



**AFL QUEENSLAND**  
**STATE JUNIOR FOOTBALL**  
**INVESTIGATION GUIDELINES**

**2020**



## 1. Application

These AFL Queensland State Junior Football Investigation Guidelines apply to Junior Football conducted or administered by AFL Queensland or its Affiliate Leagues.

Australian Football: players, coaches, officials, spectators, administrators and all people reasonably connected to AFL Queensland or its Affiliate Leagues must comply with these guidelines.

If any Australian Football: player, coach, official, spectator, administrator or other person reasonably connected to AFL Queensland or its Affiliate Leagues subject to the *AFL Queensland State Junior Football Rules and Regulations* and, if applicable, the *Association By-Laws (Rules)* is reasonably suspected to have breached the Rules of AFL Queensland or its Affiliate Leagues, an investigation may be conducted in accordance with these AFL Queensland State Junior Football Investigation Guidelines.

## 2. Disciplinary & Match Investigations

An alleged breach of the Rules of AFL Queensland or its Affiliate Leagues may relate to conduct/alleged conduct occurring:

- (a) in the course of an Australian Football match (**Alleged Match Breach**)
- (b) outside the course of an Australian Football match (**Alleged Disciplinary Breach**)

## 3. Request for Investigation

AFL Queensland and its Affiliate Leagues shall have the provision to request an investigation of an Alleged Match Breach or Alleged Disciplinary Breach.

In addition, an investigation of an Alleged Match Breach or Alleged Disciplinary Breach may take place as a result of:-

- (a) A request for investigation submitted on a 'Request for Investigation' form by a Club President. The 'Request for Investigation' form must be completed in full and submitted to the Competition Manager no later 9.00pm on the third business day after a match, incident or complaint referral. An investigation fee of five hundred dollars (\$500) is required to be paid when the request is lodged for the request to be considered.

Where it is determined by the investigator that an Alleged Match Breach or Alleged Disciplinary Breach has taken place, an amount equal to 50% of the investigation fee will be reimbursed.

- (b) Any other means that is deemed worthy by AFL Queensland or its Affiliate Leagues.

AFL Queensland and its Affiliate Leagues reserve the right to accept late lodgement of a request for investigation.

## 4. Alleged Breach: Good Faith Belief

The AFLQ Kids, Competitions & Transition Manager may order an investigation into any matter the AFLQ Kids, Competitions & Transition Manager believes in good faith that an investigation is reasonably necessary to determine of a question of fact regarding an allegation of conduct that is contrary to the Rules.



## **5. Vexatious Allegations**

If the AFLQ Kids, Competitions & Transition Manager or Affiliate League Authorised Officer believes in good faith that a Club President has knowingly made an untrue allegation or the allegation is vexatious or malicious, the matter may be referred to a Tribunal in accordance with the AFL Queensland State Junior Football Rules and Regulations for appropriate action which may include disciplinary action.

## **6. Protected Witness**

A person must not commit an act of reprisal against a Protected Witness, or a potential Protected Witness. A Protected Witness is a person who has or may give evidence to an investigation or tribunal in good faith with respect to an Alleged Match Breach or an Alleged Disciplinary Breach.

A person who commits a breach of this Rule may be dealt with as the AFLQ Kids, Competitions & Transition Manager deems fit.

## **7. Appointment of Investigator**

AFL Queensland or its Affiliate League shall appoint an Independent Investigation Officer once it is deemed an investigation should be referred. The appointment of an Independent Investigation Officer shall not be completed until the appointment has been accepted by the Independent Investigation Officer.

## **8. Notice of Investigation**

The Competition Manager shall notify the Club whose player, coach, official, spectator, administrator or other person is to be subject to an investigation within five (5) days of a request. Such notification will include details of the incident or matter for investigation.

Once an Independent Investigation Officer has been appointed, the Competition Manager shall issue an *Investigation Memorandum*.

## **9. Investigation Process**

An investigation may take place by way of video analysis, independent investigation, or any other means as determined by the appointed Independent Investigation Officer.

The Independent Investigator Officer at their discretion shall make contact with Clubs directly to obtain contact details of parties to the investigation. In respect an investigation into an Alleged Match Breach, only witnesses who are listed on the official team sheet will be contacted.

An investigation shall be completed within 28 days of the incident being referred to the Independent Investigation Officer, unless at the completion of the 28 days, one (1) extension of time being not more than ten (10) days is then granted by the AFLQ Kids, Competitions & Transition Manager or AFLQ Affiliate League Authorised Officer at the request of the Independent Investigation Officer. A request for extension of time must be received in writing.

The Independent Investigation Officer shall deliver a report to the Kids, Competitions & Transition Manager or AFLQ Affiliate League Authorised Officer detailing the Independent Investigation Officer's findings and recommendations.



## **10. Investigation Outcome**

Where it has been determined by the Independent Investigation Officer that an Alleged Match Breach or Alleged Disciplinary Breach has occurred, AFL Queensland or its Affiliate League shall determine whether the player, coach, official, spectator, administrator or other person be referred to the Tribunal, or a sanction or set penalty be applied.

Where AFL Queensland or its Affiliate League offers a sanction or set penalty, the player, coach, official, spectator, administrator or other person has two business days from the time of notification to their club, to accept the sanction or set penalty, or to request the matter be referred to Tribunal. Where a response is not received in two business days, AFL Queensland or its Affiliate League shall determine that the player, coach, official, spectator, administrator or other person is accepting the Set Penalty offered.

Tribunals shall be carried out in accordance with the AFL Queensland State Junior Football Rules and Regulations.

## **11. Prohibited Conduct**

No Person shall publicly comment on any matter touching upon or concerning an Investigation under these Guidelines, until completion of such investigation unless the Person establishes, to the reasonable satisfaction of AFL Queensland, that such public comment was not intended to influence or affect the process of the investigation.

A person who contravenes this Rule shall be liable to a sanction.



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