**DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES CONCERNING**

**FIELD OFFENCES**

**As set out in the schedule hereto for Players associated with Clubs playing in Junior football teams affiliated to leagues under the jurisdiction of the *Central Wales FA***

**SEASON 2020/2021**

**1. REPORTING OF OFFENCES BY MATCH OFFICIALS**

(a) **Caution Offences**

 Referees must submit to the *Central Wales FA* within 2 Business Days of the match a report stating the offence and giving a description of the incident.

(b) **Sending-off Offences**

Referees must submit a report to the *Central Wales FA* within 2 Business Days of the match stating the offence(s) and giving a description of the incident(s).

(c) If a referee omits to show the appropriate card when taking action against a player, this will not nullify the caution or sending-off offence. However, the attention of the referee will be drawn to the correct procedure.

**2. CAUTION OFFENCES**

 A player who has been cautioned in any match will be notified through the player’s club by this Association of:-

(a) the offence reported by the Referee;

(b) the total number of cautions recorded against the player under these procedures during the current Season; and

(c) any punishment resulting from the accumulation of these cautions. Any such punishment will take effect regardless of whether or not the notification of it from this Association is received before it is due to take effect in accordance with these Disciplinary Procedures and clubs must therefore maintain their own records.

An administration fee of **£3.00** will be charged to the club for the cost of processing each report.

**3. SENDING-OFF OFFENCES**

 A player who has been sent-off in a match under the provisions of Law 12 will be notified through the player’s club by this Association of:-

1. the offence reported by the referee;
2. That the player will be subject to the agreed standard punishment (see Section 6). Any such punishment will take effect regardless of whether or not the notification of it from this Association is received before it is due to take effect in accordance with these Disciplinary Procedures and clubs must therefore maintain their own records.

An administration fee **£3.00** will be charged to the club for the cost of processing each report.

**4. CLAIMS OF MISTAKEN IDENTITY**

(a) In the case of a claim of alleged mistaken identity concerning a player cautioned or sent-off in a match, the club, on behalf of the player, must:-

(i) By 2.00pm of the next Business Day following the day of the match submit in writing via e-mail (*cwfasecretary@gmail.com*) to the *Central Wales FA* their intention to submit a claim and the particulars upon which the claim is founded.

(ii) By 2.00pm on the second Business Day following the day of the match, submit to the *Central Wales FA* written statements and evidence (including video/DVD where available) in support of the claim together with the relevant fee as set out in Appendix 1. A signed statement by the player reported by the referee that they were not responsible for the offence reported and identifying specifically the name of the person responsible must be included. Where possible a written statement from the player responsible for the offence should also be supplied.

(b) Should a club have two matches with no, or insufficient Business Days in between, a Claim of Mistaken Identity shall be notified and lodged with the *Central Wales FA* in accordance with the following procedure:-

(i) Where there are no Business Days between two matches, written notification of the club’s intent to make a claim must be e-mailed (*cwfasecretary@gmail.com*) to *Central Wales FA* prior to the commencement of the second match.

(ii) Where there is just one Business Day between two matches, the timetable for notification as set out in 4(a)(i) hereabove, will still apply.

(iii) The submission of statements, evidence and the applicable fee must be lodged with the *Central Wales FA* by 2.00pm on the second Business Day as set out in 4(a)(ii) hereabove.

 In respect of these specific circumstances, a player will be eligible to play in the second match, if, and only if, notification as set out in 4(b)(i) or 4(b)(ii) hereabove is appropriately submitted. A club will not be permitted to withdraw a claim once written notice to do so has been sent via e-mail to the *Central Wales FA* and therefore attention should be paid to 4(d)(ii) herebelow, in respect of claims which are believed to be frivolous or an abuse of process.

(c) Should a player play in a match without the appropriate notification having being lodged as set out hereabove, the *Central Wales FA* will prefer an appropriate charge of misconduct against the club and player concerned for playing whilst under suspension.

(d) The decisions available to the Disciplinary Panel considering a Claim of Mistaken Identity are as follows:-

(i) The claim is rejected - the player reported by the referee serves the standard punishment as set out in this Memorandum.

(ii) The claim is rejected and considered frivolous and/or an abuse of process - the Disciplinary Panel will have the discretion to increase the match suspension to up to twice that of the standard punishment.

(iii) The claim is successful - the standard punishment as set out in this Memorandum is transferred from the record of the player reported by the referee to the appropriate identified offender.

(e) Irrespective of the decision reached, the Disciplinary Panel shall have the discretion to either retain or return the fee submitted and if considered appropriate, make an order of costs against the claimant(s).

(f) A club failing to lodge a claim for mistaken identity may be charged with misconduct by the *Central Wales FA* if there is evidence that the club sought to gain an advantage by remaining silent on the matter.

(g) It is important to note that the time limits set out above are strict. Only complete claims submitted before the relevant deadlines will be considered by the *Central Wales FA*.

(h) The decision of the Disciplinary Panel in relation to a Claim of Mistaken Identity is final and binding on all parties and not subject to appeal.

**5. CLAIMS OF WRONGFUL DISMISSAL**

1. A player and his club may seek to limit the disciplinary consequences of the dismissal of a player from the Field-of-Play by demonstrating to this Association that the dismissal was wrongful.
2. A Claim of Wrongful Dismissal may be lodged only for on-field offences which result in a sending-off, except for two cautions leading to a dismissal.
3. The club, on behalf of the player, must:-
4. By 2.00pm of the next Business Day following the day of the match submit in writing via e-mail (*cwfasecretary@gmail.com*) to the *Central Wales FA* their intention to submit a claim and the particulars upon which the claim is founded.

(ii) By 2.00pm of the second Business Day following the day of the match submit written statements and evidence (including a video/DVD of the incident where available) in support of the claim together with the relevant fee as set out in Appendix 1.

(d) A Disciplinary Panel will be convened as soon as is practically possible to decide the matter on any relevant documentary and video/DVD evidence submitted. The Disciplinary Panel considering a Claim of Wrongful Dismissal is concerned with only the question of whether any sanction of a suspension from play is one which should be imposed in view of the facts of the case. It must be noted that in accordance with the Laws of the Game, the match referee’s decision is final and the player’s dismissal from the field of play will remain on the record of the player and the club. The offence will remain the subject of the administration fee and the club will accrue the appropriate number of penalty points for the sending-off. Consequently, the club, player and match official(s) will not attend the meeting of the Disciplinary Panel when the matter is considered.

(e) Should a club have two matches with no, or insufficient Business Days in between, a Claim of Wrongful Dismissal shall be notified and lodged with the *Central Wales FA* in accordance with the following procedure:-

(i) Where there are no Business Days between two matches, written notification of the club’s intent to make a claim must be e-mailed (*cwfasecretary@gmail.com*) to the *Central Wales FA* prior to the commencement of the second match.

(ii) Where there is just one Business Day between two matches, the timetable for notification as set out in 5(c)(i) hereabove, will still apply.

(iii) The submission of statements, evidence and the applicable fee must be lodged with the *Central Wales FA* by 2.00pm on the second Business Day as set out in 5(c)(ii) hereabove.

 In respect of these specific circumstances, a player will be eligible to play in the second match, if, and only if, notification as set out in 5(e)(i) or 5(e)(ii) hereabove is appropriately submitted. A club will not be permitted to withdraw a claim once written notice to do so has been sent via e-mail to the *Central Wales FA* and therefore attention should be paid to 5(g)(ii) herebelow, in respect of claims which are believed to be frivolous or an abuse of process.

(f) Should a player play in a match without the appropriate notification having being lodged as set out hereabove, the *Central Wales FA* will prefer an appropriate charge of misconduct against the club and player concerned for playing whilst under suspension.

(g) The decisions available to a Disciplinary Panel when considering a Claim of Wrongful Dismissal are as follows:-

(i) The claim is rejected - the player serves the standard punishment as set out in this Memorandum.

(ii) The claim is rejected and considered frivolous and/or an abuse of process – the Panel will have the discretion to increase the match suspension beyond the standard punishment as set out in this Memorandum.

(iii) The claim is successful - the standard punishment as set out in this Memorandum is withdrawn and Section 6(f) will not be invoked in relation to this dismissal if the player is sent-off again following the offence.

(h) Irrespective of the decision reached, the Disciplinary Panel shall have the discretion to either retain or return the fee submitted and if considered appropriate, make an order for costs against the claimant(s).

(i) It is important to note that the time limits set out above are strict. Only complete claims submitted before the relevant deadlines will be considered by the *Central Wales FA* .

(j) The decision of the Disciplinary Panel in relation to a Claim of Wrongful Dismissal is final and binding on all parties and not subject to appeal.

**6. PUNISHMENTS**

1. **Caution Offences**

(i) If a player accumulates five (5) recorded cautions in Junior Team Football under the direct disciplinary jurisdiction of this Association between the opening day of the playing season and the **31st December** (inclusive)in the same season, the player will be suspended automatically on the 14th day following the date of the player’s last offence from all Junior league matches, Junior cup matches and Junior Open Friendly Matches (see section 9) until such time as the player has missed his/her club’s next ONE (1)recognisedJunior team matchin competitionsunder the direct jurisdiction of the *Central Wales FA*(see Appendix 2) during the period covered by its opening match and final match of the 2020/2021 Season**.**

(ii) If a player accumulates five (5) recorded cautions in Junior Team Football under the direct disciplinary jurisdiction of this Association between the opening day of the playing season and **the last day of the same season, the player** will be **“warned as to his/her future conduct”**.

(iii) A player who has already been subject to disciplinary action as a result of accumulating five (5) cautions and then goes on to accumulate a further five (5) cautions during the same season, will be subject to the following punishments:-

(a) If a player accumulates ten (10) cautions in Junior Team Football under the direct disciplinary jurisdiction of this Association between the opening day of the playing season and the **second Sunday of April** in the same season, the player will be suspended automatically on the 14th day following the date of the player’s last offence from all Junior league matches, Junior cup matches and Junior Open Friendly Matches (see section 9) until such time as the player has missed his/her club’s next TWO (2)recognisedJunior team matches in competitions under the direct jurisdiction of the *Central Wales FA*(see Appendix 2) during the period covered by its opening match and final match of the 2020/2021 Season.

(b) If a player accumulates ten (10) cautions in Junior Team Football under the direct disciplinary jurisdiction of this Association between the opening day of the playing season and the **last day of the same season,** the player will be **“severely censured and warned as to his/her future conduct”**.

(iv) If a player accumulates fifteen (15) recorded cautions in Junior Team Football under the direct disciplinary jurisdiction of this Association between the opening day of the playing season and the **last day of the same season,** the player will be suspended automatically on the 14th day following the date of the player’s last offence from all Junior league matches, Junior cup matches and Junior Open Friendly Matches until such time as the player has missed his/her club’s next THREE (3)recognised Junior team matchesin competitions under the direct jurisdiction of the *Central Wales FA* (see Appendix 2) during the period covered by its opening match and final match of the 2020/2021 Season**.**

(v) A player who has already been subject to disciplinary action as a result of accumulating five (5) cautions, ten (10) cautions and fifteen (15) cautions, and who goes on to record twenty (20) cautions in any Junior football competition under the direct disciplinary jurisdiction of this Association in the same season, shall be required to attend a meeting of a Disciplinary Panel when requested to do so. The members of the Panel shall have the power to deal with the player in such manner as they deem fit. The same procedure will apply for every further five (5) cautions recorded against a player.

(vi) The terms of a suspension resulting from the accumulation of cautions will be as set out under the category of a MATCH SUSPENSION (see Section 9).

(vii) The player must serve the suspension with the team at which the player committed the suspension offence.

(viii) Any period of suspension or part thereof which remains outstanding at the end of a season must be served at the commencement of the next following season.

(b) **Players Sent-off Under Law 12 (7)**

 A player who is dismissed from the Field of Play for a second cautionable offence after having received a caution will be suspended automatically **with immediate effect** from all Junior league matches, Junior cup matches and Junior Open Friendly Matches (see section 9) until such time as the player has missed his/her club's next ONE (1**)** recognised Junior team match in competitions under the direct jurisdiction of the *Central Wales FA* (see Appendix 2) during the period covered by its opening match and final match of the 2020/2021 Season. The terms of the suspension will be as set out under the category of a MATCH SUSPENSION (see section 9).

 The player must serve the suspension with the club at which the player committed the suspension offence.

(c) **Players Sent-off Under Law 12 (4) and (5)**

A player who is dismissed from the Field of Play for denying a goal or an obvious goal scoring opportunity to an opponent whose overall movement is towards the offender’s goal by an offence punishable by a free kick, or by deliberately handling the ball, will be suspended automatically **with immediate effect** from all Junior league matches, Junior cup matches and Junior Open Friendly Matches (see section 9) until such time as the player has missed his/her club’s next ONE (1**)** recognised Junior team match in competitions under the direct jurisdiction of the *Central Wales FA* (see Appendix 2) during the period covered by its opening match and final match of the 2020/2021 Season. The terms of the suspension will be as set out under the category of a MATCH SUSPENSION (see Section 9).

The player must serve the suspension with the club at which the player committed the suspension offence.

(d) **Players Sent-off Under Law 12 (6)**

A player who is dismissed from the Field of Play for using offensive, insulting or abusive language/gestures, whether they have previously been cautioned in the match or not, will be suspended automatically **with immediate effect** from all Junior league matches, Junior cup matches and Junior Open Friendly Matches until such time the player has missed his/her club’s next TWO (2)recognised Junior team matches in competitions under the direct jurisdiction of the *Central Wales FA* (see Appendix 2) during the period covered by its opening match and final match of the 2020/2021 Season. The terms of the suspension will be as set out under the category of a MATCH SUSPENSION (see Section 9).

The player must serve the suspension with the club at which the player committed the suspension offence.

(e) **Players Sent-off Under Law 12 (1) (2) and (3)**

A player who is dismissed from the Field of play for Violent Conduct, Serious Foul Play or Spitting at an opponent or any other person whether they have previously been cautioned in the match or not, will be suspended automatically **with immediate effect** from all Junior league matches, Junior cup matches and Junior Open Friendly Matches (see section 9) until such time as the player has missed his/her club’s next THREE (3) recognised Junior team matches in competitions under the direct jurisdiction of the *Central Wales FA* (see Appendix 2) during the period covered by its opening match and final match of the 2020/2021 Season. The terms of the suspension will be as set out under the category of a MATCH SUSPENSION (see Section 9).

The player must serve the suspension with the club at which the player committed the suspension offence.

(f) **Additional Sendings-off**

Players dismissed from the field of play for a second time in the same Season, in addition to the automatic suspension applicable to the offence, will be suspended for one extra match.

A player dismissed for a third time in the same Season will be suspended for an extra two matches, and so on.

 (g) **Outstanding Suspensions**

Any period of suspension or part thereof which remains outstanding at the end of a season must be served at the commencement of the next following season with the club at which the player committed the suspension offence.

(h) **Rule 91**

In special cases where:-

(i) a match official's report indicates a serious breach of the Laws of the Game, or

(ii) a player commits an act of misconduct and/or a sending-off offence under Law 12 (1), (2), (3), (4), (5) or (6) of the Laws of the Game whilst on the field of play which is not seen by the match officials but caught on video;

the *Central Wales FA* reserves the right to prefer an appropriate charge of misconduct against the player in accordance with one or more of the provisions under Rule *91.1.1*.

When dealing with a case under (h)(i) hereabove, the Disciplinary Panel may take into account any automatic punishment imposed under the Procedures.

When dealing with a case under (h)(ii) hereabove, confirmation by the match officials that they did not see the incident in question shall be conclusive evidence of that fact.

(i) **Re-Arranged Matches**

A Disciplinary Panel shall have discretionary power to rule that a match shall not count towards the completion of a suspension if it is satisfied that the game has been arranged by the club with a view to enabling the player to complete their suspension and thus qualify them to play in a specific match. The decision of the Disciplinary Panel in relation to re-arranged matches is final and binding on all parties and not subject to appeal.

(j) **Collection of Administration Fees**

It will be the responsibility of the club to collect the administration fees from the players concerned. The *Central Wales FA* will invoice clubs periodically throughout the season for their accrued administration fees. Failure by a club to pay an invoice within **31 calendar days will** result in the *Central Wales FA* imposing a suspension on part or all of the club’s football activities under the jurisdiction of the *Central Wales FA* until such time as the outstanding amount has been paid in full. Any club experiencing difficulty meeting the 31-day limit should contact the *Central Wales FA* .

Any club experiencing difficulties in obtaining monies owed by players of the club may refer such matters to the *Central Wales FA* .

**7. DISCIPLINARY ACTION ON CLUBS FOR MISCONDUCT BY THEIR PLAYERS**

1. Any club whose players accumulate a total number of Penalty Points during a season, and that total is considered to be appreciably above the average number of points in the same league, may be required to appear before a Disciplinary Panel and shall be liable to be warned and/or fined for having permitted its players to violate the Laws of the Game in contravention of Rule *91.1.1*. In addition, the Panel shall be entitled to make an order as to costs against the club.

In so far as this Regulation shall apply, the following Penalty Points will be recorded against a club:-

 For all recorded cautions - 4 Points

 For Sending-off under Law 12 (4) (5) & (7) - 10 Points

 For Sending-off under Law 12 (1) (2) (3) & (6) - 12 Points

(b) A club required to appear before a Disciplinary Panel shall be represented by at least one of its Directors/Officials and the Manager.

(c) The *Central Wales FA* reserves the right to prefer a charge against a club at any time during the season arising from field offences committed by players of the club.

**8. SUSPENSIONS IMPOSED UNDER THESE REGULATIONS**

1. Unless otherwise ordered by a Disciplinary Panel of *Central Wales FA* , or a Judicial Body of the FAW, the terms of the suspensions imposed under these entire regulations will be as set out under the category of a Match Suspension (see section 9).
2. Any suspension imposed may only be served whilst the player holds a registration with a football club sanctioned by the appropriate league. Should a player transfer or register for a new club prior to the commencement of the suspension or during the period of the suspension, the player will not be eligible to play for their new club until such time as the club with which the player committed the suspension offence has completed the required number of matches in competitions approved by the *Central Wales FA* .

**9. DEFINITIONS**

i. **BUSINESS DAY**

Any day of the week except a Saturday or Sunday or public bank holiday in Wales

**ii. CLOSED FRIENDLY MATCH**

A game of Association Football which is not an Official Match which is played between two (2) teams (whether or not from different Clubs) but is not made open for the public to attend.

**iii. MATCH SUSPENSION**

A Match Suspension is a ban on taking part in a match and on attending it in the area immediately surrounding the field-of-play. A Match Suspension may be imposed on a player or an official.

The area immediately surrounding the field-of-play includes:-

1. The field-of-play.

2. The dressing rooms and their immediate area.

3. The tunnel and/or private way leading from the dressing rooms to the field-ofplay.

4. The dugouts, benches and technical areas.

5. The prohibited area in the vicinity of the touchline and goal lines.

The player or official under a Match Suspension is prohibited from contact with match officials, players and club officials, as well as giving any media interviews, before, during and after the match.

A Match Suspension does not prohibit a player or official from attending or taking part in a Closed Friendly Match or a club organised private training session. However, a player or official is prohibited from attending or taking part in an Open Friendly Match.

A club who permits a player or an official to attend any ground whilst serving a Match Suspension will be responsible for ensuring the terms of the suspension are adhered to.

**iv. OPEN FRIENDLY MATCH**

A game of Association Football which is not an Official Match which is played between two (2) teams (whether or not from different Clubs) and is made open to the public to attend.

# APPENDIX 1

Fees applicable when making a Claim of Mistaken Identity or a Claim of Wrongful Dismissal

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| **For teams playing in:-** | **£ Fee payable**  |
| *Aberystwyth & District Junior League* | £50.00 |
| *Mid & North Powys Junior League* | £50.00 |
| *South Powys Junior League* | £50.00 |
| *South Ceredigion Junior League* | £50.00 |

**APPENDIX 2**

*Aberystwyth & District Junior League*

*Mid & North Powys Junior League*

*South Powys Junior League*

*South Ceredigion Junior League*