SAASL DISCIPLINARY & APPEALS RULES 2026
FOR PLAYERS, CLUBS & OTHER PARTICIPANTS

These Rules are made by the South Australian Amateur Soccer League Inc. Board ("SAASL") pursuant to the power granted to it under clause 6 of the SAASL Constitution and govern the disciplinary principles for all players, coaches, supporters and staff under the jurisdiction of SAASL.

Terms used in these Rules are consistent with the terms used in that Constitution.

1. DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEES

1.1. In accordance with Clause 6.2 of the SAASL Constitution, the Board shall appoint a Disciplinary Committee and Appeals Committee whose mandate shall be to determine, oversee and manage disciplinary offences and breaches of these Rules and/or the SAASL Constitution ("Offences") and in respect of which it is contemplated that a formal disciplinary hearing is required to be convened.

1.2. Furthermore, the Board shall appoint a Competition Disciplinary Committee whose mandate shall be to manage and determine Offences which are less serious in nature and which can instead be dealt with administratively rather than before a formal disciplinary hearing being convened.

1.3. All Offences committed shall, in the first instance, be referred to the Competition Disciplinary Committee.

1.4. In respect of more serious Offences, ie: for which the sanction is a minimum of twelve matches or 3 months or more, such Offences shall be referred to the Disciplinary Committee by the Competition Disciplinary Committee.

1.5. Should the Competition Disciplinary Committee consider it appropriate (in its sole discretion), the Competition Disciplinary Committee may refer any Offence/s to the Disciplinary Committee for hearing. If it decides to do so, it shall do everything necessary to refer and prosecute such Offence/s (on behalf of SAASL) before the Disciplinary Committee, including but not limited to the laying of charges for any breaches, collating evidence to present to the Disciplinary Committee, making representations on behalf of SAASL and responding to any submission made by the party charged with such Offence/s.

2. REPORTING OF OFFENCES

2.1. Referees shall administer cautions and send offs in accordance with the Laws of the Game and each member club and its players and team officials, and spectators agree to be bound by these Laws of the Game.

3. INFRINGEMENT OF THE LAWS OF THE GAME

A caution (or yellow card) is issued for a minor infringement of the Laws of the Game and is a warning from the referee to a player during a match to sanction unsporting behaviour of a less serious nature.

3.1. An expulsion (or red card) is for a serious infringement of the Laws of the Game and is the order given by the referee to someone to leave the vicinity of the field of play and the technical area, including the substitutes bench, during a match.

3.2. Any yellow card or red card issued during a match is identified by the referee on the referee's report

for that match, including the name and number of the player, the Offence, and the time of the Offence. The written report containing such detail will be sent to the offices of SAASL so as to reach the League within two working days of the end of the match concerned.

3.3. For the purpose of these Rules, an Offence means an infringement of the following codes, including but not limited to:

3.3.1. International Football Board, Laws of the Game

3.3.2. SAASL League Championship Rules

3.3.3. SAASL Cup and Shield Competition Rules

3.3.4. SAASL Code of Conduct

3.3.5. SAASL Club Referee Policy

3.3.6. SAASL Club Referee Code of Conduct

3.3.7. SAASL Constitution.

4. MINOR INFRINGEMENTS – YELLOW CARD (CAUTION) CODES

4.1. The following codes apply in relation to the administration of yellow cards:

Y1 Is guilty of unsporting behaviour.

Y2 Shows dissent by word or action.

Y3 Persistently infringes the laws of the game.

Y4 Delays the restart of play.

Y5 Fails to respect the distance required by the laws of the game then in force when play is restarted with a corner kick, free kick or throw in.

Y6 Enters or re-enters the field of play without the Referee's Permission.

Y7 Deliberately leaves the field of play without the Referee's Permission.

4.2. A player who is cautioned by the Referee for any of the above offences shall accumulate cautions until they reach periods of automatic suspension pursuant to sub-rule 4.3.

4.3. Periods of suspension for accumulated cautions are as follows:

4.3.1 5 cautions = 1 match.

4.3.2 8 cautions = 2 matches.

4.3.3 10 cautions = 3 matches.

4.3.4 A player who receives 10 cautions (or more) in the season will be subject to additional sanctions to be determined by the Competition Disciplinary Committee.

4.4. In the event of a player moving from one club to another club, any cautions accumulated by that player at the time of his transfer shall nevertheless still apply to such player at the new club.

4.5. If a player receives two yellow cards during the same match and, therefore, receives a red card, the two yellow cards are expunged from their record. The red card sending off Offence results in an automatic one match suspension. The player shall then be required to serve such suspension in their next competitive match, regardless of receiving any formal notice of suspension from SAASL. The Competition Disciplinary Committee may consider this to be a sufficient penalty to the player and may take no further action or take such further action as it considers appropriate. This rule must be read with Rule 6 below and the penalties mentioned therein.

4.6. If a player receives a yellow card and then a direct red card in the same match, the yellow card will not be expunged and will apply to the player's accumulation of yellow cards.

4.7. The accumulation of yellow cards will be rescinded at the end of the last match of pre-season, the League Competition proper, and any finals series, respectively.

4.7.1. This means that yellow cards accumulated in a Non-Competitive Match (as defined in Rule 21 below) do not carry over to the competition proper, and yellow cards accumulated in a competition do not carry over to any final series.

4.7.2. Match suspensions incurred in any Competitive Matches (as defined in Rule 21 below), as a result of the accumulation of yellow cards, will not be cancelled, but will be carried over to the next year's League Competition.

4.8. In addition to the above periods of automatic suspension, the automatic fines set by SAASL shall apply.

4.9. A player's suspension for Yellow Card Accumulation, shall begin and end on the dates notified on the Suspension Notice issued by The League.

4.9.1. A player who is suspended is not permitted to participate in the match, prior to, during, at half time, or at the conclusion of a match, as nominated on the Suspension Notice issued by the League .

4.10. Yellow cards are not accumulated for trial games, or pre-season competition deemed as Non-Competitive match/es.

5. SANCTIONS AND EXPULSION OF A TEAM OFFICIAL

5.1. A Team Official must serve a mandatory match suspension when they accumulate the following number of yellow cards in Competitive Matches (as defined in Rule 21 or as determined by the Competition Disciplinary Committee).

5.2. Periods of suspension for accumulated cautions (yellow cards) are as follows:

5 cautions	2 matches
6 cautions	appear before the Disciplinary Committee

5.3. A Referee may act against Team Officials who fail to conduct themselves in a responsible manner and may expel (red card) a Team Official from the field of play and its immediate surroundings, including the technical areas.

5.4. If a Team Official is expelled, the Team Official must move directly away from the playing field and its surrounds, including the technical area. If available, the official should go directly to the team's changing room or clubrooms.

5.5. A Team Official who has been expelled from the field of play by the Referee, must serve a mandatory minimum one (1) match suspension.

5.6. When a Team Official is expelled and/or reported by the Referee for serious misconduct and/or a breach of these rules, the matter will be considered by the Competition Disciplinary Committee. The Team Official may be subject to further sanction/s in addition to the mandatory one (1) match suspension.

5.7. A Team Official who is expelled is not permitted to participate in any match-day team duties, prior to, during, at half time, or at the conclusion of a match, as nominated on the Suspension Notice issued by the League.

5.8. A Team Official who is expelled is eligible to resume their duties the day after the suspension has been served.

6. SERIOUS INFRINGEMENTS – RED CARD (EXPULSION) CODES

6.1. The following codes apply in relation to the administration of red cards (that is, expulsion of, or sending from the field of play, a Player or Team Official):

R1 Serious foul play

R2 Violent conduct

R3 Spitting at an opponent or any other person

*R4 Denying the opposing team a goal or an obvious goal scoring opportunity by deliberately handling the ball (this does not apply to a goalkeeper within his own penalty area)

*R5 Denying an obvious goal scoring opportunity to an opponent moving towards the player's goal by an offence punishable by a free kick or a penalty kick.

R6 Using offensive, insulting or abusive language and/or gestures

*R7 Receiving a second caution in the same match

6.2. A player who has been sent off under category R4, R5 and R7 (those denoted in the above list with an asterisk) must serve a mandatory one (1) match suspension. The match that the player is to be suspended from is the next competitive match following the match in which the player was sent off.

6.3. A player who has been sent off under category R1, R2, R3, and R6 shall be suspended automatically and shall remain suspended until such time as the case has been dealt with by the Competition Disciplinary Committee, who may in turn refer it to the Disciplinary Committee for determination.

6.4. The League shall send a disciplinary notice to the player's Club of the match suspension with the required period of suspension set out therein. However, any mandatory match suspension is effective immediately and must be served in the next competitive match, regardless of whether or not the notice is received.

6.5. A player sent off during the course of any match is not eligible to take part in any other fixture on that day, or that weekend.

6.6. Where a player receives multiple red cards during the course of the season, in either a Non-Competitive and/or Competitive Match, the player will be sanctioned with an additional mandatory match suspension, in addition to any other sanctions that may be determined.

6.6.1. Second red card – additional one match suspension.

6.6.2. Third red card – additional four matches

6.6.3. If a player receives any further red cards, the Offence/s may be considered by the Competition Disciplinary Committee which, subject to the seriousness of the Offence/s, may in turn refer such Offence/s to the Disciplinary Committee.

6.7. For more serious Offences, R1, R2, R3 and R6, Offences by Participants against Match Officials, or Other Offences By Participants or Spectators, where more than the one match mandatory suspension is determined, or where the matter is referred to the Disciplinary Committee by the Competition Disciplinary Committee, and where any sanctions are carried over to be imposed to take effect into the following League Championship season, the following will apply:

6.7.1. The Disciplinary Committee may also determine that the Player or Participant may not participate in any Non-Competitive match until that carry over suspension has been served in the following League Championship season.

6.7.2. The Player or Participant is eligible the day after their suspension is served.

6.8. Red cards and sanctions arising from Non-Competitive matches as defined in Rule 21.

6.8.1. For Offences R4, R5 and R7 that warrant only a one match mandatory suspension, this may be served in the next Non-Competitive match.

6.8.2. For more serious Offences, R1, R2, R3 and R6 where more than the one match automatic suspension is determined by the Competition Disciplinary Committee, the sanctions may be imposed to take effect into the League Championship season.

6.8.3. Where any penalty cannot be served in the next Non-Competitive match, the suspension may carry over to be served in the next Competitive Match at the sole discretion of the League.

6.8.4. Any determination is at the discretion of the Competition Disciplinary Committee and is to be in accordance with these Disciplinary and Appeals Rules.

6.8.5. A Participant who is suspended for a team in the SAASL Competition who also holds a coaching or other position at another SAASL Club or in the FSA competition will be suspended from participating from all official activities until such time as the suspension has been served in the competition for the team and division in which the offence was committed.

6.8.6. A Participant who is suspended in Football SA or another association, for any reason, they will automatically be suspended in any SAASL Competition. They are suspended from participating in any official capacity until such time as the suspension has been served in the competition for the team and division in which the offence was committed.

6.9. Red cards and sanctions arising from Football Australia (FA) or Football SA (FSA) Competitions

6.9.1. SAASL Clubs participating in competitions conducted by FSA are bound by the Competition Rules and Disciplinary Rules as determined by that competition.

6.9.2. Any sanctions for SAASL clubs arising out of that competition will be served in the next competitive match, as determined by the Competition Disciplinary Committee and in accordance with the FSA Disciplinary Rules.

6.9.3. Competitive Match is defined in Rule 21 of these SAASL Disciplinary and Appeals Rules.

7. EFFECT OF ABANDONED MATCHES

7.1. If a suspension is to be served in terms of matches, only those matches actually played count towards the execution of the suspension.

7.2. If a match is abandoned, cancelled or forfeited, a suspension is only considered to be served if the team to which the suspended player belongs is not responsible for the facts that led to the abandonment, cancellation or forfeiture.

7.3. A yellow card issued during an abandoned match will be annulled if that match is replayed, and upheld if that match is not replayed.

7.4. A direct red card issued during an abandoned match will be upheld, regardless of whether the match is replayed or not.

8. MISCELLANEOUS PENALTY PROVISIONS – CLUBS AND PLAYERS

8.1. **Breaches by Clubs**

Whenever a Club is found guilty of breaching Subrule 8.1, the Club shall forfeit League championship points, in addition to any other penalties imposed by the Competition Disciplinary Committee or the Disciplinary Committee.

In the case of the following breaches, the sanctions shall be as follows:

8.1.1. **Clubs permitting suspended participants**

Clubs found to have permitted a Player, a Coach or Team Official to participate while under suspension, will be sanctioned by the Competition Disciplinary Committee.

The Competition Disciplinary Committee shall:

(a) Award the match, and any applicable championship points for a win, to the opposing team and at its discretion, may additionally impose any one or a combination of the following sanctions:

(i) Deduct additional championship points, up to the amount of points deducted under 8.1.1. (a).

(ii) Fine the club an amount not exceeding $300.

(iii) Suspend the club for a given number of games or weeks, whichever is the longer period.

(iv) Further sanction the person who played while suspended.

(v) Impose such other penalties as are deemed appropriate for the offence.

8.1.2. **Clubs Playing Unregistered Players**

The practice of allowing players who are not registered with the Club to play matches, irrespective of whether it was done unknowingly, is regarded as a serious breach of SAASL's Rules.

Clubs found to have committed such an Offence will be sanctioned by the Competition Disciplinary Committee.

The Competition Disciplinary Committee shall:

(a) Award the match, and any applicable championship points for a win, to the opposing team and at its discretion, may additionally impose any one or a combination of the following sanctions:

(i) Deduct additional championship points, up to the amount of points deducted under 8.1.2. (a).

(ii) Fine the club an amount not exceeding $500 for each offence.

(iii) Suspend the club for a given number of games or weeks, whichever is the longer period.

(iv) Suspend the person who had played or attempted to play.

(v) Impose such other penalty as is deemed appropriate for the offence.

8.1.3. **Clubs playing ineligible Players for any other reason**

Clubs that do not verify the identification and eligibility of any participant are in breach of the Player registration rules and the League's rules.

8.1.4. Clubs found to have played an ineligible player, or a player who has played with false identification, multiple registrations, or any other breach of the player registration and/or SAASL rules, will be sanctioned by the Competition Disciplinary Committee.

The Competition Disciplinary Committee shall:

(a) Award the match, and any applicable championship points for a win, to the opposing team, and at its discretion, may additionally impose any one or a combination of the following sanctions:

(i) Deduct additional championship points, up to the amount of points deducted under 8.1.4. (a).

(ii) Fine the club an amount not exceeding $500 for each offence.

(iii) Suspend the club for a given number of games or weeks, whichever is the longer period.

(iv) Suspend the person who had played or attempted to play for deliberately falsifying their registration and, therefore, misleading the League.

8.1.5. **Playing in Unauthorised Competitions or Matches**

No club or player shall take part in any competition, nor play in any match, not under the jurisdiction of SAASL, without receiving the prior written permission of SAASL.

(a) Any club in breach of this rule shall be suspended forthwith from all competitions until it appears before the Disciplinary Committee, which may impose such penalty as it deems fit.

(b) Any player in breach of this rule shall be suspended forthwith and shall remain suspended until they appear before the Disciplinary Committee, which may impose such penalty as it deems fit.

8.2. **SAASL Representative Teams**

Clubs that fail to release Players, or are found to have misrepresented a Player's availability, and Players who without proper reason fail to make themselves available when selected, will be subject to investigation and may be sanctioned.

The Competition Disciplinary Committee or the Disciplinary Committee may:

(a) Fine the Club an amount not exceeding $300 for each offence.

(b) Impose such other penalties on the Club as are deemed appropriate for the offence.

(c) Suspend the Player for one (1) match to be served in the next League Championship match after the representative team fixture.

9. DUAL SUSPENSIONS TREATED CUMULATIVELY

9.1. A player who is suspended under the SAASL Disciplinary & Appeals Rules or who has an automatic suspension imposed for a send-off offence, and who is also subject to suspension through separate incidents, and/or for having accumulated 5, 8 or 10 cautions, shall serve any periods of suspension cumulatively, that is, one being added to the other (as determined by the Competition Disciplinary Committee or the Disciplinary Committee).

10. ADMINISTRATIVE DEALING BY THE COMPETITION DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE

10.1. The Competition Disciplinary Committee may at its discretion determine the period of suspension to be imposed on a Player as permitted by the Disciplinary Offences and Sanctions/Suspensions – Addendum 1.

10.2. A Player dealt with administratively will be sent a Notice of Suspension.

10.3. There will be no appeal in respect of any decision made by the Competition Disciplinary Committee in regard to the mandatory match suspension (red card) and the minimum suspension prescribed by Addendum 1 – Disciplinary Offences and Sanctions/Suspensions.

10.4. A party retains the right to appeal under these rules, for any sanction/suspension imposed by the Competition Disciplinary Committee, that is above the minimum suspension prescribed by Addendum 1 - Disciplinary Offences and Sanctions /Suspension.

10.5. Any decision made by the Competition Disciplinary Committee shall be made on the basis of the information and facts appearing in the Referee's report, which shall be deemed to be correct.

10.6. Where the Competition Disciplinary Committee deems it appropriate, any matter may be referred to the Disciplinary Committee or the Board for consideration.

10.7. The Competition Disciplinary Committee may impose provisional action on an individual, or Club at any time during an investigation into their misconduct or breach of the rules, to mitigate any risk of harm to others or to the integrity of SAASL. This may be for any period and under such terms and conditions as it deems necessary.

10.7.1. This provisional action may include the suspension of fixtures, players and/or Club officials and may be for the duration of the investigation or such time that the matters have been concluded by a disciplinary committee.

11. DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEES

11.1. The Disciplinary Committee shall have the duty to:

11.1.1. Investigate any matter placed before it by the Competition Disciplinary Committee or the SAASL Board.

11.1.2. Advise the Board if there is a reasonable cause to suspect that there has been a breach of the SAASL Constitution, any breach of the Rules made under the SAASL Constitution, or any breach of any Rules or Policies made by the League.

11.1.3. Otherwise, where it considers appropriate, refer any matter to a hearing before the SAASL Board.

11.2. The Disciplinary Committee may make recommendations to the SAASL Board about any matter.

11.3. Matters may come before the Disciplinary Committee by way of referral from the:

11.3.1. Competition Disciplinary Committee.

11.3.2. Appeals Committee.

11.3.3. SAASL Board.

11.4. The Competition Disciplinary Committee has the power to consider matters relating to:

11.4.1. Contraventions of the Laws of the Game.

11.4.2. Contraventions, or any actions referred to it under any Rule or Policies made by the Board.

11.5. The Competition Disciplinary Committee shall, for proper cause, have the power to:

11.5.1. Cite

11.5.2. Sanction

11.5.3. Reprimand

11.5.4. Suspend

11.5.5. Deduct championship points (where applicable)

11.5.6. Fine

On the basis that the Competition Disciplinary Committee shall consider all Offences first, it shall refer more serious Offences to the Disciplinary Committee as required by these rules.

11.6. The Disciplinary Committee has the power to consider matters relating to:

11.6.1. Contraventions of the Laws of the Game.

11.6.2. Contraventions, or any actions referred to it under any Rules or Policies made by the Board.

11.6.3. The re-hearing of matters as referred by the Appeals Committee.

11.7. The Disciplinary Committee shall, for proper cause, have the power to:

11.7.1. Cite

11.7.2. Sanction

11.7.3. Reprimand

11.7.4. Suspend

11.7.5. Ban any participants and Clubs as permitted under these rules

11.7.6. Ban office bearers of a club from holding any position.

11.7.7. Deduct championship points (where applicable)

11.7.8. Fine

11.7.9. Place on a bond to be of good behaviour.

11.7.10. Amend the original charge or impose additional charges if it considers such action appropriate based on the evidence presented, subject to the charged party having a reasonable opportunity to respond to the new or amended charges during the hearing.

11.8. The Disciplinary Committee may refer matters of a serious nature, which merit a more severe punishment than that which can be imposed by it, to the Board, which has the powers and proper cause to:

11.8.1. Disqualify

11.8.2. Expel

11.8.3. Cancel the Registration of

11.8.4. Ban any participants, club or office bearer indefinitely.

11.9. The powers conferred to the Competition Disciplinary Committee and Disciplinary Committee by Rules 11.6 and 11.7 herein, and the powers conferred to the Board under Rule 11.8 herein, may be used individually or in any combination, as the relevant committee deems appropriate in the circumstances.

11.10. In the determination of any disciplinary matters, proof of any allegation shall be determined on the balance of probabilities.

11.11. Clubs are subject to the provisions of the Constitution and to the various Rules of Competition promulgated by the League from time to time as to the functions and powers of the Competition Disciplinary Committee and Disciplinary Committee.

11.12. Certain breaches incur automatic monetary penalties which are listed in the Schedule of Automatic Fines published by the League.

11.13. Where an Offence for which a minimum mandatory automatic fine is prescribed, the Competition Disciplinary Committee may, at its discretion, elect to refrain from imposing the automatic fine and instead lay the appropriate charges and bring the matter before the Disciplinary Committee, for hearing and determination.

12. EVIDENCE COLLECTION

12.1. For the purposes of performing any of their duties, and without derogating from any other incidental powers required for the performance of their duties, the Disciplinary Committee and the Appeals Committee will each, as required, have the power to:

12.1.1. Require any Official, Player or Member of a Member Club to appear before it and give it such evidence or information as it so requests.

12.1.2. Require any Member Club, Official, Player or Member of a Member Club to appear before it and provide to it any such documents or other items of real evidence as it so requests.

12.1.3. Request any other relevant person or body to provide such information, documents or other items of real evidence as it so requests.

12.1.4. Collect, retain and preserve any evidence, information or other material it receives, in any way it deems to be appropriate.

12.1.5. Issue a Disciplinary Citation Notice to a participant or Club in accordance with these Rules.

12.2 For the purposes of preforming any of their duties, and without derogating from any other incidental powers required for the performance of their duties, the Competition Disciplinary Committee, will have the power to:

12.2.1. Require any Member Club, Official, Player or Member of a Member Club to provide it such documents, information or other items of real evidence as it so requests.

12.2.2. Request any other relevant person or body to provide such information, documents or other items of real evidence as it so requests.

12.2.3. Collect, retain and preserve any evidence, information or other material it receives, in any way that it deems appropriate.

12.2.4. Issue a Disciplinary Citation Notice to a participant or Club in accordance with these Rules.

12.2. Any Member Club, Official, Player, or Member of a Member Club who, without reasonable and/or lawful excuse, fails to comply with a direction given by either the Competition Disciplinary Committee, the Disciplinary Committee, Appeals Committee or the Board under Rule 12, shall be guilty of a contravention of these rules.

12.2.1. The penalty for a contravention of Rule 12, will be immediate suspension until the requirements are met.

12.3. Use of Video Evidence in serious disciplinary matters

12.3.1. The League will not use video evidence to re-Referee general match decisions including fouls, red and yellow cards, issued or not issued.

12.3.2. In cases of serious infringement, such as violent conduct when not challenging for the ball that has escaped the Referee's attention and which is supported by video evidence, the League will refer matters to the Competition Disciplinary Committee to investigate any allegations and determine matters under these Rules.

12.3.3. In cases of serious misconduct by a participant or Club which is supported by video evidence, the League will refer the matters to the Competition Disciplinary Committee.

13. CLUB AND PARTICIPANTS' MISCONDUCT

13.1. The Competition Disciplinary Committee may impose additional disciplinary sanctions on a club/s, team/s and/or participant/s for misconduct, including when:

13.1.1. Five (5) Players receive a yellow card or red card during one (1) Match.

13.1.2. Three (3) or more players receive a red card during one (1) Match.

13.1.3. Players, Coaches, Club Officials and/or Supporters together make threats or show force against a Match Official.

13.2. The Competition Disciplinary Committee will refer a Club, its Players, Coaches, Club Officials and/or Supporters engaged in a melee or brawl in connection with a match, including before, during and/or at the conclusion, to the Disciplinary Committee for determination and sanction.

13.3. The disciplinary committees may issue a Disciplinary Citation Notice to a participant or Club for serious misconduct that has escaped the Referee's attention and/or is supported by video evidence.

13.3.1. The participant and Club will be provided the evidence and given an opportunity to respond to the Disciplinary Citation Notice and make submissions.

13.3.2. The committee will review the submissions and make the appropriate determinations in accordance with these Rules.

14. DISCIPLINARY HEARING PROCEDURES

14.1. Disciplinary hearings are not bound by the rules of evidence usually applicable to procedures in courts of law.

14.2. The party required to appear at a hearing before the Disciplinary Committee is entitled to the following:

14.2.1. Reasonable and sufficient notice and detail of the alleged infringement; and

14.2.2. The opportunity to:

(a) Be heard

(b) Give and call evidence

(c) Tender any relevant document or evidence

14.3. The Disciplinary Committee (or the Board as the case may be) has the right to determine all procedures to be adopted in any disciplinary hearing before it and may:

14.3.1. Grant or order an adjournment to provide parties with additional time or to consider additional information.

14.3.2. Admit into evidence:

(a) Oral testimony

(b) Documents

(c) Reports from match officials

(d) Video or audio recordings, and

(e) Any other evidence it feels may be probative, in its discretion.

14.3.3. Order any relevant registered Player, Club Official or Match Official to attend a hearing and give oral evidence before such hearing.

14.3.4. Order a Club to provide all video and audio recordings that may be available whether recorded or broadcast on social media.

14.3.5. Otherwise exercise any of the powers provided by Clause 6 of the SAASL Constitution and these herein Rules.

14.4. If any Club, registered Player, Club Official or Match Official fails to comply with any order or direction made by the Disciplinary Committee, that Committee can in its discretion:

14.4.1. Summarily deal with that failure to comply at a separate hearing and impose what penalty it deems appropriate.

14.4.2. Refer it to a differently constituted Disciplinary Committee.

14.4.3. Refer it to the Board.

14.5. There shall be a rebuttable presumption that all facts contained in a Referee's Report are correct. The person charged with an offence shall bear the onus of demonstrating that the referee report is incorrect.

14.6. At a disciplinary hearing:

14.6.1. A party must attend in person, unless otherwise approved by the Disciplinary Committee.

14.6.2. The player may be accompanied by a representative of the Club.

14.6.3. The Club may be represented by an office bearer of the Club.

14.6.4. SAASL may be represented by a member or employee.

14.7. No party shall be entitled to legal representation. Hearings are conducted in private, and the Disciplinary Committee may refuse entry to any person who is not directly involved in the matter, including the media.

14.8. Any witness that a party intends to call to give evidence in a hearing must remain outside the hearing room until called to give evidence, unless the Disciplinary Committee deems otherwise.

14.9. When determining any appropriate sanction, the Disciplinary Committee may consider:

14.9.1. the recommended sanctions as specified in Addendum 1, Disciplinary Offences and Sanctions/Suspensions.

14.9.2. the nature and severity of the infringement.

14.9.3. the offender's past record and whether or not this is a repeated offence.

14.9.4. the culpability of the offender (including whether or not the infringement was intentional, negligent or reckless).

14.9.5. the seriousness of the offence.

14.9.6. the remorse of the offender.

14.9.7. the attitude of any victim.

14.9.8. any extenuating circumstances.

14.9.9. any damage to the reputation of the League and member clubs, real or perceived.

14.9.10. any other relevant matter.

14.10. Implementation of disciplinary sanctions:

14.10.1. The implementation of a sanction may be suspended, and if so, the person sanctioned is subject to a probationary period.

14.10.2. Where it is determined appropriate to suspend a sanction, no more than half (50%) of the original sanction may be suspended.

14.10.3. If that party commits another infringement during the probationary period, the suspended sanction is automatically revoked, and the sanction is applied in addition to any sanction determined for the new infringement.

14.10.4. A suspended player transferring to a new club will be required to serve the remainder of that suspension and will not be permitted to play until the suspension has been served in its entirety with their new club.

14.11. If a party fails, without reasonable excuse, to attend a hearing, the matter can be heard and determined in that party's absence, including as to a determination of the infringement and /or the imposition of a penalty.

14.12. Where the Disciplinary Committee at or before a disciplinary hearing considers based on the information before it, that:

14.12.1. the matter is of sufficient seriousness;

14.12.2. that a penalty outside the range of penalties that the Disciplinary Committee is empowered to impose (as referred to in Rule 11.7), may be the appropriate sanction if the charge/s or allegations in due course are proved, then the Disciplinary Committee may refer the matter to the Board for hearing;

14.13. If any matter is referred to the Board, the Board will then hear the matter in accordance with these Rules and all provisions in the rules relating to the Disciplinary Committee will apply with equal force to such a hearing before the Board, subject to the following provisions:

14.13.1. The matter cannot be dealt with administratively.

14.13.2. The Board's powers of penalty are, and continue to be, those set out in Rule 11.8 of these Rules.

14.14. Any party has the same rights of appeal from any decision of the Board as it would have from a decision of the Disciplinary Committee.

15. THE APPEALS COMMITTEE

15.1. The Appeals Committee shall be selected from a panel solely determined by the SAASL Board and shall consist of persons who are not Members of Member Clubs.

15.2. The Appeals Committee should have at least three (3) persons, with a minimum of two persons who are independent from the League.

15.3. The Board may make further rules relating to the administration of appeals where it sees fit.

15.4. Decisions of the Appeals Committee shall be final and binding on all parties.

15.5. There shall be no further appeal from any decision of the Appeals Committee.

16. MEETINGS OF THE DISCIPLINARY AND APPEALS COMMITTEES

16.1. The quorum of the meeting of either the Competition Disciplinary Committee and the Disciplinary Committee shall consist of three members, including the chairperson.

16.2. The quorum for the Appeals Committee shall consist of three (3) persons, including the chairperson.

16.3. Should the chairperson of the respective committee in question not be present, the most senior member in continuous service shall act as chairperson.

16.4. When a quorum for the Disciplinary Committee and the Appeals Committee is not available and two members are present, the committee of two members may proceed with the investigation or disciplinary matter before them, provided that the person being the subject of that hearing, has no objection to the matter being heard and subsequently adjudicated by the two members present.

17. DETERMINATION AND RIGHT OF APPEAL

17.1. Subject to other provisions contained within these Rules herein, any person who has received a penalty from a decision of the Disciplinary Committee or the Board may appeal that decision to the Appeals Committee.

17.2. As regards a decision of the Competition Disciplinary Committee, as per rule 10.3, no appeal may be brought against a decision made in terms of which the Competition Disciplinary Committee orders a mandatory and/or minimum sanction in respect of a proved Offence (whether against the fact that the Offence was proved, or the sanction was issued). Should the Competition Disciplinary Committee order a sanction greater than the mandatory and/or minimum sanction, then the offending party may appeal such decision.

17.3. The Appeal Notice must be delivered during normal business hours or sent to the Competitions Manager to be received within 7 days of the club being informed in writing of the decision of the Competition Disciplinary Committee, the Disciplinary Committee or the Board.

17.4. An appeal hearing should commence within 14 days of the Appeal Notice being properly lodged with the League on the appointed day and at a time as advised by the League.

17.5. The Appeal Notice must be in the form of Prescribed Appeal Notice (which may be obtained from the website or SAASL upon request) and must clearly specify:

17.5.1. The date of the decision.

17.5.2. The parties to the disciplinary hearing.

17.5.3. The decision appealed.

17.5.4. The ground/s of appeal.

17.5.5. The prescribed Fee is submitted with the Notice.

17.5.6. Should the Appeal Notice not meet the requirements listed herein, the Appeals Committee may decline the Appeal Notice and not proceed with the Appeal.

17.6. The only grounds of appeal available to an appellant are:

17.6.1. there is no appeal from a mandatory match and/or a minimum match sanction except in the case of the referee mistaking the identity of the player who committed the offence which would result in the incorrect party receiving a sanction;

17.6.2. the decision was so manifestly unjust that no disciplinary committee acting reasonably could have come to such decision;

17.6.3. the sentence was manifestly excessive.

17.7. All disciplinary sanctions and determinations remain in full force and effect unless the committee which made the decision, or the Appeals Committee, considers there are special circumstances warranting a stay in execution of the decision or sanction.

17.8. The Appeals Committee shall be entitled to do any of the following:

17.8.1. Allow or dismiss the appeal.

17.8.2. Refer a decision back to the committee or the Board for reconsideration with appropriate directions.

17.8.3. Confirm, reduce, rescind, vary or increase any penalty imposed.

17.8.4. Confirm or alter any decisions of a committee/Board in applying the Competition Rules, Regulations and Policies (ie correcting a misapplication of those rules.)

17.8.5. Substitute its own orders for the orders made by the committee/Board

17.8.6. Impose any sanction, measure or any orders the Appeals Committee sees fit or a decision that could have been imposed under these Rules.

17.8.7. Make orders in respect of fees.

18. APPEAL PROCEDURE

18.1. The Appeals Committee shall be entitled to determine the proper procedure to be followed in hearing and determining the appeal, including but not limited to determining that an appeal be determined solely upon written submissions made.

18.2. Where the appeal is from a decision made by a hearing before the Disciplinary Committee or the Board, the Appeals Committee shall only permit further or new evidence to be tendered to it in exceptional circumstances.

19. FEES

19.1. When a person or member club lodges an Appeal Notice, to be received by the League, it must be accompanied by the appropriate fee:

19.1.1. Appeal conducted on the basis of written submissions, Fee $300.

19.1.2. Appeal hearing conducted before the Appeals Committee where the appellant appears and is heard, Fee $600.

19.2. Should the appeal succeed, whether partly or in whole, the Appeals Committee shall be entitled, in its discretion, to order that any fee paid may be refunded, whether partly or in whole.

19.3. Should the appeal be dismissed, or the decision be upheld by the Appeals Committee, any fee will be forfeited.

20. RECORDS AND PUBLICATION

20.1. The League shall keep a record of all disciplinary and appeal hearings.

20.2. The League may, in its absolute discretion, publish the results of disciplinary hearings, penalties and sanctions.

20.3. Such publication can be made by the League at any time, including at the conclusion of the disciplinary or appeal process. Matters under appeal shall be re-published once finalised.

21. COMPETITIVE AND NON-COMPETITIVE MATCHES DEFINED

21.1. The following are determined as Non-Competitive Matches in relation to these Disciplinary and Appeals Rules:

21.1.1. Trial Games or friendly games.

21.1.2. Pre-Season Competitions, including but not limited to:

(a) The HJ Templin Cup

(b) Alex Cichanowski Shield

(c) Pre-Season Competition

21.1.3 SAASL Representative matches

21.1.4 Any other match or competition as determined by the League

21.2. The following are determined as Competitive Matches in relation to these Disciplinary and Appeals Rules:

21.2.1. SAASL Cup Rounds (including Preliminary rounds)

21.2.2. SAASL League Championship matches

21.2.3. Australia Cup Competition matches

21.2.4. Any other match or competition as determined by the League.

22. ADDENDUM 1 – Disciplinary Offences and Sanctions/Suspensions

ADDENDUM 1 –

These sanctions are in addition to the one (1) match mandatory suspension for receiving a Red card.

SEND OFF CODES	DESCRIPTION	SUSPENSION	
		MINIMUM	**MAXIMUM**
R1	Serious Foul Play	1 Match	12 Matches
R1 Offences (Examples)			
	Violent Charging	1 Match	8 Matches
	Jumping into a tackle with one or both feet off the ground	2 Matches	12 Matches
	Violent Tackle from behind that endangers the safety of an opponent	2 Matches	8 Matches
	Two footed challenge	2 Matches	8 Matches
R2	Violent Conduct	2 Matches	Life
R2 Offences (Examples)			
	Charging or slapping an opponent	3 Matches	8 Matches
	Kicking	3 Matches	10 Matches
	Elbowing or Punching not to the head	3 Matches	8 Matches
	Head Butting	4 Matches	Life
	Elbowing or Punching to the head	4 Matches	Life
	Stomping	4 Matches	Life
	Choking/Grabbing of throat or head	4 Matches	Life
	Inciting or participating in a brawl or melee	6 Matches	Life
R3	Spitting	6 Matches	12 Months
R3 Offences (Examples)			
	Spitting at an opponent or any other person	6 Matches	12 Matches
	Spitting on an opponent or any other person	10 Matches	1 Year
R6	Using offensive, insulting or abusive language and/or gestures	1 Match	1 Year
R6 Offences (Examples)			
	Using threatening or intimidating language or actions	3 Matches	1 Year
	Use of discriminatory language and/or gestures including ethnic, racist, religious or sexists	6 Matches	1 Year
R4, R5 & R7		Mandatory 1 Match suspension	

OFFENCES BY PARTICIPANTS AGAINST MATCH OFFICIALS

These sanctions are in addition to the one (1) match mandatory suspension for receiving a Red card.

NUMBER	DESCRIPTION	SUSPENSION	
		MINIMUM	MAXIMUM
Offences			
R2M1	Tripping a Match Official	12 Matches	Life
R2M2	Deliberately making contact, pushing with open hand, arm, shoulder or hip	12 Matches	Life
R2M3	Striking with the ball or other object	6 Months	Life
R2M4	Punching, kicking, elbowing or headbutting	Life	Life
R3M	Spitting at, towards or on a Match Official	1 Year	Life
R6M1	Threatening or intimidating a Match Official by word or action	12 Matches	Life
R6M2	Use of offensive, insulting or abusive language and/or gestures against or about a Match Official	6 Matches	1 Year
R6M3	Unsporting Conduct towards a Match Official and/or disrespecting a Match Official by word or action.	3 Matches	1 Year
R6M4	Use of discriminatory language and/or gestures including ethnic, racist, religious or sexist, towards or about a Match Official	12 Matches	1 Year

OTHER OFFENCES BY PARTICIPANTS OR SPECTATORS

These sanctions are in addition to the one (1) match mandatory suspension for receiving a Red card.

NUMBER	DESCRIPTION	SUSPENSION	
		MINIMUM	MAXIMUM
Offences			
O1	Inciting or participating in a brawl or melee	6 Matches	Life
O2	Attacking or fighting with Spectators	3 Months	Life
O3	Bringing the Game into Disrepute	6 Matches	Life
O4	Deliberately misleading any Body or Committee of the SAASL or FSA	10 Matches	Life
O5	Spitting at, on or towards Spectators	6 Matches	Life
O6	Discharging of Flares or fireworks	6 Months	Life
O7	Entering the Field of Play	2 Matches	Life
O8	Use of offensive, insulting or abusive language and/or gestures	5 Matches	1 Year
O9	Use of discriminatory language and/or gestures including ethnic, racist, religious or sexist	12 Matches	1 Year
O10	Removal of a Coach, Team or Club Official from the Technical Area	1 Match	1 Year

SAASL Disciplinary & Appeals Rules Control

Date	Clauses Amended	Description of Change	Date
February 2026	3.3	Removed Reference to Over 35's Rules and corrected the name of the Cup Rules	24th February 2026
	4.7	Removed and section renumbered	
	4.9	Added clarification around Yellow Card Accumulation and restrictions on suspended participants	
	6.8.5 & 6.8.6	Added rules in about suspension from other competitions	
	11	Moved sections 11.4 & 11.6 around	
	12.3	Section added	
	13.3	Section added	
	17.3	Reworded	
	21	Added in two more non-competitive competitions	