



Judiciary Policy





GQ Judiciary Policy

Role of the Judiciary:

The Gridiron Queensland Inc. (GQ) Judiciary is empanelled to hear complaints brought against individual members or affiliated organisations.

The jurisdiction of the Judiciary Panel shall include all conduct by affiliate Clubs or Associations, players, coaches, officials, support staff or any other member of GQ; both on and off the field of play.

In regard to on-field incidents, the judiciary will hear matters upon referral from the Match Review Panel only.

The judiciary is empowered to assess and assign penalties as they deem appropriate. These penalties may include but are not limited to:

- Temporary suspension of membership of an individual or club
- Termination of an individual's membership
- Loss of competition points for a club
- Financial penalties
- Punitive actions



GQ Judiciary Policy

GQ Judiciary Members:

The GQ management committee shall appoint a panel of 7 judiciary members. These panel members will be considered to be unbiased regardless of club or association affiliation.

The duration of such appointment is as agreed between the individual and GQ management committee at the time of appointment.

All appointments are considered permanent for the agreed duration or until

- the panel member tenders resignation from the panel, or
- the panel member fails to participate in three consecutive hearings at which time his appointment may be terminated at the discretion of the Gridiron Queensland management committee.



GQ Judiciary Policy

Citation Process:

Only members or affiliate bodies of GQ may cite another member or affiliate body of GQ. This citation may be on behalf of a third person.

For all on-field incidents, please refer to the rules governing the Match Review Panel and relevant process.

For off-field incidents, a member or club must give notice to the GQ Management Committee that they are citing another member or club within 48 hours of becoming aware of the incident. A written report is to be lodged within a further 48 hours of this notice. If upon review of the matter it is the opinion of the judiciary that notice of citation was not made within the 48 hour timeframe, the citation will be dismissed.

In all cases the GQ management committee will advise all involved parties at the soonest possible opportunity.

Citations directly made to judiciary@gridironqld.asn.au or president@gridironqld.asn.au

Presentation for Club Delegates, QGOA, Coaches, Administrators, Players and general community



GQ Judiciary Policy

Early Guilty Plea:

The judiciary panel at their discretion may offer the cited party the opportunity to tender an early guilty plea. In this event the Judiciary Chairperson has the responsibility to ensure the process is carried out in timely fashion.

The cited party may reject or accept the opportunity to tender an early guilty plea.

If the cited party rejects the opportunity a traditional Judiciary Hearing will follow.

If the cited party accepts the opportunity to tender an early guilty plea they may choose to submit a statement accompanying the early guilty plea. The following process will then occur:

- The Chairperson will provide details of any previous charges that resulted in a guilty verdict before the Judiciary.
- The Judiciary Panel will consider the written complaint and the cited party's statement (if submitted).



GQ Judiciary Policy

Early Guilty Plea continued:

- The judiciary panel will prescribe a penalty which is then offered to the cited party. The cited party may then accept or reject the penalty.
- If the penalty is accepted by the cited party the matter is concluded and records made as per the provisions of this policy. No appeals are permitted when the cited party has tendered an early guilty plea and accepted the offered penalty.
- If the penalty is rejected by the cited party the matter proceeds to a 'traditional' Judiciary Hearing. At such hearing the guilty plea stands and the cited party presents their case for variation to the previously offered penalty.



GQ Judiciary Policy

The Judiciary Hearing:

The Judiciary Hearing is to take place as soon as practical. The panel may at their sole discretion delay the hearing to allow gathering of evidence and witnesses. Upon granting of a delay the Judiciary Panel can at its discretion suspend either or both parties until the hearing has been held in cases of serious misconduct.

The Chairperson of the Judiciary Panel has the responsibility of coordinating the date, time, and venue of when the Judiciary is to meet.

The Chairperson of the Judiciary Panel has the responsibility of ensuring that all related correspondence and evidence is available to the cited party in a timely manner.

A minimum of three judiciary panel members must convene to hear any matter.

Any cited party called has the right to have witnesses called or evidence submitted for their defence.

The Judiciary Panel may call any person or witnesses to clarify any points brought before it.



GQ Judiciary Policy

Adjournment:

Should the panel fail for any reason to convene as scheduled, a single adjournment may be scheduled, to take place no later than 14 days after the initially scheduled hearing.

The Chairperson of the Judiciary Panel has the responsibility of coordinating the date, time, and venue of such adjournment.

If this quorum is not achieved at the adjournment the citation is considered to have lapsed with the cited party having no case to answer.



GQ Judiciary Policy

A Judiciary Hearing Process:

All parties gather before the Judiciary. The Chairperson reads out the charge laid against the cited party.

All correspondence received regarding the cited incident is presented to the Judiciary Panel.

This would include:

Original Citation from Affiliated Club or Member.

Game report from QGOA.

Video/DVD footage of the incident used to support the citation.

The cited party or advocate is given the opportunity to enter a plea of guilty or not guilty to the charge.

The cited party or advocate is given the opportunity to give their version of events that led to the citation.

The judiciary members may question the cited party or advocate.



GQ Judiciary Policy

A Judiciary Hearing Process continued:

If the incident has been caught on video, all available video footage is played.

The cited person or advocate, is then invited to question the QGOA representative

The cited person or advocate may then call any other witnesses or relevant persons to give evidence.

The citing party is then called to give their version of events.

Once all evidence has been given the Chairperson sums up and the cited party gives his summary.

The citing and cited parties leave the room so the panel can deliberate the case.



GQ Judiciary Policy

After the Decision:

When the decision is made, all involved re-assemble and the chairperson announces the finding.

If the member is found not guilty, the matter is closed.

If the member is found guilty, the Chairperson is required to provide details of any previous charges that resulted in a guilty verdict before the Judiciary.

The member advocate then has the opportunity to plead the member's case and call for character witnesses.

The cited and citing parties again leave the room while the Judiciary decides on the penalty. Once a decision is reached, the parties re-assemble and the chairperson announces any penalty imposed.

Vexatious Citations:

If in the opinion of the Judiciary Panel a vexatious citation has been brought before them, they may impose a penalty on the party bringing said citation.



GQ Judiciary Policy

The Appeals Process:

A member and/or a club can appeal a Judiciary decision. The member or club must lodge a notice of appeal with the secretary of GQ by no later than 2pm on the day after the Judiciary decision.

The appeal must be accompanied by a bond payment of \$200.

One appeal only may be made on any matter.

An appeal must bring new evidence or information not available at the initial hearing. Any appeal failing to bring such new evidence or information must be dismissed.

The appeals body may confirm, reverse or modify a decision of the GQ Judiciary and make such orders and give such directions as it thinks fit.

If the appeal is upheld the bond is refunded. If it is dismissed, the bond payment is forfeited. Where the appeal finds the reportable offence proven, but amends the sanctions previously imposed, no bond refund will be made as the cited party is still guilty.



GQ Judiciary Policy

Current GQ Judiciary Members 2020:

Chairperson:

Ben MacKenzie

Members:

Cameron McCormack

Pat Humphries

Phil Levis

Scott Perret

Nick Day

Rob Haseldine

Conflicts of Interest & Availability:

The Chairperson is responsible for, and manages the integrity and legitimacy of the Judiciary Panel on behalf of the GQMC and GQ community. This is to ensure transparency, consistency, and the application of principles of natural justice in the determination of all matters.



GQ Judiciary Policy

After the Decision:

When the decision is made, all involved re-assemble and the chairperson announces the finding.

If the member is found not guilty, the matter is closed.

If the member is found guilty, the Chairperson is required to provide details of any previous charges that resulted in a guilty verdict before the Judiciary.

The member advocate then has the opportunity to plead the member's case and call for character witnesses.

The cited and citing parties again leave the room while the Judiciary decides on the penalty. Once a decision is reached, the parties re-assemble and the chairperson announces any penalty imposed.

Vexatious Citations:

If in the opinion of the Judiciary Panel a vexatious citation has been brought before them, they may impose a penalty on the party bringing said citation.



Match Review Panel





Match Review Panel

The MRP was formed in alignment with the IFAF Rules requiring an avenue of video review of Flagrant Fouls as called, or not called.

The MRP can only hear citations pertaining to flagrant fouls called, or not called/missed by officials during a game.

The MRP does not hear citations pertaining to other foul missed during a game such as holding, illegal formation, delay of game. Fouls incorrectly called or not called such as these are part of the sport, much like missed forward passes in rugby league, or LBW calls in cricket.



Match Review Panel

Purpose

The purpose of this document is to:

- Detail the process by which the Match Review Panel (MRP) is formed.
- Stipulate which matters are within the jurisdiction of the MRP.
- Stipulate relevant time-frames for action in regards to match review requests.
- Prescribe standard penalties graded by severity of foul.

Match Review Panel

The Match Review Panel will comprise 5 persons, appointed by the Gridiron Queensland Inc. Management Committee (GQMC).

Any 3 of 5 panel members may render a decision.

The term of such appointment is by agreement between the GQMC and the appointed individual. Termination of any appointment to the MRP is solely at the discretion of the GQMC.



Match Review Panel

Jurisdiction

Anyone governed by the game rules currently in effect are subject the provisions of this Regulation. The MRP exists only to hear matters on request.

The MRP will hear matters relating to the following rules only.

Requests relating to IFAF Rules 9.6.1 and 9.6.2 are raised only by a party seeking further action relating to the alleged foul. It should be noted that these rules apply only the case of Flagrant Personal Fouls. “Flagrant” is as defined in rule 2.10.1.

- **Rule 9.6.1 – Player Ejection**
- **Rule 9.6.2 – Foul Not Called**



Match Review Panel

Rationale

Review of matters relating to Rules 9.6.1 and 9.6.2 are permitted as a local initiative to maximise the detection of and deterrent to foul play, with a goal of enhancing player safety.

Citation Request under Rules 9.6.1, 9.6.2

An alleged foul under rules 9.6.1 or 9.6.2 may be referred to the MRP for further action.

A citation under rules 9.6.1 or 9.6.2 must be lodged on Form: Match Review Panel Citation Request.

There is generally no fee for referring a rule 9.6.1 or 9.6.2 matter to the MRP. If however the MRP is of the opinion a citation has been made vexatiously or otherwise without merit, they may impose a bond requirement for further citations by that person or club. The amount of such bond will be at the discretion of the MRP. The bond will be returned in full should the citation is proven, or forfeited if the citation is deemed to be vexatious or otherwise without merit. All other necessary information regarding the process is contained on the form.



Match Review Panel

The penalty expressed as games refers to domestic season games for which the player would have been eligible if not suspended, and any other matches that occur within that period. Periods of suspension may carry forward to the following season.

A guilty decision may be appealed to the Gridiron Queensland Tribunal. Any prescribed penalty remains in effect until the appeal is heard. Any appeal rules pertaining to the Gridiron Queensland Tribunal will apply.



Match Review Panel Citation

Requests

- 2 page MRP Citation Form available on GQ Google Drive
- Citation must be via this form
- Timeline for Review Requirements
- Usually any MRP hearing requires video to overturn a flagrant foul, or to call a flagrant foul
- In the absence of film for 2020, MRP working to assist in this regard

Form: Match-Review-Panel-Citation-Request

For use in relation to citations under rules 9.6.1 and 9.6.2 only

All MRP requests should be sent to mrp@gridironqld.asn.au

Information contained in this form is an extract only. Please refer to Domestic Season Operations Manual: Match Review Requests, for full details.

Timeframes

All timeframes expressed are in relation to the nominal finish time of the match. Nominal finish time is 3 hours for men's fixtures from scheduled kick off and 2 hours for women's or colt's fixtures.

Submission of MRP Citation Request	48 hours
Details of Citation sent to cited party	72 hours
Response required by cited party	120 hours
MRP Decision rendered	144 hours
MRP Advice to both parties	168 hours

Details of Request

Date of Request	Date of Incident
Cited Participant	Time of incident (i.e. Q1, 5 min)
Cited Participant's club	Participating Teams
Citation made by (circle)	Club/Player

Supporting information

Link to video attached - citations without supporting video will be rejected without review. (circle)	Yes/No
Supporting statement from QGOA attached - citing party's responsibility to arrange. (circle)	Yes/No
Is a bond required for this citation? (circle)	Yes/No
For individuals, where a bond is required, a copy of the transfer receipt is attached. If such bond is required and a receipt is not attached the citation will be rejected. (circle)	Yes/No/NA

Statement

Please provide grounds of your citation referring to your supplied video. Please include video timestamp references specific to the details of your citation.



Match Review Panel

Panel Members for 2020:

Ben MacKenzie

Mark Looi

Mark Maddison

Anthony Skelton

Currently 1 position is vacant.



Disqualification Policy





Disqualification Policy

Any participant disqualified pursuant to the rules will automatically be suspended for one additional game beyond the sanctions specified by rule.

i.e. a player or coach ejected or disqualified will forfeit the remainder of their current game, and serve a one week automatic suspension for their next scheduled game.

GQMC have the right to send any matter to Judiciary for all on-field incidents, please refer to the rules governing the Match Review Panel and relevant process.

A written report is to be lodged within 48 hours of this notice. If upon review of the matter it is the opinion of the judiciary that notice of citation was not made within the 48-hour timeframe, the citation will be dismissed.

In all cases the GQ management committee will advise all involved parties at the soonest possible opportunity.



Disqualification Policy

The Appeals Process:

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If the appeal is upheld the bond is refunded. If it is dismissed, the bond payment is forfeited. Where the appeal finds the reportable offence proven, but amends the sanctions previously imposed, no bond refund will be made as the cited party is still guilty.

The GQ Appeals Board comprises:

- Gridiron Queensland Judiciary Panel.