



Rule 21 Player Conduct New Sections Re Level 1 – 4 offences

RULE 21: PLAYERS' CONDUCT

In making a Report, the umpires at the conclusion of the game must immediately outline full details of the misbehavior and state the 'Level' of misbehavior that has taken place, then lodge Report in writing with CEO by 9.00pm on that day.

The four levels of misbehavior are identified as Level 1, Level 2, Level 3 and Level 4.

For Level 1 and Level 2 reports against a player, the player can accept the prescribed penalty and thereby forego the need to attend an Investigation Committee hearing.

The player charged has until 6.00 pm on the following day to advise whether they will accept the 'Prescribed Penalty'.

Should a player decide that they wish to have the report considered by the Investigation Committee, and then the CEO will arrange a hearing in accordance with Pennant Rule 21.7.

Level 1 offences: Prescribed Penalty 2 playing days.

- Displaying dissent at an umpire's decision by word or action.
- Deliberately disobeying an umpire's instruction.
- Expressing an audible obscenity directed at either umpire, opposition player, club official or supporter.
- Expressing personal abuse directed at either umpire, opposition player, club official or supporter.
- Using language, which is considered obscene, offensive or insulting.
- Willfully mistreating any part of the ground, pavilion or equipment used in the preparation of the game.
- Making an obscene gesture towards an umpire, opposition player, club official or supporter.
- Appealing excessively.
- Advancing towards an umpire in an aggressive manner when appealing.
- Smoking on the field of play.
- Attempting to gain an unfair advantage.
- Other misbehavior, which in the opinion of the umpire is equivalent to a Level 1 offence.

Level 2 offences: Prescribed Penalty 4 playing days.

- After being warned, a player continues to display dissent in an aggressive manner at an umpire's decision by word or action.
- After being warned, a player continues to use language or gesture to the umpire, opposition player, club official and supporter, which are considered to be obscene, insulting and delivered in a highly aggressive manner.
- Deliberately throwing the ball at an umpire, opposition player or other party in an inappropriate and dangerous manner.
- Engaging in behavior unbecoming, or acting in a manner likely to prejudice the reputation of the VSDCA, or to bring the game into disrepute.
- Other misbehavior, which in the opinion of the umpire is equivalent to a Level 1 offence.

Level 3 offences: No prescribed penalty report referred direct to the Investigation Committee.

- Intimidating an umpire by either use of language or gesture.
- Threatening to assault an opposition player, club official or supporter.

Level 4 offences: No prescribed penalty report referred direct to the Investigation Committee.

Any of the following actions by a player shall constitute a 'Level 4' offence:

- Threatening to assault an umpire.
- Making inappropriate or deliberate physical contact with an umpire.
- Making inappropriate or deliberate physical contact with an opposition player, club official or supporter.
- Committing any other act of violence.
- Drinking of alcohol or use of any illegal substance during the game.

Brian Goodman
Umpires Coach