



# Berkeley Vale Touch Association

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## Referee Protection, Incident and Match Management Policy

This policy outlines procedures and expectations regarding referee protection, misconduct, incident reporting, and match abandonment for the Berkeley Vale Touch Competition. It aligns with principles of Touch Football Australia and NSW Touch Football regulations.

### 1. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to ensure referees are protected and that all matches are conducted in a safe, respectful and fair environment. Abuse, harassment, intimidation or misconduct toward referees will not be tolerated.

### 2. Respect for Referees

All players, coaches, team officials and spectators must respect referees and comply with their decisions and instructions. Unacceptable behaviour includes verbal abuse, swearing, aggressive disputing of decisions, threats, intimidation, physical contact, or any behaviour contrary to the spirit of the game.

### 3. Referee Authority

Referees have full authority to control matches and enforce Touch Football rules. They may apply the following sanctions when required.

- Penalty – for rule breaches.
- Forced Interchange – player must leave the field and return to the interchange area.
- Sin Bin – player temporarily removed from play.
- Dismissal (Red Card) – player or official removed from the match.

### 4. Misconduct

Misconduct may include:

- Continuous or repeated rule breaches
- Swearing at referees, players, or spectators
- Disputing referee decisions
- Using excessive force
- Poor sportsmanship
- Tripping, striking or assaulting another participant

- Any action contrary to the spirit of the game

## **5. Dismissal Procedure**

A player or team official dismissed from a match must take no further part in the game, must move outside the playing field perimeter, and remain there for the remainder of the match. The dismissed player or official cannot be replaced.

## **6. Automatic Suspension**

Any player or official who receives a dismissal will receive an automatic two (2) match suspension to be served in the competition in which the dismissal occurred.

## **7. Referee Incident Reports**

Referees must submit an incident report for dismissals, abuse, threatening behaviour, fighting, spectator misconduct, or any serious incident that occurs on or off the field.

## **8. Disciplinary Review**

All referee reports will be reviewed by the Berkeley Vale Touch Disciplinary Chair or Committee. The committee may determine whether a hearing is required and may upgrade or downgrade charges or apply further sanctions.

## **9. Match Abandonment – Referee Safety**

A referee has the authority to abandon a match at any time if they believe the environment has become unsafe for referees, players, officials or spectators.

Reasons may include:

- Ongoing abuse toward referees
- Threatening or intimidating behaviour
- Physical confrontation or assault
- Spectators entering the field aggressively
- Players refusing to follow referee instructions
- Any situation where the referee feels unsafe

## **10. Match Abandonment Procedure**

If a match is abandoned the referee should stop the game, inform team captains or managers, instruct players to leave the field calmly and submit an incident report.

## **11. Sideline Behaviour Policy**

Spectators must behave respectfully at all times. Spectators must not abuse referees or players, dispute decisions aggressively, enter the field without permission, or engage in threatening behaviour.

Team managers and coaches are responsible for the behaviour of their spectators. If inappropriate behaviour occurs the referee may stop play, request the spectator be controlled or removed, or abandon the match if safety concerns arise.

## **12. Referee Game Management Procedure**

Step 1 – Player Warning

Step 2 – Captain or Team Manager Warning

Step 3 – Apply disciplinary action (Forced Interchange, Sin Bin, or Dismissal)

Step 4 – Match abandonment if safety concerns continue

## **13. Commitment to Safe Competition**

Berkeley Vale Touch is committed to maintaining a safe, respectful and enjoyable competition environment. Protecting referees ensures the integrity and future of the game.