

ADMINISTRATION

SANCTIONS AGAINST PERSISTENT MISBEHAVIOUR 2006-07 SEASON

The sanctions scheme has now been endorsed as a permanent feature by National Council.

Counting cards

Every player started with a 'clean sheet' in July 2004, and every card shown since then in any ETTA competition has been recorded. Each card is recorded separately, along with the offence for which it was shown - so a yellow card followed by a red/yellow card in the same match will be recorded as two incidents. The trigger for sanctions is the number of cards accumulated in a rolling 12-month period, which means that cards shown during last season will progressively disappear from the player's record during this season on the anniversary of the date when they were shown.



Sanctions

Once a player's record shows five cards, their Player Licence will become "restricted" for a period of three months. Players may still enter Open Tournaments and the British League during this penalty period, but they will have to pay a Single Competition Licence Fee on each occasion. Any further offence during the penalty period will re-start the clock for a further 3-month period. Once a player has successfully completed the 3-month penalty period without re-offending, their record of offences will be cleared and their full Player Licence entitlements will be restored.

New provision for 2006-07

Only one re-start of the sanctions clock (for a further card while under sanctions) will be permitted. If a player receives another card during the extended sanctions, they will not be allowed to 'top up' their Licence by paying Single Competition Licence Fees. They will therefore be unable to compete in the majority of Open Tournaments, in

the British League, or in any competition where a full Player Licence is required, for a period of three months. They will, however, still be able to play in their clubs, in local leagues, and in ETTA 'Approved' and 'One-Star' Tournaments.

Administration

The sanctions are administered by Tournaments Committee, which receives and collates records of all cards shown in all ETTA competitions. As soon as a player's tally is seen to reach five cards, the player is notified of the start-date and the expected end-date of the penalty period, and we also notify the Organisers and Referees of all Open Tournaments etc. scheduled during that period.

Limits to the sanctions

The sanctions will only apply to the 'competitions' element of the Player Licence, and will not affect any other Player Licence benefits.

Conclusion

The aim of the sanctions is to reverse the worrying trend towards petulance and dissent, and to ensure that all players behave properly on court. Thus the sanctions do not normally impose an outright ban on competitive play, and they still allow players to enter Open Tournaments etc. on payment of the Single Competition Licence Fee – but they do put the offenders under increasing pressure to conform to acceptable standards of behaviour.



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