



2026-27 HFA Disciplinary Committee Guidelines

It is important that the HFA Disciplinary Committee makes decisions in a consistent manner throughout a given season and across all competitions. The following guidelines represent the HFA Board of Directors' guidance for the HFA Disciplinary Committee for sanctions for various infractions.

HFA Disciplinary Committee Charter:

"To protect the HFA membership from violent conduct. To protect the match officials from violent and threatening behavior. To provide consistent and impartial disciplinary rulings."

Sanction Guidelines:

1. *Threatening behavior towards the referee staff:*

- Minimum (3) game suspension and \$50 fine. Player placed on (1) year probation.
- Striking a referee will result in a minimum (1) year suspension with the possibility of full expulsion from the league.

2. *Foul and Abusive Language Directed at the Referee Crew:*

- Minimum \$50 fine and (1) game suspension with additional game suspensions and fines on a discretionary basis for:
 - o Repeated and extended verbal abuse past the initial event in question OR
 - o Verbal abuse that continues after leaving the field of play OR
 - o Clear and consistent refusal to leave the field of play in a timely manner

3. *Spitting:*

- Minimum (3) game suspension and \$50 fine. Player placed on (1) year probation.

4. *Racist Remarks:*

- Minimum (3) game suspension and \$50 fine. Player placed on (1) year probation.

5. *Actual Fighting:*

- Minimum (4) game suspension and \$100 fine. Player placed on (1) year probation.

6. *Fielding an Ineligible Player:*

- Game is Forfeit (0-3 loss recorded)
- \$150 Team Fine
- (2) Game Manager Suspension
- Manager placed on (1) year probation
- Additional 3-point deduction applied on a case-by-case basis, reviewed by the BoD.
- *Warning that a repeat offense within the probationary period could result in expulsion from the league.*

7. *Multi-Player Brawl:*

- Individual sanctions as necessary.
- \$100 Team Fine for each involved team
- Each Team placed on (1) year probation.

8. *Multi-Player Brawl involving either Bench Clearing (and/or Spectators) and/or leading to game abandonment:*

- Individual Sanctions as necessary
- Double Forfeit for involved teams
- (2) Game Manager Suspensions for failure to control
- \$150 Team Fines
- Teams placed on (1) year probation

9. *Clear and Consistent Refusal to Leave the Facility after a Red Card Ejection:*

- Minimum additional (1) game suspension and additional \$25 fine for the player
- If refusal results in abandonment of match, minimum (3) game suspension, additional \$50 fine for the player and applicable team forfeits the match

10. *Players with Multiple Suspensions in One Season/Competition:*

- The HFA DC may consider previous suspensions in the same season as a reason to put additional game(s) suspensions in addition to any standard suspensions or rulings, not to exceed the following guidelines:
 - o +1 game for (2) suspensions in the same season/competition.
 - o +2 games for (3) suspensions in the same season/competition.
 - o +3 games for (4) suspensions in the same season/competition.

- Notes:

1. A manager **suspension** means that the manager is not allowed at the facility where the game is being played and violation of the suspension could result in a game forfeit and will result in further sanctions against the Manager and Team. Please see the Disciplinary section of the HFA Rules of Play.

Many team managers are also registered as players (either on the team they manage or another team) and some are also registered as assistant managers on other club teams. Note that a manager who is suspended in his capacity as a player is still eligible to coach his team during his player suspension. Also note that a manager who is suspended in his capacity as a manager but who is also an assistant manager for another team cannot be at either his primary or his secondary team's games during his suspension.

2. When a player, team or manager is placed on **probation** any subsequent incident that causes the player, team or manager to come before the Disciplinary Committee during the probationary period will cause the actions of the previous incident to also be considered in the sanctions that are subsequently imposed.

3. Any suspension accrued during one season/competition, not served to completion, will automatically carry over to the next season/competition (to be served once the player has registered for the new season/competition).