

Standard Range of Penalties for Code of Conduct Offences

The following range of penalties will be used by the Permits and Protests Committee and Tribunal as a guide for first offences.

LEVEL 1 OFFENCES

1.1 Dispute an umpire's decision.

Includes expressions of excessive, obvious disappointment with an umpire's decision or with an umpire making the decision. This does not prohibit the team captain from asking an umpire to provide an explanation for a decision during a break, or anybody from commenting on the umpires' performance in an official complaint.

1.2 Use language that is obscene, offensive or insulting and/or the making of an obscene gesture.

This includes swearing and offensive gestures which are not directed at another person such as swearing in frustration at one's own poor play or fortune. The extent to which such behaviour is likely to give offence shall be taken into account when assessing the seriousness of the breach.

1.3 Unauthorised encroachment onto the court

This includes any person entering the court while the match is in progress which causes a disruption. The extent to which the encroachment causes disruption shall be taken into account when assessing the seriousness of the breach.

1.4 General misconduct

Any act which is deemed to be in breach of the PNA Codes of Conduct and may not necessarily be defined under any other offence.

1.5 Failure to attend a tribunal hearing without reasonable cause when requested to do so.

LEVEL 2 OFFENCES

2.1 Show serious dissent at an umpire's decision.

Dissent should be classified as serious where the dissent is expressed by a specific action such as displays of anger, obscene gestures or abusive language directed at the umpire. Where the alleged offence is committed by more than one member of the team or spectator group, that team's club will be held responsible.

2.2 Engage, or attempt to engage, in dangerous, careless or deliberate physical contact with other players or officials. A player's conduct will be regarded as careless where the conduct is not intentional, but results in another player receiving a significant injury.

Without limitation, players will breach this Rule if they deliberately walk or run into or shoulder or push another player, official or match official, or engage in rough play that is deemed unreasonable in the circumstances.

2.3 Unsportsmanlike behaviour

Without limitation, anyone will breach this rule if they engage in acts that are deliberately intended to gain an unfair advantage to their team or are not in the best interests of the game, including but not limited to time wasting, deliberately delaying the start / restart of the game, spitting at another player/spectator/official or throwing the ball at or near another person in an inappropriate or dangerous manner. Where the alleged offence is committed by more than one member of the team, the captain and/or coach of that team will be held responsible.

2.4 Use language that is obscene, offensive or of a generally insulting nature to another person.

This is language or gestures which are directed at another person. See comments under 1.2 above in relation to the seriousness of the breach.

2.5 Attempt to manipulate a match in regard to the result, including percentage points. The captain and/or coach of any team guilty of such conduct shall be held responsible.

Prohibited conduct under this rule will include incidents where a team plays in such a way as to either adversely affect its own, or improve its opponent's percentage points or grading.

2.6 Playing or coaching while under suspension.

LEVEL 3 OFFENCES

3.1 Intimidate or attempt to intimidate an umpire whether by language or conduct.

3.2 Threaten to assault another player, team official or spectator.

3.3 Negligently or recklessly strike, elbow, trip or kick another player, umpire, official or spectator.

3.4 Engage in conduct which may reasonably be considered to offend, insult, humiliate or discriminate against another person or group of persons on the ground of their race, religion, gender, skin colour, sexual preference, orientation or identity or special ability or disability.
Counselling or education shall be considered as a penalty for a first offence, unless the offence is of a more serious nature.

3.5 Any act of serious misconduct

Any serious act of misconduct that is deemed to be in breach of the PNA Code of Conduct and may not necessarily be defined under any other offence.

LEVEL 4 OFFENCES

4.1 Threaten to assault an umpire.

4.2 Intentionally strike, elbow, trip or kick another player, umpire, official or spectator.

4.3 Engage in any other deliberate act of violence on the court.

Outcome and Penalty

When imposing a fine or penalty, the Permits and Protests Committee or Tribunal may take into account any circumstance it considers relevant, including:

- the age of the person involved;
- the seriousness of the breach;
- the harm caused by the breach;
- the person's seniority and standing in the game;
- the remorse shown by the person and the prospect of further breaches;
- the person's prior record; and
- the impact of the penalty on the person.

Recommended Penalties for Code of Conduct Breaches

The following are recommended penalties for first offences:

- (a) Level 1 – Official reprimand and/or fine of up to \$200 and/or a ban of up to 2 matches
- (b) Level 2 – A suspension of 2 or 3 matches
- (c) Level 3 – A suspension of 3 to 5 matches
- (d) Level 4 – A suspension of 6 or more matches

In imposing a suspension or disqualification, the Permits and Protests Committee or Tribunal may impose that penalty by reference to:

- a number of games in a particular competition or grade, or
- a time-period suspension or disqualification.

Any part of a suspension may be offered as a suspended penalty for a given period of time. Should any person currently serving a suspended penalty be found guilty of a further offence, that suspended penalty is automatically added to any subsequent penalty imposed.