

Appendix A: Judicial Guidelines

Purpose

The purpose of this guideline is to assist the Administrators and Judicial Committees to determine appropriate penalties where Suspension Offences occur. This is intended as a guideline only and the decision on penalties **will remain at the discretion of the Judicial Committee at all times.**

Updated penalty regarding the bushman's nose blowing or spitting (COVID-19) mitigating any risk.

For repeated offences in a game by the same player;

First Offence Green Card (2 mins),

Second Offence Yellow Card (10mins)

Third Offence Extended Yellow Card (15 mins)

JG1. PENALTY POINT ACCUMULATION SYSTEM

GCHA has adopted a point accumulation system based on the awarding of coloured cards. Depending on the card issued, and the number of points accumulated, an automatic penalty may be imposed, or a further penalty or suspension may result depending on the decision of the Judicial Committee.

The issuing of a card carries points, which can be awarded by Umpires to any Participant associated with the team during a match (**which is defined as the period covering on-field warm up prior to the start of a match until 30 minutes after the match has ended**).

Note: if an Umpire does not have access to the appropriate coloured card, then verbally stating the nature of the card and the associated suspension is to be considered as a valid mode of delivery of both the card and associated suspension.

Each card will carry penalty points as follows:

Green	2 Points.
Yellow	5 points
Second Yellow	8 Points
Red	Automatic suspension for the remainder of the match and then one (1) fixtured competition round as defined by Rule 2.2.2. The player cannot play in any fixtures in any division (see Rule 2.1.1 for division structure) until the suspension has been completed. In the event of a bye occurring in that competition round, then the suspension will transfer to the following fixtured round. The suspension may be increased if additional sanctions are applied through the outcome of a judicial process. This is in addition to automatic suspension for the balance of the game and remainder of the fixture round in which the suspension was incurred.

Where a red card has been awarded to a Participant, the Judicial Committee may decide a further hearing is required and, if so, the offender is required to attend a hearing. **The Judicial Committee may impose whatever penalty or suspension they consider appropriate, in addition to the automatic suspension of one fixtured round.**

In the case of a card being awarded to the wrong player, or any other situation where the Judicial Committee concludes that a gross error or an injustice has occurred, the Judicial Committee may - after consultation - exercise discretionary power to retract the card and make the appropriate adjustments to the documentation and accumulated point's total.

JG2. LEVEL 1 SUSPENSION OFFENCE:

The penalty for a Level 1 Suspension Offence may be a suspension of the Participant for a minimum of one fixtured round to a maximum of three fixtured rounds.

For the purposes of the Code of Conduct "*Level 1 Suspension Offence*" means:

- a) Verbal abuse or hostility towards any other Participant, person or any other member of the public.
- b) Spitting at another player, participant or spectator.
- c) Disputing/protesting, reacting in a provocative or disapproving manner in an inappropriate way toward any decision made by an Umpire or official.
- d) Charging or advancing towards an Umpire or technical official in an aggressive manner.
- e) Excessive appealing of an Umpire's decision.
- f) Throwing a stick or ball at, or near, a player, Umpire, or official, in an inappropriate and/or dangerous manner.
- g) Lazy or 'bad' tackle that strikes the stick of the opponent in such a way that it is deemed a breach by the Umpire. This equates to repeat offences.
- h) Inappropriate physical contact between players, in the course of play, including barging, pushing or striking.
- i) Using rude or abusive language, or gestures that are considered to be obscene, offensive, or insulting.
- j) Minor sexual harassment, sexual inferences or undertones.
- k) Racial comments, inferences or undertones.
- l) Abuse of hockey equipment or clothing, venue equipment or fixtures and fittings.
- m) Team Managers and/or team personnel not taking control of the conduct of their team bench, dugout area, coaching boxes, video towers and other areas specified by the technical staff to ensure their team and spectator behaviour is appropriate.
- n) Making public statements that are not fair, constructive or reasonable and involve a personal attack on another player, Umpire, appointed official or administrator.
- o) Engaging in social media activities that are not deemed constructive and/or are offensive, demeaning or intending to belittle Participants, or other members of the hockey community.

Table 1 summarises a range of Level 1 Suspension Offences and gives guidance about the number of fixtured rounds that an offender should be stood-down for. Additional considerations should include attitude of the offender, degree of remorse and degree of harm inflicted.

Table 1.

Breach or Misconduct	Length of Suspension		
	<i>1 fixtured round</i>	<i>2 fixtured rounds</i>	<i>3 fixtured rounds</i>
Verbal abuse, protesting, charging/advancing, appealing, stick throwing, rude language and gestures, bad tackles, harassment, equipment abuse, unsporting behaviour	Provoked Without intention to cause harm Evidence of 'mischievous' rather than cruel or nasty	Unprovoked Without responsibility and with no care about impact on other people	Intentional with malice Intended to cause harm, be hurtful or offensive Coming from a distance repeating words and gestures
Spitting (spittle does not connect with target person)	With no intent to spit on another person	Careless and irresponsible	With intent to spit on another person, but unsuccessful
Inappropriate conduct with regard to Manager's responsibilities, public statements and social media activities and postings	'Honest' mistake No harm intended Evidence of naivety or lack of understanding	Without responsibility and with no care about impact on other people	Malicious negligence and unwilling to accept responsibility Intention to be hurtful or demeaning

JG3. LEVEL 2 SUSPENSION OFFENCE:

The penalty for a Level 2 Suspension Offence may be suspension of the Participant for a minimum of three fixtured rounds to a maximum of eight fixtured rounds.

For the purposes of the Code of Conduct “*Level 2 Suspension Offence*” means:

- a) Threat of assault on an Umpire or official.
- b) Spitting on another player, Participant or spectator.
- c) Striking and/or physical assault, without injury, of another player, Umpire, official or spectator.
- d) Persistent and deliberate breach of the Rules of Hockey (generally considered dangerous and intimidating) following a warning from an Umpire.
- e) Using language or gestures which seriously offends, insults, intimidates, threatens, disparages or vilifies another person on the basis of that person’s race, religion, gender, colour, descent or national or ethnic origin.
- f) Sexual harassment, racial abuse or verbal attacks
- g) Participating in, or any involvement with any form of betting or gaming activities, including online betting or gaming activities, related to the event in which they are Participants.
- h) Recurrent breaches of Level 1 Suspension Offence.

Table 2 summarises a range of Level 2 Suspension Offences and gives guidance about the number of fixtured rounds an offender should stand-down for. Additional considerations should include attitude of the offender, degree of remorse and degree of harm inflicted.

Table 2.

Breach or Misconduct	Length of Suspension		
	3 - 4 fixtured rounds	5 - 6 fixtured rounds	7 - 8 fixtured rounds
Threatening, dangerous or intimidating behaviour	Provoked Related to a close contest between opposition players and the ball. Excessive, relentless	Unprovoked Coming from a distance to incite violence Actions result in escalation of incident	Intentional with malice Actions start a brawl or nasty, objectionable scene
Spitting (spittle connects with target person or other persons)	Evidence of frustration or provocation	Unprovoked Malicious	Combined with nasty, hateful, spiteful or repulsive language or gestures
Striking, physical assault (without injury)	Evidence of frustration or provocation	Unprovoked Strike to mid/lower body region such as stomach or legs	Deliberate with intent to harm. Strike to the head region with stick or fist
Foul language, gestures, sexual harassment and racial abuse	Distasteful or unsavoury	Nasty, mean, spiteful or vindictive	Intended to be hurtful or offensive Inciting violence
Inappropriate conduct with regard to betting and/or gaming	‘Honest’ mistake Evidence of naivety or lack of understanding	Deliberate act Irresponsible and negligent	Involved in organised money making activities

JG4. LEVEL 3 SUSPENSION OFFENCE:

The penalty for a Level 3 Suspension Offence may be suspension of the Participant for a minimum of eight fixtured rounds to a maximum of twenty fixtured rounds.

For the purposes of the Code of Conduct “*Level 3 Suspension Offence*” means:

- a) Any act of violence on or off the field of play during the match.
- b) Physical assault causing bodily injury to another player, Umpire, official or spectator.
- c) Match fixing involvement or activities
- d) Recurrent breaches of Level 2 Suspension Offences.

Table 3 summarises a range of Level 3 Suspension Offences and gives guidance about the number of fixtured rounds an offender should stand-down for. Additional considerations should include attitude of the offender, degree of remorse and degree of harm inflicted.

Table 3.

Breach or Misconduct	Length of Suspension		
	<i>8 - 11 fixtured rounds</i>	<i>12 - 16 fixtured rounds</i>	<i>17 - 20 fixtured rounds</i>
Act of violence	Provoked, triggered by on-field incident Actions result in escalation of incident	Unprovoked Actions start a brawl or nasty, objectionable scene	Intentional with malice. Hostile, brutal, vicious, inhumane Incident off field or after being shown a red card
Striking, physical assault (causing injury)	Evidence of frustration or provocation	Unprovoked Strike to mid/lower body region such as stomach or legs	Deliberate with intent to harm. Strike to the head region with stick or fist
Match fixing involvement or activities	Evidence of naivety or provocation or pressure to partake	Choices made to partake without pressuring others to also partake	Involved in organised cartel with intent to influence and/or pressure others to partake

JG5. SERIOUS SUSPENSION OFFENCE:

In the case of serious, highly dangerous, and/or life-threatening offences (“*Serious Suspension Offence*”) more than a maximum of a twenty-fixtured round suspension may be justified. In these cases, the Judicial Committee should consult with the GCHA. In the case of repeat offenders being found guilty of a Level 3 Suspension Offence, a one year through to a life ban may be appropriate.

FOOTNOTE:

For the purposes of clarity any suspension issued either by Red Card and/or by order of the Judicial Committee after appropriate review is defined as meaning the remainder of the fixtured round in which the card is issued and the entirety of the next fixtured round irrespective of division, grade or age group. The player cannot play in any fixtures in any division (see Rule 2.1.1 for division structure) until the suspension has been completed.

A fixtured round for the purpose of suspension is defined as being any match in any division, grade or age group that is played between 9.00am Wednesday and 12.01am Tuesday of the relevant fixtured round in question as per Rule 2.2.2. This also applies to any rescheduled or postponed fixtures where appropriate as defined by the GCHA competitions committee.