



Memorandum

TO: STATE OFFICES, REGIONAL OFFICES AND AFFILATES
FROM: MARIANNE MAGUIRE - GENERAL MANAGER SPORT OPERATIONS
SUBJECT: DISCIPLINARY REGULATIONS RELEASE
DATE: 14 FEBRUARY 2013
CC: COLM MAGUIRE – CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Touch Football Australia (TFA) has recently reviewed and is now implementing the Touch Football Australia Disciplinary Regulations. The purpose of the Manual format is to provide our members with a guide to the Touch Football Australia Disciplinary Regulations.

The Touch Football Australia Disciplinary Regulations Manual outlines, for Touch Football, the foundation of how unacceptable conduct is managed within the sport. It illustrates the importance of the regulations and our member's responsibilities. Furthermore, it emphasises the significance of our dedicated staff and volunteers, and it helps members to deal with unacceptable behaviour.

Touch Football Australia, expressly withdraws *A Ready Reference Guide to Judiciary Matters*.

These regulations are new, and are under automatic review or any issues or problems that may occur with their introduction over the first 12 months. We encourage affiliate members to provide feedback and raise any concerns that may be considered during a review and renewal process scheduled for January – June 2014.

The Manual is of a general nature only and should be used in conjunction with related policies, such as the Member Protection Policy. TFA have also developed and provides with this release educational, templates and checklists to support operational use of the Manual. This information is provided through the Affiliate Management Resource – Module 10 Disciplinary Regulations.

SIGNIFICANT CHANGES:

- Terminology changes to include a TFA Authority, TFA Authority Official, Hearings Officer and Appeals Officer.
- A Disciplinary Tribunal has the power to suspend, disqualify, reprimand, fine, bond, ban and deduct competition points or otherwise deal with any person involved with Touch Football.
- The incident may have occurred before, during or after the conduct of the activity, within the confines of the field, activity or venue or its immediate surrounds, or elsewhere if directly related to a Touch Football activity of any sort.
- New incident and appeals forms to be used in association with the Disciplinary Regulations.
- Implementation of a National Disciplinary Register which means all findings must be lodged with TFA via the notifications@austouch.com.au .
- A charged person who has been convicted of an offence and received a penalty shall not play, coach, referee, officiate or otherwise take part in Touch Football activities.
- There are two levels of appeal available to a person who has been convicted of an offence and received a penalty.
- The first level of appeal is to an Appeal Tribunal conducted by the same TFA Authority (or may choose to seek assistance from another TFA Authority) which conducted the Disciplinary Tribunal.
- The second level of appeal is to a TFA Appeal Tribunal conducted by Touch Football Australia.

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- TFA Appeal Tribunal panel members will be engaged by Touch Football Australia and each regional or state body will be required to nominate a minimum number of suitability qualified individuals. In addition, Touch Football Australia will take Expressions of Interest from other individuals whom maybe interested in holding positions on the TFA Appeal Tribunal panel.
- A person (or team or club) who has been convicted of an offence and received a penalty under is the only person able to appeal. No other person may appeal a decision.
- To appeal, a person has to present significant new and additional evidence that has become available or severity of sentence.
- Each affiliate is required to recognise and enforce penalties handed down against individual persons, teams or clubs by disciplinary tribunals of all other Touch Football associations, leagues and competitions which are affiliated with TFA and/or its members and affiliated associations.
- The Disciplinary Regulations are to be used in a competition environment (week to week).
- In an event context some timelines may need modification to account for urgency, including the possibility of considerable disadvantage while the investigation and resolution process is underway.
- Event based timelines should be included in any Conditions of Entry documentation, which should outline the specific time amendments used in conjunction with the Disciplinary Regulations.

PROCESS FOR FORMAL ADOPTION OF REGULATIONS

Each affiliate must formally recognise Touch Football Australia in its constitution (or in any documents related to working towards incorporation) and should adopt the Disciplinary Regulations (by a motion being passed by its board or management committee and formally recorded).

Touch Football Australia requires all member entities (including State Associations, Regional Associations and Affiliates) to formally adopt these regulations. To achieve this, the following process is recommended:

1. Touch Football Australia requests that all Members provide a copy of the Minutes of the member entity's Board Meeting at which a motion was passed adopting the Touch Football Australia Disciplinary Regulations.
2. This item will be a requirement of the Touch Football Australia Affiliate Regulations renewal process.

PLAY BY THE RULES

The *Play by the Rules* website www.playbytherules.net.au provides **news, resources and free online training** to assist sport and recreation clubs and administrators, officials, coaches, players and spectators to keep sport safe, fair and inclusive. TFA encourage that all members are familiar with, and utilise this resource.

If you have any questions or require any clarification please contact 02 6212 2800 or marianne@austouch.com.au .

Kind Regards

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