

NORTHERN ROVERS FOOTBALL CLUB



MISCONDUCT & SERIOUS INCIDENTS REGULATIONS APPROVED 17th MAY 2021

CONTENTS

SECTION	PAGE
1) INTRODUCTION	1
2) PURPOSE	1
3) BREACH OF CLUB RULES	1
4) SERIOUS INCIDENT SEND OFF CODES	1
5) OTHER SERIOUS INCIDENTS	2
6) LAW ENFORCEMENT	3
7) APPEALS AGAINST NRF/NZF SANCTIONS	4
8) APPEALS	4
CLUB RULES-ESTABLISHING REGULATIONS & BYLAWS	APPENDIX 1
SERIOUS INCIDENT – SEND OFF CODES	APPENDIX 2
CLUB RULES-MISCONDUCTS & DISPUTES	APPENDIX 3
DOCUMENT TRACKING	APPENDIX 4

1) INTRODUCTION

- a) It is the responsibility of the members of the Board of Northern Rovers Football Club Incorporated (NRFC) to *“take all such steps as shall be deemed necessary or advisable for preventing infringements of the Laws of the Game or other improper methods or practices in the Game and for protecting the Game from abuses”* (Rule3.6).
- b) These regulations have been established by the Board in accordance with the Rules (Appendix 1).

2) PURPOSE

- a) The purpose of these Regulations is to
 - i) Identify misconducts & incidents that are deemed to be serious;
 - ii) The process for investigating and managing such incidents; and
 - iii) The range of sanctions.
- b) These Misconduct & Serious Incident Regulations supersede all previous Misconduct & Serious Incident Regulations.

3) BREACH OF CLUB RULES

- a) The process for investigating and penalties for any breach of the Club Rules is set out in Rule 29 (Appendix 2).

4) SERIOUS INCIDENT SEND OFF CODES

- a) The Serious Incident Send Off Codes are set out in Appendix 3.
- b) If any representative of NRFC is sanctioned under the Send Off Codes listed in Appendix 3 NRFC will give its full cooperation to the Federation, NZF and any other parties, including Law Enforcement and provide any relevant video, audio, documentation or other supporting materials.
- c) **Failing to cooperate** - If any representative of NRFC fails to cooperate fully with the Federation, NZF or any other party, or in the opinion of the Board Chair, Deputy Chairs & General Manager is not cooperating in a timely manner the matter will be addressed under Regulation 4e.

- d) **Fines** – Any individual, including National League & LOTTO NRFL players, fined by the Federation, or NZF for an incident involving a Send Off Code listed in Appendix 3 shall be personally responsible for paying the fine, and any late payment fees, in full. Individuals will be suspended from representing NRFC until such time as all outstanding monies have been paid. This includes “*red flagging*” individuals at the conclusion of the season to prevent a transfer to another club.
- e) **Additional Sanctions** - Board Chair, Deputy Chairs and General Manager may, at their sole discretion, and considering the circumstances of the incident, the record of the individual and the team involved, determine any additional sanctions. Such sanctions include but are not limited to suspension from representing NRFC, fines, good behaviour bonds, assisting in Club events & programmes. All sanctions will be communicated by the General Manager in writing.
- f) **Cessation of Membership** - In the event the Board Chair, Deputy Chairs and General Manager recommend that an individual shall cease to be a Member of NRFC this will be referred to the Board and Rule 11 (Cessation of Membership) will apply.

5) OTHER SERIOUS INCIDENTS NZF DISCIPLINARY CODE

- a) If the Board or General Manager is made aware of a Serious Incident, other than those identified under Regulation 4, involving a spectator or other person associated with NRFC, the Board will report the incident to Northern Region Football and use its best endeavours to investigate, resolve the incident as well as apply & enforce any sanction.
- b) Other Serious Incidents will be reported to Northern Region Football to be investigated in accordance with the NZF Disciplinary Code. These include, but are not limited to; violent conduct e.g., elbowing, punching, kicking, biting, spitting, hitting, etc; intimidating or threatening behaviour, offensive, insulting, abusive language and/or gestures including racist, and homophobic slurs and insults, deliberately endangering themselves or others, deliberately cheating when acting as a match official.
- c) If any representative of NRFC is sanctioned under the NZF Disciplinary Code NRFC will give its full cooperation to the Federation, NZF and any other parties, including Law Enforcement and provide any relevant video, audio, documentation or other supporting materials.
- d) **Failing to cooperate** - If any representative of NRFC fails to cooperate fully with the Federation, NZF or any other party, or in the opinion of the Board Chair, Deputy Chairs & General Manager is not cooperating in a timely manner the matter will be addressed under Regulation 5f.

- e) **Fines** – Any individual, including National League & LOTTO NRFL players, fined imposed by the Federation, or NZF for an incident under the NZF Disciplinary Code shall be personally responsible for paying the fine, and any late payment fees, in full. Individuals will be suspended from representing NRFC until such time as all outstanding monies have been paid. This includes “*red flagging*” individuals at the conclusion of the season to prevent a transfer to another club.
- f) **Additional Sanctions** - Board Chair, Deputy Chairs and General Manager may, at their sole discretion, and considering the circumstances of the incident, the record of the individual and the team involved, determine any additional sanctions. Such sanctions include but are not limited to suspension from representing NRFC, fines, good behaviour bonds, assisting in Club events & programmes. All sanctions will be communicated by the General Manager in writing.
- g) **Sanctions** - Board Chair, Deputy Chairs and General Manager will, at their sole discretion, and considering the circumstances of the incident, the record of the individual and the team involved, determine any additional sanctions. Such sanctions include but are not limited to a warning, ban from attending NRFC events & programmes including matches involving NRFC Teams (home & away), suspension from representing NRFC, fines, good behaviour bonds, assisting in Club events & programmes. All sanctions will be communicated by the General Manager in writing.
- h) **Cessation of Membership** - In the event the Board Chair, Deputy Chairs and General Manager recommend that an individual shall cease to be a Member of NRFC this will be referred to the Board and Rule 11 (Cessation of Membership) will apply.

6) LAW ENFORCEMENT

- a) If any incident, perpetrated by or to any representative of NRFC, including National League & LOTTO NRFL players, is criminal in nature NRFC will:
 - i) Encourage, and support as appropriate, the reporting of the incident to the Police; and.
 - ii) Cooperate fully with any subsequent investigation.
- b) If any representative of NRFC, including National League & LOTTO NRFL players, is subsequently charged with an offence, because of a Serious Incident, their Membership of NRFC will be immediately suspended.
- c) If any representative of NRFC, including National League & LOTTO NRFL players, is subsequently found guilty, because of a Serious Incident, their Membership of NRFC will be immediately referred to the Board with a recommendation to revoke their Membership under Rule 11 (Cessation of Membership).

7) APPEALS AGAINST NRF & NZF SANCTIONS

- a) All costs associated with an appeal against any sanction imposed by NRF or NZF will be met by the individual, including National League & LOTTO NRFL players.
- b) The club will not support any appeal where the individual, including National League & LOTTO NRFL players, has admitted the offence or where there is not irrefutable evidence to prove the decision is incorrect. For the avoidance of doubt disagreeing with the severity of a sanction does not constitute grounds for the club to support an appeal.
- c) The Club will only support an appeal where there is a case of mistaken identity, an error in the Laws of the Game or irrefutable evidence is provided proving the decision is incorrect.

8) APPEALS

- a) Any decision made under these Regulations may be appealed to the Federation within 10 days of receipt of notification.:

**APPROVED & ADOPTED BY THE BOARD OF NORTHERN ROVERS FOOTBALL CLUB
INCORPORATED AT MEETING #006 ON 17th May 2021.**



John Limna
Chair

Date: 18th May 2021

CLUB RULES-ESTABLISHING REGULATIONS & BYLAWS

The following summarises the Rules of Northern Rovers FC which are directly relevant to the establishment of Regulations & Bylaws. This list is not exhaustive and meant to serve as a guide only.

1. INTERPRETATION

Regulations and Bylaws: means any Regulations and Bylaws of the Club made under Rule 5.2.

3. OBJECTS

The objects for which the Club is established are to:

3.4 Promote a high standard of play, training, development, and performance within the Game.

3.5 Make, adopt, vary and publish the rules, regulations, by-laws and any other conditions required by NZF and the Federation and to take all such steps as shall be deemed necessary or advisable or required by NZF or the Federation for enforcing such rules, regulations and by-laws.

3.6 Take all such steps as shall be deemed necessary or advisable for preventing infringements of the Laws of the Game or other improper methods or practices in the Game and for protecting the Game from abuses.

3.7 Provide means for, and to endeavour to, decide and settle all differences that may arise between Members or involving Members in relation to Football including in relation to due compliance with the Laws of the Game and to make such provisions for enforcing any award or decision as NZF or the Federation (as the case may be) shall deem proper.

5. GENERAL POWERS

5.1 General Powers

The Club shall have all powers generally exercisable by and/or available to an Incorporated Society under the laws of New Zealand including without limiting the foregoing all powers necessary or desirable for the attainment of its objects but subject in all cases to these Rules and to NZF and Federation rules and policies.

5.2 Power to make Regulations and Bylaws

The Club shall have the power to make, adopt, vary and publish Regulations and By-laws, but not inconsistent with these Rules or with any NZF or Federation rule or policy, which it may consider necessary or expedient for the purposes of carrying out its duties.

6. FIFA AND THE LAWS OF THE GAME

6.1 NZF is a member of FIFA and is recognised by FIFA as the controlling authority for Football in New Zealand.

6.2 The Laws of the Game shall be the laws, statutes and rules as set down and interpreted from time to time by FIFA (subject to any variations required for New Zealand as determined by NZF from time to time). The Laws of the Game shall be observed by the Club and by all Members and all matters relating to the Game in New Zealand shall be carried out in accordance with these laws as determined, interpreted and added to by NZF or the Federation.

7. RELATIONSHIP TO FEDERATION AND NZF

7.1 The Club shall become and remain a member of the Federation and shall adopt and retain as its rules and policies any rules and policies which may be prescribed for that purpose by NZF and the Federation and shall be bound by and comply fully with and conduct its affairs in accordance with such rules and policies.

7.2 These Rules shall be altered, added to or rescinded or otherwise amended when required by NZF or the Federation. Any such requirement for change shall be by way of NZF or Federation regulation and upon promulgation the Club shall immediately cause the required amendments to be prepared (if not supplied) and filed with the Registrar of Incorporated Societies and the change shall be deemed to have been adopted therefrom without any further action or process being required.

SERIOUS INCIDENT – SEND OFF CODES

SEND OFF CODES-PLAYERS		SEND OFF CODES-TEAM OFFICIALS	
R2	(8.1-b) for offensive, insulting, abusive language and/or gestures towards an opponent or a person other than a Match Official.	R2	(8.1-b) for offensive, insulting, abusive language and/or gestures towards an opponent or a person other than a Match Official.
R7	(8.1-h) for Violent Conduct – e.g., elbowing, punching, kicking, biting, spitting, hitting, etc., an opponent or a person other than a Match Official.	R7	(8.1-h) for Violent Conduct – e.g., elbowing, punching, kicking, biting, spitting, hitting, etc., an opponent or a person other than a Match Official.
R8	(8.1-i) for offensive, insulting, abusive language and/or gestures towards a Match Official.	R8	(8.1-i) for offensive, insulting, abusive language and/or gestures towards a Match Official.
R9	(8.1-j) for intimidating or threatening a Match Official.	R9	(8.1-j) for intimidating or threatening a Match Official.
R10	(8.1-k) for Violent Conduct against a Match Official, e.g., elbowing, punching, kicking, biting, spitting, hitting, etc.	R10	(8.1-k) for Violent Conduct against a Match Official, e.g., elbowing, punching, kicking, biting, spitting, hitting, etc.
R12	(10.1) Commits a sending off offence having already been sent off.	R12	(10.1) Commits a sending off offence having already been sent off.

SEND OFF CODES-PLAYERS		SEND OFF CODES-TEAM OFFICIALS	
		R13	<p>(11.1) Behaving in an irresponsible manner (including but not limited to)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Physical or aggressive behaviour towards an opposing Player, substitute, Team Official, spectator or any other person b) Entering the field of play to; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Confront an official; ii. Interfere with play or an opposing player; c) Deliberately leaving the Technical Area to; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Show dissent towards or remonstrate with a Match Official; ii. Act in a provocative or inflammatory manner; iii. Entering the opposing Technical area in an aggressive or confrontational manner; d) Deliberately throwing/kicking an object onto the field of play; e) Delaying the start of play by the opposing team; f) Using an unauthorised electronic or communication equipment and/or behaving in an appropriate manner as a result of using electronic or communication equipment.

Source: NZF Disciplinary Code, Approved by the NZF Executive Committee on 28th February 2021

CLUB RULES-MISCONDUCTS & DISPUTES

29.1 Where it is alleged that any Member has been guilty of any breach of these Rules, then, the Board shall have power to investigate such alleged offence and if the offence is proved, impose such penalty or penalties in accordance with the Rules of the Game, NZF or Federation rules and regulations, FIFA rules and regulations or these Rules.

29.2 When any meeting of the Board is held for the purpose of considering any matters referred to in Rule 29.1 hereof, the Member or Members concerned shall be given at least 10 days' notice in writing of that meeting, any such notice to contain full particulars of the relevant allegations and that Member or Members shall be entitled to be present and be represented and to respond at that meeting. The decision of the Board shall be supplied in writing to the Member or Members concerned within ten days of the conclusion of the relevant meeting.

29.3 The penalties which may be imposed by the Board in accordance with this Rule (subject to appeal to the Federation) shall include any one or more of the following namely, expulsion, or suspension from the Club, a fine or a reprimand.

29.4 The effect of suspension for any period shall be that the Member may not during the period of suspension take part in the Game, nor be in any way connected with the administration of the Game in any capacity whatsoever within the Club.

29.5 Any Member shall have the right of appeal to the Federation against any decision of the Board made under this Rule by the serving of a written notice on the Club setting out the grounds for appeal, any such notice to be served on the Club within 10 days of the Board's decision being made available to the Member. Any such appeal shall be dealt with in accordance with such regulations as the Federation may from time to time promulgate for the purpose.

30. DISPUTES

Any dispute that any Member may have with NZF or the Federation or with another Member concerning the Laws of the Game or these Rules shall be dealt with pursuant to the rules of the Federation or NZF as the case may be.

DOCUMENT TRACKING

DATE	UPDATE	AUTHOR	REVIEWED BY	BOARD APPROVAL
22 nd April 2021	Version 1	John Limna – Chair	Deputy Chairs & General Manager	#006 17 th May 2021
31 st March 2022	Next Review Due			

This document is to be Reviewed Annually upon NZF releasing the NZF Disciplinary Code.