

ANU Summer 9s Disciplinary Policy

Our aim is to provide a safe, inclusive, and enjoyable football experience for all participants. This policy sets out how on-field behaviour and disciplinary matters are managed.

1. Code of Conduct

All players, team officials, and spectators must:

- **Respect referees, opponents, and teammates** at all times.
- **Play in the spirit of the game:** fair, safe, and fun.
- **Avoid abusive, discriminatory, or threatening behaviour**—zero tolerance applies.
- **Follow competition rules and referee instructions** without argument.
- **Promote inclusivity and sportsmanship** on and off the field.

Failure to uphold this Code may result in disciplinary action, including suspension or expulsion.

2. Player Eligibility

- **Players must be listed on the official match card to participate.**
 - If an unlisted player commits a disciplinary offence, **their team will forfeit its place in the competition.**
 - If a team plays an unlisted player, or plays in an ineligible player as per the Competition Rules, **the team may forfeit its place in the competition.**
-

3. Card System & Sanctions

- **Yellow Card** = 5-minute sin bin (team plays short).
 - **Red Card** = Immediate dismissal + **automatic 1-week ban.**
 - **Two Yellow Cards in the same season = 1-week ban.**
 - **Two Red Cards in the same season = expulsion from the competition.**
 - **If you are found to be playing while suspended, your team will forfeit its place in the competition.**
 - **1-week ban and expulsion are inclusive of all ANU Summer 9s competitions you may be a part of.**
-

4. Table of Common Offences (Aligned with IFAB Guidelines)

Offence	Card
Unsporting behaviour (e.g., reckless tackle)	Yellow
Dissent by word or action	Yellow
Persistent infringement of the Laws	Yellow
Delaying the restart of play	Yellow
Entering/re-entering the field without permission	Yellow
Denying an obvious goal-scoring opportunity by handling	Red
Serious foul play	Red
Violent conduct	Red
Spitting at an opponent or any person	Red
Using offensive, insulting, or abusive language/gestures	Red

5. Incident Management

- All red/yellow card offences will be taken on the reports of the referee.
- Match bans are at the discretion of the competition organisers.
- There is no appeal process or witness statements sought for yellow cards or match bans.
- Witness statements will only be collected for incidents being considered for expulsion (individual or team).

6. Expulsions

- The organising committee may choose to expel an individual or team from the competition for serious or repeated breaches.
- Any decision to expel will be at the discretion of the competition organisers. Reason for expulsion will be provided but there is no fixed threshold to be met.
- Expulsion decision may be appealed as per Item 7.

7. Appeals

- The appeals process applies only to individual or team expulsion.
- Appeals will be heard by a panel of 3 members drawn from the executive of both ANU clubs.

- You will:
 - Be given the evidence against you.
 - Be invited to make a written submission.
 - Be invited to attend a hearing with the appeals board to answer questions.
 - While the appeals process is underway, you remain suspended from all competition matches.
 - The panel's decision is final.
-

8. Team Responsibility

- Teams are accountable for their players' behaviour.
- Repeated poor conduct may result in team sanctions, including removal from the competition.