



FAW SENIOR, RESERVE, YOUTH TEAM & ACADEMI FOOTBALL

DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES CONCERNING FIELD OFFENCES IN LEAGUE & CUP MATCHES – PLAYERS AND TEAM OFFICIALS

Players and Team Officials associated with Clubs playing teams in Senior, Reserve
& Youth divisions of the National Leagues and the FAW Academi Leagues

SEASON 2026/2027

1. REPORTING OF OFFENCES BY MATCH OFFICIALS

(a) **Caution Offences**

Referees must submit a report to the Football Association of Wales within 2 (two) hours after the completion of the match stating the offence and giving a description using the procedures set by the Association from time to time.

(b) **Sending-off Offences**

Referees must submit a report to the Football Association of Wales within 2 (two) hours after the completion of the match stating the offence(s) and giving a description of the incident(s) using the procedures set by the Association from time to time.

(c) If a Referee omits to show the appropriate card when taking action against a player or team official, or if the report is submitted more than 2 (two) hours after the completion of the match, this will not nullify the caution or sending-off offence. However, the attention of the Referee will be drawn to the correct procedure.

(d) Referees should submit any additional misconduct report to the Football Association of Wales within 48 hours of completion of the match. If the report is submitted after this time, this will not in any way restrict the Association's powers to take action on the report. However, the attention of the Referee will be drawn to the correct procedure.

2. CAUTION OFFENCES

A player or team official who has been cautioned in any match will be notified through their club by this Association using the systems and procedures set by the Association from time to time of:-

- (a) the offence reported by the Referee;
- (b) the total number of cautions recorded against the player or team official under these procedures during the current Season; and
- (c) any punishment resulting from the accumulation of these cautions. Any such punishment will take effect regardless of whether or not the notification of it from

this Association is received before it is due to take effect in accordance with these Disciplinary Procedures and **clubs must therefore maintain their own records.**

An administration fee of **£12.00** will be charged to the player or team official through the club for the cost of processing each report. The fee for players in junior competitions will be **£4.00**.

3. SENDING-OFF OFFENCES

A player or team official who has been sent-off in a match under the provisions of Law 12 will be notified through their club by this Association using the systems and procedures set by the Association from time to time of:-

- (a) the offence reported by the Referee;
- (b) That the player or team official will be subject to the agreed standard punishment (see Section 6). Any such punishment will take effect regardless of whether or not the notification of it from this Association is received before it is due to take effect in accordance with these Disciplinary Procedures and **clubs must therefore maintain their own records.**

An administration fee of **£12.00** will be charged to the player or team official through the club for the cost of processing each report. The fee for players in junior competitions will be **£4.00**.

4. CLAIMS OF MISTAKEN IDENTITY

- (a) In the case of a claim of alleged mistaken identity concerning a player or team official cautioned or sent-off in a match, the club, on behalf of the individual, must:-
 - (i) By 2.00pm of the next Business Day following the day of the match submit in writing via e-mail (discipline@faw.co.uk) to the Football Association of Wales their intention to submit a claim and the particulars upon which the claim is founded.
 - (ii) By 2.00pm on the second Business Day following the day of the match, submit to the Football Association of Wales written statements and evidence (including video/DVD where available) in support of the claim together with the relevant fee as set out in Appendix 1. A signed statement by the player or team official reported by the referee that they were not responsible for the offence reported and identifying specifically the name of the person responsible must be included. Where possible a written statement from the player or team official responsible for the offence should also be supplied.
- (b) Should a club have two matches with no, or insufficient Business Days in between, a Claim of Mistaken Identity shall be notified and lodged with the Football Association of Wales in accordance with the following procedure:-
 - (i) Where there are no Business Days between two matches, written notification of the club's intent to make a claim must be e-mailed (discipline@faw.co.uk)

to the Football Association of Wales prior to the commencement of the second match.

- (ii) Where there is just one Business Day between two matches, the timetable for notification as set out in 4(a)(i) hereabove, will still apply.
- (iii) The submission of statements, evidence and the applicable fee must be lodged with the Football Association of Wales by 2.00pm on the second Business Day as set out in 4(a)(ii) hereabove.

In respect of these specific circumstances, a player or team official will be eligible to play and/or participate in the second match, if, and only if, notification as set out in 4(b)(i) or 4(b)(ii) hereabove is appropriately submitted. A club will not be permitted to withdraw a claim once written notice to do so has been sent via e-mail to the Football Association of Wales and therefore attention should be paid to 4(d)(ii) below, in respect of claims which are believed to be frivolous or an abuse of process.

- (c) Should a player or team official play and/or participate in a match without the appropriate notification having been lodged as set out hereabove, the Football Association of Wales will prefer an appropriate charge of misconduct against the club and player or team official concerned for playing and/or participating whilst under suspension.
- (d) The decisions available to the Disciplinary Panel considering a Claim of Mistaken Identity are as follows:-
 - (i) The claim is rejected - the player or team official reported by the referee serves the standard punishment as set out in this Memorandum.
 - (ii) The claim is rejected and considered frivolous and/or an abuse of process - the Disciplinary Panel will have the discretion to increase the match suspension to up to twice that of the standard punishment.
 - (iii) The claim is successful - the standard punishment as set out in this Memorandum is transferred from the record of the player or team official reported by the referee to the appropriate identified offender.
- (e) Irrespective of the decision reached, the Disciplinary Panel shall have the discretion to either retain or return the fee submitted and if considered appropriate, make an order of costs against the claimant(s).
- (f) A club failing to lodge a claim for mistaken identity may be charged with misconduct by the Football Association of Wales if there is evidence that the club sought to gain an advantage by remaining silent on the matter.
- (g) It is important to note that the time limits set out above are strict. Only complete claims submitted before the relevant deadlines will be considered by the Football Association of Wales.
- (h) The decision of the Disciplinary Panel in relation to a Claim of Mistaken Identity is final and binding on all parties and not subject to appeal.

5. CLAIMS OF WRONGFUL DISMISSAL

- (a) A player or team official and their club may seek to limit the disciplinary consequences of the dismissal of a player or team official from the Field-of-Play by demonstrating to this Association that the dismissal was wrongful.
- (b) A Claim of Wrongful Dismissal may be lodged only for on-field offences which result in a sending-off, except for two cautions leading to a dismissal.
- (c) The club, on behalf of the player or team official, must:-
 - (i) By 2.00pm of the next Business Day following the day of the match submit in writing via e-mail (discipline@faw.co.uk) to the Football Association of Wales their intention to submit a claim and the particulars upon which the claim is founded.
 - (ii) By 2.00pm of the second Business Day following the day of the match submit written statements and evidence (including a video/DVD of the incident where available) in support of the claim together with the relevant fee as set out in Appendix 1.
- (d) A Disciplinary Panel will be convened as soon as is practically possible to decide the matter on any relevant documentary and video/DVD evidence submitted. The Disciplinary Panel considering a Claim of Wrongful Dismissal is concerned with only the question of whether any sanction of a suspension from play is one which should be imposed in view of the facts of the case. A Claim will only be successful if the Panel is satisfied that the Referee made an obvious error in dismissing the player or team official. It must be noted that in accordance with the Laws of the Game, the match referee's decision is final and the player's or team official's dismissal from the field of play will remain on the record of the player or team official and the club. The offence will remain the subject of the administration fee and the club will accrue the appropriate number of penalty points for the sending-off. Consequently, the club, player or team official and match official(s) will not attend the meeting of the Disciplinary Panel when the matter is considered.
- (e) Should a club have two matches with no, or insufficient Business Days in between, a Claim of Wrongful Dismissal shall be notified and lodged with the Football Association of Wales in accordance with the following procedure:-
 - (i) Where there are no Business Days between two matches, written notification of the club's intent to make a claim must be e-mailed (discipline@faw.co.uk) to the Football Association of Wales prior to the commencement of the second match.
 - (ii) Where there is just one Business Day between two matches, the timetable for notification as set out in 5(c)(i) hereabove, will still apply.

- (iii) The submission of statements, evidence and the applicable fee must be lodged with the Football Association of Wales by 2.00pm on the second Business Day as set out in 5(c)(ii) hereabove.

In respect of these specific circumstances, a player or team official will be eligible to play in the second match, if, and only if, notification as set out in 5(e)(i) or 5(e)(ii) hereabove is appropriately submitted. A club will not be permitted to withdraw a claim once written notice to do so has been sent via e-mail to the Football Association of Wales and therefore attention should be paid to 5(g)(ii) herebelow, in respect of claims which are believed to be frivolous or an abuse of process.

- (f) Should a player or team official play and/or participate in a match without the appropriate notification having been lodged as set out hereabove, the Football Association of Wales will prefer an appropriate charge of misconduct against the club and player or team official concerned for playing and/or participating whilst under suspension.
- (g) The decisions available to a Disciplinary Panel when considering a Claim of Wrongful Dismissal are as follows:-
 - (i) The claim is rejected - the player or team official serves the standard punishment as set out in this Memorandum.
 - (ii) The claim is rejected and considered frivolous and/or an abuse of process – the Panel will have the discretion to increase the match suspension beyond the standard punishment as set out in this Memorandum.
 - (iii) The claim is successful - the standard punishment as set out in this Memorandum is withdrawn and Section 6(e) will not be invoked in relation to this dismissal if the player or team official is sent-off again following the offence.
- (h) Irrespective of the decision reached, the Disciplinary Panel shall have the discretion to either retain or return the fee submitted and if considered appropriate, make an order for costs against the claimant(s).
- (i) It is important to note that the time limits set out above are strict. Only complete claims submitted before the relevant deadlines will be considered by the Football Association of Wales.
- (j) The decision of the Disciplinary Panel in relation to a Claim of Wrongful Dismissal is final and binding on all parties and not subject to appeal.

6. PUNISHMENTS FOR PLAYERS & TEAM OFFICIALS

(a) Caution Offences – League Competitions

- (i) The accumulation of a specified number of cautions by a player or a team official in a specified League Competition during a playing season will, subject

to any applicable cut-off threshold, result in that player or team official receiving an automatic suspension to be served in the same specific League Competition.

- (ii) The relevant automatic suspension, any applicable cut-off threshold and the League Competition in which the automatic suspension is to be served is set out below in Appendix 3 for players and in Appendix 4 for team officials.
- (iii) The terms of a suspension resulting from the accumulation of cautions for players will be as set out under the category of a MATCH SUSPENSION (see Section 9).
- (iv) The terms of a suspension resulting from an accumulation of cautions for team officials will be as set out under the category of a TOUCHLINE SUSPENSION (see Section 9).
- (v) The player/team official must serve the suspension with the club at which they hold a valid registration.
- (vi) Any player/team official found to have intentionally received a caution in a way to manipulate the commencement of any suspension will be charged under Section E of the Rules and be suspended for a minimum of two (2) matches and be subject to a fine.
- (vii) Where a player/team official is sent off for receiving a second caution in the same match, such cautions shall not be recorded against the player/team official's accumulation of cautionable offences.
- (viii) Any period of suspension arising from an accumulation of cautions which is outstanding at the end of the season will not be carried over to the next season.

(b) Caution Offences – Cup Competitions

- (i) The accumulation of a specified number of cautions by a player/team official in a specified Cup Competition during a playing season will result in that player/team official receiving an automatic suspension to be served in the same specified Cup Competition.
- (ii) The relevant automatic suspension and the Competition in which the suspension is to be served is set out in Appendix 5 for players and Appendix 6 for team officials.
- (iii) After the completion of the Preliminary Round in all Cup Competitions listed in Appendix 2, the caution count shall be reset with all players and team officials being regarded as having zero (0) cautions attributed to them. For the avoidance of doubt, the following will still apply:
 - any player or team official who receives a suspension resulting from an accumulation of cautions in the last match of a Preliminary

Round **will** be suspended for the same Cup Competition in the First-Round proper; and

- any £12.00 or £4.00 administration fee accumulated in previous rounds for any caution **will** need to be paid within 31 days of the match (as set out in 6(n) of these Procedures).

(iv) After the completion of the Quarter Final Round in all Cup Competitions listed in Appendix 2, the caution count shall be reset with all players and team officials being regarded as having zero (0) cautions attributed to them. For the avoidance of doubt, the following will still apply:

- any player or team official who receives a suspension resulting from an accumulation of cautions in the Quarter Final match will be suspended for the same Cup Competition's Semi-Final; and
- any £12.00 or £4.00 administration fee accumulated in previous rounds for any caution must be paid within 31 days of the match (as set out in 6(n) of these Procedures).

(v) The terms of a suspension arising from the accumulation of cautions for players will be as set out under the category of a MATCH SUSPENSION (see Section 9).

(vi) The terms of a suspension arising from the accumulation of cautions for team officials will be as set out under the category of a TOUCHLINE SUSPENSION (see Section 9).

(vii) The player/team official must serve the suspension with the club at which they hold a valid registration.

(viii) Any player/team official found to have intentionally received a caution in a way to manipulate the commencement of any suspension will be charged under Section E of the FAW Rules and be suspended for a minimum of two (2) matches and be subject to a fine.

(ix) Where a player/team official is sent off for receiving a second caution in the same match, such cautions shall not be recorded against the player/team official's accumulation of cautionable offences.

(x) Any period of suspension arising from an accumulation of cautions which is outstanding at the end of the season will not be carried over to the next season.

(c) Sending-Off Offences

- (i) A player or team official who is dismissed from the field of play/technical area will be suspended automatically with immediate effect from all FAW and Area Association League and Cup competitions, and Open Friendlies, within the same age category as the competition where the sending-off occurred. The suspension will apply until such time as the player or team official has missed the required number of matches played by the team where the sending-off occurred, in FAW or Area

Association Approved Competition(s).

- (ii) The relevant automatic suspension arising from the sending-off offence is set out in Appendix 7 for players and Appendix 8 for team officials.
- (iii) The terms of a suspension arising from a sending-off offence for players and team officials will be as set out under the category of a MATCH SUSPENSION (see Section 9).
- (iv) A player/team official must serve the suspension with the club at which they hold a valid registration.
- (v) As set out in Law 10 of the IFAB Laws of the Game, if a player/team official receives a second caution during kicks from the penalty mark to determine the outcome of the match, the player/team official will not be dismissed from the field of play/technical area as the caution count from the match is reset before the shootout commences. Both cautions shall count towards the number of cautions that the player has accumulated in the competition.
- (vi) If the player/team official receives two (2) cautions during the kicks from the penalty mark, they will be dismissed and suspended automatically with immediate effect. The procedure as set out in 6(c) shall apply for the suspension and how it must be served. For the avoidance of doubt, the administration fee of £12.00/£4.00 from the caution received during the match and the administration fee of £12.00/£4.00 for the sending off in the kicks from the penalty mark will both be payable.
- (vii) Where an automatic suspension arising from a sending-off offence remains outstanding at the end of a season it will be carried over to be served in the next season. In these circumstances, a player/team official will be permitted to take part in any Open Friendly prior to the commencement of their team's first competitive match in the new season, at which point the suspension will recommence.
- (viii) A club or player may make a written request to the FAW to transfer a player's suspension to be served by the matches of another team within their Club, other than where the sending-off offence occurred, if it can be demonstrated that more than 50% of the player's matches have been played for that other team during the same season. The number of matches played will be solely determined by Comet match reports. For the avoidance of doubt, the player must have played in those matches and not have been an unused substitute. The suspension, once transferred, cannot be transferred further.

(d) Sending's Off not detailed

- (i) Where a team official is dismissed from the Technical Area for a reason not set out in Appendix 8, in addition to the specified automatic one (1) match suspension, the dismissal will be subject for review by a

Disciplinary Panel of the Football Association of Wales as set out below.

- (ii) The Disciplinary Panel shall have the power to determine:
 - (a) A one Match Suspension shall suffice and there should be no further suspension; or
 - (b) That the standard one Match Suspension is insufficient and the Panel will have the power to increase the Match Suspension.
- (iii) The club or team official will not be permitted to submit any evidence for the Disciplinary Panel's considerations and the matter will be considered solely on the match official(s) sending off report. Should a club require a Disciplinary Panel to consider the validity of the suspension resulting from the sending off, then they must submit a Claim of Mistaken Identity and/or a Claim of Wrongful Dismissal as set out in Sections 4 and 5. In this procedure set out in 6(d), the Disciplinary Panel will only confine themselves to the level of sanction imposed from the dismissal.
- (iv) Should a club lodge a Claim of Mistaken Identity then the same Disciplinary Panel will consider the sanction.
- (v) Should a club lodge a Claim of Wrongful Dismissal and the claim is rejected as set out under section 5(g)(i) & (ii) and the sending off is subject to section 6(d), then the same Disciplinary Panel will consider the sanction.
- (vi) The decision of the Disciplinary Panel in relation to this procedure is final and binding on all parties and not subject to appeal.

(e) **Additional Sendings-off**

- (i) Players dismissed from the field of play for a second time in the same Season in an FAW or Area Association Approved competition of the same age category in addition to the automatic suspension applicable to the offence, will be suspended for one extra match.
- (ii) A player dismissed for a third time in the same Season in an FAW or Area Association Approved competition of the same age category will be suspended for an extra two matches, and so on.
- (iii) Team officials dismissed from the Technical area for a second time in the same Season in an FAW or Area Association Approved Competition of the same age category, in addition to the automatic suspension applicable to the offence, will be suspended for one extra match.
- (iv) A team official dismissed for the third time in the same Season in an FAW or Area Association Approved Competition of the same age category, in addition to the automatic suspension applicable to the offence, will be suspended for an extra two matches and so on.

(f) **Measurement of Suspension**

All suspensions arising from an accumulation of cautions will remain separate and only applicable to that specific Competition.

All suspensions arising from a red card will apply to all FAW and Area Association League and Cup competitions, and Open Friendlies within the same age category as where the player or team official received their suspension.

In addition, where a player or team official receives a suspension (as set out in these Procedures) from an Open Friendly match (see section 9), this must be measured by the player/team official's team's next match(es) in FAW or Area Association Approved Competitions of the same age category as that where the suspension was imposed.

(g) **Outstanding Suspensions**

Where an automatic suspension arising from a sending-off offence remains outstanding at the end of a season, it will be carried over to be served in the next season with the club at which the player or team official is registered and measured by the player/team official's team's matches in FAW & Area Association Approved Competitions in the same age category as that where the suspension was imposed.

Should a player no longer be eligible, due to age restriction, to participate in competitions in the age category in which the suspension was imposed, the suspension will be transferred to the relevant age category where the player is now eligible.

Where an automatic suspension arising from an accumulation of cautions remains outstanding at the end of a season it will not be carried over to the next season.

(h) **National League Play Off's**

If any of the National League or Academi League competitions run a play-off at the end of each season, this competition will be a standalone competition from the league from a disciplinary perspective only. Therefore, the following will apply:

- (i) Any suspension received in the regular season from a sending off or accumulation of cautions will not be applicable in the Play-Offs. A suspension for a sending-off will be carried over and must be served at the commencement of the next season with the club at which the player/team official is registered and measured by the player/team official's team's matches in a competition of the same age category as that where the suspension was imposed. For clarity, the individual would be eligible to participate in the Play-Offs in these circumstances.
- (ii) Section 6(b) and Section 6(c) above shall apply to the Play-Offs in National League and Academi competitions. The following exceptions will apply for the National League Play-Offs:

- a. Any player or team official who receives a suspension for a sending off or an accumulation of cautions in the National League or Academi League Play-Offs will be suspended for the next match in the Play-Offs.
- b. If the player/team official's club has been knocked out of the Play-Off's, or the Play-Offs have been completed, then any suspension for a sending-off will carry over to the player/team official's next competitive match in Approved Competitions in the same age category as that where the sending-off occurred. Any suspension for an accumulation of cautions will not be carried over..

If there is any discrepancy in this section 6(h) and section 6(b) or 6(c) then this section shall prevail.

For clarity, section 6(h) is **only** applicable in a National League/Academi League Play-Off competition.

(i) Deliberately left blank

(j) **FAW Rule 38**

In special cases where:-

- (i) a match official's report indicates a serious breach of the Laws of the Game, or
- (ii) a player commits an act of misconduct and/or a sending-off offence under Law 12 (1), (2), (3), (4), (5) or (6) of the Laws of the Game whilst on the field of play which is not seen by the match officials but caught on video;
- (iii) a team official commits an act of misconduct and/or a sending-off offence as set out in the Laws of the Game whilst on the field of play and/or in the Technical Area which is not seen by the match officials but caught on video;

the Football Association of Wales reserves the right to prefer an appropriate charge of misconduct against the player or team official in accordance with one or more of the provisions under FAW Rule 38.

When dealing with a case under 6(j)(i) hereabove, the Disciplinary Panel may take into account any automatic punishment imposed under the Procedures.

When dealing with a case under 6(j)(ii) or (iii) hereabove, confirmation by the match officials that they did not see the incident in question shall be conclusive evidence of that fact.

(k) **Payment to Players Under Suspension**

Clubs must not pay a player more than their basic wage during the period of a suspension.

(l) **Clubs Imposing Fines**

Clubs may fine players or team officials for on-field offences but must notify the Football Association of Wales, without delay, the details of the fine in each case.

(m) **Re-Arranged Matches**

A FAW Disciplinary Panel shall have discretionary power to rule that a match shall not count towards the completion of a suspension if it is satisfied that the game has been arranged by the club with a view to enabling the player or team official to complete their suspension and thus qualify them to play in a specific match. The decision of the Disciplinary Panel in relation to re-arranged matches is final and binding on all parties and not subject to appeal.

(n) **Collection of Administration Fees**

It will be the responsibility of the club to collect the £12.00/£4.00 administration fee from the players/team officials concerned. Clubs will have 31 calendar days as and from the date of the match to make the payment. Should the club fail to make the payment of the £12.00/£4.00 administration fee within 31 calendar days, then the player/team official will become ineligible from playing/participating in **any** Association Football and Futsal match until payment is received. The administration fee must be paid on the COMET system, or any other system as prescribed by the Association from time to time.

At the end of the season each club will be required to clear all the £12.00/£4.00 administration fees on their COMET account by no later than 1st June 2027. A failure to do this will result in an automatic suspension from All Football and Futsal Related Activity for the whole club as and from 2nd June 2027. This suspension will only be removed once payment has been made in full. As soon as the payment is received by the FAW, the club will automatically have this suspension removed with immediate effect.

(o) **Abandoned Matches**

- (i) Any caution or sending-off issued in a match which is subsequently abandoned will remain on the record of the player/official irrespective of whether the match is replayed
- (ii) Abandoned matches will not count towards clearing a player/official of a suspension. All matches must be completed for a match to count down the suspension.

(p) **Team(s) Withdrawal from the League**

- (i) Where a team withdraws from the League before completing all of its matches for the season, all disciplinary sanctions imposed upon any player or official of either side in the matches in that team's matches will remain on the record of the player/official sanctioned.
- (ii) Where a player/team official has served a suspension, any part of which has been counted down by a match against a Club who subsequently withdraw

from the League, the match will still count for the purpose of serving the suspension.

7. DISCIPLINARY ACTION ON CLUBS FOR MISCONDUCT BY THEIR PLAYERS AND TEAM OFFICIALS

- (a) The FAW will prefer a charge of misconduct under FAW Rule 38.1.1 against a club if they receive six or more cautions and sending's off in the same match. The club may be required to appear before a FAW Disciplinary Panel and shall be liable to be warned and/or fined. In addition, the Panel shall be entitled to make an order as to costs against the club.

In accordance with the IFAB Laws of the Game, the decisions of the Match Official shall be final and will not be reviewed by the FAW Disciplinary Panel.

- (b) The Football Association of Wales reserves the right to prefer a charge against a club at any time during the season arising from field offences committed by players and/or team officials of the club.

8. SUSPENSIONS IMPOSED UNDER THESE REGULATIONS

- (a) Unless otherwise ordered by a FAW Disciplinary Panel, Appeals Panel or Independent Arbitration Panel, the terms of the suspensions imposed under these entire regulations will be as set out under the category of a Match Suspension (see section 9). The only exception is where a team official receives a suspension for an accumulation of cautions. In this instance, the category of suspension will be a Touchline Suspension (see section 9).
- (b) Any suspension imposed on a player may only be served whilst the player holds a registration with a football club. Should a player transfer or register for a new club prior to the commencement of the suspension or during the period of the suspension, the player will not be eligible to play for their new club until such time as the new club with which the player has transferred to has completed the required number of matches in FAW or Area Association Approved Competitions.
- (c) Any suspension imposed on a team official may only be served whilst the team official holds a registration with a football club. Should a team official transfer or register for a new club prior to the commencement of the suspension or during the period of the suspension, the team official will not be eligible to participate for their new club until such time as the club with which the team official has transferred or registered to, has completed the required number of matches in FAW or Area Association Approved Competitions.
- (d) The ability of a club to select a player or team official for match on Comet does not negate any suspension, or other matter, under these Procedures. Clubs must keep their own records in respect of cautions and sendings off and any applicable suspension. Clubs and individuals are responsible for familiarising themselves with these Procedures.

9. DEFINITIONS

i BUSINESS DAY

Any day of the week except a Saturday or Sunday or public bank holiday in Wales.

ii. CLOSED FRIENDLY MATCH

A game of Association Football (or a modified version of the game) which is not an Official Match which is played between two (2) teams (whether or not from different Clubs) but is not made open for the public to attend.

iii. MATCH SUSPENSION

A Match Suspension is a ban on taking part in a match and on attending it in the area immediately surrounding the field-of-play. A Match Suspension may be imposed on a player or an official.

The area immediately surrounding the field-of-play includes:-

1. The field-of-play.
2. The dressing rooms and their immediate area.
3. The tunnel and/or private way leading from the dressing rooms to the field-of-play.
4. The dugouts, benches and technical areas.
5. The prohibited area in the vicinity of the touchline and goal lines.

The player or official under a Match Suspension is prohibited from contact with match officials, players and club officials, as well as giving any media interviews, before, during and after the match.

A Match Suspension does not prohibit a player or official from attending or taking part in a Closed Friendly Match or a club organised private training session. However, a player or official is prohibited from attending or taking part in an Open Friendly Match, except for a player or team official receiving a suspension from an accumulation of cautions who will not be suspended for Open Friendly Matches.

A club who permits a player or an official to attend any ground whilst serving a Match Suspension will be responsible for ensuring the terms of the suspension are adhered to.

iv. OPEN FRIENDLY MATCH

A game of Association Football which is not an Official Match which is played between two (2) teams (whether or not from different Clubs) and is made open to the public to attend.

v. TOUCHLINE SUSPENSION

A Touchline Suspension is a ban from any immediate contact with players, club officials and match officials participating in a match for the duration of the match. A Touchline Suspension may be imposed on a player and an official. A Touchline Suspension prohibits an individual from:-

1. Attending the dugouts and technical areas before, during and after the match.
2. Entering the field-of-play and the prohibited area in the vicinity of the touchline and goal lines.
3. Coaching or issuing instructions for the duration of the game.
4. Engaging the match officials whilst they are on the field-of-play or in the tunnel and/or private way leading from the dressing rooms to the field-of-play.

The player or official under a Touchline Suspension is permitted to attend the team changing room pre-match, at half-time and post-match. Furthermore, the individual is permitted to approach the match officials pre-match or post-match whilst they are in their dressing room and provided the match officials are agreeable to the approach.

The FAW is aware that due to the nature of many grounds, the individual under a Touchline Suspension may stand behind the perimeter barrier surrounding the field-of-play but still remain sufficiently close enough to the field-of-play to allow them to continue coaching or issue instructions to the coaching / technical staff. This will be considered as a breach of the Touchline Suspension and will result in the Football Association of Wales preferring charges of misconduct against the club and player or official who is under the suspension.

Where a stand exists within the ground, the Football Association of Wales requires the player or official to sit in the stand away from the field-of-play.

For the duration of the game, a player or official under a Touchline Suspension is NOT PERMITTED to communicate with the coaching / technical staff via radio or other electronic communication and is prohibited from having personal contact with any such persons.

These Procedures apply to all FAW Competitions, irrespective of whether they are named in any Appendix below.

APPENDIX 1

Fees applicable when making a Claim of Mistaken Identity or a Claim of Wrongful Dismissal

The following fees are defined by FAW Rule 43.2.3

For teams playing in:-	£ Fee payable (inclusive of VAT)
The Cymru Premier	400.00
The Cymru North & South	250.00
The FAW Ardal Leagues	200.00
The Adran Premier	250.00
The Adran North & South	200.00
Any team who have a first team competing in the English Premier League, English Football League, the English National Leagues or FA Women's National Leagues	400.00
Any team not accounted for above	150.00

For FAW Academi teams with First Teams playing in:-	£ Fee payable (inclusive of VAT)
The Cymru Premier	400.00
The Cymru North & South	250.00
The FAW Ardal Leagues	200.00
The Adran Premier	250.00
Any team not accounted for above	150.00

APPENDIX 2

FAW APPROVED COMPETITIONS

Senior & Reserve Age Category Competitions:

Cymru Premier
Cymru North
Cymru South
Adran Premier
FAW Ardal Leagues
Adran North
Adran South
FAW National Reserve League North
FAW National Reserve League North
Men's Welsh Cup
Women's Welsh Cup
Amateur Trophy
Adran Trophy

Youth Age Category Competitions:

FAW National Academi Development League
Adran South u19s League
FAW Youth Cup

Junior Age Category Competitions:

FAW National Academi League u16s (Boys)
FAW National Academi League u15s (Boys)
FAW National Academi League u14s (Boys)
FAW National Academi League u13s (Boys)
FAW National Academi League u12s (Boys)
FAW National Academi League u15s (Girls)
FAW National Academi League u13s (Girls)
Bute Energy u16s Cup

APPENDIX 3

Accumulation of Cautions – League Competitions - Players

Competition in which Caution Accumulated	Number of Cautions Accumulated	Cut-Off Threshold (Number of league matches of registered Club - up to and including)	Automatic Suspension/Sanction Match Suspension	Competition in which Automatic Suspension applies
Cymru Premier	5	16	1 match	Cymru Premier
	10	Last day of the playing season	2 matches	
	15	Last day of the playing season	3 matches	
	20	Last day of the playing season	4 matches*	
a. Cymru North b. Cymru South	5	15	1 match	a. Cymru North b. Cymru South
	10	Last day of the playing season	2 matches	
	15	Last day of the playing season	3 matches	
	20	Last day of the playing season	4 matches*	
a. Ardal League North East b. Ardal League North West c. Ardal League South East d. Ardal League South West	5	15	1 match	a. Ardal League North East b. Ardal League North West c. Ardal League South East d. Ardal League South West
	10	Last day of the playing season	2 matches	
	15	Last day of the playing season	3 matches	
	20	Last day of the playing season	4 matches*	
Adran Premier	5	14	1 match	Adran Premier
	10	Last day of the playing season	2 matches	
	15	Last day of the playing season	3 matches	
	20	Last day of the playing season	4 matches*	
a. Adran North b. Adran South	5	Last day of the playing season	1 match	a. Adran North b. Adran South
	10	Last day of the playing season	2 matches	
	15	Last day of the playing season	3 matches	
	20	Last day of the playing season	4 matches*	

Any other FAW League Competitions	5	Last day of the playing season	1 match	The League competition in which the cautions were accumulated
	10	Last day of the playing season	2 matches	
	15	Last day of the playing season	3 matches	
	20	Last day of the playing season	4 matches*	

*The player shall also be required to attend a meeting of a Disciplinary Panel to consider any additional sanctions. The same procedure will apply for every further five (5) cautions recorded against a player.

APPENDIX 4

Accumulation of Cautions– League Competitions – Team Officials

Competition in which Caution Accumulated	Number of Cautions Accumulated	Cut-Off Point (Up to and including)	Automatic Suspension/Sanction Touchline Suspension	Competition in which Automatic Suspension applies
Cymru Premier	3	16	1 match	Cymru Premier
	6	Last day of playing season	2 matches	
	9	Last day of playing season	3 matches	
	12	Last day of playing season	4 matches	
a. Cymru North b. Cymru South	3	15	1 match	a. Cymru North b. Cymru South
	6	Last day of playing season Last day of playing season	2 matches	
	9	Last day of playing season	3 matches	
	12	Last day of playing season	4 matches*	
a. Ardal League North East b. Ardal League North West c. Ardal League South East d. Ardal League South West	3	15	1 match	a. Ardal League North East b. Ardal League North West c. Ardal League South East d. Ardal League South West
	6	Last day of playing season	2 matches	
	9	Last day of playing season	3 matches	
	12	Last day of playing season	4 matches*	

Adran Premier	3	14	1 match	Adran Premier
	6	Last day of playing season	2 matches	
	9	Last day of playing season	3 matches	
	12	Last day of playing season	4 matches*	
a. Adran North b. Adran South	3	Last day of playing season	1 match	a. Adran North b. Adran South
	6	Last day of playing season	2 matches	
	9	Last day of playing season	3 matches	
	12	Last day of playing season	4 matches*	
Any other FAW League Competitions	3	Last day of playing season	1 match	The League competition in which the cautions were accumulated
	6	Last day of playing season	2 matches	
	9	Last day of playing season	3 matches	
	12	Last day of playing season	4 matches*	

*The team official shall also be required to attend a meeting of a Disciplinary Panel to consider any additional sanctions. The same procedure will apply for every further three (3) cautions recorded against a team official.

APPENDIX 5

Accumulation of Cautions – Cup Competitions – Players

Competition in which Cautions Accumulated	Number of Cautions	Suspension/Additional Sanction	Competition in which Suspension applies
Welsh Cup	2	1 match	Welsh Cup
	4	1 match	
	6	1 match	
	8	1 match*	
Women's Welsh Cup	2	1 match	Women's Welsh Cup
	4	1 match	
	6	1 match	
	8	1 match*	
Amateur Trophy	2	1 match	Amateur Trophy
	4	1 match	
	6	1 match	
	8	1 match*	
Ardal North Cup	2	1 match	Ardal North Cup
	4	1 match	
	6	1 match	
	8	1 match*	
Ardal South Cup	2	1 match	Ardal South Cup
	4	1 match	
	6	1 match	
	8	1 match*	

Adran Trophy	2	1 match	Adran Trophy
	4	1 match	
	6	1 match	
	8	1 match*	
Youth Cup	2	1 match	Youth Cup
	4	1 match	
	6	1 match	
	8	1 match*	
Girls' Under 16s Cup	2	1 match	Girls' Under 16s Cup
	4	1 match	
	6	1 match	
	8	1 match*	

*The player shall also be required to attend a meeting of a Disciplinary Panel to consider any additional sanctions. The same procedure will apply for every further two (2) cautions recorded against a player

APPENDIX 6

Accumulation of Cautions – Cup Competitions – Team Officials

Competition in which Cautions Accumulated	Number of Cautions	Suspension/Additional Sanction	Competition in which Suspension applies
Welsh Cup	2	1 match	Welsh Cup
	4	1 match	
	6	1 match	
	8	1 match*	
Women's Welsh Cup	2	1 match	Women's Welsh Cup
	4	1 match	
	6	1 match	
	8	1 match*	
Amateur Trophy	2	1 match	Amateur Trophy
	4	1 match	
	6	1 match	
	8	1 match*	
Ardal North Cup	2	1 match	Ardal North Cup
	4	1 match	
	6	1 match	
	8	1 match*	
Ardal South Cup	2	1 match	Ardal South Cup
	4	1 match	
	6	1 match	
	8	1 match*	
Adran Trophy	2	1 match	Adran Trophy
	4	1 match	
	6	1 match	
	8	1 match*	
Youth Cup	2	1 match	Youth Cup
	4	1 match	
	6	1 match	
	8	1 match*	
Girls' Under 16s Cup	2	1 match	Girls' Under 16s Cup
	4	1 match	
	6	1 match	
	8	1 match*	

The team official shall also be required to attend a meeting of a Disciplinary Panel to consider any additional sanctions. The same procedure will apply for every further two (2) cautions recorded against a team official.

APPENDIX 7

Sendings-Off – Players

SENDING-OFF OFFENCE	AUTOMATIC SUSPENSION	COMPETITION SENDING OFF OCCURRED IN	COMPETITIONS SUSPENDED FROM
Receiving a second caution in the same match.*	1 Match	a. Any Senior/Reserve League or Cup match b. Any Youth League or Cup match c. Any Junior League or Cup match	a. All Senior & Reserve League and Cup matches in FAW & Areas Association Approved Competitions and Open Friendlies b. All Youth League & Cup matches in FAW & Area Association Approved Competitions and Open Friendlies c. All Junior League & Cup matches in FAW & Area Association Approved Competitions and Open Friendlies
Denying a goal or an obvious goal scoring opportunity to an opponent whose overall movement is towards the offender's goal or by handling the ball	1 Match		
Offensive, insulting or abusive language/gestures (not towards a Match Official)	2 Matches		
Offensive, insulting or abusive language/gestures towards a Match Official	3 Matches		
Violent Conduct Serious Foul Play Spitting at an opponent	3 Matches		

APPENDIX 8

Sendings-Off – Team Officials

Sending-Off Offence	Automatic Suspension	COMPETITION SENDING OFF OCCURRED IN	SUSPENDED FROM
- Receiving a second caution in the same match* - Delaying the restart of play by the opposing team - Using unauthorized electronic or communication equipment and/or behaving in an inappropriate manner as a result of using such equipment	1 Match	a. Any Senior/Reserve League or Cup match	a. All Senior & Reserve League and Cup matches in FAW & Areas Association Approved Competitions and Open Friendlies
- Deliberately leaving the technical area to: i. show dissent towards or remonstrate with a match official ii. act in a provocative or inflammatory manner iii. enter the opposing technical area in an aggressive or confrontational manner - Using offensive, insulting or abusive language and/or gestures - Entering the video operation room (VOR) - Entering the field of play to interfere with play, an opposing player or match official - Entering the field of play to confront a match official (including at half-time and full-time)	2 Matches	b. Any Youth League or Cup match	b. All Youth League & Cup matches in FAW & Area Association Approved Competitions and Open Friendlies
- Deliberately throwing/kicking an object on to the field of play - Physical or aggressive behaviour (including spitting or biting) towards an opposing player, substitute, team official, match official, spectator or any other person - Violent conduct	3 Matches	c. Any Junior League or Cup match	c. All Junior League & Cup matches in FAW & Area Association Approved Competitions and Open Friendlies

Any reason not detailed above	1 match (subject to section 6(d) above)		
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THE NATIONAL FUTSAL LEAGUE

DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES CONCERNING PITCH OFFENCES IN LEAGUE & CUP MATCHES – PLAYERS AND TEAM OFFICIALS

Players and Team Officials associated with Clubs playing teams in the National Futsal League

SEASON 2026/2027

1. REPORTING OF OFFENCES BY MATCH OFFICIALS

(a) **Caution Offences**

Referees must submit a report to the Football Association of Wales within 2 (two) hours after the kick off time of the match stating the offence and giving a description using the procedures set by the Association from time to time.

(b) **Sending-off Offences**

Referees must submit a report to the Football Association of Wales within 2 (two) hours after the kick off time of the match stating the offence(s) and giving a description of the incident(s) using the procedures set by the Association from time to time.

(c) If a Referee omits to show the appropriate card when taking action against a player or team official, or if the report is submitted more than 2 (two) hours after the completion of the match, this will not nullify the caution or sending-off offence. However, the attention of the Referee will be drawn to the correct procedure.

(d) Referees should submit any additional misconduct report to the Football Association of Wales within 48 hours of completion of the match. If the report is submitted after this time, this will not in any way restrict the Association's powers to action the report. However, the attention of the Referee will be drawn to the correct procedure.

2. CAUTION OFFENCES

A player or team official who has been cautioned in any match will be notified through their club by this Association using the systems and procedures set by the Association from time to time of:-

- (a) the offence reported by the Referee;
- (b) the total number of cautions recorded against the player or team official under these procedures during the current Season; and
- (c) any punishment resulting from the accumulation of these cautions. Any such punishment will take effect regardless of whether or not the notification of it from

this Association is received before it is due to take effect in accordance with these Disciplinary Procedures and clubs must therefore **maintain their own records**.

An administration fee of **£12.00** will be charged to the player or team official through the club for the cost of processing each report.

3. SENDING-OFF OFFENCES

A player or team official who has been sent-off in a match under the provisions of Law 12 of the Futsal Laws of the Game will be notified through their club by this Association using the systems and procedures set by the Association from time to time of:-

- (a) the offence reported by the Referee;
- (b) That the player or team official will be subject to the agreed standard punishment (see Section 6 . Any such punishment will take effect regardless of whether or not the notification of it from this Association is received before it is due to take effect in accordance with these Disciplinary Procedures.

An administration fee of **£12.00** will be charged to the player or team official through the club for the cost of processing each report.

4. CLAIMS OF MISTAKEN IDENTITY

- (a) In the case of a claim of alleged mistaken identity concerning a player or team official cautioned or sent-off in a match, the club, on behalf of the individual, must:-
 - (i) By 2.00pm of the next Business Day following the day of the match submit in writing via e-mail (discipline@faw.co.uk) to the Football Association of Wales their intention to submit a claim and the particulars upon which the claim is founded.
 - (ii) By 2.00pm on the second Business Day following the day of the match, submit to the Football Association of Wales written statements and evidence (including video/DVD where available) in support of the claim together with the relevant fee as set out in Appendix 1. A signed statement by the player or team official reported by the referee that they were not responsible for the offence reported and identifying specifically the name of the person responsible must be included. Where possible a written statement from the player or team official responsible for the offence should also be supplied.
- (b) Should a club have two matches with no, or insufficient Business Days in between, a Claim of Mistaken Identity shall be notified and lodged with the Football Association of Wales in accordance with the following procedure:-
 - (i) Where there are no Business Days between two matches, written notification of the club's intent to make a claim must be e-mailed (discipline@faw.co.uk) to the Football Association of Wales prior to the commencement of the second match.

- (ii) Where there is just one Business Day between two matches, the timetable for notification as set out in 4(a)(i) hereabove, will still apply.
- (iii) The submission of statements, evidence and the applicable fee must be lodged with the Football Association of Wales by 2.00pm on the second Business Day as set out in 4(a)(ii) hereabove.

In respect of these specific circumstances, a player or team official will be eligible to play and/or participate in the second match, if, and only if, notification as set out in 4(b)(i) or 4(b)(ii) hereabove is appropriately submitted. A club will not be permitted to withdraw a claim once written notice to do so has been sent via e-mail to the Football Association of Wales and therefore attention should be paid to 4(d)(ii) herebelow, in respect of claims which are believed to be frivolous or an abuse of process.

- (c) Should a player or team official play and/or participate in a match without the appropriate notification having being lodged as set out hereabove, the Football Association of Wales will prefer an appropriate charge of misconduct against the club and player or team official concerned for playing and/or participating whilst under suspension.
- (d) The decisions available to the Disciplinary Panel considering a Claim of Mistaken Identity are as follows:-
 - (i) The claim is rejected - the player or team official reported by the referee serves the standard punishment as set out in this Memorandum.
 - (ii) The claim is rejected and considered frivolous and/or an abuse of process - the Disciplinary Panel will have the discretion to increase the match suspension to up to twice that of the standard punishment.
 - (iii) The claim is successful - the standard punishment as set out in this Memorandum is transferred from the record of the player or team official reported by the referee to the appropriate identified offender.
- (e) Irrespective of the decision reached, the Disciplinary Panel shall have the discretion to either retain or return the fee submitted and if considered appropriate, make an order of costs against the claimant(s).
- (f) A club failing to lodge a claim for mistaken identity may be charged with misconduct by the Football Association of Wales if there is evidence that the club sought to gain an advantage by remaining silent on the matter.
- (g) It is important to note that the time limits set out above are strict. Only complete claims submitted before the relevant deadlines will be considered by the Football Association of Wales.
- (h) The decision of the Disciplinary Panel in relation to a Claim of Mistaken Identity is final and binding on all parties and not subject to appeal.

5. CLAIMS OF WRONGFUL DISMISSAL

- (a) A player or team official and their club may seek to limit the disciplinary consequences of the dismissal of a player or team official from the pitch by demonstrating to this Association that the dismissal was wrongful.
- (b) A Claim of Wrongful Dismissal may be lodged only for offences which result in a sending-off, except for two cautions leading to a dismissal.
- (c) The club, on behalf of the player or team official, must:-
 - (i) By 2.00pm of the next Business Day following the day of the match submit in writing via or e-mail (discipline@faw.co.uk) to the Football Association of Wales their intention to submit a claim and the particulars upon which the claim is founded.
 - (ii) By 2.00pm of the second Business Day following the day of the match submit written statements and evidence (including a video/DVD of the incident where available) in support of the claim together with the relevant fee as set out in Appendix 1.
- (d) A Disciplinary Panel will be convened as soon as is practically possible to decide the matter on any relevant documentary and video/DVD evidence submitted. The Disciplinary Panel considering a Claim of Wrongful Dismissal is concerned with only the question of whether any sanction of a suspension from play is one which should be imposed in view of the facts of the case. A Claim will only be successful if the Panel is satisfied that the Referee made an obvious error in dismissing the player or team official. It must be noted that in accordance with the Futsal Laws of the Game, the match referee's decision is final and the player's or team official's dismissal from the pitch will remain on the record of the player or team official and the club. The offence will remain the subject of the administration fee and the club will accrue the appropriate number of penalty points for the sending-off. Consequently, the club, player or team official and match official(s) will not attend the meeting of the Disciplinary Panel when the matter is considered.
- (e) Should a club have two matches with no, or insufficient Business Days in between, a Claim of Wrongful Dismissal shall be notified and lodged with the Football Association of Wales in accordance with the following procedure:-
 - (i) Where there are no Business Days between two matches, written notification of the club's intent to make a claim must be e-mailed (discipline@faw.co.uk) to the Football Association of Wales prior to the commencement of the second match.
 - (ii) Where there is just one Business Day between two matches, the timetable for notification as set out in 5(c)(i) hereabove, will still apply.
 - (iii) The submission of statements, evidence and the applicable fee must be lodged with the Football Association of Wales by 2.00pm on the second Business Day as set out in 5(c)(ii) hereabove.

In respect of these specific circumstances, a player or team official will be eligible to play in the second match, if, and only if, notification as set out in 5(e)(i) or 5(e)(ii) hereabove is appropriately submitted. A club will not be permitted to withdraw a claim once written notice to do so has been sent via e-mail to the Football Association of Wales and therefore attention should be paid to 5(g)(ii) herebelow, in respect of claims which are believed to be frivolous or an abuse of process.

- (f) Should a player or team official play and/or participate in a match without the appropriate notification having being lodged as set out hereabove, the Football Association of Wales will prefer an appropriate charge of misconduct against the club and player or team official concerned for playing and/or participating whilst under suspension.
- (g) The decisions available to a Disciplinary Panel when considering a Claim of Wrongful Dismissal are as follows:-
 - (i) The claim is rejected - the player or team official serves the standard punishment as set out in this Memorandum.
 - (ii) The claim is rejected and considered frivolous and/or an abuse of process – the Panel will have the discretion to increase the match suspension beyond the standard punishment as set out in this Memorandum.
 - (iii) The claim is successful - the standard punishment as set out in this Memorandum is withdrawn and Section 6(d) will not be invoked in relation to this dismissal if the player or team official is sent-off again following the offence.
- (h) Irrespective of the decision reached, the Disciplinary Panel shall have the discretion to either retain or return the fee submitted and if considered appropriate, make an order for costs against the claimant(s).
- (i) It is important to note that the time limits set out above are strict. Only complete claims submitted before the relevant deadlines will be considered by the Football Association of Wales.
- (j) The decision of the Disciplinary Panel in relation to a Claim of Wrongful Dismissal is final and binding on all parties and not subject to appeal.

6. PUNISHMENTS FOR PLAYERS & TEAM OFFICIALS

- (a) **Caution Offences – League Competitions**
 - (i) The accumulation of a specified number of cautions by a player or a team official in the FAW National Futsal League during a playing season will result in that player or or team official receiving an automatic suspension to be served in the same competition.
 - (ii) The relevant automatic suspension is set out in Appendix 3 for players and Appendix 4 for team officials.

- (iii) The terms of a suspension resulting from an accumulation of cautions for players Will be as set out under the category of a MATCH SUSPENSION (see Section 10).
- (iv) The terms of a suspension resulting from an accumulation of cautions for team Officials will be as set out under the category of a TOUCHLINE SUSPENSION (see Section 10).
- (vi) The player must serve the suspension with the futsal club at which the player/team official holds a valid registration.
- (vii) Any player found to have intentionally received a caution in way to manipulate the commencement of any suspension will be charged under Section E of the Rules and be suspended for a minimum of two (2) matches and be subject to a fine.
- (viii) Where a player is sent off for receiving a second caution in the same match, such cautions shall not be recorded against the player's accumulation of cautionable offences.
- (ix) Any period of suspension arising from an accumulation of cautions which is outstanding at the end of the season will not be carried over to the next season.

(b) Caution Offences – Cup Competitions

- (i) The accumulation of a specified number of cautions by a player or a team official in the FAW National Futsal Cup during a playing season will result in that player or team official receiving an automatic suspension to be served in the same competition.
- (ii) The relevant automatic suspension is set out in Appendix 5 for players and Appendix 6 for team officials .
- (iii) The terms of a suspension resulting from an accumulation of cautions for players will be as set out under the category of a MATCH SUSPENSION (see Section 10).
- (iv) The terms of a suspension resulting from an accumulation of cautions for team officials will be as set out under the category of a TOUCHLINE SUSPENSION (see Section 10).
- (v) The player/team official must serve the suspension with the club at which the they hold a valid registration.
- (vi) Any player/team official found to have intentionally received a caution in a way to manipulate the commencement of any suspension will be charged under Section E of the Rules and be suspended for a minimum of two (2) matches and be subject to a fine,
- (vii) Where a player/team official is sent off for receiving a second caution in the same match, such cautions shall not be recorded against the player/team official's accumulation of cautionable offences.

- (viii) Any period of suspension arising from an accumulation of cautions which is outstanding at the end of the season will not be carried over to the next season.

(c) Sending-Off Offences

- i. A player or team official who is dismissed from the field of play/technical area will be suspended automatically with immediate effect from all Futsal League and Cup competitions, and Open Friendlies, within the same age category as the competition where the sending-off occurred. The suspension will apply until such time as the player or team official has missed the required number of matches played by the team where the sending-off occurred, in Approved Competitions (see Appendix 2).
- ii. The relevant automatic suspension arising from the sending-off offence is set out in Appendix 4 for players and Appendix 5 for team officials.
- iii. The terms of a suspension arising from a sending-off offence for players and team officials will be as set out under the category of a MATCH SUSPENSION (see Section 10).
- iv. A player/team official must serve the suspension with the club at which they hold a valid registration
- v. Where an automatic suspension arising from a sending-off offence remains outstanding at the end of a season it will be carried over to be served in the next season. In these circumstances, a player/team official will be permitted to take part in any Open Friendly prior to the commencement of their team's first competitive match in the new season, at which point the suspension will recommence.

(d) Sending's Off not detailed

- i. Where a team official is dismissed from the Technical Area for a reason not set out in Appendix 5, in addition to the specified automatic one (1) match suspension, the dismissal will be subject for review by a Disciplinary Panel of the Football Association of Wales as set out below.
- ii. The Disciplinary Panel shall have the power to determine:
 - (a) A one Match Suspension shall suffice and there should be no further suspension; or
 - (b) That the standard one Match Suspension is insufficient and the Panel will have the power to increase the Match Suspension.
- iii. The club or team official will not be permitted to submit any evidence for

the Disciplinary Panel's considerations and the matter will be considered solely on the match official(s) sending off report. Should a club require a Disciplinary Panel to consider the validity of the suspension resulting from the sending off, then they must submit a Claim of Mistaken Identity and/or a Claim of Wrongful Dismissal as set out in Sections 4 and 5. In this procedure set out in 6(d), the Disciplinary Panel will only confine themselves to the level of sanction imposed from the dismissal.

- iv. Should a club lodge a Claim of Mistaken Identity then the same Disciplinary Panel will consider the sanction.
- v. Should a club lodge a Claim of Wrongful Dismissal and the claim is rejected as set out under section 5(g)(i) & (ii) and the sending off is subject to section 6(d), then the same Disciplinary Panel will consider the sanction.
- vi. The decision of the Disciplinary Panel in relation to this procedure is final and binding on all parties and not subject to appeal.

(e) **Additional Sendings-off**

Players dismissed from the pitch for a second time in the same Season in a Futsal League or Cup competition, in addition to the automatic suspension applicable to the offence, will be suspended for one extra match.

A player dismissed for a third time in the same Season in a Futsal League or Cup competition, will be suspended for an extra two matches, and so on.

Team officials dismissed from the pitch for a second time in the same Season in a Futsal League or Cup competition, in addition to the automatic suspension applicable to the offence, will be suspended for one extra match.

A team official dismissed for a third time in the same Season in a Futsal League or Cup competition, will be suspended for an extra two matches, and so on.

(f) **Measurement of Suspension**

All suspensions arising from an accumulation of cautions will remain separate and only applicable to that specific Competition

All suspensions from a red card will apply to all Futsal League and Cup competitions, and Open Friendlies.

In addition, where a player/team official receives a suspension (as set out in these Procedures) from a friendly match this must be measured by the player/team official's next match(es) in Futsal League or Cup Competitions, whichever comes first..

(g) **Outstanding Suspensions**

Where an automatic suspension arising from a sending-off remains outstanding at the end of a season, it will be carried over to be served in the next season at the new futsal club at which the player/team official is registered, and measured by the player/team official's new club's next matches in Futsal League or Cup Competitions, whichever comes first.

Where an automatic suspension arising from an accumulation of cautions remains outstanding at the end of a season it will not be carried over to the next season.

(h) Deliberately left blank.

(i) **FAW Rule 38**

In special cases where:-

- (i) a match official's report indicates a serious breach of the Futsal Laws of the Game, or
- (ii) a player commits an act of misconduct and/or a sending-off offence under Law 12 (1), (2), (3), (4), (5) or (6) of the Futsal Laws of the Game whilst on the pitch which is not seen by the match officials but caught on video;
- (iii) a team official commits an act of misconduct and/or a sending-off offence as set out in the Futsal Laws of the Game whilst on the pitch and/or in the Technical Area which is not seen by the match officials but caught on video the Football Association of Wales reserves the right to prefer an appropriate charge of misconduct against the player in accordance with one or more of the provisions under FAW Rule 38.

When dealing with a case under 6(i)(i) hereabove, the Disciplinary Panel may take into account any automatic punishment imposed under the Procedures.

When dealing with a case under 6(i)(ii) or (iii) hereabove, confirmation by the match officials that they did not see the incident in question shall be conclusive evidence of that fact.

(j) **Payment To Players Under Suspension**

Clubs must not pay a player more than their basic wage during the period of a suspension.

(k) **Clubs Imposing Fines**

Clubs may fine players or team officials for on-pitch offences but must notify the Football Association of Wales, without delay, the details of the fine in each case.

(l) **Re-Arranged Matches**

A FAW Disciplinary Panel shall have discretionary power to rule that a match shall not count towards the completion of a suspension if it is satisfied that the game has been arranged by the futsal club with a view to enabling the player or team official to complete their suspension and thus qualify them to play in a specific match. The decision of the Disciplinary Panel in relation to re-arranged matches is final and binding on all parties and not subject to appeal.

(m) **Collection of Administration Fees**

It will be the responsibility of the club to collect the £12.00 administration fee from the players or team officials concerned. Clubs will have 31 calendar days to make the payment for each player's £12.00 administration fee as and when the caution or sending off report is submitted on COMET. Should the club fail to make the payment of the £12.00 administration fee within 31 calendar days, then the player/team official will become ineligible from participating in **any** Association Football and Futsal match until payment is received. The administration fee must be paid on the COMET system, or any other system as prescribed by the Association from time to time.

At the end of the season each club will be required to clear all the £12.00 administration fees on their COMET account by no later than 1st June 2027. A failure to do this will result in an automatic suspension from All Football and Futsal Related Activity for the whole club as and from 2nd June 2027. This suspension will only be removed once payment has been made in full. As soon as the payment is received by the FAW, the club will automatically have this suspension removed with immediate effect.

(n) **Abandoned Matches:**

(i) any caution or sending-off issued in a match which is subsequently abandoned will remain on the record of the player/official irrespective of whether the match is replayed.

(ii) Abandoned matches will not count towards clearing a player/official of a suspension. All matches must be completed for a match to count down the suspension.

(o) **Team(s) Withdrawal from the League:**

(i) where a team withdraws from the League before completing all its matches for the season, all disciplinary sanctions imposed upon any player or official of either side in that team's matches will remain on the record of the player/official sanctioned.

(ii) where a player/team official has served a suspension, any part of which has been counted down by a match against a Club who subsequently withdraw from the League, the match will still count for the purpose of serving the suspension.

8. DISCIPLINARY ACTION ON CLUBS FOR MISCONDUCT BY THEIR PLAYERS AND MATCH OFFICIALS

- (a) The FAW will prefer a charge of misconduct under FAW Rule 38.1.1 against a Futsal club if they receive four or more cautions and sending's off in the same match. The club may be required to appear before a FAW Disciplinary Panel and shall be liable to be warned and/or fined. In addition, the Panel shall be entitled to make an order as to costs against the club.

In accordance with the FIFA Futsal Laws of the Game, the decisions of the Match Official shall be final and will not be reviewed by the FAW Disciplinary Panel.

- (b) The Football Association of Wales reserves the right to prefer a charge against a futsal club at any time during the season arising from pitch offences committed by players of the club.

9. SUSPENSIONS IMPOSED UNDER THESE REGULATIONS

- (a) Unless otherwise ordered by a FAW Disciplinary Panel, Appeals Panel or Independent Arbitration Panel, the terms of the suspensions imposed under these entire regulations will be as set out under the category of a Match Suspension (see section 10). The only exception is where a team official receives a suspension for an accumulation of cautions. In this instance, the category of suspension will be a Touchline Suspension (see section 10).
- (b) Any suspension imposed on a player may only be served whilst the player holds a registration with a futsal club. Should a player transfer or register for a new club prior to the commencement of the suspension or during the period of the suspension, the player will not be eligible to play for their new club until such time as the new club with which the player has transferred to has completed the required number of matches in Approved Competitions.
- (c) Any suspension imposed on a team official may only be served whilst the team official holds a registration with a futsal club. Should a team official transfer or register for a new club prior to the commencement of the suspension or during the period of the suspension, the team official will not be eligible to participate for their new club until such time as the new club to which the team official has transferred, has completed the required number of matches in Approved Competitions.
- (d) The ability of a club to select a player or team official for match on Comet does not negate any suspension, or other matter, under these Procedures. Clubs must keep their own records in respect of cautions and sendings off and any applicable suspension. Clubs and individuals are responsible for familiarising themselves with these Procedures.

10. DEFINITIONS

i. BUSINESS DAY

Any day of the week except a Saturday or Sunday or public bank holiday in Wales.

ii. MATCH SUSPENSION

A Match Suspension is a ban on taking part in a match and on attending it in the area immediately surrounding the field-of-play. A Match Suspension may be imposed on a player or an official.

The area immediately surrounding the field-of-play includes:-

1. The field-of-play.
2. The dressing rooms and their immediate area.
3. The tunnel and/or private way leading from the dressing rooms to the field-of-play.
4. The dugouts, benches and technical areas.
5. The prohibited area in the vicinity of the touchline and goal lines.

The player or official under a Match Suspension is prohibited from contact with match officials, players and club officials, as well as giving any media interviews, before, during and after the match.

A Match Suspension does not prohibit a player or official from attending or taking part in a Closed Friendly Match or a club organised private training session. However, a player or official is prohibited from attending or taking part in an Open Friendly Match, except for a player or team official receiving a suspension from an accumulation of cautions or a sending-off in an FAW Cup Competition who will not be suspended for Open Friendly Matches.

A club who permits a player or an official to attend any ground whilst serving a Match Suspension will be responsible for ensuring the terms of the suspension are adhered to.

iii. TOUCHLINE SUSPENSION

A Touchline Suspension is a ban from any immediate contact with players, club officials and match officials participating in a match for the duration of the match. A Touchline Suspension may be imposed on a player and an official. A Touchline Suspension prohibits an individual from:-

1. Attending the dugouts and technical areas before, during and after the match.
2. Entering the field-of-play and the prohibited area in the vicinity of the touchline and goal lines.
3. Coaching or issuing instructions for the duration of the game.

4. Engaging the match officials whilst they are on the field-of-play or in the tunnel and/or private way leading from the dressing rooms to the field-of-play.

The player or official under a Touchline Suspension is permitted to attend the team changing room pre-match, at half-time and post-match. Furthermore, the individual is permitted to approach the match officials pre-match or post-match whilst they are in their dressing room and provided the match officials are agreeable to the approach.

The FAW is aware that due to the nature of many grounds, the individual under a Touchline Suspension may stand behind the perimeter barrier surrounding the field-of-play but still remain sufficiently close enough to the field-of-play to allow them to continue coaching or issue instructions to the coaching / technical staff. This will be considered as a breach of the Touchline Suspension and will result in the Football Association of Wales preferring charges of misconduct against the club and player or official who is under the suspension.

Where a stand exists within the ground, the Football Association of Wales requires the player or official to sit in the stand away from the field-of-play.

For the duration of the game, a player or official under a Touchline Suspension is NOT PERMITTED to communicate with the coaching / technical staff via radio or other electronic communication and is prohibited from having personal contact with any such persons.

APPENDIX 1

Fees applicable when making a Claim of Mistaken Identity or a Claim of Wrongful Dismissal

The following fees are defined by FAW Rule 43.2.3

For teams playing in:-	£ Fee payable (inclusive of VAT)
The National Futsal League or Cup	150.00

APPENDIX 2

APPROVED COMPETITIONS

(For those clubs whose Team play in the National Futsal League)

The National Futsal League

The National Futsal Cup

APPENDIX 3

Accumulation of Cautions – National Futsal League - Players

Competition in which Caution Accumulated	Number of Cautions Accumulated	Automatic Suspension/Sanction Match Suspension	Competition in which Automatic Suspension applies
National Futsal League	3	1 Match	National Futsal League
	5	1 Match	
	7	1 Match	
	9	1 Match*	

*The player shall also be required to attend a meeting of a Disciplinary Panel to consider any additional sanctions. The same procedure will apply for every further two (2) cautions recorded against a player.

APPENDIX 4

Accumulation of Cautions – National Futsal League – Team Officials

Competition in which Cautions Accumulated	Number of Cautions Accumulated	Automatic Suspension/Sanction Touchline Suspension	Competition in which Automatic Suspension applies
National Futsal League	3	1 Match	National Futsal League
	5	1 Match	
	7	1 Match	
	9	1 Match*	

*The team official shall also be required to attend a meeting of a Disciplinary Panel to consider any additional sanctions. The same procedure will apply for every further two (2) cautions recorded against a team official.

APPENDIX 5

Accumulation of Cautions – National Futsal Cup – Players

Competition in which Cautions Accumulated	Number of Cautions Accumulated	Automatic Suspension/Sanction Match Suspension	Competition in which Automatic Suspension applies
National Futsal League	2	1 Match	National Futsal League
	4	1 Match	
	6	1 Match	
	8	1 Match*	

*The player shall also be required to attend a meeting of a Disciplinary Panel to consider any additional sanctions. The same procedure will apply for every further two (2) cautions recorded against a player.

APPENDIX 6

Accumulation of Cautions – National Futsal Cup – Team Officials

Competition in which Caution Accumulated	Number of Cautions Accumulated	Automatic Suspension/Sanction Match Suspension	Competition in which Automatic Suspension applies
National Futsal Cup	2	1 Match	National Futsal Cup
	4	1 Match	
	6	1 Match	
	8	1 Match*	

*The team official shall also be required to attend a meeting of a Disciplinary Panel to consider any additional sanctions. The same procedure will apply for every further two (2) cautions recorded against a team official.

APPENDIX 7

Sendings Off – Players

SENDING-OFF OFFENCE	AUTOMATIC SUSPENSION	COMPETITION SENDING OFF OCCURRED IN	COMPETITIONS SUSPENDED FROM
Receiving a second caution in the same match.*	1 Match	National Futsal League or National Futsal Cup	National Futsal League and National Futsal Cup and Open Friendlies
Denying a goal or an obvious goal scoring opportunity to an opponent whose overall movement is towards the offender's goal or by handling the ball	1 Match		
i. Offensive, insulting or abusive language/gestures (not towards a Match Official)	2 Matches		
Offensive, insulting or abusive language/gestures towards a Match Official	3 Matches		
Violent Conduct Serious Foul Play Spitting at an opponent	3 Matches		

APPENDIX 8

Sending's Off – Team Officials

Sending-Off Offence	Automatic Suspension	COMPETITION SENDING OFF OCCURRED IN	SUSPENDED FROM
- Receiving a second caution in the same match* - Delaying the restart of play by the opposing team - Using unauthorized electronic or communication equipment and/or behaving in an inappropriate manner as a result of using such equipment	1 Match		
- Deliberately leaving the technical area to: - show dissent towards or remonstrate with a match official - act in a provocative or inflammatory manner - enter the opposing technical area in an aggressive or confrontational manner - Using offensive, insulting or abusive language and/or gestures - Entering the video operation room (VOR) - Entering the field of play to interfere with play, an opposing player or match official - Entering the field of play to confront a match official (including at half-time and full-time)	2 Matches	National Futsal League or National Futsal Cup	National Futsal League and National Futsal Cup and Open Friendlies
- Deliberately throwing/kicking an object on to the field of play - Physical or aggressive behaviour (including spitting or biting) towards an opposing player, substitute, team official, match official, spectator or any other person - Violent conduct	3 Matches		

Any reason not detailed above	1 match (subject to section 6(d) above)		
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