission Secretary must have completed The FA Secretary training and passed the online assessment within the previous two years.

Attendance of Children at Personal Hearings

7 **7.1** A child aged under 12 must not appear at a Disciplinary Commission as either a witness or the Participant Charged.

7.2 Where a child aged under 12 would otherwise have been charged with a disciplinary offence, alternative options should be considered to address the issues arising from any incident or behaviour. These could include:

7.2.1 convening a meeting to bring the parties together to talk through the issues.

7.2.2 the Affiliated Association Welfare Officer talking to the child to warn them about their behaviour and/or requesting the child undertake an education programme which is deemed relevant to the incident or behaviour. A parent/carer should be present at any meeting.

7.3 Where a child aged under 12 would have been a witness before a Disciplinary Commission, the following options should be considered:

7.3.1 the Affiliated Association Welfare Officer obtaining a written statement from the child, with the Disciplinary Commission proceeding on the basis of written submissions. The Affiliated Association Welfare Officer may need to write the statement in conjunction with the child and parent/carer.

7.3.2 convening a private meeting between the child and Affiliated Association Welfare Officer to establish the child's version of events, with the Affiliated Association Welfare Officer reporting verbally to Disciplinary Commission. The Affiliated Association Welfare Officer should make a contemporaneous note of the meeting and a parent/carer should be present throughout.

8 A child aged 12 or over may attend a Disciplinary Commission provided that:

8.1 they understand it is their duty to speak the truth;

8.2 their evidence is sufficiently important to justify it being heard;

8.3 the appropriate procedures relating to minors are adopted. The child must be accompanied by a parent/carer;

8.4 a child between the ages of 12 and 15 shall only give evidence via an electronic platform, or any method other than in person; and

8.5 a child between the ages of 16 and 17 shall be permitted to give evidence in person but a Disciplinary Commission may permit evidence to be given by another method if it is considered appropriate in the circumstances of the case.

9 Where a Disciplinary Commission is considering matters in adult football involving a child between the ages of 16 and 18 (inclusive), best practice would be to follow the established for adults, except in cases where the individual has learning development needs. Those with learning development needs should be treated in a manner consistent with their mental capacity. If the suggestion is that the Participant has the cognitive reasoning of a child of a particular age, that age appropriate guidance should be followed.

Young people as witnesses

10 Evidence should only be received from young people (accompanied by a responsible adult) in front of the Disciplinary Commission, the Disciplinary Commission Secretary, the Participant Charged and their representative.

11 All others present at a hearing must remove themselves from the hearing whilst a young person is giving evidence.

12 Questions are to be asked by the Chairman of the Disciplinary Commission only.

13 At the end of the questioning the representative or Participant Charged will be asked whether there are any other questions that they believe should be asked of the witness.

14 If required additional questions may be put to the witness but only by the Chairman of the Disciplinary Commission.

15 Once all the questioning has been completed the young person will then leave the Disciplinary Commission room and will not be required to remain for the remainder of the hearing.

Disciplinary Commission Procedures

Case Papers

16 Case papers shall ordinarily be distributed:

16.1 in the case of a personal hearing, to the Participant Charged and the Disciplinary Commission at least three days prior to the hearing; and

16.2 in the case of hearing being conducted on written submissions, to the Disciplinary Commission at least one day prior to the hearing.

Personal Hearings

17 The duties of the Disciplinary Commission Secretary at a personal hearing shall include calling the evidence to be submitted in support of the Charge and generally assisting the Disciplinary Commission in its determination of the Charge.

18 A Participant Charged may be represented in accordance with, and subject to, paragraphs 10 and 11 of Part A: General Provisions.

19 The Participant Charged and any representative shall be admitted to the hearing. The Disciplinary Commission shall satisfy itself that the Participant Charged has had details of the Charge.

20 Evidence (including witness evidence) in support of the Charge shall be received by the Disciplinary Commission. In cases concerning a report from a Match Official, that report shall be received in evidence first. This report may have been submitted by email or through a web-site, in accordance with accepted procedures of The Association.

21 Subject to the confirmation of the Disciplinary Commission, the Participant Charged or their representative shall have the right to ask questions relevant to the matters in issue of any witness in support of the Charge.

22 After evidence in support of the Charge has been received by the Disciplinary Commission, any written statement made by the Participant Charged shall be considered by the Disciplinary Commission. The Participant Charged may then give evidence on their own behalf and in such event they may have questions asked of them by the Disciplinary Commission. The Participant Charged or their representative may then submit evidence and call witnesses.

23 At any time the Chairman and members of the Disciplinary Commission may ask questions of any witness or any representative. The Disciplinary Commission may draw such inferences as it considers appropriate from the failure of the Participant Charged to give evidence or answer a question put to them.

24 In the event of the evidence submitted in answer to the Charge disclosing a point which the Disciplinary Commission considers was not covered in the evidence of, or not put to, any witness in support of the Charge, the Disciplinary Commission may recall any witness and ask questions of them. The Participant Charged or their representative may also ask questions as at paragraph 21 above.

25 The evidence having been completed to the satisfaction of the Disciplinary Commission, the Participant Charged or their representative shall be entitled to make closing submissions based upon the evidence, but this may not include reference to facts not disclosed in the evidence presented to the Disciplinary Commission.

26 At the conclusion of the closing submissions, all persons shall withdraw from the Disciplinary Commission room whilst the Disciplinary Commission considers the evidence and submissions presented to it and determines whether the Charge has been proven or not. After reaching its decision, the Disciplinary Commission shall recall the Participant Charged and their representative. The Disciplinary Commission Secretary shall announce whether the Charge has been found proven or not proven.

27 If the Charge is found not proven the hearing will be declared closed.

28 If the Charge is found proven details of the record of Misconduct of the Participant Charged shall be received by the Disciplinary Commission. The Participant Charged, or their representative, may then make a plea in mitigation.

29 At the conclusion of the plea in mitigation, the Participant Charged and their representative shall again withdraw from the Disciplinary Commission room and the Disciplinary Commission shall determine what order or orders, if any, shall be made under paragraph 41 of Part A: General Provisions Section Two.

30 Subject to paragraph 31 below, the Participant Charged and their representative shall then be re-admitted and informed of the decision of the Disciplinary Commission by the Disciplinary Commission Secretary. This shall subsequently be confirmed in writing.

31 A Disciplinary Commission may, where it considers it appropriate, not announce its decision at the hearing but inform the Participant Charged that such decision will be communicated to them in writing through their Club Secretary.

APPENDIX III: DISCIPLINARY FINDINGS IN OTHER SPORTS

REGULATIONS RELATING TO CERTAIN DISCIPLINARY FINDINGS IN OTHER SPORTS

1 These Regulations came into effect on 1 August 2014.

2 These Regulations are made in accordance with Rule J of the Rules of The Association and are binding on all Participants.

3 Any breach of Regulation 5 may result in a charge of Misconduct under Rule E1.2 and shall be dealt with in accordance with the Rules of The Association.

4 Regulation 5 shall be given a broad and purposive construction in order to give effect to the purpose of protecting the integrity of football, and the perception of the integrity of football. Technical points of construction and procedure are secondary to those purposes.

5 It shall be a breach of this Regulation where any Participant is found by a court, tribunal or arbitral body to be in breach of a rule, regulation code, or equivalent, of any sport other than association football, concerning or related to any involvement in the following –

(I) Betting;

(II) Influencing the result, progress, conduct or any other aspect of or occurrence in a match, competition, race or event, for an improper purpose;

(III) Any competitor failing to perform to the best of their ability, for reward:

(IV) Offering or accepting any bribe, gift, reward or consideration of any nature related to any conduct within (II) OR (III) above;

(V) Failing to report any conduct within (IV) above;

(VI) Any attempt or agreement to do any act within (I) – (V) above.

6 No charge may be issued pursuant to Regulation 5 in respect of any finding that is the subject of an on-going appeal.

7 It shall be a defence to charge for a breach of Regulation 5 where a Participant can establish that the finding of a court, tribunal or arbitral body that a sport's rule, regulation or code, or equivalent has been breached, or the circumstances in which the finding was made, contravened natural justice.

8 The specific prohibition contained within Regulation 5 shall not fetter in any way The Association's ability to bring a charge for Misconduct contrary to Rule E3 of The Rules of The Association in respect of a finding that a Participant has breached any rule, regulation or code, or equivalent, of any sport other than association football, where such Misconduct by the Participant does not fall within the terms of Regulation 5.

APPENDIX IV: SMALL-SIDED FOOTBALL – DISCIPLINE PROCESS

THE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION DISCIPLINE PROCESS FOR SMALL-SIDED FOOTBALL

Introduction

Implementing an effective disciplinary process is an important factor for all formats of football, helping to establish a quality, organised, safe and enjoyable football experience for all players and officials. The issue of discipline is of equal importance in Small Sided Football as it is in the 11v11 football, and subsequently should be shown proper attention and regard by Small Sided Football providers when organising their competitions; particularly if the competitions wish to be appropriately sanctioned and affiliated to The Association.

The Association has developed this disciplinary process to accommodate the varied and different needs of Small Sided Football. The Association recognises that applying the same disciplinary processes to Small Sided Football as it does in 11v11 football does not satisfactorily meet the differing demands of this version of the game. However, this does not mean that The Association takes ill-discipline in Small Sided Football any less seriously.

It is important to note for all Small Sided Football providers, that failure or disregard in establishing and effectively implementing these disciplinary processes can and will lead to The Association removing affiliation and classifying providers competitions as being unsanctioned by The Association.

For all Small Sided Football providers that affiliate to The Association nationally it is a condition of affiliation to agree to abide by the 'Heads of Agreement' that clearly state that the provider will manage disciplinary issues in accordance with this disciplinary process.

It is recommended that County FAs that affiliate local Small Sided Football providers establish similar agreements.

The implementation of this disciplinary process will help create a safer and more enjoyable football environment for Small Sided Football players and officials, but also importantly for the providers it can assist in retaining Participants playing in their competitions.

1. Discipline Ownership & Control

All issues of discipline that occur at a Small Sided Football provider affiliated to The Association fall under the jurisdiction of the local County FA.

The ability for Small Sided Football providers to manage discipline in their competitions for incidents outlined in Table 1 below have been delegated to the provider by the local County FA.

It is at the discretion of The Association to remove this delegated responsibility from a Small Sided Football provider if the provider is unable to demonstrate competence in handling and managing disciplinary issues. In such cases the responsibility for all discipline in that competition will be returned to the local County FA.

2. Affiliation & Provision of Team Information

When affiliating competitions and slots to The Association or County FAs, all Small Sided Football providers must provide the following information for all teams playing in their competitions to ensure that disciplinary cases can be managed appropriately:

- Team Name
- Team Captain/Manager contact details (name, address, email or telephone number

The Small Sided Football provider must also ensure that The Association or County FA is updated with accurate team information throughout the course of the affiliation period. Small Sided Football providers will not be affiliated unless this team information is provided accurately.

The only exceptions to this rule are outlined below:

2.1. Disciplinary Agreement:

On affiliation to The Association or County FA the Small Sided Football Provider signs the Disciplinary Agreement in Appendix B where the provider agrees to operate a comprehensive system of recording and maintaining accurate team and player details. This agreement also requires the Small Sided Football Provider to provide The Association/ County FA with team information (team name and team captain contact details) within 48 hours of receiving a request for this information. It also accepts that from time-to-time The Association or County FA may request to undertake a random spot-check of a Small Sided Football providers competition to ensure that the provider has accurate team information for all teams in that competition.

As well as signing this Disciplinary Agreement, at the point of affiliation the Small Sided Football provider must also provide written evidence to The Association or County FA to demonstrate the current systems that they operate and maintain to record accurate team information.

If the Small Sided Football provider is able to comply with these points, the organisation will not be required to provide all team information to The Association / County FAs upon affiliation. If however, the Small Sided Football provider consistently fails to provide accurate team information when requested this privilege can be revoked by The Association.

2.2. FA Small Sided Football Accreditation

Small Sided Football providers that have attained The FA Small Sided Football Accreditation have demonstrated through the accreditation process that they have sufficient systems in place for recording and managing team information, and that as part of the accreditation they will provide The Association/County FAs with team details within 48 hours when requested in order for disciplinary cases to be managed. As a consequence, accredited Small Sided Football providers will not be required to provide team information upon affiliation.

3. Issuing of Cautions and 'Timed Suspensions'

In Small Sided Football yellow cards and associated cautions are not employed.

Referees should instead issue a blue card for a cautionable offence. The issuing of a blue card indicates that the recipient will serve an immediate 'timed suspension' ('sin bin').

The options for disciplining offenders are therefore as follows:

- Player shown a blue card and temporarily suspended from play
- Player issued with a discretionary second blue card and temporarily excluded from play
- Player issued with a red card and permanently excluded from play

A blue card offence should always be accompanied by a temporary suspension from play.

The period of timed suspension in Small Sided Football shall be two minutes. The release of Players from a temporary suspension should be at the direction of the Referee.

3.1. Recording of Blue Cards

In Small Sided Football cautionable offences that result in a blue card and a timed suspension from the match shall not be recorded and reported by the match official or Small Sided Football provider.

Blue card offences should not be reported back to the County FA, and no disciplinary fine shall be incurred by the player.

4. Disciplinary Procedures for Red Card Offences

4.1. 'Serious' Red Card Offences

Offences not classified in Table 1 below will be the responsibility of the local County FA. Once the County FA has reviewed the case the Small Sided Football provider along with the player will be informed of the outcome and any disciplinary action.

For these offences match official are required to complete the Disciplinary Report in Appendix A and submit a copy to the Small Sided Football provider and the relevant County FA.

4.2. 'Less Serious' Red Card Offences (as outlined in Table 1)

Offences classified within Table 1 should be dealt with by the Small Sided Football provider under the delegated-authority of the County FA covered in paragraph 1 above.

The match official should complete a 'Disciplinary Report' (Appendix A) and ensure that it is sent to the Small Sided Football provider.

The Small Sided Football provider should employ the following disciplinary tariff of suspensions in such cases as outlined in Table 1. The provider shall not fine the player.

Match Suspension Tariff:

Table 1

OFFENCE	PENALTY (TO BE ADMINISTERED BY SMALL SIDED
Receiving a second 'blue card' in the same match	1 Match suspension
Denying a goal or an obvious goal scoring	1 Match suspension
Use of offensive, insulting or abusive gestures	2 Match suspension
Attempting to kick or strike another player Violent conduct Serious foul play	3 Match suspension

5. Remit of Disciplinary Action

Any suspensions for offences dealt with by the County FA that are not covered in Table 1 apply to all levels of football (i.e. 11 a side and Small Sided Football).

Red cards administered in Small Sided Football for offences within Table 1 are the responsibility of the organiser to deal with according to The Association's recommended tariff of suspensions and are from Small Sided Football only.

6. Personal Liability for 'Serious' Disciplinary Offences

Initial responsibility for a disciplinary issue will be with the individual that committed the offence. If this individual leaves the team but can be accurately identified, this individual shall retain responsibility for the payment of a fine and should be suspended from all forms of football until the fine is paid in accordance with the Football Debt Recovery Regulations.

If the individual responsible for the offence cannot be accurately identified, the responsibility for the payment of this fine will be with (in order of responsibility):

1. The small sided team that the individual played for when committing the offence.
2. The team captain of the team that the individual played for.

7. Implementation of Disciplinary Procedures

A robust disciplinary process can only operate if a record is kept of the identity of participating teams and Players.

All Small Sided Football providers should maintain details of participating teams and team contacts prior to the beginning of a competition. Providers should ensure that these details remain updated.

In addition Small Sided Football providers should identify a system whereby the identity of participating Players is recorded prior to a game commencing. These records should be retained by the Organisers and referred to in the event of a serious incident or on suspicion that a Player is playing whilst under suspension.

The existence of these systems (in line with paragraph 2 above) shall be a requirement before The Association or County FA will provide sanction to a competition taking place.

In order for an effective discipline, affiliation and Referees appointment procedure to exist a good working relationship should exist between the Small Sided Football provider and the County FA. County FA's and Small Sided Football providers should establish a 'Heads of Agreement' document which identifies the responsibilities of each party in relation to maintenance of discipline and affiliation processes.

APPENDIX A

SMALL-SIDED FOOTBALL DISCIPLINARY REPORT

How to use:

- The Referee should complete this form after a red-card has been issued.
- One form should be completed for each red-card.
    - The first copy of this form should be retained by the Small Sided Football provider
    - The second to be retained by the Referee
    - The third copy should be forwarded to the County FA (Red Cards Type Two Offences only)

Referees must report to the local County FA **all** Red Card Type Two Offence.

Venue	
Date	
Player	
Team	
Opposition Team	

I have disciplined this player for the following Offence:

CARD TYPE	OFFENCE	PLEASE TICK
Red Card Type One	Denying a goal or an obvious scoring opportunity by physical means or by deliberately handling the	
	Use of offensive, insulting or abusive language / gesture (including at a Referee)	
	A second blue card offence	
	Violent conduct	
	Serious Foul Play	
Red Cards Type Two (to be managed by County FA)	Serious Violent Behaviour causing injury, including any form of assault	
	Spitting	
	Any offences where the offender has also acted in a discriminatory manner for reasons of ethnic origin, colour, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, disability	
	Any other offence not covered above including offences after the match or after being dismissed	

Notes of incident	

Referee Name: .....

Signature: .....

Email Address: .....

Date: .....

APPENDIX B

SMALL SIDED FOOTBALL PROVIDER DISCIPLINARY AGREEMENT

This Disciplinary Agreement must be signed and adhered to by a Small Sided Football provider upon affiliating to The Association or County FA if they do not wish to submit all team information details as part of the affiliation process.

The Small Sided Football provider agrees to adhere to the following:

1 The Small Sided Football provider agrees to appropriately affiliate all leagues and teams to The Association or County FA for the duration of this agreement.

2 The Small Sided Football provider will work with The Association and appropriate County FAs to manage and maintain a robust discipline process in their competitions and will adhere to The Football Association Small Sided Football Disciplinary Policy.

3 The Small Sided Football provider will promptly forward all incident reports to the relevant County FA for every sending off for offences not covered under Table 1 of the procedures that occurs in their competitions within 5 working days. The Small Sided Football provider will manage suspensions and disciplinary incidents that are considered 'less serious' and are covered within Table 1.in line with The Football Association Small Sided Football Disciplinary Policy.

4 The Small Sided Football provider will provide within 48 hours after receiving a request from a County FA the details of players that are involved in offences being dealt with by the County FA. If the Small Sided Football provider is unable to identify or provide details for the player involved, as a minimum the Small Sided Football provider must be able to produce the team captain / manager's name, address and contact details.

5 The Small Sided Football provider will ensure that suspended players are unable to play in their competitions for the duration of the player's suspension.

6 The local County FA will manage disciplinary incidents outlined in The Football Association's Small Sided Football Disciplinary Policy.

7 The County FAs will ensure that the Small Sided Football provider is made aware of all outcomes that affect Players involved in their competitions.

8 The County FAs will ensure that the Small Sided Football provider is informed of all Players that are suspended from participating in affiliated football.

9 The Small Sided Football provider will ensure that they operate a robust and thorough system of recording and maintaining accurate team and Player details in all of their affiliated competitions. The Small Sided Football provider at the point of affiliation will provide the County FA or The Association written details of this system that they operate.

10 The Association or County FA from time-to-time may request to undertake a spot-check of a Small Sided Football provider's competition to ensure that the provider has the necessary team details for all teams involved in the competition.

The Small Sided Football provider (named below) agrees to adhere to all of the points listed in this Disciplinary Agreement during the period of affiliation to The Association or County FA.

This agreement needs to be signed by the Small Sided Football provider and returned to either The Association or County FA at the point of affiliation.

Name of Small Sided Football provider:	
Name of Senior Representative at the Small Sided Football provider:	
Role at the Organisation:	
Signed:	
Date:	