

# QuidditchUK

## Tournament Discipline and Suspension Policy

The following policy outlines the disciplinary and suspension standards set from the 2018/2019 season onwards. Any questions regarding the following policy must be directed to [www.quidditchuk.org/contact](http://www.quidditchuk.org/contact)

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The following section standardizes extended suspensions (that is, suspensions which go beyond the game in which they are acquired) for in-game and out-of-game offences at QuidditchUK gameplay events.

### TERMS OF SUSPENSIONS

A player affected by a suspension cannot carry out any official function as player, coach and/or captain for the number of games specified by the organising committee, either as per this policy or at their discretion. Suspensions take effect immediately and apply to consecutive games – when relevant – starting with the player's first game **after** the penalty has been communicated. A suspended captain should nominate a new speaking captain in advance of the games they are suspended for and notify the tournament committee.

In the case that a suspension is not fully served during the tournament it is given, the remaining term of the suspension shall be carried forward to the next QuidditchUK tournament at which the suspended individual is rostered as a player. In the instance that a player is excluded from the tournament, the term of their suspension shall be considered to be **two (2) games or the remainder of their team's games in the tournament, whichever is greater**. For example, if the suspended player's team were only to play one match in the tournament after the suspension was issued, the player would be subject to a further one game ban at their next QuidditchUK tournament. Suspensions will carry forward indefinitely until they are served, and are linked to the individual rather than the team.

A suspended player should not be scheduled for additional slots as an official or volunteer as a result of their suspension, unless specifically requested by the player. Provided their suspension does not specifically bar them from doing so they are still permitted to fulfil pre-scheduled slots as an official or volunteer while suspended.

It is the responsibility of the pitch manager, or where one is absent the scorekeeper, to bring a record of the cards and any other disciplinary incidents from each game to the appropriate member of event staff (Tournament Director or delegate). In the event of a red card that may result in a suspension, the Head Referee should also report to the tournament committee. It is the responsibility of the tournament committee to ensure suspensions are registered and enforced, including communicating any suspensions to the team captain prior to that team's next match and to the match officials for any applicable matches. The scorekeeper should note the suspension on the scoresheet for those matches.

If a team wishes to appeal a decision of a match official that leads to a suspension, they should do so after the game by speaking directly to a member of the tournament committee. Suspensions for

straight red cards will automatically be reviewed by a member of the tournament committee, with the Head Referee and a representative from the suspended player's team present.

After receiving an appeal, the tournament committee will review the incident, consulting with relevant parties (at minimum the Head Referee of the match), and will determine whether there is sufficient evidence to overturn the decision made on the field. The result of the appeal will be communicated to the team's captain before their next match.

## STANDARD EXTENDED SUSPENSIONS

In the following situations, suspension will be extended beyond the normal duration outlined within the rules as used by QuidditchUK at the time of play. The following suspensions are in addition to the in-game penalty required by said rulebook.

In the following, 'individual' refers to players, coaches, staff members and tournament officials.

### BLUE CARDS

No amount of blue cards will lead to further suspensions.

### YELLOW CARDS

Two yellow cards adding up to a red card will not result in an extended suspension.

An individual who receives a double yellow in 2 consecutive games will be **suspended for one (1) game**.

An individual who receives six (6) yellow cards over the duration of the tournament will be **suspended for one (1) game**.

An individual who receives 2 yellow cards in the duration of one tournament for disrespecting a referee will be **suspended for one (1) game**. A double yellow card which results in a red card is counted as 2 yellows and therefore would result in a suspension. If the individual is a spectator in a match when their team is still in the tournament, the one match ban will be in effect for their next scheduled match. If their team is out of the tournament, the one match ban will carry over until the next QuidditchUK tournament they are rostered as a player.

An individual who receives 3 yellow cards in the duration of one tournament for disrespecting a referee will be **excluded** for the rest of the tournament. They should also be relieved of any refereeing and/or snitching duty.

### RED CARDS

The penalty for a straight red card given after the end of a game will always carry over to the following game (disregarding 6.4.1.9.B.).

A straight red card given during a game will not result in an extended suspension, with the exception of the following scenarios. In these instances it is the responsibility of the Tournament Director (or delegate) to determine whether a suspension is appropriate, with a **minimum of one (1) game suspension**. This decision should be made including the opinion of the Head Referee involved, with

a representative from the player's team present. If a suspension is given, the standard duration is **one (1) game**, with extensions at the discretion of the Tournament Director. Any player suspended or excluded for the reasons here under should be relieved of any refereeing and/or snitching duty for that day.

- Directing explicit or threatening taunts toward opponents or engaging in explicitly rude or hostile behaviour toward players, spectators, officials, or event staff (6.1.2. Unsporting behaviour).
- Using extreme or abusive language or obscene gestures directed toward any person (6.1.2.2. Language and gestures).
- Engaging in physical altercations or threatening any players, spectators, officials, or event staff (6.1.2.3. Physical altercations and threats).
- Committing illegal physical contact in a manner that the referee deems to be violent or egregious conduct (6.3.1.2. Illegal physical contact).
- Committing illegal physical interaction in manner that the referee deems to be violent conduct (6.3.1.3. Interaction guidelines).
- Committing egregiously illegal physical contact (6.3.1.4. Egregious contact).
- Participating in particularly egregious reckless play (7.2.8. Playing recklessly).

An individual who receives a straight red in 2 different games over the duration of the tournament must receive a **one (1) game suspension** following the second straight red card.

An individual who receives a red card (straight or double-yellow) in 3 different games over the duration of the tournament will be **excluded** for the rest of the tournament following the third red card. They should also be relieved of any refereeing and/or snitching duty.

## EJECTION

An individual ejected for egregious violations of the rules (1.4.5. Ejection) will be further **suspended for two (2) games**.

## VIOLATION OF SUSPENSION

Any team that fields a player who was not included in their roster, is serving a suspension during the game in question or is otherwise ineligible to play will be forced to forfeit that game regardless of the result. The game will not be counted towards serving the player's suspension and the team captain will additionally receive a **one (1) game suspension**.

In the event that violation of a suspension in an earlier round of a knockout tournament is discovered, the suspended player's team will forfeit their most recent match, regardless of result, and the team captain will receive a **one (1) game suspension** to be served at their next rostered QuidditchUK tournament.

## FORFEITURE

Teams can forfeit a game voluntarily, or be obliged to do so due to misconduct or other factors at the discretion of either the head referee or the event organizers. A game forfeit will also constitute a forfeit of all subsequent games in the event except in the case of a team fielding an ineligible player.

In consideration of tie-breakers, a forfeit should be considered to be a victory to the opposing team in 18 minutes game time with maximum QPD or PD and the snitch catch awarded to that team, and 0 points awarded to the forfeiting team. If both teams simultaneously forfeit the same game both teams are recorded as having lost by that margin and time, with no victor.

## EXCEPTIONAL SUSPENSIONS

In the following situations, any tournament official – whether a referee, a snitch or a member of the tournament committee – should require the suspension of an individual due to their behaviour. These suspensions should be discussed with the Tournament Director and at least one third party; individuals involved or their captain/coach may be consulted to provide insights into the issue. The final decision should be communicated to the captain of the suspended player and any official to whom the information is relevant. If deemed appropriate suspensions that require further investigation by the Tournament Committee and/or QuidditchUK may carry over to further QuidditchUK events.

In the following, 'individual' refers to players, coaches, staff members and tournament officials:

- An individual who interferes with a game that their team is not a part of will be **suspended for one (1) game**. This does not affect individuals officiating the match in question as part of the refereeing team.
- An individual who provokes any match official, volunteer, spectator and/or organising staff member outside of a game will be **suspended for one (1) game** or more at the Tournament Director's discretion.
- An individual who verbally threatens any match official, volunteer, spectator and/or organising staff member outside of a game will be **suspended for one (1) game** or more at the Tournament Director's discretion. They should also be relieved of any refereeing and/or snitching duty that would put them in contact with the threatened individual.
- Anyone participating in a brawl will be **suspended for minimum two (2) games**, with further penalties applying pending an investigation by the Tournament Committee and/or QuidditchUK; with the exception of those merely attempting to protect others or stop the fight. They should also be relieved of any refereeing and/or snitching duty for that day.
- An individual who intentionally physically harms any match official, volunteer, spectator and/or organising staff member will be **excluded** for the rest of the tournament. They should also be relieved of any refereeing and/or snitching duty.
- Committing an offense of discrimination or abuse including – but not limited to – directing derogatory remarks towards a person concerning their race, colour, culture, religion, gender, gender identity, orientation and/or origin will be **excluded** for the rest of the tournament. They should also be relieved of any refereeing and/or snitching duty.

In the instances listed above, an official complaint should also be filed following QuidditchUK Disciplinary Policy, in order to allow the appropriate department to take any additional action they deem fit, such as carrying the penalty over another official event.

## CHANGELOG

- Suspensions to carry forward to future tournaments for all suspensions not fully served
  - Exclusions defined as a suspension of two games or the remainder of the tournament (whichever is greater) for the purposes of this rule.
- Responsibility to report potentially suspendable red cards to TD given to HR (in addition to existing pitch manager/scorekeeper responsibility)
- Responsibility to communicate suspensions clarified
- Appeal procedure clarified
- Penalty for accruing 6 yellow cards reduced to 1 game suspension
- Threshold for exclusion for referee disrespect lowered to 3 yellow cards
  - Section relating to straight red cards for referee disrespect removed as referee disrespect is a yellow card offense
- Suspension after a straight red card for specific listed offenses is no longer mandatory, but is subject to Tournament Director review with a suggested 1 game suspension as standard
- Penalty for accruing 2 straight red cards reduced to 1 game suspension
- Result of forfeit generalised to accommodate variation in tiebreaking criteria between tournaments
- Penalty for violating suspension increased to include 1 game suspension for team captain
- Provision included for retrospective discovery of suspension violation during knockout phase