



# DISCIPLINARY POLICY & PROCEDURE FOR PLAYERS 12 YEARS OLD AND UNDER

## PURPOSE

Waverley Basketball Association (WBA) is committed to ensuring a fair and supportive environment for all participants. For players aged 12 years old and under, formal tribunal hearings are avoided unless the incident is of a very serious nature, as formal hearings can be detrimental to young children. Instead, disciplinary matters will be managed in-house with an educational and rehabilitative approach.

## SCOPE

This policy applies to all players aged 12 and under participating in WBA competitions and programs.

## DISCIPLINARY MEETING PROCESS

### • NOTIFICATION & ATTENDANCE

- The child must attend the meeting with a parent or guardian present.
- A WBA staff member should be present to ensure the child's welfare.
- A representative from the child's club must attend, but their role is observational unless required to provide relevant information.
- A WBA Senior Staff Member, e.g. Competition Manager, will oversee the meeting and guide the discussion.

### • MEETING STRUCTURE

- **Introduction:** Explain the purpose of the meeting and why the child is there.
- **Child's Perspective:** Allow the child to share their version of events, ensuring they feel heard.
- **Code of Conduct Review:** Explain why the behaviour was inappropriate, referencing the Code of Conduct as necessary.
- **Guidance:** Provide alternative ways to handle similar situations in the future.
- **Penalty Decision:** Advise whether a penalty will be imposed and specify the length of any suspension if applicable.
- **Clarification on Suspension:** If a suspension is imposed, explain the terms:
  - The child may still attend games to support their team but may not participate.
  - This is an Association-level ban, not a Basketball Victoria ban.
  - The penalty will be recorded in Play HQ.



- **Encouragement & Closure:** Address any questions, emphasising a fresh start after the disciplinary period.

## EVIDENCE & DOCUMENTATION

- The charge sheet, if applicable, will be presented, outlining the nature of the incident.
- Any supporting evidence (e.g., referee reports, video footage) will be discussed as necessary.
- Witness statements may be considered where relevant.

## POSSIBLE OUTCOMES

- **No Suspension:** If the behaviour is deemed to require only education, no suspension will be applied.
- **Short-Term Suspension:** Depending on the severity of the behaviour, a suspension typically lasts one to two weeks with a maximum not exceeding four weeks
- **Further Action:** In extreme cases, additional penalties, including longer suspensions or referral to the WBA tribunal or Basketball Victoria, if necessary, may be considered.

## RECORD KEEPING

- All disciplinary actions will be recorded internally by WBA but will not be entered into the official Tribunal system unless escalated.
- The outcome will be noted in Play HQ.

## REVIEW & APPEALS

- If a parent or guardian wishes to appeal the decision, they may request a review with the WBA Disciplinary Committee.
- Appeals must be submitted in writing within seven days of the decision.

This policy ensures that disciplinary measures for young players focus on education and development, fostering positive behaviours in the game.