

OPERATIONAL POLICY

GENERAL INFORMATION

Area:	2025 -26 Competition Rules
Procedure Title:	Player Sanction Guidelines
Date Last Modified:	8 September 2025

OVERVIEW

This policy sets out the procedures for disciplinary matters, to provide a consistent approach to disciplinary proceedings and ensure a fair and safe playing environment for all participants

SCOPE OF RESPONSIBILITY

This policy sets out the procedures for dealing with the following matters for which the NTRU has jurisdiction:

- when a Player is sent off the playing enclosure (Red Card); and
- when a Player has been temporarily suspended (Yellow Card).

For the avoidance of doubt in this policy, a “Season” includes the minor rounds and finals of a competition.

PROCEDURE: YELLOW CARDS

STEP	DESCRIPTION OF ACTION	RESPONSIBLE
1	If a Player is issued a Yellow Card by a Referee during a Match the Player must sit on the allocated chair on halfway for a period of ten (10) minutes and must not re-enter the field of play until expressly permitted to do so by the Referee. Should the 10 minutes go over half time the carded player may join his team during the half time chat but must return to the chair at halfway when play resumes. The ten (10) minute suspension excludes half time and any injury time.	Team Manager Clubs Referee
2	The Referee or their nominated delegate will keep and be the sole arbiter of the time for which a suspended Player is off the field.	Referee
3	All Yellow Cards must be recorded in the Match Day Manager app prior to sign off by the Referee. Any failure to do so will leave the Player and the Club liable to penalty at the Union’s discretion.	Team Manager Clubs Referee
4	A Player who receives a yellow card or Citing Commissioner Warning may challenge it only if was received as a result of alleged mistaken identity. For a yellow card the Player must give written notice of his or her challenge within 48 hours of completion of the Match in which the yellow card arose. For a Citing Commissioner Warning the Player must give written notice of his or her challenge within 48 hours of receiving the Citing Commissioner Warning	Clubs
5	The Player’s notice will be recorded by the NTRU and information obtained from the Referee, both to be considered by the Judicial Committee if and when the Player is later involved in a hearing about multiple Yellow Cards	NTRU General Manager
6	If a Player receives two Yellow Cards in a Match those Yellow Cards will be counted and recorded as one Red Card, not as two Yellow Cards. A Player may challenge in accordance with STEP 4	NTRU General Manager Clubs
7	If a Player receives three Yellow Cards in a season they automatically miss the next scheduled Match.	NTRU General Manager Clubs

	If the Player receives a further two Yellow Cards in that Season they automatically miss the next two scheduled Matches. Every further card that season will incur a further week suspension.	
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PROCEDURE: RED CARDS

STEP	DESCRIPTION OF ACTION	RESPONSIBLE
1	Refer Rugby Australia Disciplinary Rules	

OTHER PROCEDURES

If a Player refuses to comply with the directions of a Referee when the Player is ordered off the field:

- The Match may, at the Referee's discretion, be immediately awarded to the opposing Team as if the Match had been forfeited by the Team for which the refusing Player was playing; and
- The Player in question will be suspended from playing any Match until their citation has been decided by the Judicial Committee at which time their refusal to leave the field of play will also be considered and taken into account and may be considered by the Judicial Committee as a separate citation.

If the Red Cards issued to the Players of a Club in a particular Season exceeds a total of 5, the President of that Club will be required to present to representatives of the NTRU as to the Club's poor disciplinary record and what steps have been taken by the Club to address the underlying causes. At the discretion of the Board the Club may be subjected to a fine or loss of competition points for any further Red Cards received in that Season.

Where NTRU and/or a Referee does not comply with timeframes or other administrative matters outlined in the above procedures, this does not invalidate the proceedings against the Player.

OTHER INFORMATION

- This document supports the 2025-26 Darwin Club Competition Rules
- Where this document and the Competition Rules do not align, the Competition Rules document will take precedence.