

**TRIBUNAL GUIDELINES**

1. **OVERVIEW**

These guidelines are designed to be used by an umpire, review panel or tribunal in assessing an alleged offence and appropriate sanctions for such an offence.

It should be noted that a Tribunal may determine the appropriate sanction in its absolute discretion.

1. **PROCESS**

The following process should be followed in dealing with a reportable offence:

1. Umpire (or other authorised Official) completes the Report as per the GSFL Constitution/ByLaws
2. The Report is Lodged with the League as per the GSFL Constitution/ByLaws
3. The League (at its absolute discretion) may request

additional information (any video evidence, medical report and other information)

1. League (or Independent Review Person/Panel/Commissioners) may (at its absolute discretion) assess evidence and use these guidelines to determine guilty/not guilty and penalty/sanction &/or request the offence be heard by its Commissioners
2. League notifies Club of guilty/not guilty finding and penalty
3. Club Accepts or Challenges decision
4. Tribunal Hearing held if the Club Challenges the decision (if the Club unsuccessfully challenges the decision the Player will receive the Base Sanction penalty instead of the Early Guilty Plea penalty)
5. All fees & charges levied by the League must be paid (in advance) by the Club as per the GSFL Constitution/ByLaws
6. **REPORTABLE OFFENCES**

Reportable Offences are set out below and can be graded in accordance with the Classification Table contained in the table on the following slide (Conduct | Impact | Contact).

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| **Reportable Offences** |
| Charging |
| Eye-Gouging / Unreasonable or Unnecessary Contact to the Eye Region |
| Forceful Front-On Contact |
| Headbutt or Contact Using Head |
| Kicking |
| Kneeing |
| Rough Conduct |
| Scratching |
| Stomping |
| Striking |
| Tripping |
| Unreasonable or Unnecessary Contact to the Face |

1. **CLASSIFICATION TABLE**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Conduct** | **Impact** | **Contact** | **Base Sanction** | **Early Guilty Plea** |
| Intentional | Severe | All | **Tribunal** | **N/A** |
| High | High/Groin | **Tribunal** | **N/A** |
| Body | **3 Matches** | **2 Matches** |
| Medium | High/Groin | **3 Matches** | **2 Matches** |
| Body | **2 Matches** | **1 Match** |
| Low | High/Groin | **2 Matches** | **1 Match** |
| Body | **1 Match** | **Reprimand** |
| Careless  Reckless  Negligent | Severe | All | **Tribunal** | **N/A** |
| High | High/Groin | **3 Matches** | **2 Matches** |
| Body | **2 Matches** | **1 Match** |
| Medium | High/Groin | **2 Matches** | **1 Match** |
| Body | **1 Match** | **Reprimand** |
| Low | High/Groin | **1 Match** | **Reprimand** |
| Body | **Reprimand** | **Reprimand** |

The Reportable Offences can be graded in accordance with the following table:

\* If a Club **accepts** the decision of the League (or Independent Review Person/Panel/Commissioners) then the Player will receive the Early Guilty Plea penalty.

\* If a Club chooses to **challenge** the decision of the League (or Independent Review Person/Panel/Commissioners) at a Tribunal and is **unsuccessful** then the Base Sanction penalty (as a minimum) will apply, however the Commissioners (at their absolute discretion) may apply a greater penalty/Sanction.

\* A one match additional penalty will be added to the base sanction of a Reportable Offence for a **bad record** (bad record = 1 match suspension in 12 months or 2 match suspension in 24 months).

1. **Conduct (Intentional or Careless)**

***Intentional conduct*:** A Player intentionally commits a Classifiable Offence if the Player engages in the conduct constituting the Reportable Offence with the intention of committing that offence.

For example, a strike will be regarded as Intentional where a Player delivers a blow to an opponent with the intention of striking them.

***Careless conduct*:** A Player’s conduct will be regarded as careless where it constitutes a breach of the duty of care owed by the Player to all other Players. Each Player owes a duty of care to all other Players, Umpires and other persons (as applicable) not to engage in conduct which will constitute a Reportable Offence being committed against that other Player, Umpire or other person (as applicable). In order to constitute such a breach of that duty of care, the conduct must be such that a reasonable Player would not regard it as prudent in all the circumstances. Further, a Player will be careless if they breach their duty to take reasonable care to avoid acts which can be reasonably foreseen to result in a Reportable Offence.

**(b)Impact (Low, Medium, High or Severe)**

In determining the level of impact, regard will be had to several factors.

1. The extent of force and in particular, any injury sustained by the Player who was offended against.
2. Strong consideration will be given to the potential to cause injury.

For example – striking to the head:

* Low Impact: Very minimal force, no laceration and victim player continues to participate in match unaffected
* Medium Impact: Laceration or victim player dazed by contact
* High Impact: Victim player affected for an extended period of time (or takes no further part in match) and/or low-level concussion apparent or indicated post-match
* Severe Impact: Victim player immediately unconscious, serious injury incurred and takes no further part in match

**(c)Contact (High/Groin, Body)**

High contact is not limited to contact to the head and includes contact above the shoulders. Contact to the Groin includes contact to the crease or hollow at the junction of the inner part of each thigh with the trunk together with the adjacent region and including the testicles.

Contact shall be classified as High or to the Groin where a Player's head or groin makes contact with another Player or object such as the fence or the ground as a result of the actions of the offending Player. By way of example, should a Player tackle another Player around the waist and as a result of the tackle, the tackled Player's head made forceful contact with the fence or the ground the contact in these circumstances would be classified as High, even though the tackle was to the body.

1. **DIRECT TRIBUNAL OFFENCES**

Direct Tribunal Offences are those Offences (specified in the table below) which are referred directly to the Tribunal for determination without grading because of the seriousness of the offence.

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| **Direct Tribunal Offences** |
| Attempting to Strike an Umpire |
| Behaving in an Abusive, Insulting, Threatening or Obscene Manner Towards or in Relation to an Umpire |
| Intentional Contact with an Umpire |
| Spitting on Another Person |
| Spitting on or at an Umpire |
| Striking an Umpire |
| Any Classifiable Offence or Low Level Offence which attracts a base sanction that a Panel finds inappropriate |
| Any Other Act of Serious Misconduct which the Panel considers appropriate to refer to the Tribunal |

1. **PLAYER TRIBUNAL RECORD/HISTORY**

*No Reduction for Good Record -* Players will not receive a reduced base sanction for a good record.

*Impact of Bad Record* - A one match additional penalty will be added to the base sanction of a Reportable Offence for a bad record (bad record = 1 match suspension in 12 months or 2 match suspension in 24 months)