

Guelph Soccer Club Discipline & Appeals

Guelph Soccer follows the discipline policies and procedures that are set out by the Ontario Soccer (OS). All coaches, players and team managers are responsible for familiarizing themselves with the OS's Discipline Policy and the South West Regional Soccer Association Policy, which may be found here:

<https://www.ontariosoccer.net/discipline-appeals>

<https://www.swrsa.ca/page/show/3905328-discipline-system>

There are two types of Disciplinary Procedure: Discipline by Review (DBR) and Discipline by Hearing (DBH). Under DBR, the Discipline Committee reviews the information provided by the referee and imposes the appropriate and mandated penalty under the standard penalties for misconduct set out in the OSA Discipline Policy. Under DBR, none of the parties is required to attend and there are no appeals of DBR decisions made by the Discipline Committee. However, any player subject to discipline has the right to elect to proceed by DBH.

Guelph Soccer does not have scheduled hearing dates and due to its relatively low number of disciplinary cases, the Club chooses to administer discipline using the DBR system. This means that for matters where DBR is permitted, Guelph Soccer will proceed using DBR. The Club's default option is that there is no scheduled hearing for certain types of offences and the penalty is automatically applied in accordance with OS policies. However, there are at least three circumstances in which the DBH system may be used instead:

(1) OS has mandated some more serious offences may only be administered using the DBH procedure. Where this is the case, the Discipline Committee will inform the accused of the necessity of a hearing as soon as possible and give the accused proper notice of the hearing.

(2) The Discipline Committee reserves the right to choose to proceed via DBH if it believes that it is necessary to hold a hearing. These circumstances may exist for off-the-field matters and, for example, when the Discipline Committee determines a more serious charge is warranted for an on-field matter after reviewing further information provided by the referee.

(3) Players, coaches and team managers always have the right to choose to proceed via DBH. However, in order to exercise this right, the request for a hearing must be made in writing by the person subject to discipline and must be received by Guelph Soccer within three days of the occurrence of the incident/misconduct. Fees must

also be paid (see below). The request must be in writing, either sent to the club, faxed to the office or emailed to discipline@guelphsoccer.ca.

Guelph Soccer wishes to emphasize that requests in writing for a discipline hearing must be made within three days (72 hours) of the date of the offence. This three-day period includes Saturdays and Sundays and, in accordance with OS rules, cannot be extended. If the request for a hearing is not made within this time period, the disciplinary matter will be addressed using DBR. In some cases, this may mean that the request for a discipline hearing is made by an accused before Guelph Soccer receives the report from a referee and knows that disciplinary action must be taken. Nevertheless, OS rules stipulate that there is a three-day limitation period and it is the responsibility of players, coaches and team managers to be aware of these regulations.

The written request for a hearing should be accompanied by a "Request for a Hearing fee" of \$50.00, which may be paid in cash, by cheque or credit card, to Guelph Soccer. This fee can be paid at the same time as the request for a hearing is made and must be paid at least two days before the date scheduled for the hearing. If the accused person is subsequently found to be not guilty of the charge by the Discipline Hearing panel, this \$50.00 fee will be refunded.

In setting a date for a hearing, the parties involved are given at least 15 days notice. Under DBH, the accused must attend and may attend with one other adult who may act as an adviser. An adult must accompany an accused under the age of 18 years. If no adult accompanies an accused under 18, the hearing cannot proceed and the accused will be suspended from all soccer-related activities until a hearing can take place. If the accused does not appear at the hearing, the hearing will not proceed, the accused will be fined in accordance with the "Schedule of Fees, Fines, Bonds, and Penalties" published by the OS and SWRSA and the accused will be suspended from all soccer-related activities until he or she requests and attends another hearing. Any party required to attend a hearing may request one postponement of a hearing. This request must be submitted in writing to Guelph Soccer by receipted post, receipted email, fax or receipted hand delivery no less than four days prior to the date of the hearing. The request must also state the reason for the postponement.

Please note that DBH decisions **may** be appealed to the District Association. However, DBR decisions **may not** be appealed.

The Discipline Committee for DBR or DBH within the Club is generally comprised of Members of Guelph Soccer. The Chair of the Committee will be certified as a Discipline Chair by the District and OS. Information about the Discipline Committee will also be published on the Club's website.

Penalties and suspensions will be issued in accordance with the OS Discipline Policy.

DISCIPLINE PROCEDURE

Guelph Soccer will discipline all players who receive a red card, or three or more yellow cards in a season. However, apart from three types of offences, it should be emphasized that players who receive a red card (or three or more yellow cards) are permitted to continue to play for their teams until the decision of the Discipline Committee is communicated to them. There is no automatic suspension. However, there are three types of offences where there is an immediate ban from all soccer-related activities until a DBH has been convened. These are:

- Game Official assault
- Physical or attempted physical assault of a youth player by a team official or administrator (reported by the Game Official)
- Offences of Moral Turpitude
- Missed Discipline Hearing: If the accused fails to attend a Discipline Hearing in which they were required to attend.

The Program Manager is responsible for keeping track of any cards issued by referees in the Club's House Leagues (including Adult leagues) and for any special incidents. The Club Head Referee works closely with the Program Manager to ensure that all written reports from referees are received promptly and acted upon by the Club.

Guelph Soccer's Discipline Committee aims to review incidents within three business days of receiving a referee's report or a written complaint about the behaviour of a player or team official associated with Guelph Soccer. As noted above, this means that Guelph Soccer may not receive the referee's report until a number of days after the incident has occurred. Nevertheless, even if the Club has not yet received the report from the referee, the onus is still on the player and/or team official to request a hearing within 72 hours of the incident occurring. If the discipline matter comes to light due to a written complaint received by the Club, the 72 hours for the player/team official to request a hearing begins when Guelph Soccer notifies the accused of the complaint.

The review of the incident is done by an OS certified Discipline Chair and at least one (but preferably two) other Discipline Committee member(s) in person, via email or by telephone.

The Discipline Committee reviews the information that the Club has received (e.g. game sheet, referee's report), and if the information is sufficient, the mandatory suspension, as specified by the OSA's Discipline Policy, is imposed. If the Discipline Committee determines that more serious or further charges are required, the matter will be referred to the DBH system.

When the Discipline Committee renders a decision, it shall be communicated in writing to the affected player (including the player's coach and team manager if the player is 18 years of age or older), to the Program Manager at Guelph Soccer and/or to the appropriate team official. The dates of any suspension will be specified. If the player is an adult, the communication will also be sent to the adult team's captain.

Some of the most common penalties for misconduct can be found below. OS mandates these penalties. In the event of a discrepancy between this document and OS's policies, the OS's policies will take precedence.

PLAYER

1.3	Third caution in a season	1 game
1.5	Fifth caution in a season	2 games
1.6	Sixth caution in a season	3 games
1.13	Two cautions in a game, neither for actions directed against game officials	1 game - 1 st offence in a season 3 games - 2 nd offence in season
1.14	Two cautions in a game, at least one for actions directed against game officials	2 games - 1 st offence in a season 4 games - 2 nd offence in a season
1.15	Dismissed for language or gestures not directed at game officials	1 game - 1 st offence in a season 3 games - 2 nd offence in a season
1.16	Dismissed for language or gestures directed at game officials	3 games - 1 st offence in a season 8 games - 2 nd offence in a season
1.18	Dismissed for denying a goal with a hand ball	1 game - 1 st offence in a season 2 games - 2 nd offence in a season
1.18A	Dismissed for denying a goal by an offence punishable by a free or penalty kick	2 games - 1 st offence in a season 4 games - 2 nd offence in a season
1.19	Dismissed for serious foul play	2 games - 1 st offence in a season 4 games - 2 nd offence in a season
1.20	Dismissed for spitting at someone other than a game official	4 games - 1 st offence in a season 8 games - 2 nd offence in a season
1.21	Dismissed or reported for violent conduct	3 games - 1 st offence in a season 6 games - 2 nd offence in a season

TEAM OFFICIALS

2.13	Persisting in misconduct after receiving a warning for misconduct for which neither was directed towards a game official	1 game - 1 st offence in a season 3 games - 2 nd offence in a season
2.14	Persisting in misconduct after receiving a warning for misconduct for which one was directed towards a game official	2 game - 1 st offence in a season 5 games - 2 nd offence in a season
2.15	Use of offensive, abusive or insulting language, directed at anyone other than a game official	2 games - 1 st offence in a season 5 games - 2 nd offence in a season

Discipline of Parents

OS does not allow clubs to discipline those who are not deemed to be "registrants" of OS - i.e. those who have not registered for its programs - through the OS's Discipline policies and procedures (above).

Nevertheless, the Discipline Committee of Guelph Soccer reserves the right to take action against parents for breaches of the Parent's Code of Conduct or Guelph Soccer's Harassment policy and/or Zero Tolerance policy. Such action could include, but is not limited to, requesting that the parent (and/or his or her child) does not attend a specified number of matches or practices, requesting that the parent writes a letter of apology, or, in extreme circumstances, requesting that the parent and/or his or her child does not take any part in activities organized by Guelph Soccer for a specified period.

If a written complaint about the behaviour of a parent is received, a certified Discipline Chair and at least one other Discipline Committee member will review the complaint. If the Discipline Review Panel determines that the misconduct is serious and deserves further investigation, the Panel will seek the views, in writing, of the parent concerned. The Discipline Review Panel will then determine whether to refer the matter to a Discipline Committee for a full hearing.

It is anticipated that such action will be used very sparingly but Guelph Soccer reserves the right to issue these penalties against parents as part of its ability to control its process. Guelph Soccer recognizes that the support of soccer parents is vital to its success and consequently, it is anticipated that the discipline of a parent by Guelph Soccer will be in exceptional circumstances.