

West Coast Senior Football Incorporated League Rules - April

2017



Contents

1	Laws of the Game	3
2	Registration, Clearances and Transfers.....	3
3	Matches.....	4
4	Colours, Uniforms and Gear.....	5
5	Team Cards and Match Results	5
6	Referees	6
7	Misconduct.....	6
8	Eligibility.....	7
9	Membership Fees	7
10	Schedule of Fees (and Penalties)	8
11	Competitions.....	8
12	Pre-Season Tournaments	9
13	Knockout Competitions – Knock out Cup.....	10
14	Trophies and Awards	11
15	The League	11
	Appendix A - Disciplinary Procedures for West Coast Senior Football.....	13

1 Laws of the Game

1.1 All matches shall be played under the current FIFA football rules in association with the localised rules of the West Coast Senior Football (WCSF) constitution and competition league rules.

1.2 In the event of a conflict between the FIFA rules and the WCSF constitution and competition rules, the localised WCSF constitution and competition rules shall prevail.

2 Registration, Clearances and Transfers

2.1.1 Club Registrations are due at the AGM.

2.1.2 Club Registration is valid for one season only. Any club that has complied with the rules of the League that declines or fails to register for a subsequent season will have their player registrations cancelled. Therefore, these players will no longer be registered for any club and will not require transfer to another club.

2.1.3 If a club/team/player leaves the League due to lack of compliance with the rules of the League, they are not permitted to transfer to another club until the following season without the permission of the management committee and only once any outstanding invoices have been paid.

2.1.4 Player Registrations must be in the hands of the Secretary of the League two weeks prior to the commencement of the season.

2.2 No transfers will be granted between 30th June and 31st October in any season.

2.3.1 Any player who is registered with a club must submit a transfer form to the League Secretary before registering with a different club.

2.3.2 All transfers must be in the hands of the League Secretary seventy-two hours prior to any players first game for their new club.

2.3.3 Transferring players must have the transfer form filled in and signed by both clubs (previous club and new club) before submitting to League Secretary.

2.3.4 All clubs are entitled to decline transfer requests if a player has outstanding fees, or is in possession of uniforms or other property belonging to that club. All clubs are entitled to request payment of outstanding fees and/or return of uniforms and property before signing transfer form.

2.4 Unregistered players may play up to 3 games for different clubs. After this a club must advise the secretary (within 48 hours of the third game finishing) that they want this player registered with their club.

2.5 Player registrations shall be made in writing to the secretary of the league (preferably via e-mail to westcoastseniorfootball@gmail.com). The requesting club will receive confirmation that the player is, or is not listed with any other club. If a player is not listed with another club, then they shall be added to the team list of the club requesting registration of that player.

2.6 Players shall be permitted to play in any competition for the club that they are currently registered to, except in the Knock-out Competition. Players will be deemed "Cup Tied" to the team that they are initially registered to at the beginning of the season and shall not be permitted subsequently to play in the Knock-out Competition for another team or club.

2.8 Any team defaulting twice in a row or three times in any one season will be removed from the League.

2.9 Interprovincial transfers remain open all season.

3 Matches

3.1 COMMENCEMENT OF PLAY shall be at 1400 hours (2:00 pm) and 1200 hours (12pm) or otherwise noted on the official schedule of matched (Draw). Exceptions shall only be made by special arrangement between the two competing teams in any one game and the Secretary of the League, who must be notified 72hrs prior to commencement of the game. No ground change shall take place without the agreement of the Secretary of the League.

3.2 COMPOSITION OF TEAMS:

3.2.1 For six-a-side games, each team shall consist of a minimum of four players at the start of play and a maximum of eleven players on the team card including substitutions.

3.2.2 For nine-a-side games, each team shall consist of a minimum of six players at the start of play and a maximum of fourteen players on the team card including substitutions.

3.2.3 For 11-a-side games, each team shall consist of a minimum of seven players at the start of play and a maximum of sixteen players on the team card including substitutions.

3.2.4 For both men's and women's competitions, all Pre-season 6-a-side tournament games, all First Round games, and all Main Competition games will have rolling subs.

3.2.5 For all Knock-Out Cup games, all substitutions will be permanent and no player substituted off shall be allowed to be substituted back on in the same game.

3.2.6 A maximum of 5 substitutions (or 5 rolling substitutes) will be allowed per team in any one game unless mutually agreed to be more by both teams prior to kick-off.

3.3.1 CANCELLATIONS will be made by the field officer for each playing location and advised at the latest on the day of the match before 10am by telephone, the League Facebook page and/or website (if applicable).

3.3.2 The decision of the field officer is final.

3.3.3 If a field officer has not been nominated for a playing location or is unavailable, the decision will be made by the League Secretary or President.

3.3.4 If any player was due to serve a suspension in a game that is postponed by the management committee for any reason, that suspension will not be deemed to have been served and will be observed at their team's next game, regardless of when the postponed game is rearranged for.

3.3.5 If any player was due to serve a suspension in a game that is cancelled by the management committee for any reason, that suspension will be deemed to have been served.

3.4 DURATION OF PLAY for all matches shall be 20 minutes in each of the two halves for six-a-side games (excluding the pre-season 6-a-side tournament), 30 minutes in each of the two halves for nine-a-side and forty-five minutes in each of the two halves for eleven-a-side.

3.4.1 In the event of very wet conditions, or other adverse weather conditions, both team captains and the referees may agree to reduce the duration of play to thirty minutes in each of the two halves for eleven-a-side games only.

3.5 DEFAULTING Teams:

3.5.1 Defaulting teams must notify the Secretary of the League 24hrs prior to game commencement.

3.5.2 Teams defaulted against automatically receive a default win (3-0) regardless of the competition in which the game is scheduled to be played.

3.5.3 A defaulting team will play the next game against the team they defaulted to play at the opposition's home ground, regardless of the competition such game is played in.

3.5.4 If any player was due to serve a suspension in a game that is cancelled due to their own team defaulting, that suspension will not be deemed to have been served and will be observed at their team's next game.

3.5.5 If any player was due to serve a suspension in a game that is cancelled due to the opposition team defaulting, that suspension will be deemed to have been served.

3.6 MATCHES:

3.6.1 No match shall count for more than one game, except at the discretion of the Management Committee.

3.6.2 No match shall be played on a Cup Final date, except as authorised by the Management Committee.

4 Colours, Uniforms and Gear

4.1 Team colours must be registered with team lists and will not be accepted if it is the same as another current registered team.

4.2 Nets shall be provided by the home team, and fields shall be set up by home team as well.

4.3 MATCH BALLS: Each competing team shall provide a match standard football.

4.4 PLAYING STRIPS

4.4.1 Players must appear in all matches in their club's registered strip, and all shirts must be numbered in a legible way on the back with no double ups on the playing field during the game.

4.4.2 The away team shall change to their alternative registered strip in the event of a clash of colours.

5 Team Cards and Match Results

5.1 TEAM CARDS:

5.1.1 All team cards shall be completed in full by each team with the number worn by each player, corresponding with the player name on the team card.

5.1.2 Completed team cards shall be the responsibility of the individual clubs and must be signed by the captain of each team, opposition captain and the referee/s at the completion of the game.

5.1.3 The cards must then be posted/delivered to the League and arrive within 72 hours (3 days) of the fixture being played. Failure to do so will result in no points being allocated for that fixture for the team who does not supply a team card.

5.2 MATCH RESULTS:

5.2.1 Match results must be emailed or rung/texted through to the advised telephone number by 17:50 hours (5:30pm) on the evening of the fixture.

5.2.2 Where a team has won a match by default, or where the match has been abandoned before or after the commencement of play, the result details must be notified as in 5.2.1 above.

5.2.3 In the event of abandonment of a match after play has commenced, the score at the termination of the match shall be taken as the final score.

6 Referees

6.1 REFEREES:

6.1.1 Referees are to be paid as directed in "Schedule of Fees". Each team must pay half unless an alternate is provided.

6.1.2 Referees are to be paid before they depart the ground where any game is played.

7 Misconduct

7.1 INCIDENT REPORT:

7.1.1 In the case of an incident, a report must be in the hands of the League Secretary within 48 hours of the fixture being played in order for the matter to be addressed.

7.1.2 The protocols and standards for disciplinary hearings have been laid out in Appendix A - Disciplinary Procedures for West Coast Senior Football.

7.1.3 If a disciplinary hearing cannot be held, or a decision cannot be reached, before the next game, no suspensions shall be served until the proper processes are followed and the decision of the judicial committee is communicated to the relevant club secretaries.

7.1.4 A club may voluntarily stand down from any game(s) a player who is due to come before a disciplinary hearing, in the time between an incident occurring and the completion of the processes of the judicial committee. If the player subsequently receives a suspension of any length, the games that they voluntarily stood down from will be deducted from the total suspension.

7.2 ANY COMMITTEE MEMBER viewing misconduct at any fixture sanctioned by the WCSF shall contact the Secretary of the League immediately and file a written report which is to be in the hands of the Secretary within 48 hours of the fixture being played.

7.3 INTERFERENCES:

7.3.1 The Judicial Committee may at its discretion annul or order a match to be replayed.

7.3.2 Any game played outside the laws of the game and not approved by the association will be deemed void and no points scored shall be valid with the table or highest goal scorers.

7.4 BRINGING THE GAME INTO DISREPUTE: this decision will be as determined by a Judicial Committee dependant of the severity.

7.5 LACK OF AGREEMENT:

7.5.1 In the event of the opposing team captains failing to agree about the state of the ground, goal posts or other appurtenances of the game, the referee appointed by the teams shall decide whether the match shall be played or not, and their decision is final.

7.6 DISPUTE:

7.6.1 Should any dispute arise between competing teams; a Judicial Committee may call for a referee's report which shall be taken as fact. No evidence in contradiction of the report will be allowed, but evidence in support of extenuating circumstances in mitigation of punishment may be admitted within a reasonable time period as set by the Judicial Committee.

7.7 ORDERED OFF (Red Card): Any player or official who is ordered off will be fined as directed in the "Schedule of Fees" as well as receive a one game suspension which will be actioned at the next playable game. If a referee asks a player his name and the player gives any other name but his own, he will be disciplined at the discretion of the Judicial Committee.

7.8 CAUTIONED (Yellow card):

7.8.1 Any player or official who is cautioned will be fined as directed in the "Schedule of Fees". If a referee asks a player his name and the player gives any other name but his own, he will be disciplined at the discretion of the Judicial Committee.

7.8.2 A person accumulating five cautions within a season shall automatically receive a one match suspension which needs to be served the following match.

7.9 Any team playing a suspended player will be defaulted and this player suspended for a further match following.

7.10 The League at the commencement of the following season shall observe any period of suspension which remains outstanding at the conclusion of the season.

7.10.1 For the purpose of this clause the words "conclusion of the season" shall mean that all competition matches of the club team for which that player normally plays has been completed.

7.10.2 A player suspended in a League or Division carried over from the previous season shall stand down regardless of their transfer or clearance for however many WCSF playing days remain from the previous season.

7.11 Yellow/Red Cards:

7.11.1 **Fines for any one infringement must be paid within 2 weeks of received date**, and within 48 hours before any appeal can be lodged with the League regarding issuing of such cards. Failure to pay any fines within the specified timeframe (2 weeks) shall result in the fine being doubled and the carded player suspended until paid.

8 Eligibility

8.1 INELIGIBLE, UNREGISTERED PLAYERS OR FALSIFYING TEAM CARDS:

8.1.1 Any team found playing ineligible, unregistered players or falsifying a team card shall be defaulted. If both teams are found to have played such players the match result will be a loss for both teams.

8.2 SCHOOLBOY PLAYERS:

8.2.1 No player younger than sixteen years of age is permitted to play in the League unless an age dispensation form is filled out by their parent and in the hands of the Secretary by 12 noon Friday prior to their first game.

8.3 ANY TEAM unable to compete in an official WCSF fixture will automatically be deemed to have lost the match and the opposing team awarded a default win.

9 Membership Fees

9.1 Registration fees must be paid by the 20th of the following month after the invoice is received.

9.2 The registration fees are to be set by the committee at the beginning of each year.

9.3 TEAMS, CLUBS, PLAYERS WITH FINANCES OWING

9.3.1 Invoices outstanding at the end of the season will be carried over to the following season where all outstanding debt will need to be paid in full by the delegates meeting in order to register.

9.3.2 During such time that any team or club has outstanding fees / invoices, they will be defaulted. This includes entry into the seasonal divisional competition and Knockout Competitions unless arrangements are made prior with the management committee.

9.4 INVOICING

9.4.1 All invoices issued by the Management Committee shall be due for payment by the 20th of the following month.

10 Schedule of Fees (and Penalties)

Description Fee or Penalty

- Team Registration Fees – per team
 - \$600.00 per team for 11-a-side
 - \$200 per team for 9-a-side
- Referee – \$15 per team per game
- Falsifying a Team Card – Default
- Unregistered or Ineligible Player – Default
- Bringing the Game into Disrepute –Up to Judicial Committee but up to Max \$60
- Red Card (ordered off) – one game stand down \$30.00
- Yellow Card (caution) – \$15.00

Fines for yellow and red cards MUST be paid before a 2 week period from the issuing of the card for the related offence has elapsed. Failure to do so will result in the fine being doubled and carded player suspended until paid.

11 Competitions

11.1 INCLEMENT WEATHER: In event of a postponement of a match through bad weather the Management Committee shall decide if and when such matches are replayed. In the event of abandonment of a match after play has commenced, the score at the termination of the match shall be taken as the final score.

11.2 GROUNDS:

11.2.1 PRIVATE: Matches shall be played on the grounds as allocated by the Management Committee and clubs shall be responsible for the upkeep of goal posts and the marking of grounds as allocated to them for such purpose.

11.2.2 COUNCIL: In the event of ground markings and goal posts being inadequate, correspondence to the ground-allocating authority must be brought through the Management Committee. Only the **Secretary** of the League is to deal with this.

11.2.3 No Home Ground: In the event of no home ground, the Committee shall allocate a ground and the first named team shall be considered as the home team.

11.3 Leagues

11.3.1 THE LEAGUE shall consist of one division known as: 1st division with the addition of any sponsors names.

11.3.2 DIVISIONAL CHAMPIONS shall be decided by allotting three points for a win and one point for each draw and the team with the highest number of points at the official close of the season shall be declared the winner. In the event of two or more teams finishing with an equal number of points, goal differences shall decide the issue. In the event of a further tie, the team with the most goals will be declared the winner.

11.3.3 COMPETITIONS PLAYED: Shall consist of the Pre-Season 6-a-side tournament, First Round cup, Knock-out Competition, SC Trophy and the Main Championship. The format of each is to be set by the Management Committee.

11.4 SC challenge trophy (applies to men's 11-a-side only): To take the trophy off the holder, the away side must win OUTRIGHT IN 90 MINUTES. If the game ends in a draw, the holders keep the trophy. In a knockout game, the result after 90 minutes determines the winner of the trophy, regardless of extra time or penalty shootout result.

11.4.1 The trophy will not be played for in the Cup Final. However as teams are drawn home and away in all other cup games, the trophy will be played for in cup 1/4s and semis.

11.4.2 If a game is moved because the home side can't provide a field, have to make up a previous default, or any other reason, the "home side" (as stated in the official draw) will still have to defend the trophy at whatever ground the game is played.

11.4.3 The trophy is to be bought to every match that it is played for by the holders, no exceptions.

11.5 COMPETITION SEASON shall last from the first day in April in each year to the 31st day of October in each year or as set by the Management Committee. Player registration is for this period only.

11.6 COMMENCEMENT OF PLAY: Any team(s) not prepared to commence play within fifteen minutes of the specified time, unless good cause can be shown, shall be held to have lost the match and the **opposing team awarded a default win**. There is to be an allowance of thirty minutes if traveling.

11.7 TOSS OF A COIN: The away captain shall call at the toss of a coin and the winning team captain shall decide which half of the field his team shall defend. The losing team captain will be awarded the kick off.

11.8 POINTS are to be allocated as follows:

- 3 Win
- 0 Loss
- 1 Bye
- 1 Draw
- With 3 – 0 goals given for default win

12 Pre-Season Tournament

12.1 THE COMPETITION where organised in any one season this shall be called the "Pre-Season Tournament" with the addition of any sponsor's name.

12.2 THE COMPETITION shall be open annually to anyone wishing to enter, which the Committee may approve. The entries shall close 2 weeks prior to the competition.

12.3 THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE shall make the open draw for the competition and specify the date on which game shall be played and the time of kick-off.

12.4 The tournament will be open to all entries with no maximum amount of teams.

12.5 Players must be named on the team card prior to games commencing and cannot change team mid-tournament regardless of named club.

12.6 ALL MATCHES shall be in accordance with the "Laws of the Game" with the following exceptions:

12.6.1 Games shall be played in a "Round Robin" system except the semi-finals and finals.

12.6.2 The winner of each section will be drawn to establish the semi-finalists; the winners of the semi-finals will then play in the finals.

12.6.3 The semi-finals and final shall, in case of a draw, be played for an extra five minutes of play. If a draw still results at the end of extra time then five penalties by five different players of each competing team shall be taken; the taking of penalty kicks shall alternate between each team. If a draw still results, "sudden death" penalties shall be taken alternately by one player from each team.

12.7 Rules shall be as for a normal 11-a-side game excepting that:

- i. Teams shall consist of a maximum of 12 players (to be named on a team card prior to games commencing) and shall not be altered for the duration of the tournament.
- ii. Each team shall field 6 players (maximum) at any one time.
- iii. There are allowed unlimited rolling substitutions. With ALL substitutions taking place in a break in play and at the half way line and from the players named on the team card only.
- iv. The decision regarding whether or not an 'offside rule' will be implemented, will be decided by the tournament organisers prior to the tournament commencing.

12.8 Games shall be made up of two 7 minute and 30 second halves with a 2 minute break at half time.

12.9 Points shall be awarded as per competition rules.

12.10 Red and Yellow Card fees will be set out in the "schedule of fee's".

12.11 Game shall be played on a half Sized 11 a Side Pitch.

12.12 Any player that is on a team card on game day is not tied to that club and can register for another club for the remainder of the season without needing a transfer (unless they have played for another club in the previous game year).

13 Knockout Competitions – Knock out Cup

13.1 THIS Rule shall apply to the competition called "The Knockout Cup" plus the name of any sponsor may be added.

13.2 ENTRY TO DRAW:

13.2.1 Each team will be entered automatically into the draw from the original registration forms.

13.3 THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE shall make the draw for the knock out cup, specify the dates on which each round shall be played, and also allocate the venues and specify the times of kick-off.

13.4 ALL MATCHES shall be played in accordance with the "Laws of the Game" with the following exceptions:

13.4.1 In all matches, including the final, the total duration shall be ninety minutes for 11-a-side, 60 minutes for 9-a-side and 40 minutes for 6-a-side.

13.4.2 If a draw results at the end of the total duration of play an extra time of fifteen minutes for 11-a-side, ten minutes for 9-a-side and five minutes for 6-a-side **each way** shall be played.

13.4.3 If a draw still results at the end of extra time then five penalty kicks shall be taken at goal from the penalty spot by five different players from each competing team; the taking of penalty kicks shall alternate between each team. If a draw still results "Sudden Death" kicks shall be taken alternately by one player from each team.

13.5 Players shall be "Cup Tied" to the team for which they are first registered for the season.

13.6 New players, or players not on the original team cup card but registered for the club may be added at a later date.

13.7 THE EARLY ROUNDS OF THE KNOCKOUT COMPETITIONS that are necessary to reduce the competitions to the quarter-final stage shall be played on Anzac Day, and where necessary Queen's Birthday Monday.

13.8 Independent referees will be allocated to cup games where possible.

14 Trophies and Awards

14.1 Trophies shall remain the property of the League. If a trophy goes missing the club concerned is financially responsible to replace the trophy to the Management Committee specifications.

14.2 Medals may be provided to the winners of each Division. Knock-out Competition winners and runners up may also receive medals accordingly, as may officials of each Knock-out Competition.

15 The League

15.1 The Main Aim of the League is to enforce the rules of the game and ensure all draws are done fairly.

15.2 The clubs forming the WCSF shall form a management committee comprising of: President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and 2 delegates from each club.

15.2.1 Such members shall be elected by majority vote at the Annual General Meeting of WCSF and hold a term of one year unless otherwise agreed by majority vote at an AGM.

15.3 The rules of the League can be changed and adjusted at the final meeting prior to the season commencing. No addition to or alteration of the non-profit aims, personal benefit clause or the winding up clause shall be made which effect the tax exempt status. The provisions and effect of this clause shall not be removed from this document and shall be included and implied onto any document replacing this document.

15.4 All funds received by WCSF will remain in the allocated bank account, and all costs will be paid out of this account. Any monies remaining after the season finishing will be kept until needed and will be decided what is to be done with it at the final delegates meeting.

15.5 The society has no powers to borrow money.

15.6 If in the event of the league winding up, the property of WCSF will be distributed to the clubs / persons from which they came from or otherwise evenly distributed and voted on at the final league meeting.

15.7 Common Seal: Is to be kept by the secretary of the league and to certify that a document is true and correct.

15.8 AGM Will be held in the first weekend of March every year.

15.9 Meetings will be held regularly and everyone will be notified via email and/or Phone.

15.10 An Audit will be required at the end of each season.

15.11 Any income, benefit or advantage shall be applied to the objectives of the organisation. No member of the organisation or any person associated with a member shall participate in or materially influence any decision made by the organisation, in respect of the payment to or on behalf of the member associated person of any income, benefit, or advantage whatsoever. Any income shall be reasonable and relative to that which would be paid in an arm's length transaction (being open market value). And the provisions and effect of this clause shall not be removed from this document and shall be included and implied into any document replacing this document.

Appendix A - Disciplinary Procedures for West Coast Senior Football.

The West Coast Football Association may be faced with the need to discipline players, coaches or officials for breaches of rules and codes of conduct. Reasons to conduct a disciplinary hearing may include:

- Cheating
- Violent conduct
- Inappropriate behaviour.

To conduct a fair hearing, it is important to protect the rights of people accused of misdemeanours. This can be done in the following ways:

1. The person accused has the right to know what they are accused of/charged with.
2. The person accused has the right to a fair hearing.
3. Persons who make a decision whether a person is guilty or not, should act in good faith.
4. The accused must have fair opportunity to defend themselves.

The following rules for disciplinary hearings should be observed:

- The accused must have proper notice of the hearing.
- All evidence should be 'on the table', that is the accused person should be able to examine evidence and be given time to prepare their defence.
- If the disciplinary proceedings bring out evidence suggesting further charges, then the hearing must adjourn until the accused can consider the ramifications of such additional charges.
- Those who are appointed to sit in judgement of the accused person, must make an unbiased decision, and not be subjected to outside influence.
- Proper penalties should be imposed if the accused person is found guilty.

Notifications of Proceedings

It is important to make sure that the person who is to appear before the disciplinary body is given every opportunity to attend. If the person cannot attend for good reason, and there is no need to determine the matter quickly, the hearing should be adjourned until he or she can be present.

Cross examination

Both sides to any proceedings should be allowed to cross-examine the witnesses of the other. Material or evidence not available to both sides should not be used by the adjudicators in reaching a decision.

Disciplinary Committee

A disciplinary committee must be in place before a hearing takes place. This will be a body of trusted people appointed to hear, make a decision, and if necessary impose a penalty if the accused is found guilty.

Proper Penalties

Once a person has been found guilty of a charge, there should be an opportunity for the accused person to address the tribunal on the question of penalty. When considering the appropriateness of penalty to a particular offence, the tribunal must consider fully the full effect of the penalty on the guilty party.

Typical penalties include:

- Exclusion (banning) of a player from the sport (or specific competitions) for a period of time (even permanently).
- Fining the player or team (financial penalty).

- Loss of selection for a representative team.

No Bias

Members of a disciplinary committee must enter the hearing with an open mind. It would be improper for an adjudicator to give evidence in proceedings or to be the person who made the accusation. If bias is suspected it must be proved.

Decision-Making

Only those who are members of the disciplinary committee should be present when decision-making occurs. The disciplinary committee should not surrender its decision-making function or be influenced by any persons outside of the disciplinary committee. Decisions should be made on the evidence before the Tribunal – not past reputation.

Protocol for a disciplinary hearing

A.1. The League Secretary or President must be informed of an incident, preferably in writing, within 48 hours (two days). This can be accepted in the form of a referee's report detailing the incident.

A.2. It is the role of the League Secretary and President to organise a hearing. It must be scheduled within a reasonable timeframe that would allow all sides to be present and to prepare evidence.

A.3. If a witness or the accused cannot attend the hearing, despite the best efforts of the secretary/president, then a written statement must be prepared for presentation at the hearing.

A.4. When choosing a panel for the disciplinary hearing, all reasonable steps must be taken to ensure that those chosen are as neutral as possible. It would be expected that no team member of the accused (or of those bringing the complaint) would be on the panel. It is preferable that members of this panel would consist of committee members, or who have experience of disciplinary hearings. However, if it is reasonable, independent individuals with no ties to West Coast Senior Football will be allowed.

A.5. A minimum of three people is required to form the panel; however, all efforts should be taken to ensure a full panel of five members is present. In the result of a deadlock in the panel's decision, the deciding vote will be passed to the acting President.

A.6. The disciplinary hearing will be chaired by the President. If the President is compromised by either being the accused, or is required to give evidence of any sort, then the role of chairing the hearing, plus the responsibility of casting a deciding vote must pass to either the Vice-President or an independent third-party.

A.7. The first evidence to be presented in all cases will be the referees report. It would be preferable for the referee to attend the hearing in person. If this is not possible, a written statement will be asked for to clarify any information in the report that is either unclear or appears to contradict any evidence.

A.8. All evidence in support of the charge/accusation is to then be presented to the disciplinary committee. The person charged or their representatives will then be given the right to ask questions relevant to the evidence that has been presented.

A.9. The person charged and their representatives will then be asked to submit evidence and/or call witnesses. The disciplinary committee will then ask any questions they deem appropriate or relevant of the person charged.

A.10. At any time, the chair of the committee or the committee members may ask questions of any witness or representative. Any failure to answer these questions or provide evidence will allow the committee to make any inferences they deem appropriate.

A.11. After all the evidence has been presented, the person charged and his/her representative will be entitled to make a closing submission. This must be based on the evidence already provided and may not include any reference to facts not already disclosed.

A.12. All individuals who are not part of the disciplinary committee will be asked to withdraw from the hearing to allow the committee to consider the evidence and submissions presented to it. The disciplinary committee must determine whether the charge has been proved or not. If this decision can be made in a reasonable timeframe, then the person charged and/or their representatives should be recalled to be informed whether the charge has been proved or not proved.

A.13. Alternatively, the disciplinary committee may consider it appropriate to not announce its decision at the meeting. The decision will then be communicated in writing to his/her club secretary/president.

A.14. It is the role of the President (or alternative representative if President is unable to act as Chair of the disciplinary committee) to determine the punishment if a guilty verdict is found. The timing of the hearing must also consider what would be a reasonable timeframe for the President to determine what that appropriate punishment would be – this needs to consider previous similar incidents both in football and in other sports if necessary.

A.15. An appeal of the committee's decision must be received in writing by the League Secretary within 48 hours (two days) of the decision being communicated. There must be a valid basis for the appeal. The accused may appeal either the outcome or the punishment.

A.16. No new evidence for either side will be accepted during the appeal. All evidence must be presented at the original hearing.

A.17. It is the role of the League Secretary or President to organise the appeal hearing and committee. It may not be required that the accused or witnesses attend the appeal if the basis for appeal is communicated clearly to the Secretary or President.

A.18. A minimum of three people is required to form the panel for the appeal; however, all efforts should be taken to ensure a full panel of five members is present. In the result of a deadlock in the panel's decision, the deciding vote will be passed to the acting President (or alternative representative if President is unable to act as Chair of the appeal committee).