

CORE PRINCIPLE

You are not judging intent, you are applying clear trigger criteria.

If the criteria are met → the suspension applies automatically.

1. STEP-BY-STEP DECISION PROCESS

Step 1: Identify the Foul

- Is this a Major Foul under the rules?
If NO → policy does not apply
If YES → proceed

Step 2: Assess Contact Type

Did the action involve:

- Dangerous contact, including:
 - Head or neck contact,
 - High-force contact,
 - Contact against a defenceless or vulnerable player

If NO → standard penalty only

If YES → proceed

Step 3: Confirm Outcome

Did the player:

- Leave the field for medical assessment or treatment
If NO → no automatic suspension
If YES → proceed

Result:

Automatic Suspension Triggered

You do NOT decide the length beyond minimum, this is automatic.

2. WHAT COUNTS AS “MEDICAL REMOVAL”?

Counts:

- Coach/Trainer attends and removes player,
- Player unable to continue and substituted for evaluation,
- Visible injury requiring assessment.

Does NOT count:

- Player briefly pauses and continues,
- Tactical substitutions,
- No medical involvement.

3. EXAMPLES

Suspension Applies

- High stick to head → player removed.
- Late hit to head → concussion assessment.
- Blindside contact → player assisted off field.
- Heavy body contact causing torso/rib injury → player removed
- Late or avoidable contact to a planted leg → player removed
- High-force blindside body contact → player assisted off field

Does Not Apply

- Legal contact, no injury.
- Minor contact, player continues.
- Body contact not dangerous in nature.

4. ROLE OF MATCH OFFICIALS

You are responsible for:

- Calling the Major Foul correctly,
- Recognising injury + removal,
- Applying the rule consistently.

You are NOT responsible for:

- Deciding intent beyond rules,
- Determining medical diagnosis,
- Assigning extended suspensions.

5. INCIDENT REPORTING

Submit a report if:

- Conduct appeared deliberate or malicious,
- Injury is clearly serious,
- You believe further action is warranted,
- A serious incident occurred but no Major Foul was called.

6. CONSISTENCY GUIDELINES

When in doubt:

- Prioritise player safety,
- Apply objective criteria only,
- Avoid subjective interpretation,
- Be consistent with previous applications.

7. KEY MESSAGE TO MATCH OFFICIALS

“If it’s a Major Foul + dangerous contact + medical removal → the suspension is automatic.”