



General Purpose Tribunals

Granville & Districts Soccer Football Association



G&DSFA GENERAL PURPOSE TRIBUNAL (GPT) – Rules of play.

1.1 Mandate of the Tribunal

- a) The GPT shall deal with all disputes, abandoned games, incident reports submitted by Referees or Officials and Spectators deemed necessary after all reports are submitted and considered by the General Manger and office of the G&DSFA. All reports need to be received by COB Monday for Saturday games or COB Tuesday for games played on Sundays. Effectively, 48 hours from the date of the incident.
- b)The GPT shall meet as necessary at the headquarters of G&DSFA (Melita Stadium, Everley Rd, Sth Granville) or any other place deemed necessary by the Board of Directors.
- c) The GPT Chairperson will keep a record of decisions reached and advise the General Manager who will inform the interested parties in writing within seven days of those decisions.
- d) The GPT shall keep a record of its business and of all cautions, sanctions etc issued to any player(s), team(s) or club(s) registered with G&DSFA, and the office will inform players or officials via their Club Secretary when they are suspended.

1.2 Structure of the GPT

- a) The GPT shall consist of three (3) persons, one of whom is Chair with one (1) additional member acting a reserve.
- b) The GPT members shall be the same person/s for all hearing and will be known to all clubs and appointed by the board of directors with one (1) director having overall responsibility.
- c) The GPT Chairperson will have the same voting rights as the other panel members.
- d) The determination of any tribunal shall be in accordance with majority opinion, and if equally divided the Chairperson’s determination shall prevail.
- e) All panel members are to be independent of each other in terms of club affiliation, and also independent of the parties involved in the complaint.

1.3 Powers of the GPT

The GPT has the power to:

- a) Take evidence, the admissibility and weight to be given to any evidence in the proceedings shall be at the discretion of the Tribunal. The GPT will also take into account other conduct that might arise from the evidence.
- b) Require the attendance of any participant to give evidence.
- c) Require the production of any document, information or other material in whatever form held by any party under the jurisdiction of G&DSFA, including G&DSFA.
- d) Where the participant required to give evidence fails to do so, the GPT may suspend the participant from competition or membership privileges of G&DSFA until they have done so.
- e) Determine whether a complaint is proved.
- f) Determine and set any punishments or sanctions against players, officials, teams, clubs and/or others that they consider appropriate. The GPT is not restrained by the sentencing guidelines in By-Laws, though will usually be guided by those sanctions.
- g) Set the starting and finishing dates of any suspensions or other sanctions it imposes.
- h) Impose appropriate fines and/or bonds on any player, team official, ground official, team and/or club.

1.4 Procedural Fairness

- a) The GPT must keep an open mind about all matters before it until all evidence is submitted.
- b) The person(s) subject of complaint will be introduced to the GPT and may challenge the appropriateness of any panel member(s). It is then up to the panel, under all circumstances, to rule on any such challenge.
- c) The general form of proceedings will be explained including any assistance afforded the person(s) subject of complaint throughout.
- d) Witnesses shall be called separately when considered appropriate by the GPT.
- e) Both the panel and any person(s) subject of complaint shall be present throughout the hearing, except in *ex parte* circumstances outlined in By-Laws. The person(s) subject of complaint shall be given every opportunity to present a case; the same opportunity is afforded the complainant. However, the Chairperson has the right to call a halt to duplication or repetition of evidence, or anything straying outside the bounds of the case before the committee.
- f) The GPT is not a court of evidence. The determination of any matter before the GPT is therefore not required to be "beyond reasonable doubt", but rather a standard of proof that the panel is comfortable with, based on the balance of probabilities and having regard to the seriousness of the matter.
- g) The rights and procedures of appeal must be provided to any person against whom adverse findings were made at the time those findings are published, including any time limit that applies.

1.5 Meeting Times

The GPT will meet as necessary at the headquarters of G&DSFA (Melita Stadium, Everley Rd, Sth Granville) or any other place deemed necessary by the General Manager or Board of Directors. Exact times and dates will be published in the notices issued to clubs / persons required to attend. Times and dates are always at the discretion of the General Manager and/or Directors.

1.6 Notification of Complaint

Every person required to attend a hearing before the GPT must be informed in writing no less than four (4) days prior to the hearing. The Notice of Complaint must include:

- a) The name(s) of those subject to the complaint.
- b) The name(s) of those making complaint.
- c) Particulars of the matter including any By-Law or regulation pursuant to which it is made.
- d) The time, date and place the return notice is due to be submitted persons required to attend.

1.7 Person/s Required to Attend

- a) Any person(s), team(s) or club(s) required to appear must do so at the prescribed date, time and venue. Failure to do so will result in the suspension of those person(s) etc until such time as they do appear at the GPT, and may also result in the imposition of a fine.
- b) The minimum age group for a player to appear in front of the GPT is Under 13's. Players younger than 13 who play in Under 13 competition games or teams must also appear. Persons playing in games or teams younger than Under 13 must be dealt with by their club within seven (7) days of notification of the incident. The club will be required to submit the minutes of the disciplinary meeting to the General Manager within two (2) days of that meeting, including what action has been taken.

NB: Persons other than the player/s involved can be and will be summoned before the GPT to hear charges. The GPT Chairperson may then direct the club to alter any sanctions that are considered inappropriate.

c) Any party may be required to give evidence, but always at the discretion of the GPT. Referees will also be required to attend hearings as necessary.

1.8 Persons subject of complaint, failing to respond or attend.

a) If a person, team or club fails to respond to a Notice, or fails to attend the GPT hearing without adequate reason, the GPT shall determine the matter *ex parte*.

b) An *ex parte* decision of the GPT has the same force and effect as if the determination was made after a full hearing before the tribunal.

1.9 Notice of Costs

a) At the commencement of any proceedings, a Notice of Costs shall be provided to each party in the proceedings.

b) Where the convening of a tribunal will subject G&DSFA to costs or expenses, those costs or expenses shall be paid by the unsuccessful party or the party against whom a complaint has been proven.

1.10 Representation

A party may be represented by legal counsel or by another person nominated by that party. If a party decides to have legal representation, they must notify the GPT no less than two (2) days prior to the scheduled hearing. In these cases, provision may be made for the GPT to have legal counsel, and the cost of this may be charged to the unsuccessful party or against whom a complaint has been proven. The party opting for legal counsel must be advised of the cost of this prior to the hearing.

1.11 Application of suspensions

a) Players, officials, teams and/or clubs may be suspended for a number of competition matches, or for a specified time as per By-Laws.

b) Where the suspension is in a number of matches, the suspended party may not participate in any match day activities, including but not limited to the match itself, warm up/warm down activities, pre-game or half-time talks, entry into team dressing rooms etc. The party may continue to train and participate in other team activities other than on match day unless otherwise notified in the decision of the GPT. These suspensions will be served in G&DSFA winter football matches, and in any Football NSW competitions in which the party is registered (such as State Cup, Champion of Champions). Neither Futsal matches nor any summer football competitions will count as matches served unless otherwise directed by the GPT.

c) Where the suspension is for a specified time frame, the party is suspended from ALL FOOTBALL ACTIVITIES that are under the jurisdiction of G&DSFA and/or Football NSW. Unless otherwise determined by the GPT, this includes, but is not limited to: football matches and competitions, training, coaching, managing, refereeing, participation on club or G&DSFA committees or working groups, Futsal competitions, and match day officiating (eg: Team official, ground official).

d) The GPT will include in any decision the start and end date of any suspension, or the number of matches that the party must stand down. Also included will be any consideration given to matches stood down prior to the hearing.

e) All suspensions over one (1) month or five (5) matches will be reported to Football NSW by the office of G&DSFA, who records disciplinary histories for publication to other associations. Also reported will be players who have failed to appear when directed.

f) Parties may also be barred from entering grounds hired by G&DSFA during games. In all instances this means that where there is a fence on any side of a ground the barred person must remain outside that fence. Where there is no fence, the barred person may not come any closer than 10 metres of the outer boundaries of the playing field. Clubs will be held responsible for ensuring that such sanctions are complied with.

g) Sentences imposed carry over from one year to the next. Players do not have to be registered in the following year for suspensions to expire.

h) Parties who participate in games while suspended will receive an additional suspension of four (4) match per match they participated in, served consecutively after the original suspension. The GPT may also order fines be imposed on the club to whom the party belongs.

h) Washed-out matches, Byes, and Forfeits by a suspended player's team will not be counted as matches served in any suspension. Abandoned matches will only be counted at the discretion of the General Manger and/or Directors.

1.12 Contempt in the face of the Tribunal

a) A person must not:

- i) Insult a member of a Tribunal in or in relation to the exercise of the powers or functions of a member; or
- ii Repeatedly interrupt the proceedings of a Commission/Tribunal; or
- iii) Create a disturbance or take part in creating or continuing a disturbance in or near a place where a Tribunal is sitting; or
- iv) Obstruct or hinder the Tribunal in the performance of the functions of the Tribunal; or
- v) Fail to comply in full with an order of the Tribunal; or
- vi) Do any act or thing that would, if a Tribunal were a Court of record, constitute a contempt of Court.

b) Upon a finding of a breach of 1.12a above, the Tribunal may refer the conduct to the Executive seeking an order for:

- i) Payment, by a person who has committed the offence or been found to have acted in contempt or abused the process of the tribunal, of the whole or any part of the costs of a party to proceedings occasioned by the contempt or abuse of process; and/or
- ii Deduction of points from any Club in a G&DSFA Competition; and/or
- iii) Expulsion, suspension or disqualification of any Participant or Club from any Football Activity for such time as it deems fit; and/or
- iv) Expulsion, suspension or disqualification of any member.