

# General Purposes Tribunal (GPT)

The GHFA General Purposes Tribunal (GPT) is the principal body responsible for administering the disciplinary processes of GHFA. Its activities are governed by the GHFA Grievance & Disciplinary Regulations (The GDR) which are a scheduled attachment to the GHFA By-Laws.

This document is intended to assist participants to understand the process and prepare for attendance at a GPT hearing. It is not a substitute for The GDR and you should refer to the GDR for full information. The GDR is available via the *Resources > G&D Regulations > Judiciary Process* tab on the GHFA web site ([www.GHFA.com.au](http://www.GHFA.com.au)). The link to the full pdf is on this page.

## How does a case get referred to the GPT?

- All incident reports lodged by match officials are passed directly to the GPT for processing.
- All red card reports lodged by match officials are reviewed by the GHFA General Manager.
- More serious reports - including reports where, in the opinion of the General Manager, the circumstances suggest that the resources of a Tribunal are required to deal properly with the report, are passed directly to the GPT.
- Less serious reports are passed to the Disciplinary Committee (DC). The DC may choose to deal with the matter by stipulating a sentence based upon the match official's report and the player's disciplinary record. Alternatively, the DC may choose to refer any report to the GPT.

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## Guidelines to CLUBS whose player(s) have been cited to appear

### How does the Club know?

- The club will receive a Notice of Charge from GHFA.
- This must include a copy of the match report and the charges being considered.

### What should the Club do?

1. It MUST notify the player(s) ASAP.
2. It MUST provide the player(s) with all documentation relevant to the charge –usually this means the match report.
3. A representative from the club should attend the hearing.
4. It is considered optimal if the club has performed an investigation of the matter by:
  - a. speaking with the charged player(s),
  - b. speaking with other relevant persons e.g. coach, manager, team captain, other witnesses.
5. The club can then consider the degree to which they will support the player(s) and advise the player(s) on their Notice of Response
6. A Notice of Response is required by the date specified in the Notice of Charge. It should include:
  - a. whether the player(s)
    - i. Plead(s) guilty or not guilty to the charge(s)
    - ii. Accept(s) the reports attached to the Notice of Charge;
  - b. written statements;
  - c. whether the player(s) wish(es) to be represented by a lawyer.

### What happens after the GPT hearing?

- The GPT will forward a written determination ASAP –usually within 7 days
- The written determination will contain a date specifying the closing time for appeals
- The basis and fee for an **APPEAL** is set out in the GDR

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## **Guidelines for participants who have been cited to appear**

### **How will I know if I have been cited to appear?**

The GHFA will send you a Notice of Charge or a Notice to Appear via your club. That notice will identify any charges that have been raised against you and it must be accompanied by any written evidence upon which those charges are based (e.g. a match official's report).

### **When and why will I be cited to appear?**

A participant is required to attend a GPT hearing when he/she has:

- been shown a red card and sent from the field of play by a match official for a serious offence, or
- been charged with misconduct or a disciplinary offence having been identified in a match official's incident report, or
- challenged the severity of a suspension set by the Disciplinary Committee following a red card, or
- been identified as the subject of a formal complaint from another participant or member club.

### **Do I have to attend the hearing?**

No, but it is probably in your best interests to attend. You should be aware that when you registered as a participant in the GHFA competition, you agreed to submit to the authority of the GPT. If, having been cited, you choose not to attend a hearing to defend the charge(s), the hearing may proceed in your absence and you may forfeit some or all of your rights to appeal any finding against you.

If the date and/or time set for your hearing is not convenient, you should immediately contact the GHFA office advising your unavailability and requesting an alternative date/time. During the winter football season, the GPT meets every Tuesday and will make all reasonable effort to accommodate you on another Tuesday evening.

### **I've been cited – what should I do now?**

You should respond to GHFA confirming your attendance (or otherwise) at the scheduled hearing. In your response, you have the option to enter a plea (guilty or not guilty) if you so desire. If you plan to attend and defend the charges, you should advise the Tribunal the name(s) of any witness(es) you intend to call in your defence and you should send copies of any written material that you intend to rely upon at the hearing. If you attempt to introduce written material at the hearing that you did not provide in advance, the Tribunal may rule that it is inadmissible as a party could be placed at a disadvantage.

### **I've been cited, but it wasn't me who did it. What should I do now?**

You should respond to GHFA immediately explaining that you believe this is a case of mistaken identity. Your response should be done with the assistance of your club and should identify the person who actually was responsible. You must do this immediately before you attend any hearing. If possible, claims of mistaken identity should be accompanied by a letter from the person who actually is the subject of the report.