



Rules relating to

Suspension of Players

and

Operations of

The Judicial Committee

Proceedings before the Judicial Committee

1. Red Card Offence

- 1.1 Any player who receives a red card from an umpire during an IHA controlled fixture shall be treated as suspended and shall not be permitted to play in any further IHA fixtures until such time as the red card incident has been investigated by the Judicial Committee and a decision made by that committee, unless, for special circumstances, the Judicial Committee makes an interim ruling allowing the player concerned to participate in fixtures pending the outcome of the investigation or the player is eligible to play pursuant to 1.3.
- 1.2 After giving a Red Card during the course of a game under their control, the umpire who gave the Red Card must, within 24 hours of the conclusion of the game concerned, provide the IHA with a report, following, as appropriate, the form set out in Attachment 1 to these rules. The other umpire who controlled the game must also, within 24 hours of the conclusion of the game concerned, provide the IHA with a report, following, as appropriate, the form set out in Attachment 1 to these rules. At the time that the Red Card offence occurs, it is sufficient to only mark the game card with details of the name of the person who received a Red Card and the fact that a Red card was given. A copy of each Umpires Report shall be available from the "TriDan Shed" for the player who received the Red Card or for their club. The club taking a report shall be deemed as notice to the player, and visa versa.
- 1.3 If the umpire who issued the Red Card does not complete the Report as required by Rule 1.2, the player who received the Red Card shall, unless the Judicial Committee determines otherwise, be permitted to play in IHA fixtures until such time as the Report is received or the matter has been finalised by the judiciary. **Note – this means that, even if the umpire does not supply the Report, the player who received the Red Card will still be suspended for the initial period of 24 hours.** Further, in the event that the umpire who issued the red card does not supply a report within 24 hours, the judiciary can accept other relevant evidence within 7 days, including from the supporting umpire, in order to deal with the matter.
- 1.4 A player who receives a Red Card shall appear at a date and time as determined by the Senior Vice President. In determining a suitable date and time for the initial hearing, the Senior Vice President must take into account the interests of the Judicial Committee members hearing the particular matter, and any reasonable requests made by the player who received the Red Card or their club relating to the proposed date and time of the hearing. The matter may be adjourned at the initial hearing and further dates set for hearing as determined by the Judicial Committee. However, in setting further dates, the Judicial

Committee must take into account any reasonable requests made by the player who received the Red Card or their club relating to the proposed date and time of the resumed hearing.

The player concerned shall be required to answer any questions by the Judicial Committee. Failure of the player to answer such questions may itself be a matter that the Judicial Committee may take disciplinary action against the player with respect to. Further, failure of the player to attend a meeting of the Judicial Committee as directed may also result in the Judicial Committee taking additional disciplinary action against the player.

- 1.5 The Judicial Committee may require a player to appear before it on more than one occasion for the same incident.
- 1.6 Failure by either umpire to provide a report after 24 hours shall result in that umpire not being permitted to umpire any IHA controlled fixture until such time as the report is received by IHA. Further, the Judicial Committee may consider what other action may be taken against an umpire who fails to provide the required report, including, but not limited to, suspending the umpire from playing.

2. Team Official Dismissed from Playing Area

- 2.1 In the event of a team official or other team representative being dismissed from within the area of control by an umpire during the course of a game by the umpire, that dismissal shall be treated as a "red card offence" (see 1 above) and all the powers of the Judicial Committee exercisable in the event of a red card offence shall apply in those circumstances.

3. Yellow Card Offences

- 3.1 A record shall be kept by the IHA, based upon reports provided by umpires, of yellow card offences committed by all players in the Association.
- 3.2 After giving a Yellow Card during the course of a game under their control, the umpire who gave the Yellow Card must, within 24 hours of the conclusion of the game concerned, or upon request to the Senior Vice President at a mutually agreed time, provide the IHA with a report, following, as appropriate, the form set out in Attachment 1 to these rules. At the time that the Yellow Card offence occurs, it is sufficient to only mark the game card with details of the name of the player who received a Yellow Card and the fact that a Yellow Card was given. A copy of the Umpire's Report shall be available from the "TriDan Shed" for the player who received the Yellow Card or for their club. The club taking a report shall be deemed as notice to the player, and vice versa.

- 3.3 A player who receives a yellow card, may, if they wish to challenge the card, provide a written report to IHA, on the form set out in attachment 2 to these rules, within 7 days of the Umpire providing their report to IHA. If no such report is received, the Judicial Committee shall accept the Umpire's Report as uncontested, and the player against whom the yellow card is given shall not be permitted to challenge the yellow card or the umpires report at a later time. However, if the yellow card is the third yellow card the player has received in a period of 10 fixture weeks as per the IHA season calendar, the player must, if they intend challenging the report, provide their report, on the form set out in attachment 2, within 2 days of the umpire providing the report to the IHA. If no such report is received, the Judicial Committee shall accept the Umpires report as uncontested, and the player against whom the yellow card is given shall not be permitted to challenge the yellow card or the umpires report at a later time.
- 3.4 At any time after a player has received a yellow card, the Judicial Committee may investigate the actions of the player concerned and take such disciplinary action as the Judicial Committee considers appropriate.
- 3.5 After a player receives three yellow cards in any ten-fixture week period as per the IHA season calendar, the Judicial Committee must carry out an investigation into the conduct of the player which may result in the player being required to attend a judicial hearing. In these circumstances, the player concerned shall be treated as if the player has received a red card and all rules regarding red card offences, including automatic suspensions until the matter is dealt with, apply.
- 3.6 If the umpire who issued the Yellow Card has not completed the Report as required by Rule 3.2, and if the player who received the Yellow Card has received two previous Yellow Cards within the last 10 fixture weeks as per the IHA season calendar, then the player who received the Yellow Card shall, unless the Judicial Committee determines otherwise, be permitted to play in IHA fixtures until such time as the Report is received. Likewise, if a Report has not been received from an umpire for either or both of the first two Yellow Cards, the player shall, unless the Judicial Committee determines otherwise, be permitted to play in IHA fixtures until such time as the outstanding Report is received.
- Note that, even if the umpire has not supplied the Report, the player who received their third Yellow Card in the 10-week period will still be suspended for the initial period of 24 hours.**
- 3.7 In the event that a player who has received three yellow cards plays for his club prior to the matter being investigated by the Judicial Committee (unless eligible to play pursuant to 3.6), the player's team shall receive no points for any fixture in which the player plays during that

time. **To remove doubt, it is expressly stated that it is the responsibility of each club to ensure that no player registered with that club plays fixture matches subsequent to receiving three yellow cards, even in circumstances where the player received his third yellow card in a match immediately preceding a subsequent match in which a player is due to play.**

- 3.8 Failure by the umpire to provide a report after 24 hours shall result in that umpire not being permitted to umpire any IHA controlled fixture until such time as the report is received by IHA. Further, the Judicial Committee may consider what other action may be taken against an umpire who fails to provide the required report, including, but not limited to, suspending the umpire from playing.
- 3.9 The alleged failure of an umpire to record a yellow card offence may be referred to the Judicial Committee at any time by a member of the Management Committee of the IHA. If the Judicial Committee, after due investigation, is satisfied that the yellow card offence occurred, the IHA's records shall be amended accordingly. The Judicial Committee may refer the matter to the Umpires Committee for action and, in special circumstances; the Judicial Committee may take disciplinary action against the umpire concerned.

4. Referral of Incident by Umpires

- 4.1 If, whilst an IHA fixture is under the control of the umpires, an incident or incidents occur in such circumstances that the umpires concerned are aware of the incident but are not able to identify any particular player or players responsible for the incident or incidents, the umpires may provide a report on the incident or incidents to the Judicial Committee and the Judicial Committee should have full power and authority to investigate the incident or incidents and impose such disciplinary action as a result of its investigations as it thinks fit.
- 4.2 The Judicial Committee may investigate any incident or incidents under this part also, if a player has been given a green, yellow or red card as a result of the incident or incidents, but the umpires' report indicates that the umpires are not aware of the identity of ALL players concerned in the incident.

5. Power to Suspend Pending Outcome of Investigation

- 5.1 If, during the course of any investigation, the Judicial Committee is of the opinion that a player should be restrained from taking part in further IHA matches pending the outcome of its investigations, the Judicial Committee may make such decisions suspending a player or players pending resolution of an investigation as it thinks fit.

6. Conduct of Investigations

The following provisions of this part act as guidelines to the Judicial Committee with respect to the conduct of its investigations either pursuant to parts 1, 2, 3 and 4 hereof or as otherwise referred by IHA.

6.1 Once the necessary criteria are established requiring the Judicial Committee to conduct an investigation, the Judicial Committee will, within five days thereof, commence the investigation.

6.2 The Judicial Committee will advise the person or persons being investigated of that person's requirement to appear before the Judicial Committee. It is not essential that the advice be in writing. It will be deemed sufficient advice to the person or persons being investigated for the Judicial Committee to advise the President or Secretary of the Club or Association of which the person or persons being investigated is a member of that person or persons responsibility to appear before the Judicial Committee.

6.2.1 The player being investigated who is under eighteen (18) years at the time of the incident must be accompanied throughout the investigation by a least one of the player's parent/s, legal guardian and at the player's option, the player's club Secretary or President. One of these persons may represent the player and may offer advice and support to the player.

6.2.2 The player who is over eighteen (18) years at the time of the incident may not be represented. These members may be accompanied by either the relevant Club Secretary or President or support person. Except with the consent of the Judiciary, the support person may communicate only with the respondent at his or her request and may remain involved in the proceedings at the discretion of the Judiciary.

6.3 The person being investigated may present such evidence as is considered relevant to the Judicial Committee in the way of direct evidence, other evidence such as video or related evidence, or evidence of other parties. This evidence then becomes the property of the IHA.

6.4 The Judicial Committee may call any person associated with IHA to give evidence to assist it in its investigation.

6.5 The Judicial Committee may also take advantage of any other source, including video evidence, in conducting its investigation. This evidence then becomes the property of the IHA.

- 6.6 The Judicial Committee may require the attendance of all officiating umpires and other officials relevant to the incident under investigation.
- 6.7 After reaching decision, the Judicial Committee will communicate its decision to the person being investigated by either advising that person directly or informing the President or Secretary of that person's Club or Association within twenty-four (24) hours on the completion of its enquiry advising it findings and recommendations. This advice may be in either an oral or written form.
- 6.8 As soon as practicable after reaching its decision, the Judicial Committee shall inform IHA, in writing, of its decision. The Judiciary shall make a written report to the IHA Secretary within twenty-four hours of the completion of its enquiries advising its findings and recommendations.

7. Types of Disciplinary Action

- 7.1 The Judicial Committee may impose such penalties by way of suspension or otherwise it considers appropriate in the event of it being satisfied that, following an investigation, action against such person is warranted.
- 7.2 Without limiting 7.1, the penalties imposed by the Investigations Committee may include:-
- **suspension for a period of time;**
 - **suspension for a number of matches;**
 - **suspension from official duties within IHA premises;**
 - **exclusion from IHA grounds for a period of time;**

The Judicial Committee may also order a suspended sentence to operate in such circumstances as it considers appropriate.

- 7.3 Should a player receive a red or third yellow card in a game other than a normal fixture game e.g. double header, combined comp final which means they miss additional games pending their hearing, then these additional games missed should be considered as the player having been suspended for these additional games when penalties and dates to be suspended are determined by the Judicial Committee.

8. Appeals

- 8.1 A person who has received a penalty imposed by the Judicial Committee may appeal to the IHA against both the findings of the fact of the Judicial Committee and the penalty imposed by the Judicial Committee.
- 8.2 An appeal instigated under 8.1 must be in writing and must be received by the IHA Secretary within 7 days of the Judicial Committee advising that person concerned, either directly or via the person's Club or Association, of the findings of the Judicial Committee.
- 8.3 The IHA shall only consider an appeal if the appeal documentation provided to the Secretary of the IHA discloses fresh evidence that has become available since the closing of the inquiry, or that the inquiry involved a gross miscarriage of justice.
- 8.4 If the IHA receives an appeal which satisfies the requirements of 8.3, the IHA may conduct the hearing of the appeal in any manner it considers appropriate, provided that the Judicial Committee is afforded a full opportunity to inform the IHA of its conduct during the investigation, evidence received by it, and the reasons for its decisions.
- 8.5 The IHA shall conduct the hearing of an appeal as expeditiously as possible. A new panel will be chosen from the remaining deputies of the Judiciary Committee and to consist of three members who have not had any dealings with the original hearing. Appointees of the Judiciary appointed to investigate a particular matter shall be required to disclose any "Conflicts of Interest" issues to the Senior Vice President of IHA. Any appropriate action may be taken including replacement of the appointee.
- 8.6 Unless IHA passes a special resolution to the contrary, an appeal shall not operate as a stay of any penalty imposed by the Judicial Committee.
- 8.7 Equity, fairness, impartiality, confidentiality and the concepts of 'natural justice' shall be paramount at all times.

9. General

- 9.1 A Judicial Committee conducting a hearing shall at all times be comprised of not less than two members of the elected Judicial Committee, including deputies.

It shall be the responsibility of the Senior Vice President of IHA to determine the composition of the Judicial Committee and initial time and date for any hearing, acting on the principle that the Judicial Committee should, where possible, be made up of those elected to the position, and in the event of their unavailability, elected deputies. In determining a suitable

date and time for the initial hearing, the Senior Vice President must take into account the interests of the Judicial Committee members hearing the particular matter, and any reasonable requests made by the person charged or their club relating to the proposed date and time of the hearing. Each time the Judicial Committee is constituted for the purposes of a hearing, the first task of that Judicial Committee shall be to elect a Chair for that hearing and each hearing has minutes recorded for future reference.

- 9.2 It is permissible for a Judicial Committee hearing a matter (see 9.1 above) to be comprised solely of both elected deputies.
- 9.3 A member of the Management Committee of IHA, an affiliated club official, or an officiating umpire, may petition the IHA to review a decision of the Judicial Committee on the grounds that the decision of the Judicial Committee is manifestly inappropriate.
- 9.4 If the Management Committee of IHA decides to hear a petition under 9.3, the Management Committee may conduct the review in such manner as it thinks appropriate, provided that regard is had to part 6 hereof in conducting the review.
- 9.5 Following a review, the Management Committee of IHA may vary the determination of the Judicial Committee in any way it considers appropriate, provided that any new disciplinary action is in accordance with part 7.
- 9.6 A Judicial Committee member shall disqualify him or herself from sitting on any hearing in circumstances where that member has a direct relationship with either of the teams involved in the incident being considered. Appointees of the Judiciary appointed to investigate a particular matter shall be required to disclose any "Conflicts of Interest" issues to the Senior Vice President of IHA. Any appropriate action may be taken including replacement of the appointee.

Examples: The Judicial Committee member played or coached in the game concerned, or a near relative of the member, player or coach.