



FOOTBALL
**NORTHERN
TERRITORY**

FNT Three Strike Policy (2026)

1. PURPOSE

All members of the Northern Territory football community play a role in promoting a positive environment and supportive behaviours within our game. The elimination of poor behaviour both on and off the field, whether aimed at referees, supporters, coaches, players, or club members, is crucial to ensuring football remains an inclusive and welcoming game for all Territorians.

Under the FNT Disciplinary Regulations and Code of Conduct, a club is responsible, and liable, for the conduct and behaviour of its supporters, whether they are playing a fixture at home or at an away facility. It is the host club's responsibility to ensure the Football Australia Spectator Code of Behaviour is implemented and enforced in relation to all attendees. An away club is also responsible and liable for improper conduct among its own group of supporters at any fixture.

Referees represent a crucial part of our game, yet in recent seasons, there has been an unacceptable increase in referee abuse by both players and spectators. A direct impact of this can be seen in referee retention rates, where new match officials choose not to continue as a result of abuse.

The Three Strike Policy is implemented to reinforce acceptable standards of interpersonal conduct between participants and referees in the game. The policy's aim is to reduce and eliminate any form of abuse and inappropriate behaviour during any football activity and to provide an even more robust framework for dealing with circumstances where any form of abusive behaviour is exhibited.

The Three Strike Policy outlines stronger measures, deployed to ensure that there is no ambiguity around the consequences for bad behaviours and that such behaviour will be dealt with accordingly.

2. PROCESS

The Three Strike Policy applies to clubs where instances of abuse or misbehaviour directed at referees or other members of the football community, from spectators, club officials, team officials, players, and clubs are reported.

Strikes do not replace sanctions or penalties that may be applied or issued to individuals as a consequence of breaches of the FNT Disciplinary Regulations, or any other conduct that may have occurred in circumstances associated with the determination of a strike. The enforcement outcome of a strike will always be in addition to any individual's disciplinary determination.

All strikes will be implemented and enforced in the following manner by the FNT Disciplinary Committee and Competition Administrator:

Strike 1

- A Show Cause Notice will be issued to the offending club and will provide particulars of the allegations.
- Any response made by the offending club to the Notice will need to sufficiently demonstrate all measures the club has or will implement to address the specific particulars detailed within the Show Cause Notice and provide clear direction as to how this will mitigate future incidents of referee or other abuse at the club.
- The FNT Disciplinary Committee will make a determination.
- The specific team (or teams) involved in the incident may be issued a 3-point deduction penalty.
- All members of the offending club or clubs will be advised in writing by FNT of the strike, alongside any details of the sanctions handed down.
- The strike will remain valid and on the club's record for 12 months from the date of the offence.
- Public notification of the strike will be published on the FNT website. There is no appeal after a strike has been issued.

Strike 2

- A Show Cause Notice will be issued to the offending club and will provide particulars of the allegations.
- Any response made by the offending club to the Notice will need to sufficiently demonstrate all measures the club has or will implement to address the specific particulars detailed within the Show Cause Notice and provide clear direction as to how this will mitigate future incidents of referee or other abuse at the club.
- Executive officials from the offending club or clubs will be required to attend a hearing with the FNT Disciplinary Committee to discuss the particulars of the Show Cause Notice and the response tabled by the club.
- The FNT Disciplinary Committee will make a determination.
- If a determination is made by FNT that a strike is to be issued to an offending club within 12 months of a Strike 1 being issued, it will be considered as Strike 2.
- Additional measures or requirements may be set down by the Disciplinary Committee, which may involve further oversight and review of the implementation and ongoing compliance of proposed measures taken by the club in relation to Strike 1.
- Every competitive team (that plays for points) at the offending club will receive a mandatory 3-point penalty (a maximum of an additional 3 points deduction may be further issued, if determined by the Disciplinary Committee—6-point deduction in total).
- The offending club or clubs will receive a mandatory \$2,000 fine for any second strike.
- All members of the offending club or clubs will be advised in writing by FNT of the strike, alongside any details of the sanctions handed down.
- The strike will remain valid and on the club's record for 12 months from the date of the offence.
- Public notification of the strike will be published on the FNT website. There is no appeal after a strike has been issued.

Strike 3

- A Show Cause Notice will be issued to the offending club and will provide particulars of the allegations.
- Executive officials from the offending club or clubs will be required to attend a hearing with the FNT Disciplinary Committee and FNT Executive Management team to discuss the particulars of the Show Cause Notice and the response tabled by the club.
- The FNT Disciplinary Committee and Executive Management will make a determination.
- If the alleged behaviour has been proved and a determination is made by FNT that a strike is to be issued to an offending club within 12 months of a Strike 2 being issued, it will be considered as Strike 3.
- If a Strike 3 has been issued, FNT may, after providing natural justice to the offending club, terminate their affiliation to Football Northern Territory.
- In circumstances where affiliation is not revoked under a Strike 3, one or more teams involved in the offending conduct or incident, across any number of competitions the club may be involved in, could be removed by FNT from those competitions for the remainder of the season.
- Every remaining competitive team at the offending club will be given an automatic forfeit, with no matches played for the next competition round, after the determination has been made by FNT.
- The club will receive a mandatory \$5,000 fine.
- The strike will remain valid and on the club's record for 12 months from the date of the offence.
- Public notification of the strike will be published on the FNT website. There is no appeal after a strike has been issued.

If a club accumulates more than three strikes (fourth strike) within a 12-month period:

- A Show Cause Notice will be issued to the offending club and will provide particulars of the allegations.
- Executive officials from the offending club or clubs will be required to attend a hearing with the FNT Disciplinary Committee and Executive Management team to discuss the particulars of the Show Cause Notice and the response tabled by the club.
- The FNT Disciplinary Committee and Executive Management will make a determination.
- If the alleged behaviour has been proved and a determination is made by FNT that a strike is to be issued to an offending club within 12 months of a Strike 3 being issued, FNT will, after providing natural justice to the offending club, terminate their affiliation to Football Northern Territory and remove all teams from all relevant competitions.
- A \$1,000 – \$10,000 (determined by the FNT Disciplinary Committee and Competition Administrator) fine will be issued to the club by FNT.
- Re-affiliation of the offending club will be considered at the commencement of each season during the FNT Club Affiliation window, subject to all fines being paid and adherence to an agreed roadmap between the club and the Executive of FNT.

Document Authorisation

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Signatures

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