



## **Ottawa Carleton Soccer League**

2451 Riverside Drive., Ottawa, Ontario K1H 7X7 tel: 613 233-4451  
web site: [www.ocslonline.ca](http://www.ocslonline.ca) fax: 613 233-6051 e-mail: [manager@ocslonline.ca](mailto:manager@ocslonline.ca)



## **OCSL 2023 Discipline Policy**

### **Policy & Procedures**



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### Player Misconduct

The Ottawa Carleton Soccer League (OCSL) will be handling Level 1 discipline as detailed in the attached chart. All other discipline will be referred to Ontario Soccer (OS). This is a summary of the OCSL procedures. More information can be found on the Ontario Soccer Association website under Governing Documents, Section 12 – Discipline.

Discipline will be conducted by either Discipline by Review (DBR) or Discipline by Hearing (DBH). Most misconducts that are handled by the OCSL are conducted as DBR unless the player requests a hearing. In the below chart, each misconduct is labeled as to what procedure is followed.

### Discipline by Review?

Discipline by Review is the method of determining the discipline for a misconduct. Discipline by Review or DBR, is done by a panel of a minimum of 3 members. This panel reviews the misconduct report and determine if the charge is correct. If the charge is correct and no hearing is required, then they render the penalty. If the misconduct and subsequent charge is one that requires a hearing, the panel will take the necessary steps to schedule a hearing.

Once a decision has been made, the panel will contact the Club and Team Officials of which the player is registered. It is the responsibility of these officials to inform the player of the result. This notice will include the exact offence that has been committed, the penalty for the offence and the dates of the suspension, if required. Discipline by Review decisions cannot be appealed.

Except in the cases of misconducts 1.3, 1.5 and 1.6, a player can request a Discipline by Hearing.

### Discipline by Hearing?

Discipline by Hearing is the review of the misconduct and the rendering of penalty by a panel of a minimum of 3 members, with the attendance of the player accused of the misconduct. This allows for the player to state their story for the panel. The player and club representative are required to attend the hearing. They may provide witnesses as well. The chair of the panel must have the OSA's Discipline and Appeals Chairs Course.

A player may request a hearing for any offense other than 1.3, 1.5 and 1.6. There are some offences that are automatically assigned DBH. To request a hearing a player must submit, in writing, no more than 72 hours after the incident. There is a \$100 fee that must be submitted with the request. This fee can be paid to the OCSL office via cheque, or by e-transfer to [manager@ocslonline.ca](mailto:manager@ocslonline.ca). This fee is refunded if the player is found not guilty.



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A player may plead guilty to a misconduct and forgo a hearing. This plea must be received no later than FOUR (4) days before the hearing and must be in writing. In doing so the party accepts the maximum penalty applicable. The decision cannot be appealed.

If a player does not attend the hearing, the player will be suspended until they attend one. They must request to schedule a hearing and will be charged a \$100 administrative fee.

### **Request for Postponement**

Any party required to attend a hearing may request ONE (1) postponement of a hearing. The party must submit a written request which must be received by the OCSL office no later than FOUR (4) days prior to the date of that hearing, stating the reason for requesting the postponement. All such requests must be accompanied by a \$50 administrative fee. Should the request be denied, the fee shall be refunded. The OCSL shall have full discretion to refund the "Request for Postponement Fee" if sufficient reason warrants such action.

Any Match Official required to attend does not have to pay the "Request for Postponement Fee" unless he/she is the accused.

If criminal charges are laid because of any incident that occurred in a game or in the vicinity of the game's venue after the game, the case shall proceed in accordance with "Governing Documents", unless the accused requests a postponement of the hearing. Such "Requests for Postponement" shall be granted, but the accused shall remain suspended from all soccer related activity until his/ her case is dealt with by the Discipline Hearing Panel.

### **Appealing a Decision**

A Discipline by Review decision cannot be appealed. A Discipline by Hearing decision may be appealed to OS. To appeal the decision of the OCSL, a letter of appeal must be submitted to OS. The letter of appeal must specify your rationale for appealing the decision of the OCSL. Your rationale must include:

1. New facts not available when the OCSL decision was made or not available at previous hearings;
2. Specific procedural errors made by the OCSL or at previous hearings;
3. Specific instances where Articles and Rules have been wrongly interpreted by OCSL or at previous hearings.
4. Alleged excessive fine, fee, bond, or suspension.

Failure to provide an adequate rationale will result in your appeal being ruled out of order and disallowed. The appeal shall be submitted in writing by registered mail, recognized Courier Service or by hand delivery to:



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*Ontario Soccer  
7601 Martin Grove Road  
Vaughan, Ontario, L4L 9E4*

The appeal must be submitted no more than FIVE (5) working days from the receipt of the written decision rendered by the OCSL.

When registered mail or recognized courier service is used to submit the appeal, it must be postmarked or dated no more than FIVE (5) working days from the receipt of the written decision rendered by the OCSL. When hand delivered, it must be received at the OS office no later than FIVE (5) working days from the receipt of the written decision rendered by the OCSL. In cases of a disputed delivery date regarding appeals submitted by hand delivery, it is the responsibility of the Appellant to prove which date that the appeal was received at the OS Office.

A copy of the letter of appeal may be sent by registered mail, recognized Courier Service, or by hand delivery to the OCSL, however, it is the responsibility of OS to advise all relevant parties of the appeal and to provide them with a copy of the appeal.

The appeal to the OS Discipline and Appeals Committee must include: a letter of appeal; the appeal fee of seven hundred and fifty dollars (\$750.00) by cheque or money order; as well as a copy of the decision being appealed.

If the appeal is upheld, the appeal fee shall be refunded.

For additional information about appeals, call OS at (605) 264-9390.

Mail any correspondence to the OCSL as follows:

*Ottawa Carleton Soccer League  
2451 Riverside Drive, House of Sport  
Ottawa, Ontario K1H 7X7*

### **Penalties for Misconduct**

Below is the chart listing the various misconduct charges and their penalties. As well it is noted if the charge is DBR only, Requested DBH or Mandatory DBH. Most misconduct charges have the penalty of a suspension as well as a \$50 administrative fee. Individuals who have been issued a notice of suspension must follow the instructions regarding which games to sit out. A player must wait for this notice to serve the suspension. Any mistakes as to which games to sit out will be the fault of the player and team.

The notification of player suspension(s) will indicate the number of games and the game number that the player is under suspension for. The game numbers specified on the notification are the assigned games and must be served accordingly. In the event that one of the assigned games is to be rescheduled, the player will still be required to sit the assigned game number.



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He/she (or their Club) shall be levied an administrative fee of \$50.00 for each misconduct that results in a suspension (per the attached chart). Failure to pay will result in the individual remaining under suspension until the administrative fee is paid. Players who resume play without paying the \$50.00 administrative fee are considered 'ineligible' and are subject to disciplinary actions.

### Discipline in a game that is not completed

Any discipline that is earned by players or team officials in a game that is not completed for any reason will count.

**The following is a table of the most common misconducts for which the Ottawa Carleton Soccer League can issue discipline. This is not a complete list.**

### Standard penalties for misconduct by a Player:

Type #	Description of Misconduct	First Seasonal Offense	Second Seasonal Offense	OCSL Fee
1.1	First Caution	No action		
1.2	Second Caution	No action		
1.3	Third Caution <b>DBR only</b>	1 game suspension		
1.4	Fourth Caution	No action		
1.5	Fifth Caution <b>DBR only</b>	2 game suspension		\$50
1.6	Sixth Caution and any subsequent cautions <b>DBR only</b>	3 game suspension		\$50
1.7	Notwithstanding Misconduct Types 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.4, 1.5, and 1.6 above, the following suspensions will be applied to players in the Regional Division of the Senior Leagues:			
1.7.1	First Caution	No action		
1.7.2	Second Caution	No action		



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1.7.3	Third Caution	No action		
1.7.4	Fourth Caution	No action		
1.7.5	Fifth Caution	1 game suspension		\$50
1.7.6	Sixth Caution	No action		
1.7.7	Seventh Caution	1 game suspension		\$50
1.13	Dismissed for receiving a second caution in the same game for which neither of the offenses was directed at the game official (s)  <b>DBR or DBH if requested</b>	1 game suspension	3 game suspension	\$50
1.14	Dismissed for receiving a second caution in the same game for which at least one of the cautions was directed at the game official (s)  <b>DBR or DBH if requested</b>	2 game suspension		\$50
1.15	Dismissed for “using offensive, insulting, abusive language and/or gestures directed at anyone other than the game official.”  <b>DBR or DBH if requested</b>	1 game suspension	3 game suspension	\$50
1.16	Dismissed or reported by game official for “Using offensive, insulting or abusive language and/or gestures” directed at the game official(s). If racist or sexual comments – please see 1.73  <b>DBR or DBH if requested</b>	3 game suspension	8 game suspension	\$50
1.17	Dismissed or reported for “using offensive, insulting or abusive language and/or gestures” directed at a game official(s) after having been previously dismissed or reported  Note: A suspension of 9-12 games can only be applied for 1.17 where the charge has been reduced from Game Official Assault charges 1.51/1.52. Otherwise the maximum suspension for 1.17 is 8 games.  <b>DBH only</b>	6-12 game suspension	8-16 game suspension	\$50



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1.18	Dismissed for “denying an opponent a goal or an obvious goal scoring opportunity by deliberately handling the ball”  <b>DBR or DBH is requested</b>	1 game suspension	2 game suspension	\$50
1.18A	Dismissed for “denying an opponent a goal or an obvious goal scoring opportunity to an opponent moving towards the player’s goal by an offense punishable by a free kick or penalty kick.”  <b>DBR or DBH if requested</b>	2 game suspension	4 game suspension	\$50
1.19	Dismissed for serious foul play  <b>DBR or DBH if requested</b>	2 game suspension	4 game suspension	\$50
1.19A	Dismissed for Serious foul play where in the opinion of the Discipline hearing panel there was an obvious attempt to injure or a complete disregard for the safety of an opponent.  <b>DBR or DBH if requested</b>	4 – 8 game suspension	8 -12 game suspension	\$50
1.20	Dismissed for spitting at an opponent or any other person other than the game official.  <b>DBR or DBH if requested</b>	4 game suspension	8 game suspension	\$50
1.21	Dismissed for violent conduct  <b>DBR or DBH if requested</b>	3 game suspension	6 game suspension	\$50
1.21A	Dismissed or reported for “Violent Conduct” where in the opinion of the Discipline Hearing Panel there was an obvious attempt to seriously injure a registrant or non-registrant.  <b>DBH only</b>	6-10 game suspension	10-15 game suspension	\$50
1.22	Received and found guilty of a third dismissal in a playing season within that league or competition  <b>DBH only</b>	1-11 months		\$50
1.23	Senior player played as an ineligible player.(ID Cards specifically)	2 game suspension	4 game suspension	\$100



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	<b>DBR only</b>  <b>See R &amp; R IV .5 and XI</b>			
1.25	Re-enters the field of play or player bench area after having been dismissed from the game by the game official	2 game suspension	5 game suspension	\$50
1.73	Dismissed or reported by a game official or other registrant for racist or sexist comments made during the game or in the vicinity of the playing field either during or after the game  <b>DBH only</b>	1-3-month suspension	4-6-month suspension	\$50

### Team Misconduct

#### Card Accumulation

Teams receive points based for each yellow and red card they receive. Points are allocated based on what the infraction (see 'Yellow Point Table' and 'Red Point Table' on page 2). The total number of points a team receives is divided by number of games they played, giving each team a 'Team Discipline Score'.

$$(Total\ discipline\ points) \div (number\ of\ games\ played) = Team\ Discipline\ Score$$

There are five (5) categories of play – Premier, Competitive, Men's and Women's Rec, Oldtimers and Masters.

Each category has three (3) levels of performance bonds. Teams that finish the season with a discipline score in any of the ranges below will be required to attend a 'Team Misconduct Meeting' at the end of the season.

	<b>\$500-1,000 Bond</b>	<b>\$1,000-2,000 Bond</b>	<b>\$2,000-4,000 Bond</b>
Regional (MP & WP)	2.40 – 2.64	2.65 – 2.99	>3.00
Competitive (MC & WC)	2.10 – 2.34	2.35 – 2.69	>2.70
Men's & Women's Rec (MR + WR)	1.70 – 1.94	1.95 – 2.29	>2.30
Oldtimers (OT)	1.70 – 1.94	1.95 – 2.29	>2.30
Masters (OTM)	1.40 – 1.64	1.65 – 1.99	>2.00





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The purpose of meeting is for teams sit down with the discipline panel to discuss what happened during the season, and what steps they will take to mitigate the group's discipline the following season. This discussion, along with the team's discipline score will be factored in when the discipline panel sets the performance bond. Teams that finish within a specific range will receive a performance bond. Failure to attend the meeting will result in teams being issued the max performance bond for that level.

Halfway through the season, the league will reach out to teams that are projected to meet or exceed any of the thresholds outlined above. At any point during the season, teams may request their discipline score from the league.

Yellow Type	Points
Dissent	1.2
<b>All other yellows</b>	<b>0.9</b>

Red Type	Points
1.13: Two yellows, neither directed at match official	1.8
1.16: Using offensive, insulting language directed at the match official	2.5
1.18: DOGSO by deliberately handling the ball	1.0
1.18A: Dismissed for "Denying an opponent a goal or an obvious goal-scoring opportunity to an opponent moving towards the player's goal by an offence punishable by a free kick or penalty kick".	1.5
1.19A: Dismissed for "Serious Foul Play" where in the opinion of the DBH panel there was an obvious attempt to injure or a complete disregard for the safety of an opponent	2.5
1.20: Dismissed or reported for "Spitting at an opponent or any other person", other than a Match Official.	3.0
1.21A: Dismissed or reported for "Violent Conduct" where in the opinion of the DBH panel there was an obvious attempt to seriously injure a Registrant or Non-Registrant.	3.0
1.51 or 1.52: Match Official Assault	5.0
<b>All other red cards not mentioned above</b>	<b>2.0</b>



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### **Failure to Show for a Scheduled Game**

Section XVI, Article 3, states that: “Clubs/teams must notify the OCSL office in writing at least 24 hours prior to the scheduled kick-off time if they are not able to field a team. Otherwise, they shall be fined. Defaulted games will not be rescheduled.”

Any team which fails to field the allowable minimum number of players within 20 minutes after the scheduled kickoff time shall be considered to have failed to appear and they shall default the game. Defaulting team(s) shall be subject to fines. In district competitive and recreational the score will be recorded as 2 - 0 for their opposition, and in regional the score will be recorded as 3-0 for their opposition.

If both teams fail to appear, both teams will be subject to corrective action. There shall be no points and no score for the game, but each team will have one loss added to its record.

### **Game Sheets**

Failure of a team to properly fill in a game sheet as noted above will result in the team being subject to corrective action.

The OCSL Constitution Section XII, Article 1, states:

“OCSL Game Sheets (signed by the designated coach present at the game) with attached permits, etc, must be provided to the game official prior to the start of the game. These sheets must contain a hand printed or typed list of all registered players’ full names (first and last names) together with their shirt numbers and game related information (Division, Date, Team Names, and location etc). Any player listed but not in attendance must have a line through their name or he/she is deemed to have played that game. Any player under suspension must have the word “suspension” printed besides his/her name on the game sheet or he/she is not considered to have sat out the game. Failure to identify players under suspension may result in disciplinary action by the OCSL.”

### **Club Misconduct**

Each Club is responsible for the conduct of their players, coaches, administrators, and spectators (OSA Discipline Policy 5.2).

Clubs are responsible for ensuring that coaches and players are made aware of the above information. They must also be aware of this information and the discipline status of their players and other Club officials.



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Failure of a Club to appear at a Team Misconduct Meeting or a Discipline Hearing (without valid reason) will result in a fine of \$250. Notification will also be sent out to the Club stating that failure to agree to reschedule the hearing within ten (10) days of the date of the letter will result in the Club's suspension from all soccer activities until a hearing is requested.

### Standard Penalties for misconduct by a Coach or Administrator:

Type #	Description of Misconduct	First Seasonal Offense	Second Seasonal Offense	OCSL Fine
2.31	Persisted in Misconduct after receiving a warning for misconduct from the game official for which neither of the offenses was directed at the game official  <b>DBH only</b>	1-week suspension	3-week suspension	\$50
2.33	Used offensive, insulting, or abusive language directed at anyone other than the game official.  <b>DBH only</b>	1-week suspension	3-week suspension	\$50
2.66	Intentionally acted in contravention of, or failed to act in accordance with, a "Published Rule."  <b>DBH only</b>	1-6-month suspension	6-12-month suspension	\$50

### Trophy Return

Section XXIII stipulates that "Each club must ensure that all League property presented to a representative of their Club is returned to the OCSL prior to July 1st of the following season.

Failure to do so will result in the Club being fined an appropriate amount per trophy, cup or shield or the cost of replacing the trophy, cup or shield (whichever is higher).

### Ineligible players

Further to the OCSL Rules and Regulations, Section IV, Articles 5 and 6:



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5) Any team playing a player not registered in accordance with the OSA Published Rules or one who is ineligible to compete at the level of the team, or a player who is serving a “time suspension” as a player or from all soccer activity or is specifically suspended for the game(s) in question shall forfeit all games in which he/she participates.

6) Any team playing an ineligible player under the name of one of its registered players will be subject to the above fine as well as possible expulsion from the League Competition

Any player listed on the game sheet is deemed to have played in the game, except if a line is struck through the player’s name or the words “suspended”, “suspension” or “under suspension” are written beside the player’s name. Where a suspended player’s name appears on the game sheet without the above notation the player will not be able to claim that he/she sat out a game of his/her suspension.

Any team playing such an ineligible player will be subject to corrective action in addition to the forfeiture of points. The case will be referred to the OS, which will impose further penalties as warranted against Club and Team officials as prescribed by OS discipline regulations.

Further to the OSA Policies and Guidelines, proof of registration (i.e., player IDs) must be available to be checked prior to every game. The checking of player cards by the referee is mandatory prior to kickoff for all OCSL games. Teams and coaches must allow sufficient time prior to the game starting to facilitate this verification process and not cause a delay in the start of the game.

Teams playing without the required player cards will be subject to corrective action in addition to the forfeiture of points. Any player without a valid player card and /or permit (if applicable) CANNOT PLAY; such players must change out of their uniform or leave the playing area.

Games should not be played and will not be rescheduled if player cards are not at the field. Games not played because of player cards not being present at the game could result in the offending team being fined as previously stated and a win being awarded to the other team.

If the legitimacy of any player card or permit presented at the field is questioned, it should be noted by the referee, and the player concerned MUST SIGN THE GAME SHEET and the matter will be looked into by the League office upon receipt. Discipline action and fines may be assessed as required.

Players who arrive after the start of the first half, but before the second half starts, may play in the game, however they must show their ID to the match official at halftime. Players that have not shown their ID when the second half begins render the player ineligible.

Please note that referees have the right to refuse to officiate a game where player cards are not present. The referee will submit a special incident report in this regard and possible discipline action may be taken against both teams as deemed necessary.

A zero-tolerance approach will be applied to players, coaches, and teams who fail to follow the OCSL’s ID Checking Procedures. Fines and/or other disciplinary measures will be applied.



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### **NO ID = NO PLAY**

#### **Protests**

Protests of games must be submitted within 24 hours of the game and accordingly to Section XXIV of the current OCSL Rules and Regulation. Protests will not be accepted on grounds regarding to referee conduct and decisions, field conditions, goal posts, crossbars, ball, colours, etc. Protests must be noted on the game sheet.

According to Section XXIV, Article 4a, "Protest fee shall be as established by the LMB and must accompany any protest.

#### **Game Official Assault**

If you have committed Game official Assault you are automatically suspended from all soccer-related activity, and you will be contacted by your Club and the District notifying you of such conditions. The district will notify the Club and Team Officials within 24 hours of the filing of the report.

Please note that if you are suspended from all soccer related activity you cannot participate in any soccer activities under the scope of the OSA. This includes administering, practicing, coaching, playing, officiating, or any other activity related to soccer under the OSA guidelines.

Please note that when the District suspends you under the Decision By Review system you are charged an administrative fee of \$50.00. This must be paid in order to return to play after a suspension.

#### **Discipline during Bob Rathwell Ottawa Cup**

This is a summary of the discipline during the Bob Rathwell Ottawa Cup. For complete rules, please view the Bob Rathwell Ottawa Cup Rules

#### **Jurisdiction**

The Bob Rathwell Ottawa Cup Discipline Committee shall be responsible for handling all cases of game related misconduct, except for cases "game official assault".

#### **Discipline Systems**

Unless the accused requests to be heard under the Discipline by Hearing (DBH) system, within 24 hours of the Competitive Cup game or immediately after the Recreational Cup game discipline for the following



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offenses shall be rendered in accordance with the Discipline by Review (DBR) System, players who are reported for:

- 1.13: Dismissed for receiving a second caution in the same game for which neither of the offenses was directed at the game official (s)
- 1.14: Dismissed for “receiving a second caution in the same game” for which at least one of the cautions was directed at the game official(s).
- 1.15: Dismissed for “using offensive, insulting, abusive language and/or gestures directed at anyone other than the game official.”
- 1.16: Dismissed or reported by game official for "Using offensive, insulting or abusive language and/or gestures" directed at the game official(s)
- 1.17: Dismissed for “denying an opponent a goal or an obvious goal scoring opportunity by deliberately handling the ball.”
- 1.18: Dismissed for “Denying an opponent a goal or an obvious goal scoring opportunity to an opponent moving towards the player’s goal by an offense punishable by a free kick or a penalty kick.”
- 1.19: Dismissed for Serious Foul Play
- 1.20: Dismissed for spitting at an opponent or any other person other than the Game Official.
- 1.21: Dismissed for violent conduct.

A decision rendered under the DBR system cannot be appealed.

For all other offenses, the discipline shall be rendered in accordance with the Discipline by Hearing (DBH) System.

It is the responsibility of each Club to ensure that its players and team officials are aware of the Ontario Soccer Association Discipline Policies and Procedures.

The Bob Rathwell Ottawa Cup Discipline Committee shall review all cases of reported misconduct occurring in the Bob Rathwell Cup, except for: misconducts directed at the game official and game official assault.

Any Player/Team Official/Club that is reported to have committed an offense (misconduct), and not requesting a hearing, will serve the penalty established by the Ontario Soccer Association. He\she shall be subject to at least the mandatory minimum penalty as outlined in OSA Discipline Policy, Standard Penalties for Misconduct. Discipline shall be rendered using the Discipline by Review (DBR) system and in accordance with OSA Discipline Policies.

The notification of player suspension(s) will indicate the number of games and the actual game(s) number(s) that the player is under suspension for. The game number(s) and the competition (regular League play or Cup play) that the suspension is to be served will be specified on the notification. Notification of a suspension will be sent to the Club, and it is the Club’s responsibility to communicate the information to the appropriate coach and/or player.



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Any player receiving a red (dismissal) or an accumulation of yellow (caution) cards shall be subject to at least the mandatory minimum penalty. He\she (or the Club) shall be levied an administrative fee of \$50.00 for each misconduct that results in a suspension. Failure to pay will result in the individual remaining under suspension until the fee is paid.

### **Request for a Discipline Hearing**

A player or team official has the right to request a Discipline Hearing. Such request, and subsequent hearing, must adhere to the following procedures:

A written request must be delivered, by registered mail or by hand, accompanied by the \$100.00 request for hearing fee to the OCSL Office within 72 hours.

### **Responsibilities**

It is the responsibility of the player/team/Club official to ascertain the status regarding discipline matters such as the date when the individual becomes eligible to participate or the number of cautions (yellow cards) accumulated, etc.

The coach of any team having a player serving a suspension, either automatic or imposed, will be required to include that player's name on the game sheet with the notation "Under Suspension" beside the name.

Suspensions and\or the accumulation of red & yellow cards incurred during OCSL League play will not carry over into Bob Rathwell Ottawa Cup games, and suspensions incurred during Bob Rathwell Ottawa Cup play will carry over into OCSL League play if all Cup games have been played.

Clubs are responsible for ensuring that coaches and players are made aware of this information. They must also be aware of this information and the discipline status of their players and other Club officials. Each Club is responsible for the conduct of their players, coaches, and spectators.