



## **AFL BRISBANE JUNIORS – QUICK GUIDE TO REPORTS & TRIBUNAL**

### **Introduction**

Disciplinary proceedings generally fall into one of two classes:

- a) Tribunal hearing of umpires or stewards reports;
- b) Action by committees or boards of management against members for misconduct.

In practice, the former are by far the more frequent, and reference is made in this guide to the Tribunal rules. The term “reported person” is used throughout, to refer to anyone facing disciplinary proceedings of either kind, unless otherwise stated, “law(s)” means the Laws of Australian Football.

### **Conduct of Tribunals**

AFL Brisbane Juniors will conduct all Tribunals under the guidelines set out in the AFL Queensland standard Reports and Tribunals Rules and Guidelines (20.1 to 20.14), a copy of which can be found on the AFL Brisbane Juniors web site.

### **Notice of Report & Set Penalty Form**

Notification of a report will be done by the umpire completing a Notice of Report Form (see attached).

If required, the witness and parent or guardian or club official only will attend the umpires room to sign and acknowledge the report.

The reported player and parent or guardian or club official only will attend the umpires room to sign and acknowledge the report. If a Set Penalty is offered, the reported player has until 10:00am on the first business day following the match to accept the Set Penalty or elect for this case to go to the Tribunal.

In the instance of a player being selected to play in another match following the match he/she has been reported in, the following will apply:

- If a Set Penalty has been offered by the umpire and accepted by the reported player, the reported player is ineligible to play in the following match;
- If a Set Penalty has been offered by the umpire and not accepted by the reported player, the reported player must attend a Tribunal hearing and is eligible to play in the following match;
- If the umpire or witness deems the report should go to the Tribunal without offering a Set Penalty, the reported player must attend a Tribunal hearing and is eligible to play in the following match.

### **Hearing Day & Times**

Excepting special circumstances, AFL Brisbane Juniors Tribunal hearings will be held on the Wednesday following the match at AFL Queensland Head office, Cansdale Street, Yeronga. All parties will be notified of the confirmed day and time via phone or email.

If the reported player and/or the witness are unable to attend a hearing they must then elect to:

- Have the hearing adjourned and agree not to play until the adjourned hearing takes place; or
- Have the report heard in their absence (advocate must still attend) and accept the decision of the Tribunal; or
- In exceptional circumstances only, give evidence via telephone link up.

### **Video Evidence**

Can be submitted by clubs and must be made available to AFL Brisbane Juniors at least twenty-four (24) hours prior to the hearing. Video of the isolated incident will be accepted however, a full unedited copy of the match must be submitted as well.

### **Witnesses & Witness Statements**

In order for hearings not to be dragged out, a reported player is limited to one (1) Witness to be present. Clubs must notify AFL Brisbane Juniors of the intention to bring a Witness by no later than midday on the day of the hearing.

Clubs are permitted to submit unlimited Witness Statements and must do so at least twenty-four (24) hours prior to the hearing.



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### Advocates

Clubs must provide player "advocates" for all Tribunal hearings, this applies for charged players and witnesses. Clubs must supply the name of the advocate to AFL Brisbane Juniors by no later than midday on the day of the hearing.

Effective advocacy is no less a skill than effective coaching and clubs are encouraged to give thought early in the season (not on the morning of a hearing) to who will represent their players for the upcoming season.

Any advocate's leave to appear may be withdrawn if, at any stage, he/she misconducts him/herself.

A player can not act as their own advocate.

Under no circumstances will the parent(s) of a reported player be allowed to be an advocate or enter the hearing.

### Suspensions

A player who is suspended or disqualified by the Tribunal shall serve such suspension or disqualification in the grade in which they played immediately prior to such suspension or disqualification. A player suspended in a previous season can serve their suspension in grading matches but not in any practice matches.

### Investigations

AFL Brisbane Juniors shall have provision to request an independent investigation of any incident which is deemed to bring the game into disrepute. The League shall appoint an Independent Investigation Officer prior to the commencement of each season or as it is deemed necessary.

In addition, investigations may take place as a result of incidents brought to the attention of the affiliated League by way of;

- a) A written complaint setting out particulars of the allegation, **together with a fee of \$250**, from an affiliated club (lodged by 5:00pm on the Tuesday following the match) to the General Manager, AFL Brisbane Juniors;
- b) Any other matter that is deemed worthy of investigation by the Board of Management of the League.

AFL Brisbane Juniors reserves the right to accept late lodgement of a request for investigation. These investigations will take place by way of video analysis, independent investigation, or any other means as determined by the appointed Independent Investigation Officer.

If AFL Brisbane Juniors, after investigation of an allegation made in accordance with the above paragraph of these regulations, is of the opinion that the coach, player, trainer, water carrier, runner, club official or umpire in question may have been: guilty of a breach of the laws of the game; has contravened the rules and regulations; or has been guilty of conduct unbecoming, or which is likely to bring the game of Australian Football into disrepute, or which is prejudicial to the reputation or interests of AFL Brisbane Juniors, it may either refer the allegation to the Tribunal as hereinafter provided or otherwise determine the allegation as it deems fit. The independent investigator does not have the power to fine or suspend but may recommend the same to the League's management.

Where the allegation is referred to the Tribunal, the General Manager or relevant competition manager shall fix a date, time and place for a hearing before the Tribunal, being a date no longer than 21 days after lodgement of the notice (including the \$250 fee) and shall advise the coach, player, trainer, club official or umpire in question of those particulars and forward to the coach, player, trainer, runner, club official or umpire in question a copy of the notice lodged.

The Tribunal may regulate any proceedings brought before it under this regulation as it thinks fit, but in any such proceedings the coach, player, trainer, runner, club official or umpire, against whom the allegation has been made his or her representative, shall be entitled to appear before the Tribunal.



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### Investigations (cont.)

If the Tribunal decides that the coach, player, runner, club official or umpire in question: has been guilty of a breach of the laws of the game; has contravened the rules and regulations or; has been guilty of conduct unbecoming to a coach, player, trainer, runner, club official or umpire or; is likely to bring the game of Australian Football into disrepute or; is prejudicial to the reputation or interests of AFL Brisbane Juniors, it may make such orders and give such directions in the matter as it thinks fit. Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, the Tribunal may:

- (i) impose a fine of such amount as it thinks fit on the coach, player, trainer, runner or official in question and/or upon the club of such coach, player, trainer, runner or official;
- (ii) suspend the coach, player, trainer, runner or official in question for such period as it thinks fit;
- (iii) remove premiership points from the club of which the coach, player, trainer, runner or official in question is a member and at its discretion award such points to another club or clubs;
- (iv) make adjustments to scores, percentages and results of any match;
- (v) in the case of an umpire, impose such fine or period of suspension as it thinks fit.

Clubs and directors, office bearers, employees and committee members of clubs who, in the opinion of AFL Brisbane Juniors, have contravened the provisions of the rules and regulations, or have been guilty of conduct which is unbecoming to a club, director, office bearer, employee or committee member of a club or which is likely to bring the game of Australian Football into disrepute or which is prejudicial to the reputation or interests of AFL Brisbane Juniors or its affiliated League shall be dealt with as AFL Brisbane Juniors deems fit. It is recommended that in these cases, a breach of a code of conduct, the matter be investigated, a report be given to the League and the League determine an appropriate outcome, if any, and the accused be given the right to, either accept the consequences, or take the matter to an Independent Tribunal.



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### Procedure Guidelines

|             |   |
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| Chairperson | Declares the Tribunal Hearing opened  |
| Chairperson | Identifies the reported person  |
| Chairperson | Identifies the reporting umpire   |
| Chairperson | Reads the Notice of Report  |
| Chairperson | Requests a plea from the reported person  |
| Chairperson | Requests the offended player and all witnesses to vacate the room   |
| Chairperson | Asks questions of the umpire, then order for questions – umpire's advocate <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a) Tribunal members</li><li>b) Reported person's advocate</li></ul>                  |
| Chairperson | Asks offended person back into the room   |
| Chairperson | Identifies the offended person and asks him/her to give their version of the incident   |
| Chairperson | Asks questions of the offended person, then order of questions – offended person's advocate <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a) Tribunal members</li><li>b) Reported person's advocate</li></ul> |
| Chairperson | Asks reported person to give their version of the incident  |
| Chairperson | Asks questions of the reported person, then order of questions <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a) Reported person's advocate</li><li>b) Tribunal members</li></ul>                              |
| Chairperson | Asks if any other witnesses will be called  |
| Chairperson | Request that all parties vacate the room for Tribunal to consider the evidence as presented   |
| Chairperson | Asks reported person and their advocate back into the room  |
| Chairperson | Advises decision of the Tribunal  |
| Chairperson | If the charge has been sustained – advises penalty  |
| Chairperson | Close hearing   |