

Appendix 10.9 - SANFL Juniors Offence Classification

The following tables and definitions are utilised by SANFL Juniors in the review of incidents and application of appropriate penalties. The use of classification systems such as these leads to greater consistency in the application of disciplinary penalties across the league. In essence, offences of similar nature will result in equal or similar penalties.

Whilst these tools will be used to assist the process, it is also acknowledged that all incidents occur in a unique set of circumstances and as such, SANFL Juniors may also elect to utilise their discretion in the application of these tools.

Category 1 – Verbal Offences and Offensive Gestures

For any incident report received involving the use of offensive language and/or gestures, the following table may be used to classify the severity of the offence.

This category may also be assigned to address offenses not captured by other categories (eg time wasting, staging, shaking of goal posts etc).

Conduct	Level	Base Sanction	Early Guilty Plea
Threat	High	5 matches	4 matches
	Medium	4 matches	3 matches
	Low	3 matches	2 matches
Abuse	High	4 matches	3 matches
	Medium	3 matches	2 matches
	Low	2 matches	1 match
Other	H/M/L	1 match	Reprimand

Category 2 – Physical Contact Offences

For incidents involving physical contact between players or officials or attempts at prohibited contact, the following table may be used to classify offences.

Conduct	Impact	Contact	Base Sanction	Early Guilty Plea
Intentional	Severe	All	Tribunal	N/A
	High	High/Groin	Tribunal	N/A
		Body	3 matches	2 matches
	Medium	High/Groin	3 matches	2 matches
		Body	2 matches	1 match
	Low	High/Groin	2 matches	1 match
		Body	1 match	Reprimand
Careless	Severe	All	Tribunal	N/A
	High	High/Groin	3 matches	2 Matches
		Body	2 Matches	1 match
	Medium	High/Groin	2 Matches	1 match
		Body	1 match	Reprimand
	Low	High/Groin	1 match	Reprimand
		Body	1 match	Reprimand

Conduct (Intentional OR Careless)

Intentional conduct: A Player intentionally commits a Classifiable Offence if the Player engages in the conduct constituting the Reportable Offence with the intention of committing that offence.

For example, a strike will be regarded as Intentional where a Player delivers a blow to an opponent with the intention of striking them.

Careless conduct: A Player's conduct will be regarded as Careless where it constitutes a breach of the duty of care owed by the Player to all other Players. Each Player owes a duty of care to all other Players, Umpires and other persons (as applicable) not to engage in conduct which will constitute a Reportable Offence being committed against that other Player, Umpire or other person (as applicable). In order to constitute such a breach of that duty of care, the conduct must be such that a reasonable Player would not regard it as prudent in all the circumstances. Further, a Player will be

careless if they breach their duty to take reasonable care to avoid acts which can be reasonably foreseen to result in a Reportable Offence.

Determination of Impact (Low, Medium, High or Severe)

In determining the level of impact, regard will be had to several factors.

1. The extent of force and in particular, any injury sustained by the Player who was offended against.
2. Strong consideration will be given to the potential to cause injury.

For example – striking to the head:

- Low Impact: Very minimal force, no laceration and victim player continues to participate in match unaffected
- Medium Impact: Laceration or victim player dazed by contact
- High Impact: Victim player affected for an extended period of time (or takes no further part in match) and/or low-level concussion apparent or indicated post-match
- Severe Impact: Victim player immediately unconscious, serious injury incurred and takes no further part in match

Contact (High/Groin, Body)

High contact is not limited to contact to the head and includes contact above the shoulders. Contact to the Groin includes contact to the crease or hollow at the junction of the inner part of each thigh with the trunk together with the adjacent region and including the testicles.

Contact shall be classified as High or to the Groin where a Player's head or groin makes contact with another Player or object such as the fence or the ground as a result of the actions of the offending Player. By way of example, should a Player tackle another Player around the waist and as a result of the tackle, the tackled Player's head made forceful contact with the fence or the ground the contact in these circumstances would be classified as High, even though the tackle was to the body.

Category 3 – Direct to Tribunal Offences

At its absolute discretion, SANFL Juniors reserves the right to refer any incident to a Tribunal Hearing.

TRIBUNAL RECORD/HISTORY

No Reduction for Good Record - Players will not receive a reduced base sanction for a good record.

Impact of Bad Record - A one match additional penalty will be added to the base sanction of a Reportable Offence for a bad record (bad record = 1 match suspension in 12 months or 2 match suspension in 24 months)