

APPENDIX 1

YELLOW CARDS

Two Yellow Cards in a Match

1. A Player that receives two yellow cards in a match (whether for illegal and/or Foul Play or technical offences) and is ordered off after the second yellow card (i.e. awarded a red card), shall appear before a Disciplinary Panel.
2. Where a Player has been ordered off as a result of receiving two yellow cards and one or both of those yellow cards was awarded for illegal and/or Foul Play, then the Player may challenge one or both of the illegal and/or Foul Play yellow cards. There is no right of appeal against the award of a Yellow Card for a technical offence. If the Disciplinary Panel allows an appeal against one or both of the illegal and/or Foul Play yellow cards the red card shall be expunged from the Player's record.
3. If a Player has received two level 1 citings (also known as citing commissioner warnings) or a combination of a level 1 citing and a yellow card during a match he shall be treated for disciplinary purposes as if he had been ordered-off during the match.
4. The Disciplinary Panel is required to apply a sanction for the offence of persistent offending, not for the substantive offences relating to each yellow card. In this case the appropriate entry point for persistent offending within a single match is **a suspension of one week**. Sanctioning in these circumstances should be determined by reference to the methodology in RFU Regulation 19 and in particular to the application of mitigating and aggravating features.

Yellow cards received	Recommended Sanction
2 technical yellow cards in one match	Sending off sufficient
2 foul play yellow cards in one match	1 week suspension from playing
1 technical and 1 foul play yellow card in one match	Starting point of 1 week suspension

5. Where one of the yellow cards was for a technical offence, the panel in each case will need to consider if the sanction imposed should be one of sending off sufficient.

Totting-up Three Foul Play Yellow Cards in a Season (Levels 1 to 4 of the Game Only)

6. A Player who receives three yellow cards for Foul Play only during a season (at Levels 1 to 4) (excluding cup competitions) will have his case heard by an RFU Disciplinary Panel.
7. A level 1 citing is to be treated as an off-field yellow card for Foul Play for the purposes of totting-up. A level 1 citing shall be issued by an RFU Citing Commissioner (at Levels 1 and 2 of the Game only) for an act of Foul Play that, in the Citing Commissioner's opinion, narrowly fails to meet the red card threshold and is required to be brought to the Player's attention.

8. No disciplinary action will be taken in relation to yellow cards awarded for technical offences. All yellow cards (technical and illegal/Foul Play) shall be reported to the RFU, but only those awarded for illegal and/or Foul Play will be recorded, attract an administrative fee as set out in Appendix 3 and be included for totting up purposes.
9. On receipt of the third Foul Play yellow card, the Player shall not be permitted to play in any match and shall be provisionally suspended from all on-field activities on match days anywhere in the world pending the outcome of the case.
10. An appeal against a Foul Play yellow card (or level 1 citing) may only be made where the appellant alleges that there was mistaken identity or that no act of Foul Play took place. The appeal must be lodged within 7 days of the date of the match with the RFU Head of Discipline and the appeal will be dealt with at the hearing that is subsequently arranged to deal with the totting up. Any appeal that is lodged after the 7 day period will not be valid and shall not be considered by the Disciplinary Panel.
11. On receipt of the appeal notice, the RFU Head of Discipline will contact the Match Official(s) involved in the award of the yellow card and request an appeal report (“the appeal report”) noting that the Player has sought to appeal the decision. A copy of any match footage will also be shared with the Match Official(s) at the time the additional information is sought by the RFU. Match Officials will be able to give their report on the yellow card in light of their own match review. This process will ensure that the Match Official(s) provides as much detail as possible when matters are fresh in their minds knowing that the matter may be considered in the future.
12. The appeal report will be shared with the Club on receipt. The appeal report will remain on the file unless and until such time as an appeal hearing is required, save where the Match Official(s) agrees that the yellow card was wrongly awarded, and that is recorded in the appeal report. In such circumstances, and unless the RFU makes representations to the contrary, the appeal and the appeal report will be submitted to a Disciplinary Panel to deal with the appeal on the papers, and there need be no further delay before the record is amended.
13. If the player should receive a further yellow card for foul play at a time when there is an outstanding appeal, the RFU will include the appeal report from the Match Officials in the hearing bundle, together any additional submissions the player wishes to make on the yellow card.
14. The Disciplinary Panel is required to apply a sanction for the offence of persistent offending, not for the substantive offences relating to each yellow card. The appropriate starting point for sanction is **a suspension of one - three weeks**. This sanction could be increased if there are any aggravating features listed in RFU Regulation 19.11.10.
15. The Disciplinary Panel may decide to apply no sanction in the following circumstances:

- a. where one or more of the yellow cards was applied as a result of mistaken identity; or
- b. that no act of foul play took place.