



Guidance on special reporting situations

Further offence(s) after a sending-off

After having been sent-off, a player or team official may commit further offence(s) that are equivalent to an YC or RC – for example, upon being shown an RC for an R1 offence, the player uses abusive language toward the referee (an R6-equivalent offence).

However, since the player or team official has already been sent-off, no further YC or RC can be shown.

In these situations, referees should describe the further offence(s) in their original send-off report. For example, in an R1 send-off report:

“... After I showed player #15 the red card, the player then called me a ‘.....’. The player said this while directly facing me and standing not more than 2 metres away from me. He then turned away from me and walked off the field of play”.

The MWFA Disciplinary Committee will take this further offence into account when determining the player’s disciplinary penalty.

Please note: this form of reporting applies to ‘further offence(s)’ regardless of how long after the original RC offence the further offence occurs. For example, after the player has reached the sideline or 15 minutes later (having not left the vicinity of the field of play and technical area) or even after the end of the match.

In the case of further offence(s) following an R7 send-off, the R7 webform report template on the MWFA website does not technically allow for any additional text description of the original offences or the further offence(s). In these situations, referees should describe the further offence(s) in a *separate citation report*.

Send-off offences by team officials

Law 12 sets out a number of types of offences by team officials that are sending-off offences.

Some of these offences directly map to player offences:

R2	Violent conduct
R3	Biting or spitting at someone
R6	Using offensive, insulting or abusive language and/or actions
R7	Receiving a second caution in the same match

In these situations, referees should report the team official send-off in the same way that a player send-off is reported – i.e. using the send-off webform report template on the MWFRA website.

For other team official send-off offences set out in Law 12, there is no equivalent player send-off offence within the R1-to-R7 range – e.g. deliberately throwing/kicking an object onto the field of play.

In these situations, referees should report the team official send-off in a separate citation report.

Reporting of melees

From 2023, the MWFA Playing Rules include an offence designation of ‘Participation in a Melee’, for which the penalty is from 2-10 Team Disciplinary Points (TDPs) but without any games suspension.

‘Melee’ is not defined in the MWFA Playing Rules and Referees should be guided by the Football NSW definition of:

“a confrontation, altercation, use of threatening language/conduct and/or heated exchange of words/gestures between 3 or more persons”

Referees should consider that a threshold for a melee – beyond ‘a little bit of push and shove’ - is that there is a physical or verbal ‘anger’ element in the, for example, ‘confrontation’ or ‘heated exchange’.

Referees should note that the 3 or more persons may be, for example, the two players involved in the original contact incident plus one other player that joins and expresses anger, neither of the first two players but three joining players that get involved in an altercation between themselves or some other combination of original and joining players.

Where multiple players join a situation but are wholly acting to stand between, separate or restrain other players or otherwise seeking to quell a situation, the threshold for a melee is not typically met – there is not a physical or verbal ‘anger’ element between 3 or more persons.

IMPORTANT: Melee reporting is not a substitute for applying YC and RC sanctions for conduct during a melee – referees should take appropriate action against misconduct regardless of whether it occurs during a melee or not.

The form of reporting of a melee follows the model for ‘further offence’ and ‘team official send-off’ reporting – that is:

- if there is a related send-off report (for example, an R1 for the original tackle or an R2 for punching by a joining person) include reporting of the melee within that send-off report,
- if not, report the melee in a separate citation report.

To assist the MWFA Disciplinary Committee to determine any penalty within the 2-10 TDP range and whether differentially between the teams, reports about a melee should include information about:

- the circumstances leading to the melee,
- the number of persons from each team that joined, how quickly they did this and from what distance they moved to join
- the number of persons from each team that expressed anger, the manner in which they did this and their identification (shirt number and/or name) if possible
- the duration of the melee
- what the match officials were doing during the melee (e.g. blowing whistle, shouting 'stop' and/or observing/noting persons' conduct)
- what YC(s) were issued and to whom for conduct during the melee
- what RC(s) were issued and to whom for conduct during the melee (it is sufficient to simply cross-reference 'as described in this report', 'as described in the send-off report of ...' rather than restate the send-off report text)