

Judiciary Policy

Any team, official or person may at their discretion submit a written incident report on any other team, official or person who, in their opinion, has breached the playing rules of Penrith OzTag. The following process applies to these reports as well.

When a referee dismisses a player they may do so for:

1. A Period Of Time – the length of which is at the discretion of the referee.
2. The remainder of the game – two POT's in the same game will result in a remainder of the game send off.

When a referee sends a **player off for the remainder of the game** (as opposed to a period of time) he will inform the player concerned and his captain of the reasons and the charge/s.

The referee will then be required to provide the Judiciary Chairperson with an explanation of the incident, after which the Judiciary Chairperson will decide:

1. If being sent from the field for the remainder of the game was a sufficient penalty, **OR**
2. Whether the player/person has a case to answer before the Judiciary

If the decision is that the person concerned must appear before the Judiciary the referee/s **will** submit a written report of the incident. The Judiciary Chairperson will then grade the charged based on the written report and any verbal evidence a referee supplies. The Judiciary Chairperson may also discuss the incident with any other relevant person before grading the charge. The Judiciary Chairperson will then inform the person charged, and their team organiser, of the charge, the grading of the charge, the relevant suspensions and their options.

Options

Each grade will attract a minimum predetermined period of suspension. A player may choose to appear before Judiciary and contest the charge or enter an early guilty plea. If a player enters an early guilty plea they will receive the Early Guilty Plea suspension period listed. If the player chooses to appear before the judiciary and is found guilty they **will receive at least the minimum full suspension listed**. Once a player appears before a Judiciary Panel they cannot receive the Early Guilty Plea suspension.

All offences will be graded from Grade 1 (less serious) to Grade 4 (very serious) and in some cases the Judiciary Chairperson may decide that an offence is so serious it cannot be graded, in which case it will be referred directly to the Judiciary Panel for a hearing.

Grade	Minimum Penalty if contested	Minimum with Early Guilty Plea
One	4 games	2 games
Two	6 games	4 games
Three	8 games	5 games
Four	10 games	6 games

The minimum penalty is the starting point for suspensions in each grade. The Judiciary Chairperson and the judiciary can increase the penalty at their discretion, taking into account the specific circumstances of the offence and the history of the alleged offender.

Direction

Charges can be classed as either being **directed at another player** OR being **directed at an official**. Where **directed at an official, and is Grade two or higher**, the penalties listed will be increased by 50% (whether appearing before the Judiciary or entering an early guilty plea).

Striking

All striking charges fall under the **AOSA No Strike Policy** and will be dealt with accordingly.

Charges

The following list of charges is by **no means the only ones you can be charged with**, it just provides an idea of what the types of charges are:

Participating in a fight (fighting)	Violent Behaviour	Spitting
Kicking	Bad sporting behaviour	Punching
Striking (closed fist)	Pushing, tripping, grabbing	Sledging
Striking (open hand)	Offensive language	Verbal Abuse
Using shoulder or elbow	Unsportsmanlike conduct	Tackling

Example: A player is sent from the field for fighting. The Judiciary Chairperson grades the offence as a Level Two and as first offence applies the minimum suspension. The player can accept the charge/grade and enter an early guilty plea in which case they will receive a minimum 4 game suspension. If they chose not to enter an early guilty plea they will be required to appear before the Judiciary Panel and if found guilty will receive a **MINIMUM** 6 game suspension.

Repeat Offenders

Any player who has been sent from the field for the remainder of the game (and found/pleaded guilty) more than twice in one season will automatically have their sentence for the third and subsequent offences doubled if found /pleaded guilty.

Appeals

Any member who appears before the Judiciary Panel and is found guilty can appeal their case to Australian OzTag Sports Association.

Hearings

If a hearing is required, the following rules apply:

- Written reports must be submitted by all parties with 48 hours of being advised of the hearing
- The attendance of any person at the hearing in any capacity is at the Judiciary Chairperson's sole discretion.

The following hearing procedures shall generally apply but may be varied by the Judiciary Chairperson at their discretion.

1. The chairperson shall open the hearing and announce:
 - a. The reasons for the hearing and details of the charges
 - b. The names of all parties to the hearing
 - c. The right of attendance of each party
2. The chairperson shall read the report/s and provide copies to the relevant persons for their review, if they have not already received a copy.
3. In the event of two or more reports emerging from the same incident the Chairperson may consider hearing them jointly; this is at the chairperson's discretion whose decision on the matter is final.
4. The chairperson shall ask the accused whether they plead guilty or not guilty.
5. The chairperson shall then give the accused an opportunity to respond to the charges.
6. The chairperson will give the accused an opportunity to present additional witnesses. The appearance of these witnesses is at the discretion of the Chairperson and their decision is final.
7. The Chairperson can provide an opportunity for any other witnesses to present evidence.
8. The accused will be given the final right of reply.
9. The Judiciary Panel will then make a decision of guilty/not guilty and an appropriate sentence.