

DISCIPLINE AND FOUL PLAY REGULATIONS

SARU has adopted Regulation 17 of World Rugby (“Regulation 17”), mutatis mutandis, subject to the following amendments:

1 Interpretation

In these regulations –

- 1.1 Citing Commissioners’ Panel means a panel of individuals appointed from time to time by the National Judicial Committee, of such number as the National Judicial Committee thinks fit. A Citing Commissioner shall not be a full time employee, a full time independent contractor or perform a governance role in SARU or any of its members. A Citing Commissioner shall have an in depth knowledge of the game. The National Judicial Committee may, at its discretion, remove any member of the Citing Commissioners’ Panel, at any time for whatever reason. The decision of the National Judicial Committee shall be final.
- 1.2 Constitution means the Constitution of the South African Rugby Union.
- 1.3 World Rugby means the governing body of the game of rugby globally with its office at World Rugby House; 8-10 Pembroke Street Lower; Dublin 2; Ireland.
- 1.4 Judicial Officers’ Panel means a panel of individuals appointed from time to time by the National Judicial Committee as Judicial Officers, of such number as the National Judicial Committee thinks fit, each of whom shall be qualified and eligible to act as a Judicial Officer or an Appeal Officer in terms of World Rugby Regulation 17.13.1(c) and 17.13.2, with the power to co-opt from time to time additional individuals to the panel. The National Judicial Committee may, at its discretion, remove any member of the Judicial Officers’ panel from the panel, at any time for whatever reason. The decision of the National Judicial Committee shall be final.

- 1.5 Match means any match as defined in the Laws of the Game conducted by or under the auspices of SARU, except matches conducted by or under the auspices of a Member or Associate member (as defined in the Constitution), or international matches, international tours or international tournaments.
- 1.6 National Judicial Committee The committee to which the Executive Council of SARU in terms of clause 17.13 of the Constitution has delegated its disciplinary powers in terms of clause 17.12.2 of the Constitution, and otherwise, with the right to further delegate such powers to disciplinary committees or judicial officers.
- 1.7 Person means a player, trainer, referee, touch-judge, coach, selector, medical officer, physiotherapist or any other individual who is or has been at any time involved in the Game of Rugby Football, or in the organisation, administration, or promotion of the Game under the jurisdiction of the Union or a Member of the Union, or other body affiliated to the Union or a club as defined in clause 3.1.18 of the Constitution.
- 1.8 Province means a provincial union as defined in clause 1.2.21 of the Constitution.
- 1.9 SARU means the South African Rugby Union.
- 1.10 Union means the South African Rugby Union.
- 2 The disciplinary procedures set out in Regulation 17, subject to any amendment(s) by World Rugby from time to time, shall be applied to all Matches.
- 3 The administration of Regulation 17 and the authority to appoint members to the Judicial Officers' panel and a Citing Commissioners' panel vests in the National Judicial Committee of SARU.
- 4 The authority to appoint Judicial Officers and Citing Commissioners for particular Matches vests in the Chairperson of the National Judicial Committee of SARU, or his nominee.

- 5 For all Matches in SARU competitions to which Regulation 17 applies, the Citing Commissioner or the Citing Commissioner Liaison Officer will also be the Designated Disciplinary Officer.
- 6 In the event of a televised Match, a citing complaint by a citing Commissioner must be sent in writing to SARU within 24 hours of conclusion of the broadcast of the Match in which the incident took place.
- 7 In the event of a non-televised Match, a nominee of a participating team may refer incidents of foul play in writing to the Chairman of the National Judicial Committee or his nominee within 72 (seventy-two) hours after the match. The Chairman of the National Judicial Committee or his nominee shall appoint a Citing Commissioner who shall cite the incident if, in the opinion of the Citing Commissioner the incident meets the red card threshold. The team or affiliated organization participating in the match referring the incident shall provide the best evidence to enable the Citing Commissioner to consider the referral.
8. The Citing Commissioner appointed for a match has to calibrate with at least one other Citing Commissioner appointed by SARU prior to deciding whether to cite or not to cite. The decision whether to cite or not remains solely with the Citing Commissioner appointed for the match.
- 9 All disciplinary hearings at first instance will be presided over by a single Judicial Officer.
- 10 Hearings by the Judicial Officer and Appeal Officer/Committee will be held at a venue determined by the Chairperson of the National Judicial Committee or his nominee.
- 11 Regulation 17.19.7(b) is adapted to allow the Judicial Officer in exceptional cases where he considers it warranted to (i) expunge the Ordering Off (Red Card) from the Player's disciplinary record, or in accordance with 12 and 13 below (ii) expunge the Temporary Suspension (Yellow Card) issued by the referee or (iii) expunge the Citing Commissioners Warning issued by the Citing Commissioner from the Player's disciplinary record.
- 12 A Temporary Suspension (Yellow Card) may be expunged from the Player's disciplinary record at a subsequent hearing where the player had been ordered off the field after being issued with a second temporary suspension (yellow card) in the same match. The Player will not be required to challenge the temporary suspension as required by World Rugby Regulation 17.25.2(c) and/or 17.25.3(c).
- 13 A Temporary Suspension (Yellow Card)/Citing Commissioner's Warning may be expunged from the Player's disciplinary record under the following conditions:

- 13.1 At a hearing convened after the player had received his 3rd (third) temporary suspension (yellow card)/Citing Commissioner's Warning in the same competition/tournament; or
- 13.2 at a hearing after the last match of a competition/tournament specially convened for the purpose of considering whether a temporary suspension (yellow card)/Citing Commissioner's Warning which was not the subject of a hearing should be expunged.

The Player will not be required to challenge the temporary suspension as required by World Rugby Regulation 17.25.2(c) and/or 17.25.3(c).

- 14 Each Notice of Appeal shall be accompanied by a deposit of R5000 (five thousand rand only). The Appeal Officer or Chairperson of the Appeal Committee may condone the late filing of the said deposit if satisfied that the appeal is not without merit and acceptable reasons for the failure to pay the deposit timeously have been advanced.
- 15 Should the hearing for whatever reason not take place within 72 (seventy-two) hours after the match as directed by Regulation 17.14.7, the Judicial Officer may on written application postpone the hearing to a date, time and venue taking into consideration the interest of all parties involved and with conditions attached thereto at the sole discretion of the Judicial Officer.
- 16 All appeals against a decision of a Judicial Officer will be heard by an Appeal Officer or an Appeal Committee consisting of three members as determined and appointed by the Chairperson of the National Judicial Committee, or his nominee, in his discretion. The Appeal Officer or the Chairperson of the Appeal Committee must be a Judicial Officer appointed by the Chairperson of the National Judicial Committee of SARU, whom may not necessarily be on the Judicial Officers' panel.
- 17 Regulation 17.22.2(b) is adapted to enable the following additional parties to appeal to an Appeal Officer from the decision of a Judicial Officer:
- (i) SARU; and
 - (ii) Tournament Organizer (if not SARU).
- 18 Reference to the Secretary of the Home/Host Union in Regulation 17 should be read to refer to the Senior Legal Manager of SARU.
- 19 Reference to a Union in Regulation 17 must be read to refer to a Province.
- 20 In the event of any dispute regarding the interpretation of Regulation 17 or these regulations, the Chairperson of the National Judicial Committee shall issue a ruling, which shall be binding on all parties.