



**Hockey
Coffs Coast**

2024 HOCKEY COFFS COAST

Senior Rules Document

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2 Hockey Coffs Coast Guiding Principles

The objective of Hockey Coffs Coast's Rules and Regulations are to:

- Encourage and facilitate participation in the sport for all members, both players and officials;
- Ensure fair, competitive and enjoyable competitions;
- Protect the integrity of the sport, its members and the wider sporting community;
- Provide flexibility to clubs in regard to selections and availability;
- Support representative members and teams.

3 Code of Conduct

All members of Hockey Coffs Coast (HCC) are bound to comply with the Hockey Australia (HA) Member Protection Policy as a condition of their membership.

Codes of behaviour are underpinned by the following:

- To act within the rules and spirit of our sport
- To display respect and courtesy towards everyone involved in our sport and prevent discrimination and harassment
- To prioritise the safety and well-being of children and young people involved in our sport
- To encourage and support opportunities for participation in all aspects of our sport

All players, coaches, managers, team officials, administrators, board/committee members, parents/guardians and spectators are bound to comply with the HCC Code of Conduct, Conditions of Entry to the facility and any lawful direction of HCC.

Breaches of the Code of Conduct will be referred to the HCC Board.

4 General

These HCC Senior Competition Rules (the "Rules") should be read and understood in their entirety as various cross-references apply. They have been established so that there is fair and quality competition between clubs and teams based on the ability and standard of the players.

It is the responsibility of all Club's to ensure that their coaches and managers have a copy of and understand the application of these rules. Any queries should first be directed to your Club's Senior Competition Committee Members or directly to the Senior Competition Committee.

The Senior Competition Committee will review these Rules from time to time and may endorse any necessary amendments for the benefit of the competition, with final approval to be provided by the Board.

The Senior Competition Committee may consider and provide specific exemptions for applying these Rules to benefit the competition and players.

The Senior Competition Committee seeks the cooperation of all clubs in adherence to these Rules to ensure a fair and enjoyable competition for all members and supporters of HCC.

All HCC Senior Competition games are played under FIH rules, as adopted by Hockey Australia, Hockey NSW, and the Association, unless otherwise stated.

5 Definitions

The Association or HCC means Hockey Coffs Coast Inc.

Abandoned Game means a game which HCC or the Senior Competition Committee have declared unplayable due to any reason.

Board means the HCC Board of Directors, elected or appointed in accordance with the HCC Constitution.

Club means a club which registers players and submits teams within the HCC Senior Competition.

Senior Competition Committee means the HCC Senior Competition Committee, comprised of members representing the clubs in the HCC Senior Competition.

Division means the grading within Senior Competition.

FIH means Federation Internationale de Hockey, or The International Hockey Federation which is the governing body for the sport of Hockey.

Games includes all games where they are part of the official HCC draw.

Game Card means the document on which the record of the game's result, including participants will be recorded.

Finals Series means games identified as Semi-Finals, Finals and Grand Finals on the HCC Senior Competition draw.

HA means Hockey Australia

HNSW means Hockey New South Wales.

Ineligible player means a player who is not eligible to take the field, either due to their grading, age, registration status, financial status, or for any other reason determined by the Senior Competition Committee.

Modified format means any competition structure altered from the FIH rules to enable a safe and inclusive competition.

Player means a player who is registered to a club affiliated with HCC.

Season or Competition means the entirety of the Senior Winter Competition (generally run from April through to September each year). The Competition is generally split into Men's and Women's divisions, unless otherwise stated.

Core Team List are the minimum nominated players required to nominate a team.

6 Teams

6.1 Entry of Teams

1. All Clubs shall participate in competitions sanctioned by Hockey Coffs Coast (HCC) Board and will abide by all rules within the competition as defined here within. Team sheets must be lodged by the due date as nominated by the HCC, noting this must at least at least 4 weeks before the comp begins.
2. When nominating a team for inclusion into the winter season full sided hockey, each team must have a minimum of nine (9) nominated players, except for teams in the lowest division nominated by that club, which must have eleven (11) players nominated. Additionally, the total number of nominated players across these teams must contain no less than eleven (11) x number of teams nominated.
For example, if a club nominates 2 Teams in the Men's Competition they will need a minimum of 22 players across the 2 teams.
3. Should the situation arise that a Club does not have viable numbers to form a stand alone team, they may apply to Senior Competition Committee to nominate 1 club they may draw from.
4. Clubs may submit a second (or more) lower-division team/s even if they don't have team/s in a higher division/s. The club must show when nominating the team, that the team is appropriately graded for that division. The Senior Competition Committee can regrade a team as per 8.3

5. No team will be accepted after the registration date unless circumstances have arisen and this has been considered and approved by the Senior Competition Committee.
6. All competitions are gender-specific. Female players may apply to the Senior Competition Committee for an exemption to play in the men's competition. To participate in finals for this team they must play a minimum of 25% of the season competition for this team and also qualify for finals with the minimum 33% of the season competition. Same as 6.5.1

6.2 Composition of Teams

1. The maximum number of players for full sided hockey will be no more than twenty (20) on a team sheet.
2. Core team lists must be maintained throughout the Season. Players that are filling in will be added to the score card on the day by the captain/manager. During the first 4 weeks of competition, clubs can add players to the teams on RevSport as they register. Late player and Deregistration forms will be used to notify the Senior Competition Committee of any changes to original team sheets submitted. Teams will be locked on RevSport after the 4th week and only the Senior Competition Committee can remove or add players.
3. Any changes or alterations made to the submitted team sheet must be submitted online to the Senior Competition Committee. An accurate team list must be maintained and updated throughout the year by the Senior Competition Committee.

6.3 Uniforms

1. All Clubs are to have numbers on the back of their playing shirts. These must correspond with the player number imputed on Rev Sport. By the 4th competition round, clubs will supply updated team sheets with player numbers to the Senior Competition Committee. The Senior Competition Committee will provide updated team sheets to the HCC Board.
2. Clubs with two (2) or more teams in the same grade must have separate and distinctive team colours for each team when playing each other.
3. Clubs must ensure all players in their teams are wearing the correct uniform after round four (4) of competition. Players not in the correct uniform as registered with

HCC will not be allowed to participate. A Club may seek an extension in time should the situation arise where they are awaiting stock of uniforms to arrive. For new players and under extenuating circumstances during the competition exemption may be given with the agreement of the umpires and opposing captain and must be noted on the scorecard.

6.4 Duties of Teams

1. Team captains/managers to confirm with umpires and technical bench the scorecard listing team members before the match's commencement. Umpires must complete as soon as practical their section of the result card and hand the result cards to the captains for them to complete and sign. Team Captains are responsible to ensure their match card is correct at the end of the game. Umpires will complete sportsperson award. Once scorecards have been submitted, the scorecards cannot be altered.
2. All teams must supply people for duties as requested. An under 18 player may cover duty allocations in the senior competition (except for canteen service when alcohol is being served) if the under 18 player is playing senior hockey or regularly umpiring senior hockey and is accompanied by an adult.
3. Failure to do duty as allocated will result in a fine to the club/team who has not completed their duty, unless an arrangement has been made with another club/team to cover the duty. If a club/team fails to attend their allocated duty, this must be reported to the Senior Competition Committee. The club will incur a fine of fifty dollars (\$50.00) per duty, payable within seven (7) days of the receipt of notice.

6.5 Eligibility for Finals

1. All registered players must compete in the Hockey Coffs Coast Winter Competition for a minimum of 33% of the season competition to qualify to participate in the final series.
If a player plays in multiple games in a single round, only one (1) game per round can be included in the count.
A minimum of 25% of the season competition must be played in their nominated team (lowest division able to play in) to qualify to play finals for that team, i.e If there are 18 rounds in the regular season, a player must play a minimum of 6 games and 5 of these games need to be in their nominated team if they are to participate in that lower division final series.

During the final series, a player can play up into any higher grade from the grade in which they qualify.

2. Special consideration may be given to extenuating circumstances, including illness or injury, upon submission to the Senior Competition Committee.
3. The 33% requirement applies to all players and is not adjusted for players who register late in the season.

7 Registration of Players

1. All players must register on-line; <https://www.hockeycoffscoast.com.au/registration/> and pay the full HNSW registration fee before taking the field for their first game.
2. Registration of players during the competition must be submitted online using the late player form by Clubs no later than 2 hours prior to the game's commencement in which they are to play. A breach in this rule will be considered as the team concerned, having forfeited the game or games played.
3. Players who turn fourteen (14) years and above by 31 December are eligible to play in the senior competition. Players who turn thirteen (13) years of age by 31 December can apply to the Senior Competition Committee for consideration and approval to play in the senior competition. Any team in breach of this rule will be deemed to be playing an unregistered player.
4. Any Club playing an unregistered/unfinancial or unqualified player shall have forfeited such games that the player has played. Refer to Game Forfeits for penalties.
5. Players must play with their registered primary club. Seniors may apply for an exemption to play in a higher grade for another club if their club does not offer a team. Juniors, who are eligible to play in the Senior Competition, may apply for an exemption to play for a different senior club, if their club doesn't offer the grade.
6. The Senior Competition Committee will consider requests for exceptions to this rule, taking into consideration any grading issues.
7. The Senior Competition Committee is to notify the appropriate club Secretary immediately if they discover an unregistered, unfinancial, unqualified, or higher graded player has played in a competition game. Clubs failing to comply with the rules applying to registration shall forfeit all games which the player concerned plays.

8. A player who requests a clearance to join another club within the current season and receives no response within 7 days from the club they are leaving, will automatically be granted the clearance. Evidence of no response (email) will be required.
9. Any breach of rules pertaining to registration or grading of players or teams will result in a forfeit being recorded against the team where the breach or breaches have occurred.

8 Grading of Players and Teams

1. All Clubs shall lodge to HCC Association, by the defined team registration date, a full team list with at least the core lists as defined in 6.1.2. A copy is to be given to the Senior Competition Committee. If a club has two or more teams nominated in the same grade, 7 players will need to be graded in each team in this grade and indicated on the team sheet. The Senior Competition Committee will regrade players if required.
2. The Senior Competition Committee will check the graded players for suitability at least two (2) weeks prior to the start of the winter competition.
3. The Senior Competition Committee may regrade a team up or down a division if, in their opinion, the regrading makes for a correctly graded competition. The Senior Competition Committee will notify the Secretary of the club involved.
4. Teams must maintain the minimum number of graded players as per 8.1. A team may have more than minimum graded players as deemed by the Senior Competition Committee.
5. During the season, a club may apply to the Senior Competition Committee to change the graded player list in the event of injury or a new player registration.
6. If clubs wish to appeal the decision of the Senior Competition Committee concerning the classification of graded players, clubs may ask for the matter to be referred to the Appeals Committee. (Refer to HCC Constitution – Rights of Appeal).
7. Any player can play up as often as desired (Noting the Senior Competition Committee can re-grade players during the season). No player can play down divisions.

8. Clubs with two or more teams in the same division shall be allowed to interchange ungraded players between these teams to a maximum team of (12) players. Players are only eligible to play finals for the team in which they were initially registered.
9. Exceptional circumstances may be considered upon application to the Senior Competition Committee.
10. In a single team club, the club may apply to the Senior Competition Committee to use ungraded players from the same or lower division from another club to form a team of 12 players. See 6.1.3
11. Any player named as a goalkeeper may also nominate as a field player, for a different team. Players named as both goalkeepers and field players are considered to have two separate nominations and are subject to grading for each nomination.
12. Keepers can slide across to any team within their division or play up to a higher division. If a team does not have a keeper, they can apply to the Senior Competition Committee to use a keeper from another club in the same or lower division.
13. Should a team illegally play a player that team will forfeit the game, and the forfeit conditions will apply. All players that participate in this game will be deemed to have played and the game will counted towards their finals eligibility.

9 Fees and Fines in Arrears

Refer to the HCC By-laws Section 2: General 2:4 Fees/Fines in Arrears

10 Competition

10.1 Rules of Hockey

1. All senior competitions shall be played according to current FIH Rules and subsequent changes to those rules will apply as directed by HockeyNSW or the Senior Competition Committee, or HCC Board.

10.2 Format of Competition

1. The number of competition rounds is to be determined by the Senior Competition Committee in consultation with the HCC Board

2. Duration of Games: All senior games to be four (4) quarters of fifteen (15) minutes with two (2) minute breaks at the end of first and third quarters and a five (5) minute break at half time in accordance with FIH Rules.
3. For any competitions that are not full field, 11 aside, the Senior Competition Committee will create the rules and publish these rules at least 7 days prior to the start of the competition
4. If less than 4 teams nominate for a division, the Senior Competition Committee will determine whether the competition will proceed with less teams, combine divisions, restructure the competition or modify the competition.

10.3 Grounds

1. The suitability of any ground under the Association's control shall be determined by the Board in consultation with the Senior Competition Committee, who will contact Club Secretaries as soon as possible of any alterations or cancellations to the fixtures prior to the scheduled time of the fixtures.
2. Teams must keep their appointment and proceed to the grounds set down for play. The team captains to agree to the fitness of the ground. If the captains disagree, then the umpires may decide. If the game is not played due to the ground being unplayable, then the umpires advise the HCC Association accordingly. Should no umpire be in attendance, then both captains are to notify the Association.

10.4 Fixtures

1. All fixtures and games shall be strictly adhered to. No alteration shall be made to respective dates and grounds for such fixtures unless officially notified by the Senior Competition Committee after consultation with the HCC Board.
2. Ground allocations are to be made by the Senior Competition Committee.
3. The Officiating Committee will develop a season fixture for the Winter Competition, with the Officiating Committee rostering Division 1, with Clubs rostering the lower division games. The Officiating Committee will publish on HCC Website weekly umpire allocations by Friday before the round.
4. Once the season has commenced any umpire/club appointed to a match who cannot umpire that match must arrange a suitable substitute umpire. Failing to do so will

incur his/her club a fine of fifty dollars (\$50.00) per round, payable within seven (7) days of receipt of the notice. In the case of individuals, the penalty is incurred by that individual per round.

5. In the event of any game being abandoned by the HCC Board or Senior Competition Committee, such a game may be replayed at a time and venue as decided by the Senior Competition Committee. If the Senior Competition Committee determines that a match is not to be replayed, that game is to be counted as a draw, and each team shall receive three (3) points.

10.5 Game Forfeits

1. Play may not commence until both teams have seven (7) or more registered players on the field within ten (10) minutes of the advertised starting time. A breach of this rule means the team without seven (7) players has forfeited the game.
2. When a team has seven (7) or more eligible players, the team must take the field.
3. Any team conceding a forfeit shall be treated as having lost that match by five (5) goals to nil (0).
4. A team receiving a forfeit shall be deemed to have won the game by five (5) goals to nil (0) and shall receive five (5) points as per a win.
5. In the case of a team appearing and the other team failing to do so, unless Senior Competition Committee or HCC Board has previously made other arrangements that the ground is unplayable, the team appearing shall receive a forfeit from the opposing team—failing team to incur turf fees as per 10.5.6.
6. In the event of any team forfeiting a match, the Club concerned will notify Senior Competition Committee as soon as possible. Any team that fails to notify the Senior Competition Committee of their intent to forfeit a scheduled game forty-eight (48) hours before the scheduled start time will be charged the full cost of both teams' turf fees.
7. If a team forfeits three (3) times in the same season, that team should show just cause why they should not be ejected from the competition, and if a player for that team requests a fee refund, no refund will be issued from HCC.

8. For the purpose of qualifying for the finals series, any forfeited game as per 10.5.1, 10.5.5 or 10.5.6, is not included in the 33% rule calculation for the team forfeiting. The opposition team players will be deemed to have played the game and this game will count towards the 33% final eligibility (6.5.1). Games that have taken place but have been deemed a forfeit because of a breach of rules (7.4 & 7.9), all players that participated in the game will count towards the 33% final eligibility (6.5.1).

10.6 Washed Out or Deferred Games

1. Provision will be made for matches to be postponed in light of prevailing weather conditions, with the decision to be made by the HCC Board in consultation with the Senior Competition Committee.
2. In accordance with the relevant section of the Hockey Australia Extreme Weather Guideline, play may need to be suspended for a number of factors such as:
 - Extreme weather
 - UV Exposure and Heat Illness
 - Air quality
 - Hail
 - Lighting
 - ChillRefer to Hockey Australia Extreme Weather Guidelines.
3. An interrupted match is deemed to be complete if half the allotted game time is played. If this cannot be achieved within the allotted time, the game in question shall be rescheduled.
Semi-Finals, Finals, and Grand Finals are exempt from this ruling; these games only will be replayed in full.
4. Deferred games – Clubs may request to defer a game, provided the following criteria is met;
The team has a minimum of three (3) players on HCC or Hockey NSW or Hockey Australia representative team duty. These players must be on the team's playing list. The request must be completed and lodged online before fourteen (14) days prior to the game being played.

5. A Club may apply to the Senior Competition Committee, should the circumstance arise where a player is called up for representative duty within the fourteen (14) days' timeframe.
6. Deferred games dates & time to be determined by the Senior Competition Committee within Three (3) weeks of washed out or deferred game. Two (2) alternative dates will be provided by the Senior Competition Committee to the clubs to consider and accept.
7. In the case of minors, an immediate family member of the minor representing at HCC, Hockey NSW or Hockey Australia levels, who is required to attend the Representative Event with their child, may apply to the Senior Competition Committee to be included as part of the minimum three (3) players referred to in point 10.6.4.

10.7 Competition Points and Finals

1. **Competition points** in all grades shall be awarded as follows:
 - Five (5) points – for a win or receipt of forfeit;
 - Three (3) point – for a draw;
 - One (1) points – for a loss
 - Zero (0) points – for a bye Zero (0) points – for a forfeit.
2. **Minor Premiers** The team with the highest number of points at the end of the Premiership rounds in each grade shall be the Minor Premiers and called the Number one (1) team. In the event of an incomplete round or competition then a win loss ratio will be applied to determine minor premiers. If the points are equal, then the team with the higher goal difference shall be the Minor Premiers. If the goal difference is equal, then the team with the highest number of goals scored will be the Minor Premiers.
3. **Semi-Finals** These will be held only when there are at least 5 teams in a division.
 - First semi-final – No. 1 team plays No. 2 team;
 - Second semi-final – No. 3 team plays No. 4 team;
 - The winner of the first Semi-final goes to the Grand Final.
 - In a four (4) team competition. No. 1 ranked team automatically progresses to the Grand Final. No. 2 team plays No. 3 team to decide which team will be eligible for the Grand Final match

4. **Final** The loser of the first semi-final plays the winner of the second semi-final.
5. **Grand Final** The winner of the first semi-final plays the winner of the final. The winners of the grand final are the Major Premiers.
6. **Rules for Finals**
 - (i) In Semi Finals and Finals, if at the end of regular time the game is drawn, there will be a five (5) minute break and five (5) minutes extra time played each way, golden goal rules apply.

If the scores are still drawn at the end of the extra time periods, the higher placed team will be declared the winner.
 - (ii) In the Grand Final, if at the end of regular time the game is drawn, there will be a five (5) minute break and five (5) minutes extra time played each way and golden goal rules apply.

If the scores are drawn at the end of the extra time periods, a one-on-one shoot out will be conducted as per 10.7.7.
 - (iii) The time clock will stop for injuries only during the finals series.
7. **Penalty Shoot Out Competition** The procedures for conducting the Shoot-Out Competition will be played in accordance with FIH tournament rules.

11 Officiating

1. At least two (2) weeks prior to the start of the Winter Competition, Clubs will be required to provide a list of all their nominated umpires, including trainees and those wanting to learn to umpire.

As a general rule, each Club should be able to nominate 2 umpires for every team they enter into the winter competition.
2. The Officiating Committee will review and grade the listing and use this for the development of umpires throughout the season.
3. The Officiating Committee will manage a roster for Division 1 and Clubs will manage a roster for Division 2 and Division 3 games.
4. The Officiating Committee and Senior Competition Committee will liaise in relation to matters affecting officiating throughout the winter season competitions.

Umpires and Technical Officials

11.1 Duties of Umpires

1. Umpires must check that players are listed on the scorecard, including substitutes, and ask teams to indicate the Captain and goalkeeper before play commences.
2. Umpires must check uniforms for suitability and conformity with these Rules. Umpires may request removal of jewellery, dangerous clothing, non-prescription glasses, and dangerous sticks. Failure to comply with the umpire's directives will prevent the player from taking the field.
3. Umpires shall ensure that all cards issued to players/coaches or officials are recorded clearly on the scorecard, with the offence noted for yellow and red cards.
5. Umpires must complete as soon as practical their section of the result card and hand the result cards to the captains check and sign, check with the Tech Bench personnel for verification if required, then place the completed game card in the locked box inside the Tech Bench.
6. **Sportspersonship Award:** At the end of each match, the umpires will award 3, 2 and 1 points for sportspersonship (or no one if they deem fit) across both teams. A record of these points will be kept by the Senior Competition Committee and at the end of the regular season, the names of the player/s with the highest tally for each division will be given to the HCC board.

11.2 Duties of Clubs

1. If a player is unable to umpire a match for which she/he has been set down, it is their club's responsibility to find a suitable alternative and contact other clubs and subsequently the Officiating Committee for assistance if required.
2. In the event of a team failing to provide an Umpire for any given match, that club has not arranged another club to fill the responsibility, that club will receive a monetary fine as defined in rule 6.4.3
3. In the event of the same team failing to provide Umpires on a second and subsequent time, a monetary fine will be imposed on that club. Fines will increase incrementally by 20% for each infringement. Clubs should notify the Officiating Committee in writing within seven (7) days of any extenuating circumstances.

4. In respect of senior teams, Clubs ensure that multiple players per team attend a rules seminar. A monetary fine will be levied to clubs for non-attendance at a rules seminar.

11.3 Duties of Technical Officials

1. Ensure that games are commenced on time, making sure teams are ready to commence on time. If not, the game will start regardless of the teams' preparedness.
2. Ensure that all players are listed on the scorecard before taking to the field.
3. Check that all players are always wearing their mouthguard and shin guards, except those with exemptions noted on the match sheet.
4. Operate the scoreboard and clock throughout the duration of games.
5. Ensure that players are substituting within three (3) metres of the halfway mark.
6. Ensure that all team officials remain in their dugouts at all times and that only the team officials and players participating in the game/named on the game card are in the dugout area.
7. Ensure that all team equipment is inside the dugout or designated area to ensure players' and officials' safety.
8. Ensure there are only the required number of players on the field at all times
9. Ensure that you know when umpires have called for player suspension. Note suspended players time starts once they are seated in the suspended player area. For yellow card suspensions, check with the umpire who will indicate the length of time (note this is a minimum of 5 minutes, umpire will decide how long – watch for their signal
10. Suspended players are to return to the field of play at the centre line and at a time that does not advantage or disadvantage either team as advised by the technical official.
11. Liaise with umpires to check that all parts of the scorecard are completed and signed at the completion of the game.

12. Liaise with umpires to ensure that all documents are attached and returned to the relevant posting box for the Senior Competition Committee collection.
13. Liaise with umpires to ensure that all cards issued to players/coaches or officials are recorded clearly on the scorecard, with the offence noted, and provide a written report (or email) to the Officiating Coordinator if requested.
14. Ensure Tech Bench area is clean and assist to close the area when required.
15. Disorderly conduct will not be tolerated. Anyone engaging in unacceptable conduct, in or around the dugouts/tech bench area, can be asked to leave this area by the technical officials. Please refer to Hockey Coffs Coast Bylaws 2:8 Disputes, Protests, Concerns, Misconduct e), f) & g)

11.4 Issuing of Cards

1. Recording Umpires and Tech bench personnel will liaise to ensure all cards issued to senior or junior players, Coaches or Officials are recorded on the scorecard for the game, with the reason for issuing yellow and red cards.
2. **Allocation**
 - One (1) green card (suspended for 2 minutes);
 - One (1) yellow card (suspended for a minimum of 5 minutes);
 - One (1) red card (suspended for the rest of the match, and all official duties until a judiciary hearing on the matter).
3. Any player, Coach or Official who has accumulated/received three (3) yellow cards will be suspended for one (1) match:
4. Any player, Coach or Official receiving a red card is not permitted to take part in any game until such time as they appear before the Judiciary Committee.
5. The umpire is to submit a written report to the Association Secretary concerning the issuing of any red card within 24 hours of completion of the applicable match.
6. Any player or official that receives a suspension shall be ineligible to perform official or coaching duties for HCC whilst serving the suspension.

11.5 Decisions of Umpires

1. The official umpires shall control the game, and their decision shall be final in all matters.
2. No member of a team, other than the Captain, may question a decision of the umpire. The captain may question a decision of the umpire, provided this is done in a respectful and appropriate manner.
3. Team coaches and officials will be cautioned in the same manner as a playing team member.
4. Any further misconduct after the initial caution will result in the team captain receiving a yellow or red card penalty, in addition to the coach or official receiving a card.