

ARTICLE II : JUDICIAL PROCESS

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Section 1 : Preface

While we would prefer it be otherwise, there may be instances where players or teams will exhibit poor conduct or break the rules. This may occur due to ignorance or a lack of respect for the rules or other players. Unfortunately, that requires that we incorporate a judicial process, in order to ensure these issues are handled correctly, and there are punishments and deterrents in place to avoid the majority of them.

Large groups of people bring a variety of ideals and morals with them. The league will do what is best to ensure that the majority of the community understands and complies with the rules and conduct we expect from our members.

When a breach of rules or misconduct occurs, the league will step in to enforce the standard.

1.1 : Conduct Related Offense

When there is an issue of conduct of either yourself or another player, make a note of the misconduct, and extricate yourself from the situation. Cease communication immediately. If your presence is required, remain calm, follow the rules, and complete your commitment before leaving.

After you have left, you have the option of filing a conduct complaint through your management or the VFLPA. Do not discuss the issue with other players, as that will not aid in a resolution, and will only serve to produce misinformation which will have a negative impact on the ability to resolve your complaint.

1.2 : Rule Related Offense

When a rule related offense occurs, teams are expected to make immediate restitution. If a breach of the rules results in an advantage gained for your team, a complaint may still be filed, but returning that advantage will reduce or eliminate further enforcement.

If there is a disagreement as to whether a rule was broken, finish the game as if the rule was not broken, and gather as much evidence of the breach as possible, with video of the infraction being the best possible evidence. Save it for submission of a complaint after the game.

Do not argue with the other team, or allow this disagreement to also result in additional conduct related offenses. There is no need to communicate with the other team as to whether an infraction occurred. If the other team believes they broke a rule, they will communicate it to you, either through their actions on the field, or in a message informing you that they recognize the infraction and are going to take action to correct it.

You may not point out an infraction to the other team. Doing so will have a negative impact on your complaint and may also result in a conduct related offense.

1.3 : No Harm, No Foul

When a rule is broken but there is no advantage gained by the team that broke the rule, then there is no offense committed.

Section 2 : Replays

2.1 : Replay

A replay is a BOG ruling instituted to correct an imbalance in a played game, after a review is found to have sufficient evidence to warrant the ruling. A replay consists of 1 game of standard play, followed by overtime, if necessary.

Replays may occur in the regular season only if the following occur:

If the game freezes at any point during the game no matter what the score and no matter how much time is left, please immediately report the incident to staff and BOGs will discuss how to resolve the freeze as soon as possible..

2.1.1 : Scheduling

A replay will be scheduled for Thursday at 9 PM (EST). Teams are allowed to reschedule the game to another time if agreed upon by management. If a team should have multiple replays, they will be scheduled for Thursday at 9 PM (EST) and 10 PM (EST). If that date is not available the staff will determine the best available date and time for the game replay to occur.

2.1.2 : Eligibility

Players from the original game must be scheduled to play this game. Any players in violation of the rule are unable to attend the replay, may only be replaced with ECU's and this game does not count towards player limits for ECU's.

2.1.3 : Procedure

The BOG will add the replay game to your weekly lines after informing management of the ruling. You are required to note any substitutions in a new post regarding that game.

Section 3 : Filing a Formal Complaint

Complaint forms will be made available in the complaints and appeals section for Player complaints, and in the management section for Management or Game complaints.

3.1 : Type of Complaint

3.1.1 : Player Complaint

As a player, you have the right to contact the VFLPA if you would like to file a complaint regarding:

1. Your rights as a player.
2. Conduct of your management.
3. Conduct of other members.

If you feel your rights as a player are being violated, or you are being harassed or otherwise treated unfairly by your management or another member of the league, contact a VFLPA representative, as listed in the Executive Order of the constitution. They will offer you further advice and guide you through complaint procedures.

3.1.2 : Management Complaint

As management, you have the right to contact the BOG in order to file a complaint regarding:

1. Conduct of Your management
- 2.
3. Conduct of Your players
4. Conduct of Other management groups

If you feel the conduct of your management or players is creating a team issue or against the constitution and procedures of the league, contact a Deputy Commissioner as listed in the executive order of the constitution. They will offer you further advice and guide you through complaint procedures.

3.1.3 : Game Complaint

As the owner (or NFL GM) of an organization, you have the right to contact the BOG in order to file a complaint regarding:

1. Game infractions
2. Game related conduct
3. Game rulings

You will filter any complaints from your affiliate management groups in relation to these issues, to ensure that they have a legitimate complaint before submitting it to the BOG for review. This is to be done AFTER the game(s) in question. If you are unable to resolve an issue, the game is completed as if that issue did not occur, and according to the rules.

You may not contact a BOG or Commissioner when you encounter an issue. They are only permitted to reiterate the above underlined statement in those circumstances. This is to avoid misunderstandings and spot rulings, which cannot be enforced.

Section 4 : Resolving Complaints

4.1 : BOG Rulings

The BOG's will rule on all complaints. They are the group that enforces the rules and standards of the VFL, and have no connection, or responsibilities, to management or players. Their responsibility is to provide rulings based on the constitution and procedures of the league only.

4.1.1 : Offense

An offense is accrued by a player when a suspension is issued against that player. Each offense carries an outlined punishment.

First Offense : 1 game

Second Offense : 1 week (3 games missed)

Third Offense : Suspension for the remainder of the season and put on probation

4.1.2 : Suspensions

The BOG's have the ability to suspend any member of the league according to the constitution, provided they have sufficient evidence to do so. Suspensions will be decided at the end of each week, by Thursday at midnight.

4.1.3 : Management Penalties

The BOG's have the ability to apply penalties, including 1 game suspensions, for failure to comply with league standards, meet deadlines, or follow proper procedures. These penalties are reserved for management.

4.1.4 : Circumvention

Any ruling found to be circumvented is an immediate third offense. For example, playing while suspended. Playing under another player's account. IP Boot

4.1.5 : Disclosure

A player found to be discussing an incident under review, appeal, or otherwise conducting themselves in an inappropriate manner related to that incident, private or public, **will forfeit their right to a judicial process.**

No ruling is official until it has been communicated to the offending parties involved in the complaint. Only at that time will the ruling take effect.

Once a ruling has been made, and an offense has been registered, it will be posted publicly. The Commissioner will make this announcement, or assign a member of his staff to that task.

4.1.6 : Appeals

An appeal may be filed, at the discretion of the VFLPA on behalf of a player and management.

For proper appeal procedures, contact the appropriate branch of staff.

When the VFLPA finds sufficient cause to file an appeal on the behalf of a player, or the Commissioner's Office for management, the ruling may be suspended temporarily while the appeal is processed. An appeal with insufficient cause or low probability for success may be rejected without being filed, at the discretion of the branch of staff responsible for the appeal. You may not file multiple appeals for the same ruling.

An appeal must be submitted 24 hours from being notified of being suspended. Appeals must be resolved within 48 hours of being filed. In the case that an appeal is unable to be resolved within 48 hours or before the next week begins, the player can continue to play their normal schedule till the appeal process has concluded.

A suspended ruling will state "Pending Appeal", and be changed to "Appeal Successful" or "Appeal Denied", pending the result.

The offending party will be notified of the result of the Appeal when the process is complete. The offense will either be applied or removed at that point in time.