

Appendix 4

Discipline Code



Regina Soccer Association

Discipline Code

1.0 Philosophy

- 1.1 It is the intent of the Regina Soccer Association to promote the spirit of the game and the intent of the rules. However, there are times where those principles of fair play, sportsmanship, and ultimately the rules of the game are broken. In those situations, this code will apply to the parties who have violated those principles and will govern those who are responsible for administering the discipline code.

2.0 Introduction

- 2.1 This code is designed for dealing with infractions committed in the course of the game. The Saskatchewan Soccer Association may deal with incidents of misconduct directed against game officials. This code describes and categorizes varying infractions by degrees of severity and then outlines the penalties applied to such infractions. This will ensure consistency is maintained by those empowered to administer discipline. Discipline administered at any time may encompass more than one infraction. The suspensions listed herein are a recommended minimum for each infraction. A player's past record is considered, and will influence additional penalties. Team officials will also be subject to similar discipline with the Discipline Committee having the jurisdiction to apply more severe penalties. The **Regina Soccer Association Discipline Code** applies to all participants, players, coaches, team officials, fans, volunteers, and visiting teams participating in a Regina Soccer Association and Saskatchewan Soccer Association sanctioned activity.
- 2.2 Unsporting behaviour occurs when the game is brought into disrepute by unexpected or unprecedented behaviour. It offends the spirit of the game and can be directed against opponents, colleagues, officials, or spectators.
- 2.3 Traditionally, a sportsman is accepted as being honest, honourable, and truthful, a fair player, good loser, good example to others, a model of virtue, and a sportsman. It follows, therefore, that conduct opposite to these tenets is unsportsmanlike.

3.0 Guidelines

- 3.1 The Discipline Committee of the Regina Soccer Association shall administer discipline in accordance with the **Discipline Code**. The RSA

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- Discipline Committee will deal with any altercation between any individuals registered with the RSA, and within our disciplinary control.
- 3.2 Any individual who fails to leave the playing area, for any purposes whatsoever, and does not go to the dressing room (indoor) or parking lot (outdoor) immediately after being ejected will incur a further penalty, the term of suspension dependent on the written report and testimonies of all parties concerned. Failure to observe this ruling is cause for abandonment and forfeiture of the game.
 - 3.3 Any player ejected from a game, MUST automatically serve a one game suspension.
 - 3.4 Any player under suspension for any of the sections contained herein shall not involve themselves with the game in any manner. The exception shall be those individuals registered as both a player and a team official, as well as those adult players registered in multiple divisions.
 - 3.5 Team officials are subject to this code where misconduct occurs. They may be dealt with more severely.
 - 3.6 Suspensions shall be consecutive between seasons. Cautions accumulated in a single season, shall be nullified at the end of the said season.
 - 3.7 Suspensions may be increased as judged by the severity of the incident and by any past record held by the individual. For an individual to have served a game suspension, their team must “physically” play a league or playoff game, or an Association sanctioned tournament game without their services. For an individual to have served a game suspension, their team must “physically” play an Association sanctioned game.
 - 3.8 The Discipline Committee shall have the authority to apply or suspend any portion of a suspension, fine or bond at their discretion. The Discipline Committee may hold over a portion of the suspension for up to 24 months. These games may be added to future discipline penalties if the individual appears before the Discipline Committee within this 24-month period. The Board may impose additional fines where not stipulated in the Bylaws or Discipline Code.
 - 3.9 To preserve its effectiveness in containing acts of misconduct, fines and bonds may be assessed at the discretion of either the Discipline Committee or the Board.

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- 3.10 The Discipline Committee can recommend to the Board the expulsion of any individual or team. The decision to expel either a team or individual is at the discretion of the Board.
- 3.11 When the referee has kept the ID cards of both teams due to the game's abandonment, both teams involved in the game will be expected to submit reports for the next regularly scheduled Discipline Review. Failure to submit a report will remove that team's ability to appeal the outcome of the Discipline decision.
- 3.12 All team fines and bonds must be paid within 10 working days of receiving the discipline notice. Failure to observe this rule is cause for the team to be considered not in "good standing" and cause for forfeiture of future games until payment is made.
- 3.13 Teams not in "good standing" are subject to a review by the Board regarding eligibility.
- 3.14 Failure to comply with notices of fines or bonds may result in expulsion from RSA.
- 3.15 In the event that a team withdraws, or is expelled from the Association, all outstanding fees, fines and/or bonds may be divided between all players, coaches or managers registered to that team for that season.
- 3.16 It is the responsibility of the suspended player to retrieve their ID card from the RSA after suspensions have been served and fines paid.
- 3.17 While under suspension a player shall not be considered for, or permitted to play, but a player coach suspended while **playing** may continue to coach subsequent games, provided they are duly registered with the Association as a coach and the infraction is deemed to be minor according to the Infraction Table (7.0).
- 3.18 An individual who has been suspended as a player may not register as a team official until after the suspension has been served in full.
- 3.19 Player ID cards will not be issued to an individual who has been suspended as a team official until after the suspension has been served in full.
- 3.20 The Board will uphold SSA imposed discipline action.
- 3.21 It will be the **responsibility of the team / player** to know the eligibility status of each player and their total of accumulated yellow cards.

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- 3.22 A player who has accumulated three, five, or more yellow cards in a season, excluding double yellow cards in a specific game, must serve their suspension in the game(s) immediately following.
- 3.23 Suspensions earned from accumulated yellow cards in one season will carry forward to the next season the individual registers in.
- 3.24 Accumulated yellow cards will not carry forward into the next season.
- 3.25 Players jointly registered in multiple divisions within the same season, receiving a red card in either program, will be suspended from all RSA activities if the infraction is deemed to be major according to the Infraction Table (7.0). For infractions not considered major according to the Infraction Table (7.0), the suspension will be served in the division in which the infraction occurred. If a player is playing up, the suspension will be served in the players registered division. Where referenced, all RSA activities is defined as all soccer activities within the jurisdiction of the Regina Soccer Association, including participation in and/or attendance at games, coaching, league activities, and other SSA sanctioned soccer leagues in which the player may be registered.
- 3.26 No player may play up while under any suspensions.
- 3.27 Teams are responsible for the conduct of their spectators.
- 3.28 Team supporters who enter the field of play will cause the team to be subject to disciplinary action.
- 3.29 A player may not play an Association sanctioned game without a valid player identification card being presented at a game.
- 3.30 Any team found utilizing an ineligible or illegal individual(s), as either a player or bench official, where they have intentionally disguised the identity of the individual (playing the player under another name / card) shall forfeit the game and will be subject to further disciplinary action.
- 3.31 A team that plays ineligible or illegal individuals shall have points deducted from their league total that were accumulated while the ineligible or illegal player participated. If a playoff game was played the offending team will forfeit the game

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- 3.32 Any individual found guilty of inviting spectators onto the field of play with the purpose of engaging members of the opposing team, may be suspended indefinitely.
- 3.33 Any individual found guilty of uttering racial slurs or similar discriminatory remarks or gestures may be suspended indefinitely.
- 3.34 Abuse or Harrassment
- Additional suspensions may be applied if an individual continues with dissent / abuse after ejection.
 - Abuse or harassment of the Discipline Committee will result in discipline being applied.
 - Abuse or harassment of RSA employees will result in suspensions and / or curtailment of access to League Office.
 - Abuse or harassment of the RSA Board or Committee Members will result in discipline being applied.
- 3.35 If a team forfeits three (3) games in one (1) season, the Discipline Committee may recommend to the Board that they be expelled from the League.
- 3.36 Names of individuals or teams receiving discipline, and the discipline action, is considered by the RSA to be confidential.

4.0 The Process

- 4.1 The RSA Discipline Committee will rule on matters of discipline on a timely basis with decisions communicated to the RSA office promptly. The RSA office will promptly inform the affected parties through the team contact identified at the beginning of a season. The discipline process is reflected in Figure 1.
- 4.2 The RSA Discipline Committee will rule on matters without hearings. If a hearing is desired, a request must be made in writing to the RSA office within two business days of the incident. Upon receipt of a red card report, or equivalent, the RSA office shall notify the parties as per paragraph 4.1. Notification is considered to be served as of the date and time the notification occurs by the RSA office.

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- 4.3 Statements regarding an incident must be submitted to the RSA office within five business days. In the absence of any statements, decisions will be solely based on the information available. The Discipline Committee shall review the red card report or special incident report submitted by the referee and any report submitted by the individual and rule on what, if any, further sanctions shall be applied in accordance with this document. Review and discussion may be done by any means the members of the Discipline Committee shall find convenient including, but not limited to meetings, telephone conversations, and email.
- 4.4 The RSA Discipline Committee shall be comprised of 3 to 5 members.
- 4.5 To be fair and impartial in the course of discipline, the chair of the Discipline Committee will not appoint any committee member to a specific review who bears affiliation to the specific team or club under discussion.
- 4.6 The Discipline Chair, as sole judge, may act on less serious offences.
- 4.7 Once a Discipline Case has been reviewed by the RSA Discipline Committee, the team or the individual cannot submit a report unless requested by the Committee.

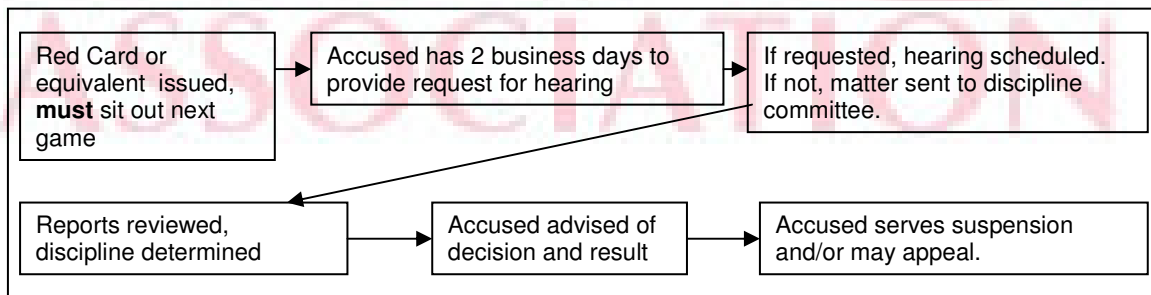


Figure 1

5.0 Appeals, Protests and Disputes

- 5.1 Each appeal regarding the decision of the RSA Discipline Committee must be made in writing to the RSA in accordance with the rules and regulations of the association for appeals.
- 5.2 The decision made by the Discipline Committee will stand until the appeal is concluded.

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6.0 Fines

- 6.1 The RSA may impose fines in addition to game suspensions as part of the discipline process.
- 6.2 Teams or individuals may be required to post bonds.
- 6.3 While fine amounts are not defined under the current discipline code, the RSA Discipline Committee may recommend fines be imposed. Any fines recommended to be imposed, **must** be approved by the RSA Board of Directors. If and when the RSA Board of Directors wishes to enforce fines per infraction, on a regular basis, the Infraction Table (7.0) will be updated with actual fine amounts.



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7.0 Infraction Table

- 7.1 The numbers shown under the columns 1st offence, 2nd offence, and Subsequent offences are the number of games which the person will serve the suspension. Where SSA is listed as the suspension, the matter will be referred to the SSA for further handling.
- 7.2 Counting of multiple offences refers to the occurrence of like offences within a twelve month period. i.e. 2nd offence within a twelve month period.

<i>Infraction</i>	1st Offence	2nd Offence	Subsequent Offences	Possible Fine
a) Playing when ineligible: - Any players, without proper consent i.e. registered youth players without player movement forms. - Cup-tied players. - A RSA player who is not duly registered for the current season. - Playing a player who does not have a valid ID card and has not registered as a recreational guest player.	1 & fine	1 & fine	1 & fine	
b) Players accumulating three (3) cautions (yellow cards)	1	1	1	
c) A further two (2) cautions	1	1	1	
d) Each caution thereafter	1	1	1	
e) Players ejected for a second cautionable offence, see unsporting behaviour	1	2	4	
f) Foul and abusive language or minor indecent gestures	1	2	4	
g) Threatening to kick or punch with no physical contact	2	3	5	
h) Pushing, slapping, or tripping an opposing player	2	3	5	
i) Players ejected for dissension with a game official	2	3	5	
j) Boarding - with no intent to injure	2	3	5	
k) Third-man-in involved in altercation. (No blows)	3	5	8	

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l) Striking an opponent deliberately with the ball	3	5	8	
m) Charging/tackling in a dangerous manner	3	5	8	
n) Foul and abusive language or minor indecent gestures directed at the game official	3	SSA	SSA	
ALL OFFENCES LISTED BELOW CONSTITUTE A MAJOR INFRACTION AND SUSPENSIONS WILL BE FROM ANY AND ALL SOCCER ACTIVITY AS OUTLINED IN THE GUIDELINES, INCLUDING COACHING & PLAYING.				
o) Continued foul and/or abusive language after being ejected from a game	4	6	10	
p) Boarding - violent manner	4	6	10	
q) Head Locking an opponent	4	6	10	
r) Intentionally kick, punch, or elbow an opponent during or away from play	5	10	15	
s) Serious indecent gestures, i.e. "mooning" or grabbing genital area	5	10	15	
t) Fighting, more than one punch, kick, or elbow thrown	6	12	20	
u) Serious indecent gestures, i.e. "mooning" or grabbing genital area directed at an official	6	12	20	
v) Charging or tackling in a dangerous manner, with intent to injure	6	12	20	
w) Third-man-in altercation, several blows	7	14	24	
x) Initiating a fight with a substitute on the bench or a substitute initiating a fight	7	14	24	
y) Individuals leaving bench to join altercation, several blows	8	16	30	
z) Head butting	8	16	30	
aa) Kicking, more than one kick	8	16	30	
ab) A violent altercation after their game, inside or outside the field of play	18	24	34	
ac) Uncontrollable rage, without assault, having to be physically restrained	18	24	34	
ad) Spitting at players or team	18	24	34	

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officials when reported by the referee				
ae) Spitting on the playing surface of the new soccer centre (This is a health issue to all players, fans, and officials)	18	24	34	
af) Playing when illegal: -Player registered with another team. - Unregistered players. - Suspended players. - Disguising identity to circumvent suspensions	Twelve months & fine	Twelve months & fine	Twelve months & fine	
The following four offences <u>may</u> require the person to pay a fine and to post a performance bond with the RSA, prior to the person returning to active RSA status.				
ag) An individual is ejected for assault in a fit of uncontrollable rage, having to be physically restrained	Twelve months & fine	Twelve months & fine	Twelve months & fine	
ah) An individual leaves the bench to start a fight	Twelve months & fine	Twelve months & fine	Twelve months & fine	
ai) An individual leaves the playing area to fight with fans	Twelve months & fine	Twelve months & fine	Twelve months & fine	
aj) Receiving three (3) red cards within a twelve (12) month period	Twelve months & fine	Twelve months & fine	Twelve months & fine	
ak) abandonment of a game by leaving the field of play without the referee's permission	Twelve months & fine	Twelve months & fine	Twelve months & fine	
al) Team Activities Requiring Discipline Action	At the discretion of the Discipline Committee			
am) Other violations of RSA rules, regulations, and laws of the game	At the discretion of the Discipline Committee			
an) Physical damage to RSA property	At the discretion of the Discipline Committee & Restitution			

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8.0 Conducting a Disciplinary Hearing

- 8.1 The Hearing Committee shall consist of no less than three people and having assembled shall appoint a Chair and one person to act as a Secretary, whose duty shall be to take notes of the hearing and call any evidence to be submitted in support of the charge.
- 8.2 The accused, or their appointed representative, shall be present or the hearing shall not proceed. They may be accompanied by one of either the team coach, manager or a parent.
- 8.3 An accused may be accompanied by legal counsel only with permission of the RSA.
- 8.4 Under normal circumstances, evidence in the form of a 'red card' report, completed by a game official, shall be sufficient for a hearing to take place.
- 8.5 Unless previously requested by the accused, or in the case of a special incident hearing, evidence from witnesses shall not normally be heard.
- 8.6 Attendance by the referee making the charge shall not be required. However, a referee may request to give evidence at any hearing.
- 8.7 The accused cannot miss a hearing because of a game. In the event that they cannot attend a hearing, their appointed representative should be present with a letter for the committee, stating why the accused is not there and then it shall be up to the committee to determine whether the reason is acceptable.
- 8.8 Failure to appear at a discipline hearing when due notice has been given, shall result in suspension of the accused until a request is made in writing and a new hearing can be arranged.
- 8.9 Postponement of the hearing may be granted at the discretion of the Disciplinary Committee, as long as the request is received in writing at the office prior to the set date of the hearing. A hearing may only be postponed by a verbal request, at the discretion of the Disciplinary Committee, under extenuating circumstances. The Disciplinary Committee shall then make arrangements for an alternate hearing.

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9.0 The Hearing Process

- 9.1 The Hearing Committee shall allow time for reading through any report submitted.
- 9.2 The accused, or their appointed representative shall be admitted to the room and the committee shall ensure the accused or their appointed representative is aware of the process of the hearing before proceeding.
- 9.3 The committee Chair shall read the referee's report in its entirety and shall then give the accused the opportunity to answer the charge, accepting or denying the details. In the case of the latter the accused shall qualify their denial with a proper statement.
- 9.4 If witnesses have been called, they may be brought into the hearing room at this point, one at a time and requested to give their evidence individually whilst the accused is present.
- 9.5 Having first made the request to the Chair, the accused may ask questions of the witness, provided they are relative to the issues in hand.
- 9.6 After which the accused, and / or his representative, any accompanying official and witnesses shall leave the hearing room for the committee to consider the evidence and any submissions and decide whether the charge is proven or not.
- 9.7 The committee, following the RSA Discipline Code, shall decide what disciplinary action shall be taken.
- 9.8 The accused and their representative shall be readmitted to the hearing room and informed of the decision.
- 9.9 When the red-carded player misses the second scheduled Hearing (scheduled with the player's consent), the constituted Discipline Hearing Committee shall be authorized to proceed in the absence of the player or his representative to deal with the matter including the imposition of the appropriate penalty.