



POLICY DOCUMENT

Judiciary

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 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.

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



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incident. 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.

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).
- 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.

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.



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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.

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.

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.

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.



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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.

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.

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.



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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.

The GQ Appeals Board comprises:

- Gridiron Queensland Judiciary Panel.

Record Keeping:

The chairperson of the Judiciary Panel will cause record to be kept of the judiciary hearing and submit to the Gridiron Queensland Secretary for retention.



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Register of Judiciary Panel Members

Name	Appointment Date	Seperation Date
Richard Gill	17/09/14	30/06/16
Andrew Stock	17/09/14	30/06/16
Julian Leonard	17/09/14	26/08/15
Phil Levis	17/09/14	30/06/16
Ben MacKenzie	17/09/14	30/06/16
Todd Sneddon	17/09/14	30/06/16
Cameron McCormack	17/09/14	30/06/16
Adena Davy	04/10/15	30/06/16
Andrew Stock	01/07/16	30/06/18
Phil Levis	01/07/16	30/06/18
Ben MacKenzie	01/07/16	30/06/18
Todd Sneddon	01/07/16	30/06/18
Cameron McCormack	01/07/16	30/06/18
Sharon Dorward	20/08/16	30/06/18
Pat Humphries	23/08/16	30/06/18
Phil Levis	1/5/18	30/6/20
Ben MacKenzie	1/5/18	30/6/20
Todd Sneddon	1/5/18	30/6/20
Cameron McCormack	1/5/18	30/6/20
Pat Humphries	1/5/18	30/6/20
Harry Alderton	1/5/18	30/6/20
Scott Perrett	1/5/18	30/6/20
Ben MacKenzie	1/5/20	30/6/22
Scott Perrett	1/5/20	30/6/22
Cameron McCormack	1/5/20	30/6/22
Nick Day	1/5/20	30/6/22
Robert Haseldine	1/5/20	30/6/22
Pat Humphries	1/5/20	30/6/22
Phil Levis	1/5/20	30/6/22
Ben MacKenzie	1/5/22	30/6/24
Scott Perrett	1/5/22	30/6/24
Cameron McCormack	1/5/22	30/6/24
Nick Day	1/5/22	30/6/24
Robert Haseldine	1/5/22	30/6/24
Pat Humphries	1/5/22	30/6/24
Phil Levis	1/5/22	30/6/24



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Judiciary Report Form

Date:

Location:

Cited Party:

Cited Party represented by:

Citing Party:

Citing Party represented by:

Charge (including relevant rule or policy reference):

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Judiciary Panel:

Panel Member	Participation	Panel Member	Participation
Ben McKenzie	y/n	Andrew Stock	y/n
Sharon Dorward	y/n	Phil Levis	y/n
Cam McCormack	y/n	Pat Humphries	y/n
Todd Sneddon	y/n		

Judiciary quorum confirmed as per relevant rule or policy: YES / NO

Plea entered: NOT GUILTY / GUILTY / NO PLEA

Evidence supplied by cited party (circle all that apply):

Written Verbal Visual Nil

Evidence supplied by citing party (circle all that apply):

Written Verbal Visual Nil

Finding of Panel: NOT GUILTY / GUILTY



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Penalty Details:

Current	
Held Over & Terms	
Hold Over Period	

Other Comments:

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Notes:

- Penalty Details - current: represents the portion of the penalty to be observed immediately.
- Penalty Details - held over: represents the portion of the penalty not current enforced and the terms under which they will become enforced.
- Penalty Details - hold over period: represents the time frame for which any held-over portion of the penalty remains if effect.
- Membership / Registration / Affiliation as applicable must remain current to count as penalty served.

League Use Only

Copy of statements & evidence retained in league records	
Copy of completed report to cited party	
Copy of completed report to cited party's club or association	
Copy of completed report to citing party	
(guilty only) Outcome recorded in judiciary database	

End of Document