

## **Grading the seriousness of the offence leading to a red card**

From the start of the 2020 season in all SCCSA games, if a player receives a red card (sent off), the referee will be required to grade the seriousness of the offence on a scale of 1 (least serious) to 5 (extremely serious).

Remember, the grading relates to the seriousness of the offence, NOT how annoyed it made you or how much you dislike the player involved. You MUST keep personal feelings out of the equation and grade ONLY according to the offence.

The following schedule is a guide to determining the grading of various offences.

You will note that there is no grade 5 included. Please note that a grade 5 offence must be an extremely bad offence – remember the player will not receive an automatic suspension for a grade 5 offence but will be required to attend a judiciary hearing. The referee involved may also be required to attend to justify the grading – see further info at the end of these guidelines.

### R1 (Serious Foul Play)

- Grades 1 and 2 Example 1 : A tackle that demonstrates excessive force (e.g. a studs up tackle that strikes an opponent's leg) but does not cause injury. Example 2: A player who lunges at an opponent in challenging for the ball from the front, from the side or from behind using one or both legs, with excessive force or endangers the safety of an opponent. It is unlikely that many tackles such as the above would be graded as "1", however in some extreme examples of the above "3" may be appropriate.
- Grades 3 to 4 Tackles that actually cause injury to an opponent should be generally graded 3 or 4. A more serious injury would generally suggest that there was more malice in the tackle than one that caused only minor injury and would thus gain a higher grading. A grading of 3 or 4 here indicates that it is a very serious offence.

## R2 (Violent conduct)

- By its very nature, violent conduct would rarely be graded 1. Most violent conduct is committed in the “heat of the moment” and should attract a grading of 2 or perhaps 3 if there are punches thrown. If physical violence is clearly pre-meditated (not heat of moment, e.g. running in to situation to throw punches) then a 3 (or 4 in extreme cases) is appropriate.
- If a player strikes or attempts to strike you, or your ARs it is graded as 4 AND a full and detailed report is required as we will probably have the player charged with assault (if there is contact)

## R3 (Spitting)

- Spitting AT someone may be low level 1 or 2. If it is clear that the spitting was not intended to actually hit an opponent a 1 is sufficient, if unsure then grade it as 2
- Spitting ON someone (i.e. actually making contact) is more serious. Grading would be 3 if spitting was on shirt, boot etc. If it is on the face then it is graded as 4
- If a player spits AT or ON you or your ARs it is graded as 4

## R4 (DOGSO handball)

- Where it is an obvious reflex action grading is 1
- Where hand ball is clearly intended grading is 2

## R5 (DOGSO general)

- A DOGSO offence would generally be graded at 2 or 3 depending on the seriousness of the offence. If it warrants a grading of 4, then it is probably more likely to be SFP than DOGSO

## R6 (OFFINABUS)

- If you have chosen to send off a player who has used unacceptable language or gestures but has done so in frustration, grade it as 1.
- If a player directs OFFINABUS at another person, grade it as 2 unless it is very high end language, in which case it becomes a 3

- If a player directs OFFINABUS at you or your ARs grade it as 3 or, if it is high end language, grade it as 4
- If a player threatens you and or your ARs, it is graded as 4

#### R7 (Second yellow)

- A player receiving a second yellow card would normally be graded as 1. If both yellow cards were “high end” yellow cards, then grade as 2

I note again that none of the above guideline include any grade 5 offences. If you think that an incident warrants a grading of 5, you may indicate at the end of your report that you believe that a grading of 5 is warranted. Members of the Executive will consider your report and may upgrade the grading to 5 if it is considered that such a grading is appropriate.