

**FDSA POLICY**

**SUBJECT: DISCIPLINE**

Adopted May 2001

**PURPOSE:** To promote appropriate behaviour and conduct within the Laws of the Game, by imposing fair and consistent penalties for infractions.

**DEFINITIONS:** Caution means a yellow card. Ejection means a red card. Season means from June 1 to May 31 of the following year. FDSA match means youth league outdoor matches, tournament matches (indoor, outdoor, home and away), senior league matches in which a youth team is playing, and provincial league matches. Although exhibition games may not be counted towards a match suspension, penalty points and penalties obtained during such games shall still accrue.

**APPLICABILITY:** All FDSA members.

**POLICY:**

The FDSA adheres to Soccer New Brunswick's Code of Fair Play. This Code of Conduct requires a high standard of behaviour from all members, including athletes, coaches, parents, directors, volunteers, staff and chaperones.

The FDSA is committed to providing a sport environment in which all individuals are treated with respect. Members of the FDSA shall conduct themselves at all times in a fair and responsible manner. Members shall refrain from comments or behaviours which are disrespectful, offensive, abusive, racist or sexist. In particular, behaviour which constitutes harassment or abuse will not be tolerated by the FDSA.

- 1.0 All behaviours that contravene the Code of Fair Play shall be dealt with by the Discipline Committee of the FDSA and may also be subject to further action by SoccerNB.

**Penalty Points**

- 2.0 With respect to players being cautioned or ejected while participating in FDSA matches, the following penalty points shall accrue:
- |  |                |
|--|----------------|
| a) First caution in a match (yellow)                           | 2 points       |
| b) Second caution in a match (yellow, yellow, red)             | 5 points total |
| c) Ejection without previous caution (red)                     | 5 points       |
| d) Ejection with unrelated caution in same match (yellow, red) | 7 points       |

**Penalties Imposed**

- 3.0 The following penalties shall be imposed:
- |                                     |                       |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| a) Five to eight points inclusive:  | one match suspension  |
| b) Nine to eleven points inclusive: | two match suspension  |
| c) Twelve points or more:           | five match suspension |
- 3.1 The match referee's report shall constitute the official record for the determination

of penalties assessed;

- 3.2 Suspensions are effective, and shall be served immediately;
- 3.2 Penalty points are not cleared following a suspension (i.e. a player does not start out with a clean slate once the suspension has been served);
- 3.3 Penalty points shall not accrue beyond one season.

### **Discipline Committee Review**

- 4.0 The FDSA's Discipline Committee shall hold a review for any player who has accumulated twelve or more points, and for any player receiving a red card for violent conduct, foul and abusive language directed towards an official, or other serious report of misconduct;
- 4.1 The Discipline Committee may hold further reviews at any time once a player has accumulated in excess of 12 points in a season;
- 4.2 A player shall be notified by telephone of a Discipline Committee review and advised of the date of that review no later than three days prior to the scheduled date for the review;
- 4.3 If the player has a legitimate reason for not attending, and has communicated that reason to the Committee at least 48 hours prior to the review, the Discipline Committee may reschedule the review for another time;
- 4.4 In the event a player called for a review does not attend, and has not provided sufficient reason in accordance with section 4.3, then that player shall accept whatever suspension the Discipline Committee deems necessary;
- 4.5 The Discipline Committee may, in such cases as it considers necessary, impose harsher penalties than those found in section 3;
- 4.6 The purpose of the review shall be to hear the player's explanation of events surrounding accumulation of penalty points, to emphasize to the player the necessity of following the FDSA's code of behaviour, and to determine whether the situation requires additional penalties to be imposed;
- 4.7 The player shall attend the review accompanied by his/her coach and by his/her parents, guardians or other advocates. Match officials or other witnesses may also be requested by the Discipline Committee to attend the review.

### **Appeals**

- 5 A player may make appeal to the Discipline Committee for any penalty points he/she receives, within 24 hours of receiving such penalty points;
- 5.1 A player may make appeal to the FDSA Board for any decision rendered by the

- Discipline Committee, within 24 hours of such decision being communicated to the player. The Board's decision shall be final unless the matter falls within the jurisdiction of SoccerNB in which case, appeal may be made to SoccerNB in accordance with its own rules and procedures;
- 5.2 All appeals shall be in writing, stating the basis for appeal, and accompanied by a cheque in the amount of \$50, which amount shall be refunded to the player if his/her appeal is successful;
  - 5.3 All appeals shall be heard expeditiously.

### **Responsibilities of Coaches**

- 6 The coach or his/her designate shall keep a record of each of his/her players' accumulated penalty points;
- 6.1 The coach is responsible for ensuring that any of his/her players whose accumulated points require a suspension, in accordance with section 3, serve that suspension immediately and provide confirmation of such compliance to the Executive Director of the FDSA;
- 6.2 Any team that breaches this policy by playing a player who should have sat out a given match, forfeits the result if his/her team wins and, in the event that his/her team loses, is automatically accorded a loss in the team's next game; the player concerned shall sit out the next two games;
- 6.3 Any team that breaches this policy shall face sanctions by the Discipline Committee, ranging from an official reminder to fines or expulsion from the league;
- 6.4 Coaches shall report to the FDSA all red or yellow cards issued to their players at away matches within 48 hours of returning home, and shall include these points in their accumulated totals.

### **Indoor Training Sessions**

- 7 The same standards of behaviour are expected for indoor training sessions, as for outdoor;
- 7.1 Indoor coaches shall prepare misconduct reports for serious behaviour infractions and shall forward them immediately to the FDSA office;
- 7.2 Persistent infractions will be dealt with by the FDSA Discipline Committee who may impose such penalties as it sees fit;
- 7.3 Appeals may be made in accordance with section 5.0.