



Approved by the BOM on 24/09/2025

RDCA Discipline and Protests Framework

As of the 24th September 2025 this document supersedes all rules specified in the Competition By Laws for the RDCA Seniors, Womens, Juniors and Veterans Competitions in relation to the handling and adjudication of Protests, Charges and Reports.

Purpose: The following framework is to articulate the process that the RDCA will follow for Investigations, Protests, Tribunal Hearings and Appeal Hearings across all Competitions.

1.0 Lodgement of Protests, Charges and Reports

1.1 A protest, charge or report may be lodged by any member of the RDCA Umpires Panel, any Umpire appointed by an RDCA Committee to act in an official capacity, an affiliated Club (on behalf of Club members) or a member of any RDCA Committee, including the Board of Management (BOM).

1.2 Every protest, charge or report made against a result, club, team, delegate, player, office bearer, umpire or member of any club for improper conduct or misbehaviour shall be forwarded to the Administration Manager and may be referred to the Investigation Officer and/or Tribunal.

1.3 Other than as detailed in item (1.4) below, no such protest, charge or report shall be entertained unless lodged with the Administration Manager (in writing) within 48 hours following the last day of the match giving rise to the protest, charge or report.

1.4 If the protest, charge or report does not arise out of a match, then the incident giving rise to the protest, charge or report can be lodged within five (5) days of the incident.

2.0 Matters referred for investigation

2.1 The Investigation Officer shall investigate any matter referred by a Relevant Committee or the Board of Management.

2.2 On the day of a referral of a matter to the Investigation Officer, the Relevant Committee Secretary, will take all reasonable steps to advise the course of action being taken to all persons/clubs involved.

2.3 The Investigation Officer shall, as soon as possible, and where practicable no later than seven (7) days after the referral date, submit a report to the Relevant Committee Chair and/or their nominee via the Relevant Committee Secretary.

2.4 The Investigation Officer may apply to the Board of Management for an additional seven (7) days to conclude an Investigation. If this extension is approved all parties are to be advised in writing.

2.5 If the Investigation Officer's report recommends laying a charge, the Relevant Committee Chair and/or their Nominee may elect after reviewing the recommendation, to refer the matter to the Tribunal in terms of Rule 3.0 or offer the person charged the alternative of accepting or rejecting an appropriate penalty as defined in Rule 8.3. If the person charged declines to accept the penalty the matter will be referred by the Relevant Committee Chair and/or their Nominee to the Tribunal.

2.6 Where a club or player is found guilty of a charge, or accepts a penalty as a result of the investigation then the cost of the investigation officers' services will be borne by the relevant club or clubs in the form of an equivalent fine.

2.7 Any person failing to comply with a request to be interviewed as part of an investigation or suspected to have provided false or misleading information may be referred to the Tribunal.

3.0 Tribunal Hearings

The Tribunal Secretary shall:

3.1 Forward a statement of any protest, charge or report to be heard by the Tribunal to the persons, club or teams concerned.

3.2 Appoint a time, date and place for the hearing of the protest, charge or report (to be held unless otherwise advised, on Wednesday of the week following the completion of the match in which the protest, charge or report was made); notify the members of the Tribunal, summon all necessary parties including any informant, person, club or team concerned together with any necessary witnesses to attend.

3.3 In all cases, individual(s) appearing before the Tribunal must be accompanied by a Club Representative.

3.4 Full particulars of the procedure to be observed by the Tribunal relating to the hearing of every charge, report or protest is shown in Rule 6.0.

3.5 If any person summoned to a tribunal hearing is unable to attend that hearing for whatever reason, then that person must notify the Relevant Committee Secretary in writing at least 48 hours before the time appointed for the hearing and provide the reason for not being able to attend.

3.6 The Administration Manager shall have the power to adjourn any tribunal hearing to any date and time to be fixed if they consider it is in the best interests of the Association to do so.

3.7 Any player seeking a deferral of a tribunal hearing due to the unavailability of that player to appear before the tribunal is ineligible to play in any grade until the matter is heard by the Tribunal.

4.0 Decision on Protest, Charge or Report

4.1 The Tribunal and/or Appeals Tribunal may impose such penalty by way of disqualification, suspension, fine or otherwise, as it may think fit and not necessarily in accordance with the relevant section penalties schedule. (Suspension terms to be aligned with fixture schedule and encompass complete games).

4.2 Suspensions handed out by any section of the Association will apply across all sections of the competition.

5.0 Report on Decisions of hearings of Protests, Charges or Reports

5.1 The Tribunal shall announce its decision at the conclusion of its hearing.

5.2 The Tribunal shall report its decision in writing as early as possible to the Relevant Committee Secretary, who shall notify the persons or clubs concerned of the decision and report details of the protest, charge or report and the decision, in the most appropriate manner, to members of the Association.

5.3 Within 7 days of the original hearing an aggrieved party (player or Club Secretary on behalf of the player) shall have the right to appeal to the Appeals Tribunal, should they be able to demonstrate that:

- i) Appropriate Rules and / or procedures were not followed by the Tribunal, and/or
- ii) The decision was based on erroneous or previously unavailable evidence, and/or
- iii) The penalty handed down is considered to be too severe, and/or
- iv) There has been a denial of natural justice.

5.4 Any suspensions or penalties shall be advised to VMCU for information and dissemination to VMCU affiliated Associations.

5.5 An aggrieved party may lodge a further appeal through the Relevant Committee to the VMCU in accordance with the rules of that body.

5.6 Within 7 days of the original hearing decision the Association shall have the right to appeal the tribunal decision, should they be able to demonstrate that:

- i) Appropriate Rules and / or procedures were not followed by the Tribunal, and/or
- ii) The decision was based on erroneous or previously unavailable evidence, and/or

- iii) The penalty handed down is considered inappropriate.

This shall be done in writing to the player and club secretary

6.0 Tribunal Procedure

6.1 The Chairperson shall impress on all principals and witnesses the necessity of observing the following condition:

“Any person or persons giving evidence of an untruthful nature to the Tribunal shall, in the case of any player concerned, be disqualified from taking part in any match for such time as the Tribunal shall decide and in the case of any other person shall, on a report to the Relevant Committee by the Tribunal, be dealt with as that body may deem fit”.

- i) The Chairperson shall have the right to call any witnesses as deemed fit.
- ii) The Chairperson shall have the right to consider any supplementary reports and / or information that is considered relevant to the hearing but at all times subject to such reports and / or info

6.2 The Relevant Committee Secretary or hearing Convenor shall read the report. The reported person shall then be asked if the charge is admitted to or denied.

6.3 Should the reported person plead **GUILTY** to the charge, the following procedure must be adopted:

- i) The informant will give particulars of the incident reported.
- ii) The reported person will have the right to clarify any point in the evidence provided by the informant.
- iii) The reported person shall be allowed to make a statement if so desired.
- iv) The informant shall have the right to clarify any point in the evidence of the reported person.
- v) All persons shall then retire, and the Tribunal Panel will arrive at a decision.

6.4 Should the reported person plead **NOT GUILTY** to the charge, the following procedure must be adopted:

- i) The informant will give particulars of the incident reported.
- ii) The informant shall have the right to call any witnesses in support of their report.
- iii) The reported person shall have the right to question the informant and/or the witnesses.
- iv) The reported person may make a statement and shall have the right to call witnesses in support of their statement.
- v) The informant shall have the right to question the reported person and all witnesses.
- vi) At the conclusion, all persons shall retire, and the Tribunal Panel shall arrive at a decision.

6.5 The decision shall be announced in the presence of the informant and the reported person.

6.6 A witness may not leave the room after having given evidence until the conclusion of the hearing of all evidence. A witness may not ask a question or interrupt proceedings at any time.

6.7 If during the consideration of the evidence, the Tribunal Panel desires to recall any witness, such witness shall be questioned in the presence of the informant and the reported person.

6.8 All disqualifications imposed shall commence from and include the first competition match commencing after the hearing and played by the team of which the reported person was a member at the time that the report or charge was made.

6.9 No person shall be represented by a legal practitioner at any hearing without the consent of the chairperson. An advocate may act on behalf of the reported player to determine the facts from the player or players before the Tribunal is assembled and to advise the best way to conduct or present their case. The advocate may cross-examine the informant, reported person or any witness.

6.10 An advocate may act on behalf of the informant(s) to determine the key facts before the Tribunal is assembled and to advise the best way to conduct or present their case. The advocate may cross-examine the informant(s), reported person or any witness.

6.11 Any parties summoned to attend under Rule 3.2 who do not attend a Tribunal hearing after being notified in writing by the Relevant Committee Secretary or hearing Convener, shall be dealt with as shown in paragraph a) above. In the event of a player under the age of 16 years appearing before the Tribunal, a player's advocate may address the Tribunal on the player's behalf and with the Chairperson's permission, the advocate may question witnesses.

7.0 Appeals Tribunal Procedure

7.1 Upon the right to appeal being granted under Rule 5.3, the Relevant Committee Secretary shall notify the appellant and the other party to the original protest, report or charge, in writing of the granting of the right to appeal. The aggrieved party/appellant must within 7 days of receiving notice that the right to appeal has been granted, lodge with the Relevant Committee Secretary, in writing:

- i) a summary of the arguments to be put before the Appeals Tribunal as to why the appeal should be granted, and
- ii) a list of witnesses they intend to call at the appeal.

7.2 All notices given under this Rule shall in the case of a player be given to the player at their address as registered with the RDCA or to their Club Secretary and in the case of the other party to that party at their last known address.

7.3 The Tribunal Secretary shall appoint a time and venue for the hearing of the appeal and notify the parties in writing of the same in the manner set out in Rule 3.2 above.

7.4

i) The Chairperson shall impress on all attendees the necessity of observing the following condition:

“Any person or persons giving evidence of an untruthful nature to the Appeals Tribunal shall, in the case of any player concerned, be disqualified from taking part in any match for such time as the Appeals Tribunal shall decide and in the case of any other person shall, on a report to the Relevant Committee by the Appeals Tribunal, be dealt with as that body may deem fit”.

ii) The Chairperson shall have the right to call any witness as deemed fit.

7.5 The Relevant Committee Secretary or hearing Convener shall read the appeal grounds.

7.6 No person shall be represented by a legal practitioner at any hearing without the consent of the chairperson. An advocate may act on behalf of the reported player to determine the facts from the player or players before the Appeals Tribunal is assembled and to advise the best way to conduct or present the case. The advocate may cross-examine the informant, reported person or any witness.

7.7 No party may leave the room after giving their evidence until the conclusion of the hearing of all evidence. A witness may not ask a question or interrupt proceedings at any time.

7.8 If during the consideration of the evidence the Appeals Tribunal panel desires to recall any witness, such witness shall be questioned in the presence of the appellant.

7.9 The decision of the Appeals Tribunal shall be announced in the presence of the appellant.

7.10 All disqualifications imposed shall commence from and include the first competition match commencing after the hearing and played by the Club of which the reported person was a member at the time that the report or charge was made. In the event of a player under the age of 16 years appearing before the Appeals Tribunal, a player's advocate may address the Appeals Tribunal on the player's behalf and with the Chairperson's permission, they may also question witnesses.

7.11 The Chairperson shall have the right to declare any appeal as being an abuse of the appeals process and should there be such a declaration made, a fine of \$100.00 shall be payable by the club representing the player on appeal.

8.0 Penalties

8.1 An Official Reprimand is defined as a behaviour that is not considered to be so serious as to warrant a higher/specific penalty.

8.2 Any player officially reprimanded over a 12 month period will, in the first instance, be issued with a warning and, should a second instance occur during the term of the official reprimand, be suspended from playing for two (2) matches in which their team is due to participate.

8.3 Where a reported person elects to plead Guilty to a charge or protest, or after reviewing a Report or Charge the Administration Manager may offer an automatic penalty as per the Penalty Schedule set out in Rule 8.3.

8.3 The following schedule is deemed to be the Minimum Penalty applicable to the defined offences:

Offence	Seniors, Womens & Veterans	Juniors
Audible obscenity	Official Reprimand	Official Reprimand
Dissension / Disputing decision	Official Reprimand	Official Reprimand
Sledging or send off	Official Reprimand	Official Reprimand
Wilful disregard of Laws of Cricket, RDCA Rules, umpire(s) instructions	2 Weeks	2 Weeks
Alcohol consumption (player)	4 Weeks	Tribunal
Alcohol consumption (match official)	Tribunal	Tribunal
Equipment Abuse	4 Weeks	2 Weeks
Abusive language – to any player	4 Weeks	2 Weeks
Abusive language – to Umpire	8 Weeks	4 Weeks
Intentional player contact	12 Weeks	6 Weeks
Umpire intimidation	Tribunal	Tribunal
Other reportable incidents	Tribunal	Tribunal

If the misconduct recurs, these penalties may escalate.

8.4 Any player suspended during the season will be deemed ineligible to participate in all competitions / representative matches in any on-field capacity or activity, while play is in progress, for the term of that suspension.

8.5 Any players suspended during the season will be deemed ineligible to qualify for any RDCA awards awarded by the Competition Committee.

8.6 Penalties, whether automatically accepted or imposed at a hearing, will be posted on the RDCA website.

8.7 Where a Club incurs multiple guilty offences within a twelve (12) month period an automatic twelve (12) month good behaviour bond of \$500 will be imposed upon the Club.

9.0 Protests

9.1 Where a protest regarding the result of a match is received the Administration Manager or their Nominee will review the protest and make a determination.

9.2 Where either party involved with the match is unhappy with the determination they may lodge an appeal in writing within 24 hours of receiving the notification. The Administration Manager will then refer the protest to the Tribunal.