



SAFC League Discipline Policy and Guidelines

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Rev 0

The following procedures shall be implemented for all leagues run by the Sacramento Australian Football Club (SAFC) unless specifically exempted by the published league policies.

The following procedures are intended to address disciplinary actions for players, coaches, umpires, fans, or others. Disciplinary action may be taken to address any behavior or incident (issue) that the Disciplinary Committee (described below) believes to be connected to the league being offered by the SAFC. Disciplinary action may be taken to address an issue including, but not limited to, issues on the field, issues after or before games, and issues off the field.

Documentation of offenses carries over year to year. The slate is not “wiped clean” at the end of the year.

Procedure:

1. A complaint of any issue can be brought by a player, coach, umpire, board member, or fan.
2. The complaint must be submitted to either the League Manager, or the Director of Operations. In the case that the parties believe that either the League Manager and the Director of Operations are not impartial to the particular issue, the complaint should be brought to the attention of any board member of the club. The League Manager or Board member who receives the complaint shall be the moderator.
3. The moderator shall select a panel of at least 3 impartial club members (Disciplinary Committee) to help review the issue. Board members should be included in the Disciplinary Committee to the extent possible, but limited those that can be impartial in the matter.
4. The Disciplinary Committee shall choose any disciplinary action to be taken using the guidance below. All circumstances, justification, and disciplinary decisions shall be recorded by the Disciplinary Committee along w/ a summary of the issue. The

documentation of the decision should be made available to the league manager, affected parties, and the captains of the league in question.

The possible disciplinary action include, but are not limited to:

1. No action
2. Verbal warning
3. Verbal warning with deferred suspension*
4. Suspension
5. Expulsion from the league
6. Temporary or permanent ban from the SAFC

*A deferred suspension is a suspension that is not served unless there is another conduct breach. For example if a player receives a warning and a 1 game deferred suspension, then in a subsequent game is found guilty of behavior that warrants a 2 game suspension, then that player will serve a total of 3 games suspended. Deferred suspensions are cleared at the end of the calendar year.

Guidelines:

1. The Disciplinary Committee shall take into account motive and intent while selecting disciplinary action.
2. Racism, sexism, and other forms of bigotry shall be treated with increased scrutiny. Violence rooted in any of these are grounds for an immediate and permanent ban from the SAFC at the discretion of the Disciplinary Committee.
3. Striking a player in the head shall be subject to increased scrutiny. At a minimum a suspension shall be implemented if the Disciplinary Committee finds there was intent to injure.
4. Repeat offenders shall be subject to stronger penalties.

Examples (not intended to limit the disciplinary action chosen by the Disciplinary Committee):

1. A player purposefully engages in a late hit which would otherwise be legal and there is no intent to injure. Possible action: Verbal Warning or Verbal Warning w/ Deferred Suspension
2. A player strikes another player away from the ball. Possible action: Deferred Suspension, Suspension, or Expulsion (depending on intent to injure and severity of issue)
3. A player uses a racial slur. Possible action: Suspension or more
4. A player threatens, tries to physically intimidate, or egregiously abuses an umpire, fan, or coach. Possible Action: Verbal warning or more, depending on severity of issue
5. A player strikes an umpire, fan, or coach. Possible action: Suspension or more
6. A player who previously received a verbal warning for striking a player in the body w/ no intent to injure is found guilty of excessive and egregious high contact during the run of play (even w/ no intent to injure). Possible actions: Suspension

Any appeal of a decision shall be brought to the SAFC executive board.

The above policy was adopted by the 2017 SAFC Board unanimously at the 7/17/2017 Board Meeting.
The policy will remain in effect until revised or canceled by a majority vote of the board.



SECRETARY SIGNATURE: _____

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