

---

# Process for reportable offences

---

March, 2023

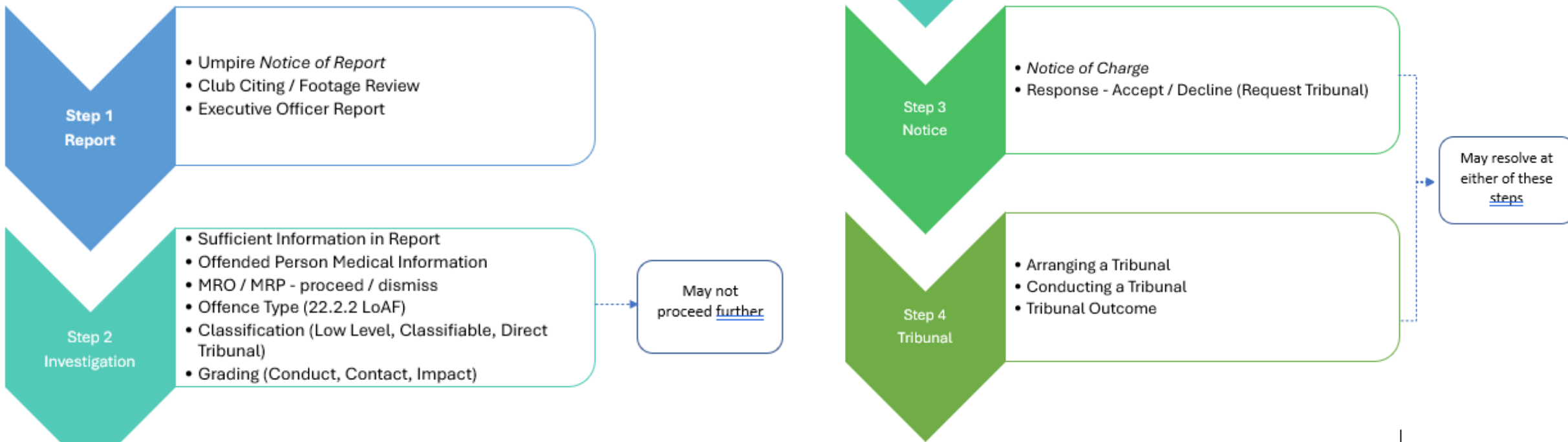


## Today

---

- Process for reportable offences as per National Community Football Policy Handbook
  - Making a Report
  - Investigating an Incident
  - Notice of Charge (incl. early guilty plea)
  - Tribunal
- Differences between previous VIC Country Handbook and Policy Handbook
  - Different Notice of Report / Notice of Charge (incl. grading for classifiable offences)
  - Offences that must be referred directly to Tribunal
  - Offences where a set penalty or early guilty plea offer and / or reprimand may apply
  - Sanctions once a matter is referred to the Tribunal

# Process for reportable offences



## 1 Making a report

---

- (a) Umpire – **Notice of Report** for a report during a match
- (b) Umpire or Club – **Incident Referral Form** (either umpire or club where report has not been made by umpire)
- (c) Executive Officer (CEO / Head of League) – **Notice of Charge** (proceed to step 3)

---

## 2 Investigating / considering incident

---

- After receiving an Incident Referral Form / Notice of Report, the Controlling Body or MRP assesses the alleged reportable offence to determine if a reportable offence occurred.
- This may include:
  - Reviewing match footage
  - Interviewing relevant people (e.g. evidence re. impact) and taking witness statements
- Reportable offence = Notice of Charge (proceed to step 3)

## 3 Notice of Charge

---

- As soon as practicable, issue the Notice of Charge to the charged person and that person's club
- Notice of Charge must categorise (and grade) an alleged reportable offence as per Appendix 1 of Policy Handbook
  - Classifiable Offence
  - Direct Tribunal Offence
  - Low-Level Offence

## 3 Notice of Charge – Classifiable Offences

Table 1 – Classifiable Offences
Charging
Unreasonable or Unnecessary Contact to the Eye Region
Forceful Front-On Contact
Headbutt or Contact Using Head
Kicking
Kneeing
Rough Conduct
Striking
Tripping
Unreasonable or Unnecessary Contact to the Face

## 3 Notice of Charge – Direct Tribunal Offences

Table 4 – Direct Tribunal Offences
Attempting to Strike an Umpire
Behaving in an Abusive, Insulting, Threatening or Obscene Manner Towards or in Relation to an Umpire
Eye Gouging
Intentional Contact with an Umpire
Spitting on Another Person
Spitting on or at an Umpire
Stomping
Striking an Umpire
Serious Misconduct



## 3 Notice of Charge – Low Level Offence

Table 5 – Low-level Offences
Attempt to Strike / Kick / Trip
Careless Contact with an Umpire
Disputing Decision
Instigator of a Melee / Wrestle
Interfering with a Player Kicking for Goal
Unreasonable or Unnecessary Contact with an Injured Player
Unreasonable or Unnecessary Contact with an Umpire
Not Leaving the Playing Surface
Obscene Gesture
Pinching
Prohibited Boots, Jewellery or Equipment
Scratching
Shaking, Climbing or Interfering with Goal or Behind Post
Spitting at Another Player

Staging
Striking
Kicking
Time Wasting
Tripping
Using Abusive, Insulting or Obscene Language Towards or in relation to an Umpire
Using Abusive, Insulting or Obscene Language
Engaging in a Melee / Wrestle
Any Other Act of Low-Level Misconduct which is not a Classifiable Offence or Direct Tribunal Offence

## 3 Notice of Charge – Grading a Classifiable Offence

- Appendix 1 includes guidance on determining the grading of **conduct, impact, contact**
- There is provision for reduction in base sanction for an Early Guilty Plea except where 'N/A'

Table 2 – Classification Table				
Conduct	Impact	Contact	Base Sanction	Early Guilty Plea
Intentional	Severe	High/Groin/Chest	5+ Matches (Tribunal)	N/A
		Body	4+ Matches (Tribunal)	N/A
	High	High/Groin/Chest	4 Matches	3 Matches
		Body	3 Matches	2 Matches
	Medium	High/Groin/Chest	3 Matches	2 Matches
		Body	2 Matches	1 Match
	Low	High/Groin/Chest	2 Matches	1 Match
		Body	1 Match	Fine and/or Reprimand

Table 2 – Classification Table				
Conduct	Impact	Contact	Base Sanction	Early Guilty Plea
Careless	Severe	High/Groin/Chest	4+ Matches (Tribunal)	N/A
		Body	3+ Matches (Tribunal)	N/A
	High	High/Groin/Chest	3 Matches	2 Matches
		Body	2 Matches	1 Match
	Medium	High/Groin/Chest	2 Matches	1 Match
		Body	1 Match	Fine and/or Reprimand
	Low	High/Groin/Chest	1 Match	Fine and/or Reprimand
		Body	1 Match	Fine and/or Reprimand

## 3 Sanctions for Low Level Offences

Table 6 – Low-level Offence Base Sanctions			
1st & 2nd Low-level Offence		3rd & Subsequent Low-Level Offence	
Base Sanction	Early Guilty Plea	Base Sanction	Early Guilty Plea
1 Match	Reprimand	2 Matches	1 Match

### The handbook also:

---

- Has provision for loading for up to 100% for incidents during a GF
- Provides guidance around various reportable offences (e.g. striking, kicking, contact with umpire etc.) and how to grade conduct, impact and contact.
- There are also vision examples that we can make available upon request for various classifiable offences and how they were graded from AFL and AFLW

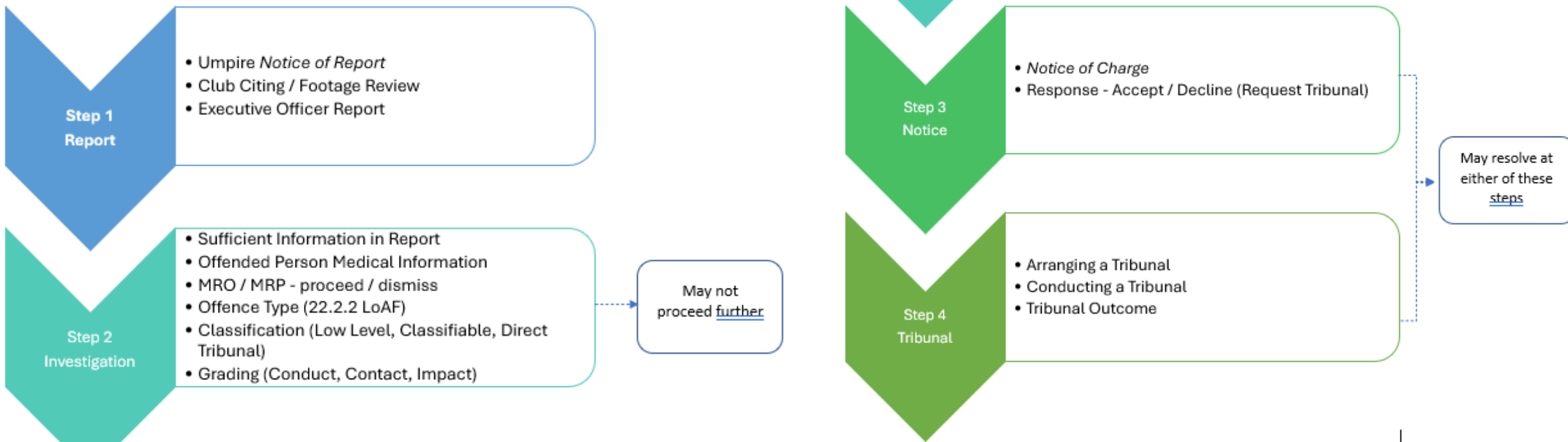
---

## 4 Tribunal

---

- Tribunal to consider an offence when:
  - a) player is charged with a direct tribunal offence, or a classifiable offence graded as severe impact
  - b) player declines the EGPO and challenges that they are guilty of any charge
  - c) player declines the EGPO and challenges the charge they were reported for
  - d) player declines the EGPO and elects to plead guilty to an alternative grading of the offence
    - If successful with (c or d), player is eligible for EGP sanction
- Tribunal sanctions:
  - Direct tribunal offence – determine sanction in its absolute discretion
  - Classifiable offence – sanction in accordance with the classification table
  - Low level offence – sanction in accordance with the low-level offence base sanctions

# Process for reportable offences



## Differences between VIC Country Handbook and Policy Handbook

- Different Notice of Report / Notice of Charge (incl. grading for classifiable offences)
- VIC Country Handbook
  - Report Pad
- National Policy Handbook
  - Reportable offence details
  - Reportable offence grading
  - Prescribed penalty
  - Decision on early guilty plea
  - Contesting the matter at Tribunal

### NOTICE OF CHARGE

Date: *[insert]*

To: *[insert]*

This Notice of Charge serves to inform you:

- That the named person below (the 'Charged Person') has been charged with a Reportable Offence as defined under the *Laws of Australian Football*;
- Of the details of the Reportable Offence;
- Of the grading of, and sanction applicable to, that Reportable Offence; and
- Of the options available to the Charged Person, including submission of an Early Guilty Plea or contesting the charge at the Tribunal.

#### (a) Reportable Offence details

Charged Person	
Charged Person's Club	
Match date	
Grade	
Match between	
Time of Offence	
Law reported under	
Offence Details	

#### (b) Reportable Offence grading

The Match Review Panel has graded the Reportable Offence as follows:

Conduct	
Impact	
Contact	

## Differences between VIC Country Handbook and Policy Handbook

---

- Offences that must be referred directly to Tribunal:
- VIC Country Handbook – as listed under 11.3
- National Policy Handbook – direct tribunal offences / classifiable where impact is severe

**11.3.** Any player reported for the following offences shall appear before the League Tribunal:

22.2.2 (Laws of Australian Football):

- (a) intentionally or carelessly
- (ii) kicking another person
- (iii) kneeling another person
- (vi) bumping or making forceful contact to an opponent from front-on when that player has their head down over the ball
- (vii) head butting or making contact to an opponent using the head
- (b) eye-gouging another person
- (c) stomping on another person
- (d) intentionally making contact with or striking an umpire
- (e) attempting to strike an umpire
- (f) spitting at or on an umpire
- (g) behaving in an abusive, insulting, threatening or obscene manner towards or in relation to an umpire
- (l) spitting at or on another person
- (cc) engaging in any other act of misconduct or serious misconduct



## Differences between VIC Country Handbook and Policy Handbook

- Where a set penalty or EGPO and / or reprimand may apply:
- VIC Country Handbook –
  - set penalties offered for offences listed under 11.1
  - umpire can offer set penalty or refer to tribunal
  - tribunal can offer reprimand for certain offences
- National Policy Handbook –
  - Classifiable offences must be graded accordingly incl. EGPO where reprimand applies
  - Low level offences = EGPO for 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> offence is a reprimand (unless CB refer to tribunal)

11.1. Any player reported for the following offences (as numbered in the Laws of Australian Football) may apply for a set penalty suspension of the relevant number of matches as identified.

22.2.2 (Laws of Australian Rules Football):

- (a) intentionally or carelessly
- (i) intentionally striking another person (2 match set penalty) carelessly striking another person (1 match set penalty)
- (iv) charging an opponent (2 match set penalty)
- (v) engaging in rough conduct against an opponent (2 match set penalty)
- (ix) making unreasonable or unnecessary contact to the face of another person (1 match set penalty)
- (x) scratching another person (1 match set penalty)
- (xi) tripping another person whether by hand, arm, foot or leg (1 match set penalty)
- (h) using abusive, insulting, threatening or obscene language towards or in relation to an umpire (2 match set penalty)
- (j) carelessly making contact with an umpire (2 match set penalty)
- (k) disputing a decision of an umpire (1 match set penalty)
- (m) attempting to strike another person (1 match set penalty)
- (n) attempting to kick another person (2 match set penalty)
- (o) attempting to trip another person whether by hand, arm, foot or leg (1 match set penalty)
- (p) making unreasonable or unnecessary contact with an injured player (2 match set penalty)
- (q) engaging in a melee, (1 match set penalty)
- (r) instigating a melee (2 match set penalty)
- (s) wrestling another person (1 match set penalty)
- (t) pinching another person (1 match set penalty)
- (u) engaging in an act of staging (1 match set penalty)
- (v) using abusive, insulting, threatening or obscene language (1 match set penalty)
- (w) use of an obscene gesture (1 match set penalty)
- (x) engaging in time wasting (1 match set penalty)
- (y) interfering with a player kicking for goal (1 match set penalty)
- (z) intentionally shaking, climbing or otherwise interfering with a goal or behind post (1 match set penalty)
- (aa) Failing to leave the playing surface when directed to do so by an umpire (2 match set penalty)
- (bb) wearing boots, jewellery and equipment prohibited under Law 9 of the AFL Laws of Australian Football (1 match set penalty)

Players are encouraged to apply for the minimum set penalty.

## Differences between VIC Country Handbook and Policy Handbook

---

- Discretion on matters referred to tribunal
- Sanctions once a matter is referred to the Tribunal
  
- VIC Country Handbook –
  - Absolute discretion
  
- National Policy Handbook –
  - Direct Tribunal Offence – absolute discretion (although guidance provided for classifiable offences where impact is severe)
  - Classifiable Offence – sanction in accordance with classification table
  - Low Level Offence – sanction in accordance with low-level offence base sanctions

**QUESTIONS?**

