**DISCIPLINARY POLICY 2014**

**General Statement**

*FIT Touch Malaysia (FIT TM)* is committed to the exemplary behaviour and adherence to a code of conduct of all persons playing in its Touch leagues. This commitment is considered to be of the utmost importance. FIT TM will take all complaints of breaches of this code of conduct and behaviour and will ensure they are dealt with promptly, seriously, sensitively and confidentially. Disciplinary action can be taken against a person who is found in breach of these codes.

**Players Code**

All players are expected to adhere to the following values and code of conduct. They should:

* Play by the rules at all times.
* Play equally intensively for yourself and your team.
* Be equally loyal to yourself and your team.
* Exhibit exemplary sportsmanship at all times.
* Enjoy the game by giving your best at all times.
* Co-operate with your Coach, Manager, Team mates and Officials.
* Respect your opponents.
* A Player must not engage in any verbal or physical confrontations with any Referee, player, coach, official or organiser, no matter how minor.
* A Player must not, while participating in a game, use crude or abusive language, or engage in any conduct detrimental to the spirit or image of the game of Touch.

**Infringements and Misconduct**

* 1. Players and officials who infringe the playing rules of Touch or take part in any misconduct are liable to penalty or other appropriate action according to the seriousness of the infringement or misconduct, in accordance with the provisions of the Federation of International Touch (FIT) Playing Rules [Rule 17].
  2. **Minor offences:** are usually handled by the referee /s who have the following options available to them. Minor offences are not compelled to be sent before a Disciplinary hearing.

1. Caution issued to the offending player, or in the case of an offending official, to the captain of the offending official's team.
2. Penalty issued to the team of the offending player or offending official.
3. Captain given option to sideline offending player or remove offending official from the playing area under the control of the referee.
4. Dismissal for a period of time (NB: A second dismissal from the field of play for a period of time results in a dismissal for the remainder of game).
   1. **More serious offences:** usually result in either one or both of the following:
5. Dismissal for the remainder of game (NB: Although a dismissal for the remainder of the game results in an automatic two (2) match suspension, a dismissal is not compelled to be sent before a Disciplinary hearing, but it may be).
6. An Incident Report submitted (see annex).

If a player is sent for the remainder of the game, an incident report must be completed and submitted to the Disciplinary Chairperson, even if no further action is required. However, the option is still available to submit an incident report without having sent a player for the remainder of the game.

* 1. **Extreme breaches of the Playing Rules:** should result in both a dismissal and an Incident report being submitted. By virtue of their extreme nature they should be sent before a Disciplinary Hearing.

**Protests**

Any team, official, or individual may cite another team, official or individual for misconduct on or off the field of play. Protests must be in the form of a written protest report and submitted to the League organiser, no later than 48 hours after the event has occurred.

**Suspensions**

* 1. Any player sent from the field for the remainder of the game will receive a two (2) week suspension unless the Disciplinary Panel considers further action is necessary. A dismissal for the remainder of the game (or more than one “period of time” as in rule 2 below) is not compelled to be sent before a Disciplinary hearing, but it may be. With regard to a Tournament, this will be a two (2) match suspension.
  2. Any player who is given a "period of time" more than once in any one (1) game will receive a two (2) week or two (2) match suspension for tournaments.
  3. Any player who receives three (3) periods of time over the duration of the Leagues will receive a two (2) week or (2) match suspension unless the Disciplinary Panel considers further action is necessary. Each subsequent period of time for that player will be referred to the Disciplinary Panel.
  4. A two (2) week or two (2) match suspension is to be served on the following two (2) games in the division and competition in which the suspended players' team actually plays. This may cover more than two (2) games depending on any additional divisions and competitions in which the player may be consecutively playing in, and covers all games of Touch in which the player may be eligible to play.
  5. Byes do not count as a game played. A game in which a team wins by a forfeit will count, however, a game in which a team loses by a forfeit will not.

**Appeals**

* 1. Any person or team may appeal against a suspension given or a finding of their Disciplinary Panel by issue and service of a Notice of Appeal which shall be accompanied by an appeal fee of RM 0(not applied at this stage). Notice of Appeal may be lodged by any party to the proceedings who may be aggrieved by the suspension or Disciplinary Panel’s decision
  2. Any Notice of Appeal and the appeal fee must be lodged with the League organiser within seven (7) days of the service of the Notice of Finding.

**Disciplinary Panel**

The aim of the Disciplinary Panel shall be to provide a fair and impartial tribunal to ensure the highest ideals of sportsmanship and fair play are adhered to for the benefit of all players in the *[affiliate’s competition]*.

Upon receipt of a report, the appointed Disciplinary Chairperson shall decide whether further action is necessary. Should the report not warrant further action there is no need to convene a Disciplinary Panel. Should the report warrant further action, the Disciplinary Panel shall hear the matter. Where an incident report is received with regard to a player dismissed for the remainder of the game, "further action" would include increasing or decreasing the automatic two (2) match suspension.

If an appeal is lodged against a suspension given, the Disciplinary Panel shall convene to hear the appeal.

The function and duty of the Disciplinary Panel is to inquire into, hear, adjudicate upon and determine any charge or complaint made against any member, which is the subject of a report made for a breach of the FIT Playing Rules and/or the regulations of the *[affiliate’s competition]*. In addition, the Disciplinary Panel shall refer any incidents of a criminal nature or of serious public danger to the relevant authorities, e.g. Police.

**ANNEX A – INCIDENT REPORT SHEET**

**REFEREES INCIDENT REPORT SHEET**

Venue.......................................... Date.......................

Category / Division.................................

Teams ......................................................V...............................................................

Offending Player’s No........... Offending Player’s Team............................................

Please tick: - Dismissal 🞏 Citing 🞏

**CHARGE: -** Please tick appropriate offence. If more than one, tick accordingly.

🞏 Continual Backchat 🞏 Verbal abuse of a Player 🞏 Verbal abuse of a Referee

🞏 Swearing 🞏 Physical abuse to a Player

🞏 Physical abuse to a Referee 🞏 Phantom Touch 🞏 Sledging

🞏 Professional Foul 🞏 Tripping 🞏 Fighting

🞏 Repeated Infringements

If unlisted, please specify offence\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Please answer the following (The word “Player” also covers team officials/managers/coaches):

Was a warning given to the player during the game? (Verbal or otherwise) Yes🞏 No 🞏

Was the player sent from the field for a **"period of time"** during the game?

Yes🞏 No 🞏

Was the player sent from the field for the remainder of the game? Yes🞏 No 🞏

Was the player abusive towards the Referee/s after the game? Yes🞏 No 🞏

Please give specifics on offence. (Include word for word verbals or swearing). List any witness/witnesses.

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Referees Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Signature \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_