Club Citing

Eligibility & Process

- A Club can cite a Player or Official for a **Reportable Offence** if they have evidence and the Umpire has not reported the offence.
- **Deadline:** *Notice of Citing- Part A* must be lodged by 5:00 PM on the next business day after the Match. *Notice of Citing- Part B* must be submitted by 5.00pm on the second business day following Part A for the citing to be formalised and reviewed.
- **Extensions:** May be granted if a request is submitted before the deadline with **exceptional circumstances**.

Types of Reportable Offences

A Club can cite for:

1. **Classifiable Offences** with a **Base Sanction of at least three (3) matches**.
    a. If the Match Review Panel grades the offence lower, the Citing may be dismissed.
2. **Direct Tribunal Offences**.

Grading & Evidence

- **Match Review Panel** has full discretion over the grading.
- **Medical evidence** is strongly considered. If there is no medical evidence to support the Club's impact grading, the MRP may determine a lower grading.
- If the MRP establishes the incident has a base sanction of less than three (3) matches, they may dismiss the Citing.
- Clubs should refer to **Appendix 1** in the *National Community Football Policy Handbook*:
    - **Table 1:** Classifiable Offences
    - **Table 3:** Impact Guidelines
    - **Table 4:** Direct Tribunal Referrals
    - **Table 7:** Auditory Offences
    - **6(c):** Interpretative Provisions of Auditory Offences

Required Evidence

- **Acceptable Evidence:**

    - **Written statements** (use witness statement template)
    - **Medical evidence** (e.g., hospital discharge statements)
    - **Photographic evidence**
- **Unacceptable Evidence:**
    - **Names/contact details** of potential witnesses without statements
    - **Third hand statements**- witnesses should have directly observed the incident

Investigation & Fees

- Controlling Body **reviews submitted evidence** but does **not** reach out to witnesses.
- **Separate Notice of Citing Part A & B required for each incident**.
- **Fee:** $500 per Notice (refundable if the charge is upheld).
- **Notification and Response:** Controlling Body informs the reported Player's/Official's Club once a *Notice of Citing- Part A* is submitted, and provides the reported Player/Official's Club a right of response prior to MRP determination.
- **Follow-Up:** Process continues as per an **Umpire Report (Notice of Charge)**.

Notice of Complaint

What is a Notice of Complaint?

A **Policy Breach** occurs when a Party violates AFL policy, including:

- **National Community Football Policy Handbook**
- **League Rules (AFL NSW/ACT and/or League)**
- **AFL Codes of Conduct** (General, Coaches, etc.)
- **Other relevant policies (see Rule 6.4)**

A **Party** can be a:

- Club, Coach, Official, Player
- Club Member, Parent/Guardian
- Match Spectator or any person involved in Australian Football

Complaint Submission

- **If against a Club, Official, Player, Parent/Guardian, or Supporter:** Submit to the **Controlling Body**.

- **If against a League or League Official:** Submit to the **Executive Officer of AFL NSW/ACT** or their representative.
- **Deadline:** 5:00 PM on the third calendar day after the incident.
- **Extensions:** Allowed only for exceptional and compelling circumstances (lack of evidence is **not** a valid reason).

Complaint Review & Actions

Once received, the **Controlling Body** will:

1. **Notify** the offending Club.
2. **Review all evidence** submitted.
3. Take one or more of the following actions:
    a. **Initiate an investigation** (issue a Notice for Response to the alleged offending party).
    b. **Refer to the Competition Management Committee (CMC)** (for competition matters).
    c. **Refer to AFL National Team** (if a national policy breach is suspected, e.g., vilification, child safeguarding).
    d. **Proceed to determination** if satisfied a breach has occurred.

Obligations

- All **parties must cooperate** with the investigation.