

REGULATION

Game Complaints And Incident Reviews From The Winter Competition

2026



This Policy was adopted by the IDNA Board on 25 February 2026

NETBALL ILLAWARRA REGULATION

GAME COMPLAINTS AND INCIDENT REVIEWS FROM WINTER COMPETITION GAMES

1 PURPOSE

In accordance with authority provided by Section 41 of the Illawarra District Netball Association Constitution, the Board has created this Regulation that sets down the procedural requirements for the Review of Complaints and Incidents that have arisen from a game being played as part of the Netball Illawarra Winter Competition. This regulation is to be interpreted in accordance with the Constitution

2 DEFINITIONS

Definitions for terms used in this Regulations are as follows:

Complaint: This is a verbal or written complaint where an allegation relation to conduct or unsportsmanlike behaviour is lodged at the Duty room by a team official, or a member of the Club Executive, where they believe that some form of intervention by the Board, or Umpires Committee, is required to avoid any further misconduct or unsportsmanlike behaviour.

Incident Register: This a register where details of all complaints and Player Send Offs are recorded, as well as any action that is taken.

Complaint And Game Review Panel: This is a 3-person Panel consisting of the Competitions Director and 2 other directors, entrusted with the role of examining complaints and Umpires Actions, to determine what further action will be required.

Judiciary: This is a 3-person panel consisting of 2 members of the Executive and a director, none of whom shall be members of the Complaint and Game Review Panel.

3 COMPLAINTS ARISING FROM A GAME

A complaint regarding an incident may be lodged by a player through a team official, or a member of their Club's Executive.

Such complaints, however, are not permitted where the umpire has taken action that has resulted in a player being suspended or being sent off and is not permitted to take any further part in the game.

- (a) All complaints regarding any incident that occurred during a game, either on, or off the court, must be lodged in writing on an Incident Report Form

- (b) All complaints must be notified to the Duty Room at Fred Finch Park by the end of competition on the day of the incident. An incident Report Form (on-line or in writing) must be lodged by 6pm Sunday following the incident to complete the complaint process.
- (c) All complaints must be recorded in the Incident Register, located in the Duty Room at Fred Finch Park
- (d) All incident reports shall be referred to the Complaints and Game Review Panel, who shall assess the complaint and determine what action, if any, is required to be taken regarding the Incident Report

4 COMPLAINTS MADE DURING A GAME

- (a) Complaints made to the Duty Room while a game is in progress, should be briefly recorded in the Incident Register by the Duty Director Committee Member
- (b) The Duty Director shall organise for another Director to go to the relevant court to investigate the complaint
- (c) Depending upon the nature of the complaint, a club representative from one, or both clubs involved in the game may also be called to the court
- (d) The Director shall be empowered to take action at the appropriate time, based on the content of the complaint and what is observed, to minimise the effect of whatever has caused the complaint to be lodged
- (e) The Director will complete a detailed complaint form, including details of action taken, if any, for the Judiciary
- (f) The Director will provide information to the Club involved and submit the complaint to the Complaint and Game Review Panel to determine whether further action would be required

5 PLAYERS SENT-OFF DURING A GAME

Where a player has been sent from the court for the remainder of the game, that player shall not be permitted to participate in any game of netball in the Winter Competition until the send-off has been referred to the Complaint And Game Review Panel and they have determined what further action, if any, is to be taken.

If the Panel determines that being sent from the court was not warranted, or that the send-off was the sufficient punishment then the player shall be permitted to participate as soon as that decision has been made.

If the send-off, and therefore the player(s) are to be referred to the Judiciary then such players are not permitted to participate until the Judiciary has deliberated on the incident and they have determined what action is to be taken.

6 COMPLAINT AND GAME REVIEW PANEL

The Complaint And Game Review Panel receives all complaints and details of any send-off resulting from a game. On receipt of a complaint or a report, the Panel shall, without making a judgement, shall:

- (a) determine whether the complaint or report is justified
- (b) whether further action is required
- (c) determine whether other complaints/reports have been previously made about the person named in the complaint/report, the relevancy of the report, and, where relevant, the outcome of such reports
- (d) determine how the complaint or send-off should be handled, options include:
 - (i) No further action to be taken
 - (ii) Forwarded to the club with all relevant information, to be dealt with by the Club internally
 - (iii) Dealt with by the Judiciary

Following the review, the panel shall:

- (a) Where the Complaint and Game Review Panel has determined that no further action is to be taken, a member of the relevant club's executive shall be advised of that decision, as soon as possible
- (b) Forward to the Secretary any complaint/report considered to be the responsibility of the Judiciary
- (c) Request the Secretary to forward to the Secretary of the Club to which the offending member belongs, with a request for the club to take appropriate action and to request that details of the action taken by the club be advised, in writing, to the Netball Illawarra Secretary

7 JUDICIARY

7.1. The Role Of The Judiciary

The Judiciary is an independent body that is to adjudicate on complaints or reports referred to it by the Complaint and Game Review Panel.

7.2. Action Of The Judiciary

For all complaints and send-off reports regarding one or more members, the Judiciary shall be advised of any prior history of the member(s) or the team, that is considered relevant by the Complaint and Game Review Panel.

On examination of a report or complaint, the Judiciary may take one of the following actions:

- (a) Take no action but retain the complaint/report for future reference and advise the club(s) of receipt of the complaint/report
- (b) Give a written warning, through their club, to the member(s) referred to in the complaint/ report, indicating that a complaint had been received, details of the complaint, and a statement that any further complaints/reports could result in stronger action being taken
- (c) Notify the member(s), or the team, referred to in a report, through their Club, of receipt of a complaint and the charges put forward in the complaint. The notice shall also include when the members are to attend a judicial hearing
- (d) Request, through the relevant clubs-, the presence of some, or all, members of both teams (including coaches) and the two umpires to assist with the meeting

7.3. Rights Of Members Called Before The Judiciary

- (a) A player or a team that has been summoned to appear before the Judiciary may be accompanied by one Club Official and/or the team coach. If a player is under eighteen (18) years of age they may also be accompanied by one of their parents or one of their guardians, as appropriate
- (b) An umpire that has been summoned to appear before the Judiciary may be accompanied by a Club Official and a member of the Umpires Committee. If the umpire is under eighteen (18) years of age they may also be accompanied by one of their parents or one of their guardians, as appropriate
- (c) A coach that has been summoned to appear before the Judiciary may be accompanied by a Club Official. If the coach is under eighteen (18) years of age they may also be accompanied by one of their parents or one of their guardians, as appropriate
- (d) The presence of a coach, club official and/or parent/guardian does not give that person any right to discuss or otherwise become involved in the judicial process
- (e) No person attending as a coach, club official or parent shall act in a legal capacity

7.4. Action Available To The Judiciary

- (a) At the completion of the hearing the Judiciary shall adjourn to consider what penalty, if any, is to be handed down.
Any such action taken by the Judiciary must:
 - (i) take into consideration any previous relevant complaints/reports relating to the person(s) before the Judiciary and the action taken at that time
 - (ii) Be fair and reasonable
 - (iii) Be based on the evidence and information presented as well as previous records of those concerned; and
 - (iv) Be within the powers of the Judiciary to impose the measure.
- (b) The Judiciary may:
 - (i) Caution the member and advise that the complaint/report would also be taken into consideration should they again appear before the Judiciary
 - (ii) Suspend the member from playing netball in a Netball Illawarra competition for one or more competition games. Noting that the suspension is for games played by their team. It does not include abandoned games, forfeits, or duty responsibilities
 - (iii) Suspend the member from any involvement in netball under the control of Netball Illawarra up to a specified date. This would include involvement as an umpire or as a coach
 - (iv) Ban the person from attending netball games under the control of Netball Illawarra up to a specified date, including all Netball Illawarra Indoor competitions

7.5. Consequences Of Non-Attendance At A Judiciary Hearing

If a member about whom a complaint/report has been made fails to attend a Judiciary hearing to which they have been summoned, then the following actions shall be taken:

- (a) the member shall be automatically suspended until such time as they are present at a hearing where the complaint is dealt with
- (b) The member who has been suspended because of their non- attendance at a hearing shall not be permitted to be involved in any netball game in any capacity until the complaint/report has been dealt with by the Judiciary
- (c) Any suspension period served for non-attendance SHALL NOT be considered when the Judiciary is determining the penalty to be served by the member(s)

7.6. Right Of Appeal

- (a) No appeal shall be permitted against a suspension imposed for non-attendance at a hearing
- (b) Once a decision has been handed down by the Judiciary, the member has the right to lodge an appeal against the decision
- (c) Any such appeal must be in writing and received by the Secretary within seven (7) days of having received written notice of the Judiciary's decision, stating the grounds for the appeal
- (d) The Secretary shall advise the Judiciary of the appeal, who will then advise the member of the date and time when the appeal is to be dealt with
- (e) The member shall be permitted to continue in their netball role until the appeal has been heard
- (f) Where an appeal is not dismissed, it shall be within the Judiciary's powers to increase the penalty given in the original hearing

7.7. Notification Of Judiciary Decisions

- (a) The Judiciary shall notify the Netball Illawarra Secretary, who in turn informs the appropriate Club Secretary of the results of the Judiciary hearing
- (b) Where a member has been suspended, either through the results of the hearing, or for non-attendance, the Registrar and the Competition Coordinator shall be notified of the details of the member and the details of the suspension by the Netball Illawarra Secretary
- (c) Where a member has appealed against a decision of the Judiciary, through the Netball Illawarra Secretary, notify the Registrar and Competition Director of the appeal so that the member is entitled to be involved in netball until the Appeal has been heard
- (d) Should a member contravene their suspension as a player they shall be deemed to have been an illegal player and the team fined appropriately. The relevant results secretary should also advise the Judiciary of the contravention of the suspension who may take further action against the player for misconduct