



FOOTBALL
VICTORIA

END OF
SEASON
REPORT

2018

Statistics from the 2018 Season

Tribunal
and
Discipline
Department

Authored by:
J. Campisi
M. Salafia
P. Dyer

CONTENTS

PAGE

INTRODUCTION	3
DEPARTMENT	3
COMPETITIONS	3
MATCH RECORDS	4
MENS	4
WOMENS	4
YELLOW CARDS	5
PLAYER SUSPENSIONS	6
2015 – 2018 RED CARD COMPARISON	6
COMPARISON WITH R8 ABSORBED	7
R8 – OFFENCES AGAINST MATCH OFFICIALS	7
AVOIDABLE OFFENCES	8
RED CARD DISTRIBUTION	9
TOTAL MISCONDUCT PENALTIES	10
OFFENDERS	11
MP9 – EXPLUSIONS FROM TECHNICAL AREA	12
TRIBUNAL DETERMINATIONS	13
WARNINGS & REPRIMANDS	14
OFFENCES AGAINST MATCH OFFICIALS	15
OVERALL STATISTICS – COMPARISON LAST 5 YEARS	16
IN SUMMARY	16
RECOMMENDATIONS FOR 2019	16

INTRODUCTION

Football Victoria (FV) is the governing body for Football in Victoria.

The purpose of this report is to give an overview of the 2018 season and to provide statistics on what has occurred throughout this year within the Tribunal and Discipline Department of Football Victoria.

The recommendations from 2017 were considered and implemented throughout the season. The department worked to ensure that individual penalties were given where applicable and to reduce the overall number of cases referred to the Independent Tribunal.

A new online submission system for Referees was introduced in season 2018. This enabled referees to submit Match Records, Incident Reports and Misconduct Reports to FV and acted as a one stop shop for all post-match administration requirements.

Several experienced Tribunal members stood down from the Independent Tribunal panel at the end of 2016, which facilitated the recruitment of new members. As a result, a larger number of cases were determined administratively in 2017 and this continued in 2018. There was a reduction in the amount of cases referred to the Independent Tribunal for a second consecutive year.

DEPARTMENT

The Legal, Regulatory & Finance Department (which includes the Tribunal and Discipline Department) of FV, governs the Grievance, Disciplinary and Tribunal By-Law (GDT), Rules of Competition, Laws of the Game and other empowering documents.

Through these documents, the department administer all Red and Yellow Cards, and applicable suspensions. The discipline team investigate Misconduct matters and refer serious incidents to be determined by the Independent Tribunal and Appeals Board.

In 2018, the department had three full time members of staff: the Tribunal and Discipline Manager, two Tribunal and Discipline Coordinators, with assistance from the Legal Counsel of Football Victoria.

COMPETITIONS

To give context to the statistics contained within this report, there were approximately **40,000** matches fixtured by the FV Competitions Department in the 2018 season. The breakdown of these fixtures is as follows:

Age Group	78% Junior	22% Senior	
Competition	87% Community football	12% NPL and WNPL	1% Cup
Gender	84% Men and Boy's	16% Women and Girls	

MATCH RECORDS

The submission of Match Records allows FV to clarify results, investigate claims of ineligible players, abandoned matches, but most importantly for the Discipline Department, process Yellow Cards. Referees are directed to submit all senior Match Records to FV. The tables below show, by league, the Match Records received by FV.

MENS

2018 Match Records			
LEAGUE	Seniors	Res / U20	TOTAL
NPL	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
NPL2	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
NPLW	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
NPL Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

2015 - 2018 Match Records				
LEAGUE	2015	2016	2017	2018
NPL	93.8%	98.1%	100.0%	100.0%
NPL2	95.4%	96.3%	100.0%	100.0%
NPLW	86.7%	86.9%	100.0%	100.0%
NPL Total	93.0%	95.1%	100.0%	100.0%

MENS STATE	Seniors	Res / U20	TOTAL
SL1 NW	99.2%	94.7%	97.0%
SL1 SE	99.2%	90.6%	94.9%
SL2 NW	100.0%	94.7%	97.3%
SL2 SE	100.0%	92.4%	96.2%
SL3 NW	99.2%	94.7%	97.0%
SL3 SE	100.0%	90.9%	95.5%
SL4 N	99.2%	84.1%	91.7%
SL4 S	97.7%	75.8%	86.7%
SL4 E	98.4%	84.4%	91.4%
SL4 W	99.1%	83.2%	91.1%
SL5 N	94.6%	76.9%	85.8%
SL5 S	96.2%	68.8%	82.5%
SL5 E	95.3%	82.2%	88.8%
SL5 W	91.0%	69.0%	80.0%
SL Total	97.8%	84.5%	91.2%

MENS STATE	2015	2016	2017	2018
SL1 NW	82.4%	74.8%	91.7%	97.0%
SL1 SE	82.8%	82.2%	94.5%	94.9%
SL2 NW	79.9%	69.9%	89.8%	97.3%
SL2 SE	81.3%	79.5%	95.5%	96.2%
SL3 NW	78.0%	70.8%	89.2%	97.0%
SL3 SE	69.5%	64.8%	91.3%	95.5%
SL4 N	71.4%	61.9%	87.9%	91.7%
SL4 S	75.2%	70.1%	85.0%	86.7%
SL4 E	72.2%	72.5%	78.7%	91.4%
SL4 W	78.0%	63.8%	84.3%	91.1%
SL5 N	63.9%	59.3%	78.0%	85.8%
SL5 S	72.9%	55.5%	83.5%	82.5%
SL5 E	67.0%	58.1%	76.4%	88.8%
SL5 W	71.0%	62.2%	86.0%	80.0%
SL Total	75.2%	68.0%	86.7%	91.2%

The 2018 season has seen another increase in the submission of Match Records across all competitions. The 100% submission rate for the NPL competitions for the second year running, highlights how successful the online Match Record system is.

Throughout all leagues, there has been an overall increase of 5% of Match Records received.

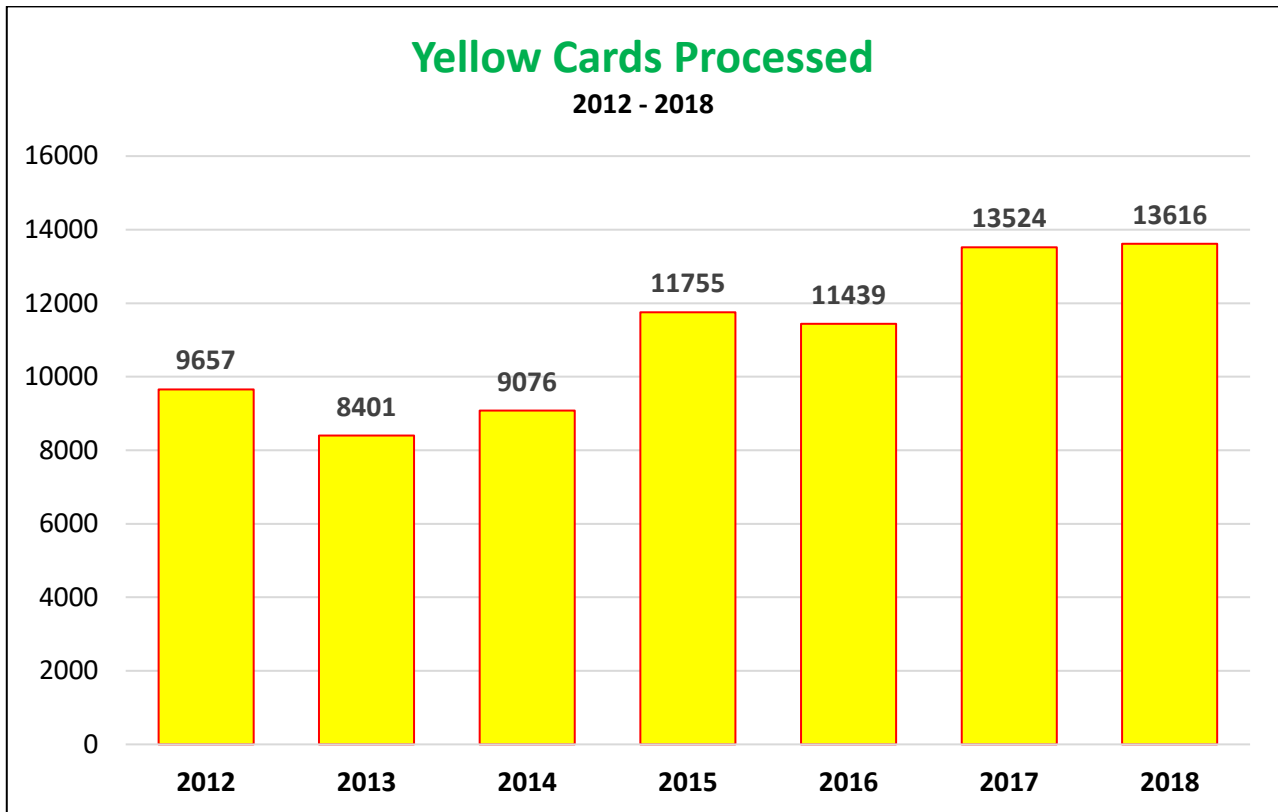
WOMENS

2018 was also the second year that Women's State League fixtures were audited and this also resulted in a 10% increase of Match Records being submitted.

2018 Match Records			
WOMENS STATE	Seniors	Res / U20	TOTAL
WSL1 NW	95.8%	69.4%	82.6%
WSL1 SE	95.5%	62.9%	79.2%
WSL2 NW	87.6%		87.6%
WSL2 SE	90.9%		90.9%
WSL3 N	90.5%		90.5%
WSL3 S	90.0%		90.0%
WSL3 E	86.2%		86.2%
WSL3 W	82.6%		82.6%
WSL4 N	68.8%		68.8%
WSL4 S	80.4%		80.4%
WSL4 E	83.7%		83.7%
WSL W	78.7%		78.7%
WSL Total	85.1%	65.8%	82.6%

2017 - 2018 Match Records		
WOMENS STATE	2017	2018
WSL1 NW	79.2%	82.6%
WSL1 SE	80.3%	79.2%
WSL2 NW	75.6%	87.6%
WSL2 SE	72.8%	90.9%
WSL3 N	64.2%	90.5%
WSL3 S	63.6%	90.0%
WSL3 E	70.6%	86.2%
WSL3 W	76.1%	82.6%
WSL4 N	71.0%	68.8%
WSL4 S	60.6%	80.4%
WSL4 E	72.8%	83.7%
WSL W	69.4%	78.7%
WSL Total	72.5%	82.6%

YELLOW CARDS



In 2018, **13,616** Yellow Cards were processed which is a minor increase from 2017. From this, there were 544 Yellow Card accumulation suspensions processed which is a **6%** increase from the previous year. Online Match Records, as well as the introduction of a new online submission system for Referees, has assisted in the accuracy of recording Yellow Cards.

PERCENTAGE

Year	Cards	%
2012	9657	
2013	8401	-13%
2014	9076	8%
2015	11755	29%
2016	11439	-3%
2017	13524	18%
2018	13616	>1%

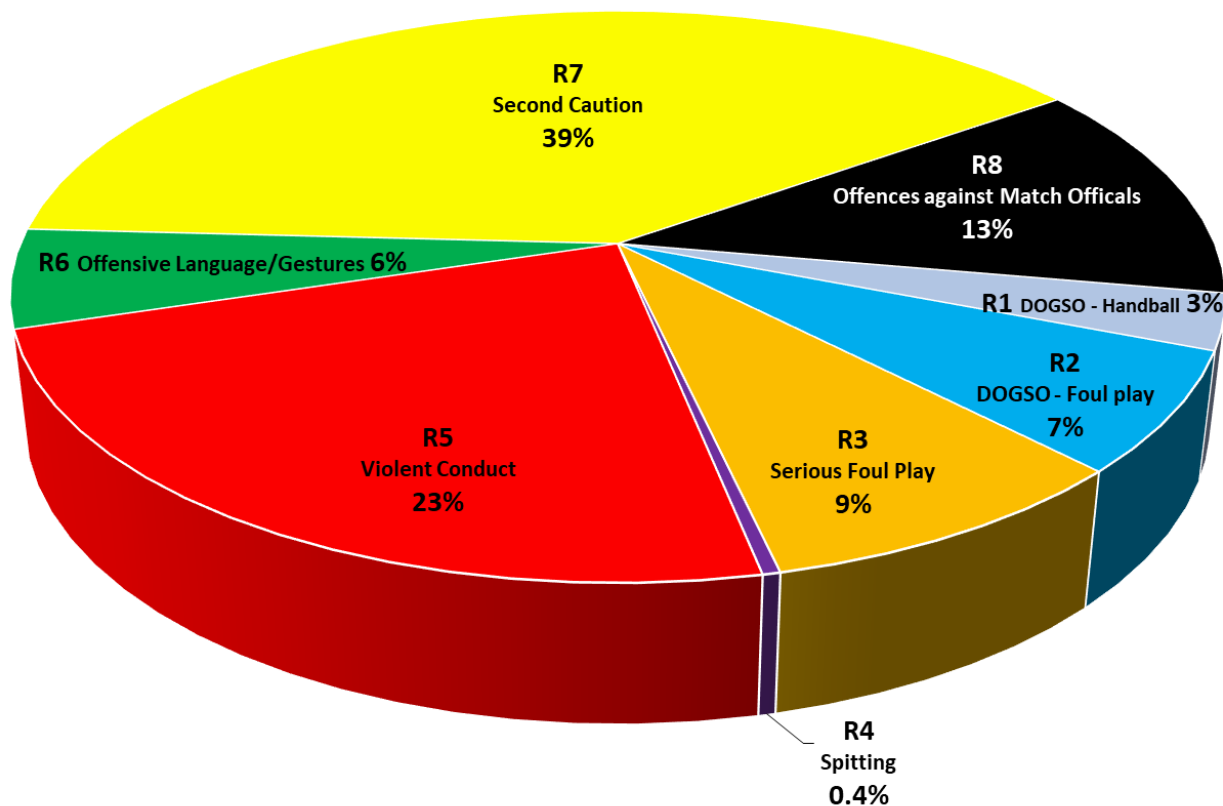
ACCUMULATED TOTALS

Year	Y5/Y10	%
2015	464	
2016	438	-6%
2017	513	17%
2018	544	6%

PLAYER SUSPENSIONS

2018 Red Card Offences

1502 Total Offences



2015 – 2018 RED CARD COMPARISON

Table A

Code	Description	2015	2016	2017	2018	# Change	% Change
R1	Denying an obvious goal scoring opportunity - Handball	66	39	42	47	5	↑ 7%
R2	Denying an obvious goal scoring opportunity - Foul play	96	111	86	102	14	↑ 16%
R3	Serious foul play	113	104	107	131	24	↑ 22%
R4	Spitting at an opponent or any other person.	4	12	8	6	2	↓ 25%
R5	Violent conduct	297	342	355	352	3	↓ 1%
R6	Offensive, insulting, abusive or intimidating language and/or gestures	241	210	198	84	114	↓ 57%*
R7	Received a second caution in the same Match.	532	507	572	591	19	↑ 3%
R8	Offences against Match Officials				189*		
Total		1349	1325	1368	1502	132	↑ 10%

* In 2018, Football Victoria not only introduced extra Misconduct Penalties for Offences against Match Officials, but also introduced their own Red Card grading code - **R8**. These offences would have previously sat within the R4 to R6 gradings for instances of spitting (0 offences in 2018), violent conduct/contact (9) and offensive language/verbal abuse (180). **Table A** shows that R6 offensive language Red Cards have decreased 57% compared to 2017 (198 to 84) but this figure doesn't include the Red Cards for offensive language/verbal abuse directed toward Match Officials. This is included in **Table B**. Added together, this revised figure numbers 264 instances for offensive language/verbal abuse which is an overall **33% increase** on 2017 figures.

COMPARISON WITH R8 ABSORBED

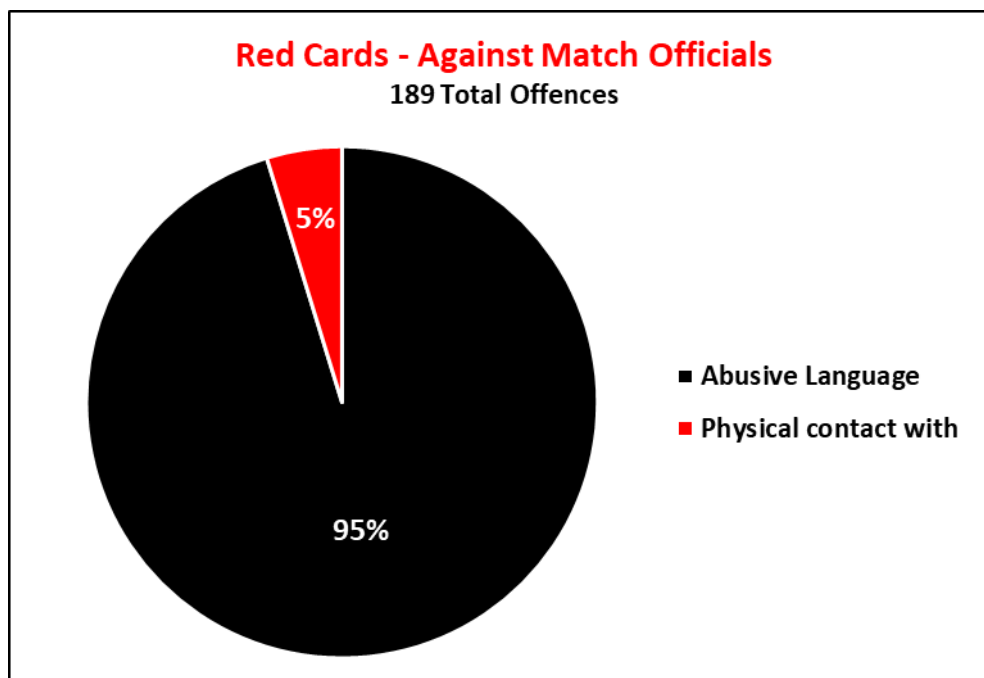
Table B

Code	Description	2015	2016	2017	2018	# Change	% Change
R1	Denying an obvious goal scoring opportunity - Handball	66	39	42	47	5	↑ 7%
R2	Denying an obvious goal scoring opportunity - Foul play	96	111	86	102	16	↑ 19%
R3	Serious foul play	113	104	107	131	24	↑ 22%
R4	Spitting at an opponent or any other person.	4	12	8	6	2	↓ 25%
R5	Violent conduct	297	342	355	352	3	↓ 1%
R6	Offensive, insulting, abusive or intimidating language and/or gestures	241	210	198	84	114	↓ 57%*
R7	Received a second caution in the same Match.	532	507	572	591	19	↑ 3%
R8	Offences against Match Officials				189 *		
Total		1349	1325	1368	1502	134	↑ 10%

R8 – OFFENCES AGAINST MATCH OFFICIALS: BREAKDOWN

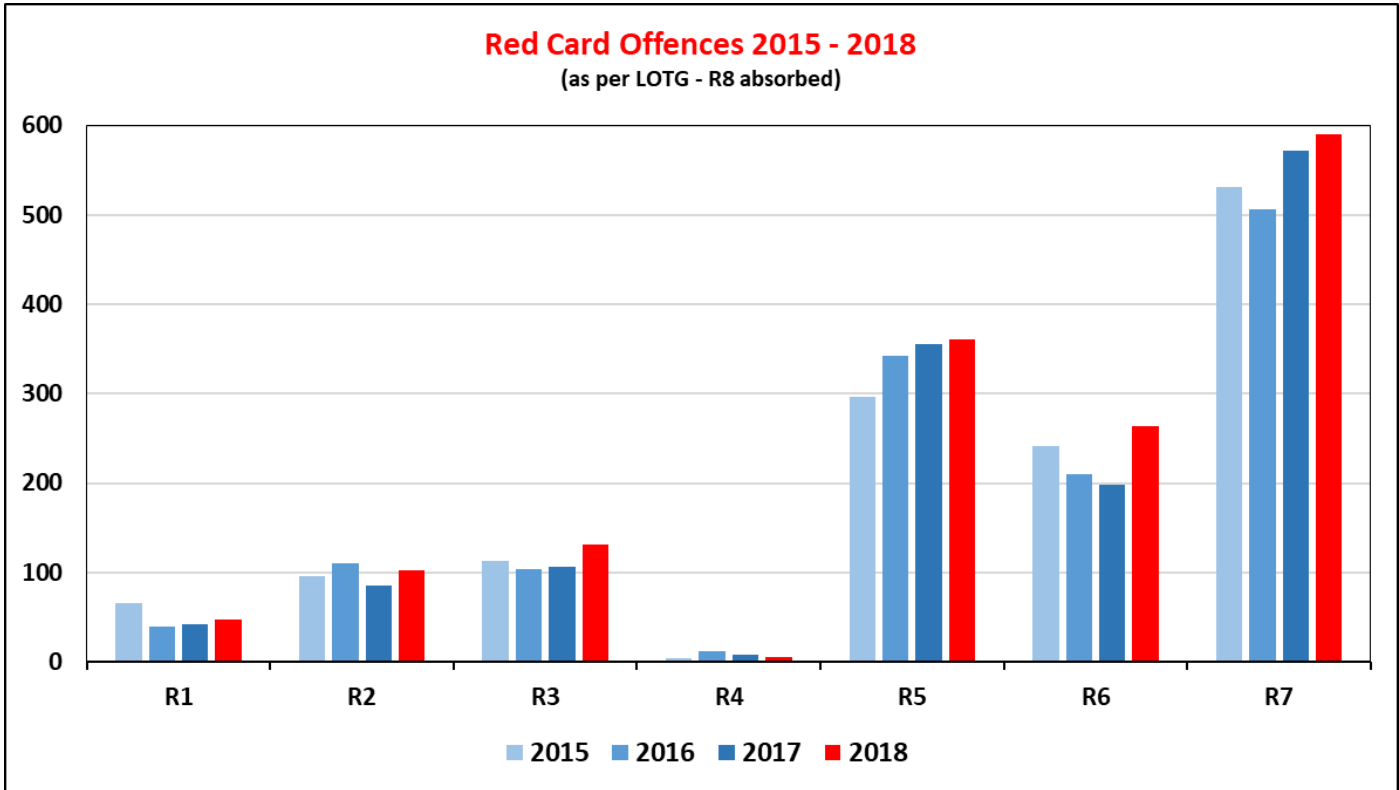
	Grading	Description	#	Total
R8	R8_1	1. Unsporting conduct	87	189
	R8_2	2. Using offensive language and/or gestures	80	
	R8_3	3. Repeated use of offensive language and/or gestures.	6	
	R8_4	4. Inappropriate contact with and/or conduct	12	
	R8_5	5. Threatening or intimidating language and/or conduct towards a Match Official or conduct reasonably perceived as a threat of physical violence towards a Match Official or their family or property	2	
	R8_6	6. Spitting at or on a Match Official	0	
	R8_7	7. Violence towards a Match Official and/or their family or property	2	
	R8_8	8. Violence towards a Green Shirt Referee or Junior Match Official and/or their family or property	0	

The vast majority of Red Cards shown for Offences against Match Officials emanated from abusive language and/or gestures, at **95%**. Regrettably in 5% of Red Cards, players were sent off for making contact with or physically assaulting a referee. This season, two players were sanctioned with 5-year bans for violent offences towards a Match Official.



**YEARLY REFEREE
CHURN: 30-40%**

Football Victoria will continue its commitment to supporting Referees and sanctioning those who abuse, threaten and assault them.

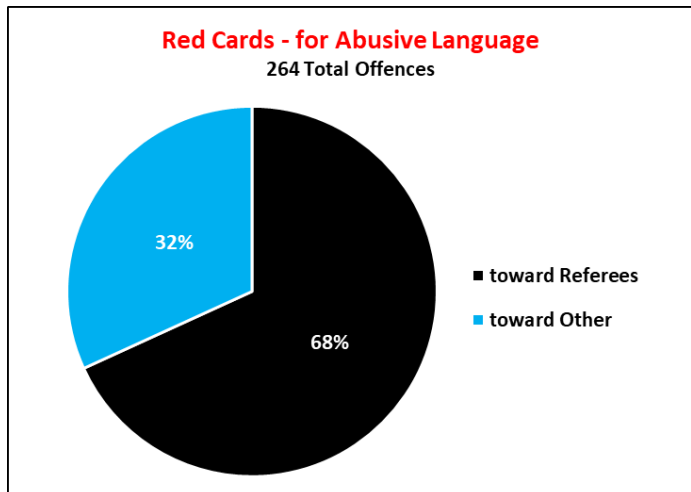
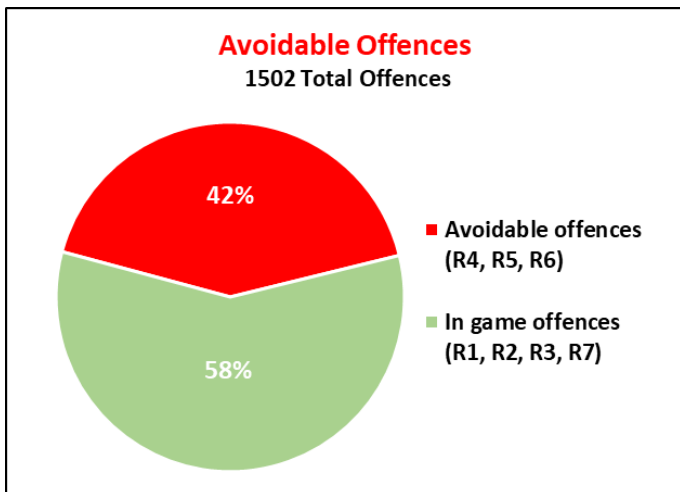


There has been an increase of each of the Red Card offences from the previous season with avoidable Red Cards such as violent conduct R5 and offensive language and/or gestures R6 reaching a 4-year high. These completely avoidable offences (offences not directly connected with play such as a late tackle or DOGSO) along with spitting R4, make up **42%** of the total.

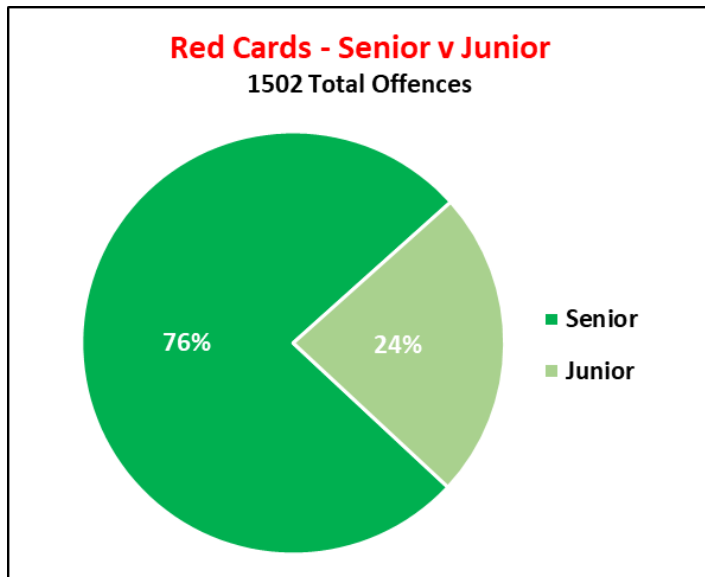
AVOIDABLE OFFENCES

Code	Description	% of total
R1	Denying an obvious goal scoring opportunity - Handball	3%
R2	Denying an obvious goal scoring opportunity - Foul play	7%
R3	Serious foul play	9%
R4	Spitting at an opponent or any other person.	>1%
R5	Violent conduct	24%
R6	Offensive, insulting, abusive or intimidating language and/or gestures	18%
R7	Received a second caution in the same Match.	39%
Total		100%

OVER 40% OF RED CARDS ARE COMPLETELY AVOIDABLE

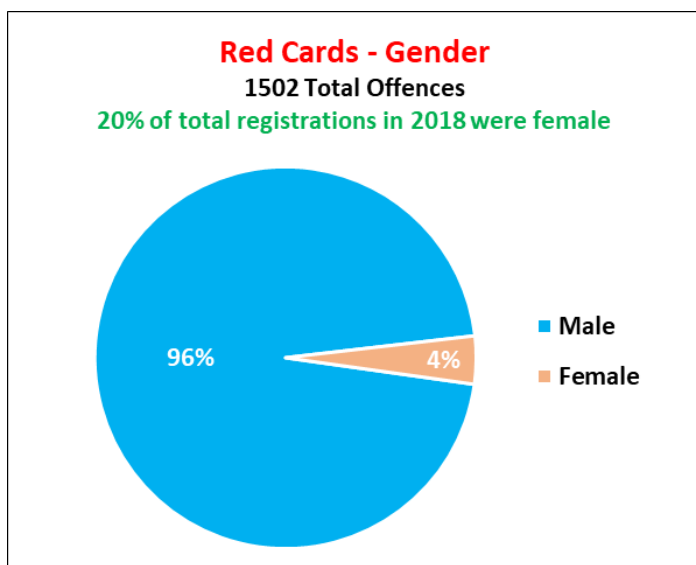
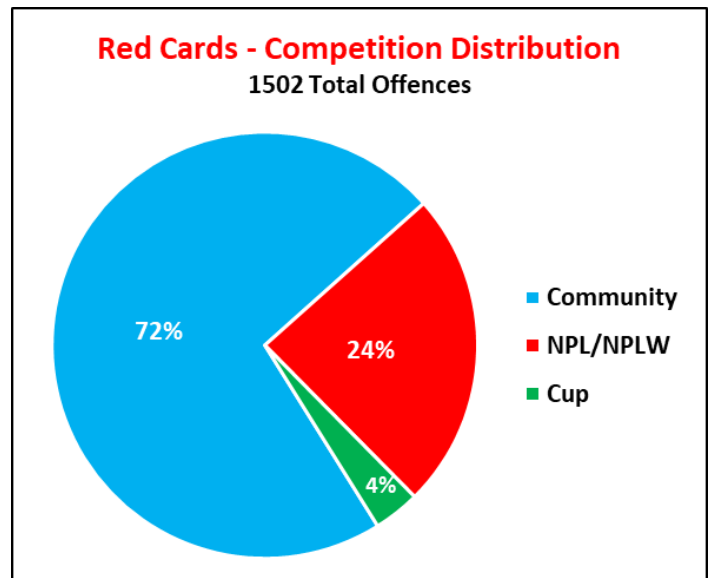


RED CARD DISTRIBUTION



Three quarters of total Red Cards are from senior players (over 18's) yet less than a quarter of the total fixtures played in Victoria are senior fixtures.

Only 12% of fixtures played in the 2018 season are in the NPL/NPLW, yet Red Card offences from these top divisions make up a quarter of the total offences committed.



For the third year in a row, female players continue to be sanctioned at a very low rate in comparison to their participation numbers.

80% of registered players are male, yet the vast majority of total Red Card offences are committed by them.

TOTAL MISCONDUCT PENALTIES

The Discipline Department receives a range of reports from Referees, Clubs and participants throughout the season. As per the GDT, FV may investigate any matter deemed relevant as to whether a charge of Misconduct will be brought against a Club or Club Associate. A range of Misconduct Penalties (known as MP charges) and relevant sanctions are listed in the GDT.

Table C shows the total number of charges referred to the Independent Tribunal (usually of a serious nature) and those sanctioned administratively. The most common offence is MP9 which relates to Club Associates (generally Coaches) being expelled from the technical area, due to dissent towards a Match Official.

Table C

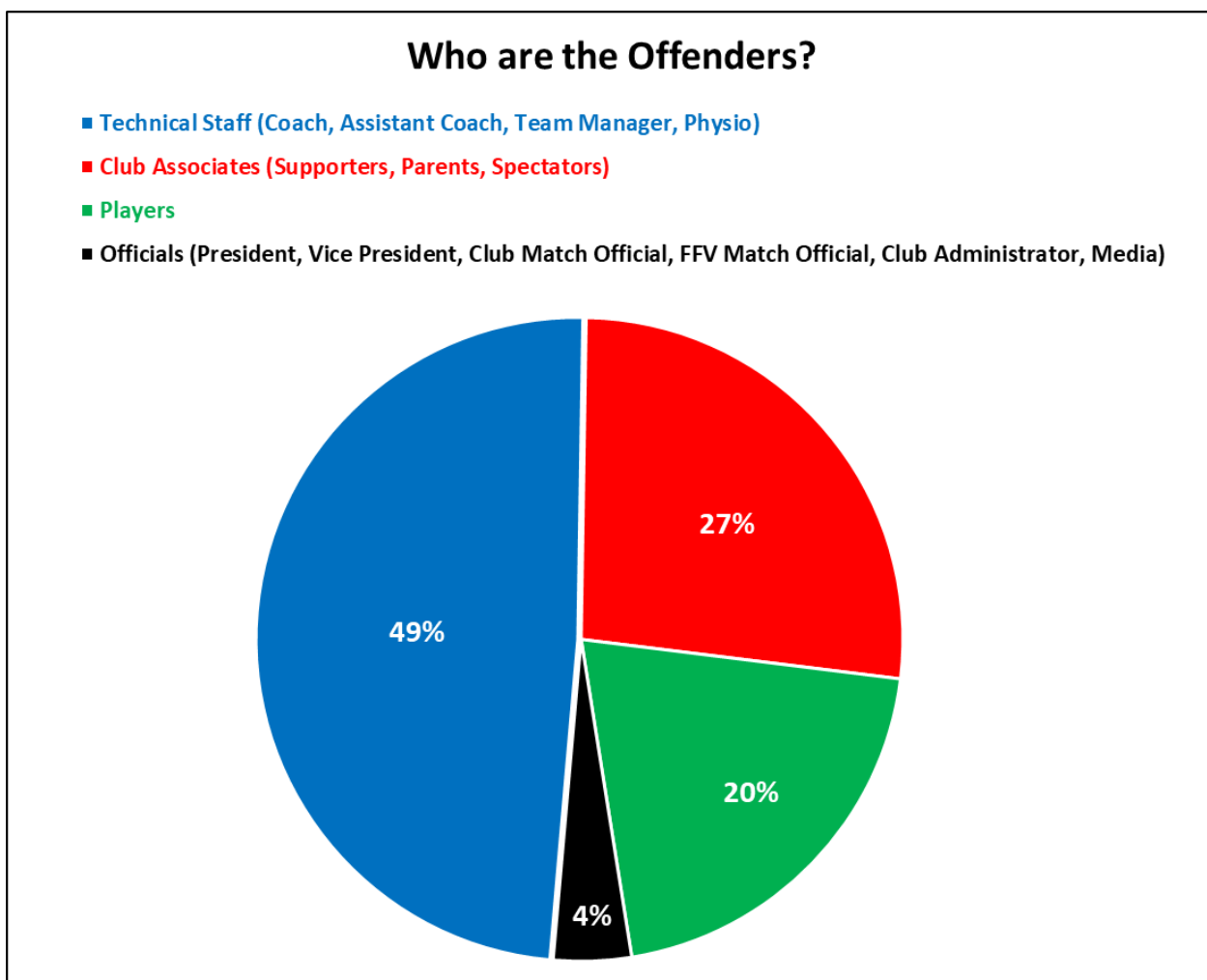
Charge	Misconduct Offences	Tribunal	Administrative
MP1	Engaging in misconduct and/or action(s) involving flares and/or flammable object(s)	-	-
MP2A	Encouraging and/or supporting any other person(s) to engage in Misconduct	-	-
MP2B	Aiding, procuring, coaching or arranging with any other person(s) to engage in Misconduct	-	-
MP3	Abandonment of a fixture due to Misconduct	3	4
Melees or Violent Conduct			
MP4A	Participating in a Melee (non- violent) and/or demonstrating offensive language/gestures	-	9
MP4B	Violent conduct and/or attempted violent conduct towards an opponent or Club Associate	-	5
MP4C	Serious and/or premeditated violent conduct towards an opponent or Club Associate	3	-
MP4D	Serious violent conduct and/or instigating or participating in a Melee (violent)	30	1
Club Associate Misconduct			
MP5A	Inappropriate behaviour by Club Associate(s) at a Match or other FFV event	1	36
MP5B	Offensive behaviour by Club Associate(s) at a Match or other FFV event	1	18
MP5C	Failing to control Club Associate(s)	10	40
MP5D	Club Associate(s) use of discriminatory, homophobic, racist, or sexist language and/or gestures	6	3
MP6A	Spitting at an opponent or another Club Associate	-	-
MP6B	Spitting on an opponent or another Club Associate	-	-
Offences against Match Officials			
MP7A	Failing to abide by or comply with a direction of a Match Official	-	2
MP7B	Using offensive language and/or gestures	2	11
MP7C	Repeated use of offensive language and/or gestures	1	4
MP7D	Inappropriate contact with and/or conduct	-	2
MP7E	Threatening or intimidating language and/or conduct towards a Match Official	3	5
MP7F	Spitting at or on a Match Official	-	2
MP7G	Violence towards a Match Official and/or their family or property	1	-
MP7H	Violent offence(s) against Green Shirt Referees or Junior Match Officials	-	-
Entering Field of Play			
MP8A	Entering the Field of Play when not permitted	2	7
MP8B	Entering the Field of Play when not permitted and engaging in Misconduct	5	1
Expulsion from Technical Area			
MP9A	Expulsion due to minor infringements	-	91
MP9B	Expulsion due to serious infringements	2	5
Other Misconduct			
MP10	Bringing the game into disrepute	8	6
MP11	Prejudicial or defamatory Media or Social Media dissent	1	1
MP12	Inappropriate physical conduct	-	-
MP13	Registration violation	-	1
Total Misconduct Offences		79	254
Red Card Appeals		17	
Referee Misconduct (Part of MP10 Charge)		1	
FFV Imposed Penalty - Ineligible Players		1	
Total Charges heard at Tribunal		97	

37% OF INCIDENTS OCCURRED AT A JUNIOR FIXTURE

OFFENDERS

When Tribunal and administrative charges are combined, a picture of the type of participant engaging in Misconduct is formed.

A worrying number of recipients of an MP charge are Technical Staff. Coaches, Team Managers and Physios, who should be setting the standards for their teams to live up to, are the cause of almost half of all incidents.



A fifth of incidents are player related* - the majority of which are for violent conduct offences and/or involvement in a Melee. These are incidents that are completely avoidable and will continue to result in considerable penalties for the offenders.

**The 1502 Red Card offences are not considered in this figure and are referred to separately in this report.*

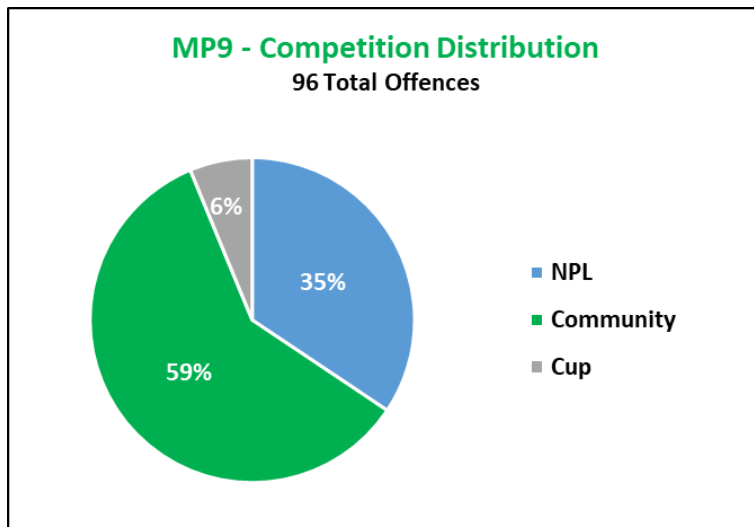
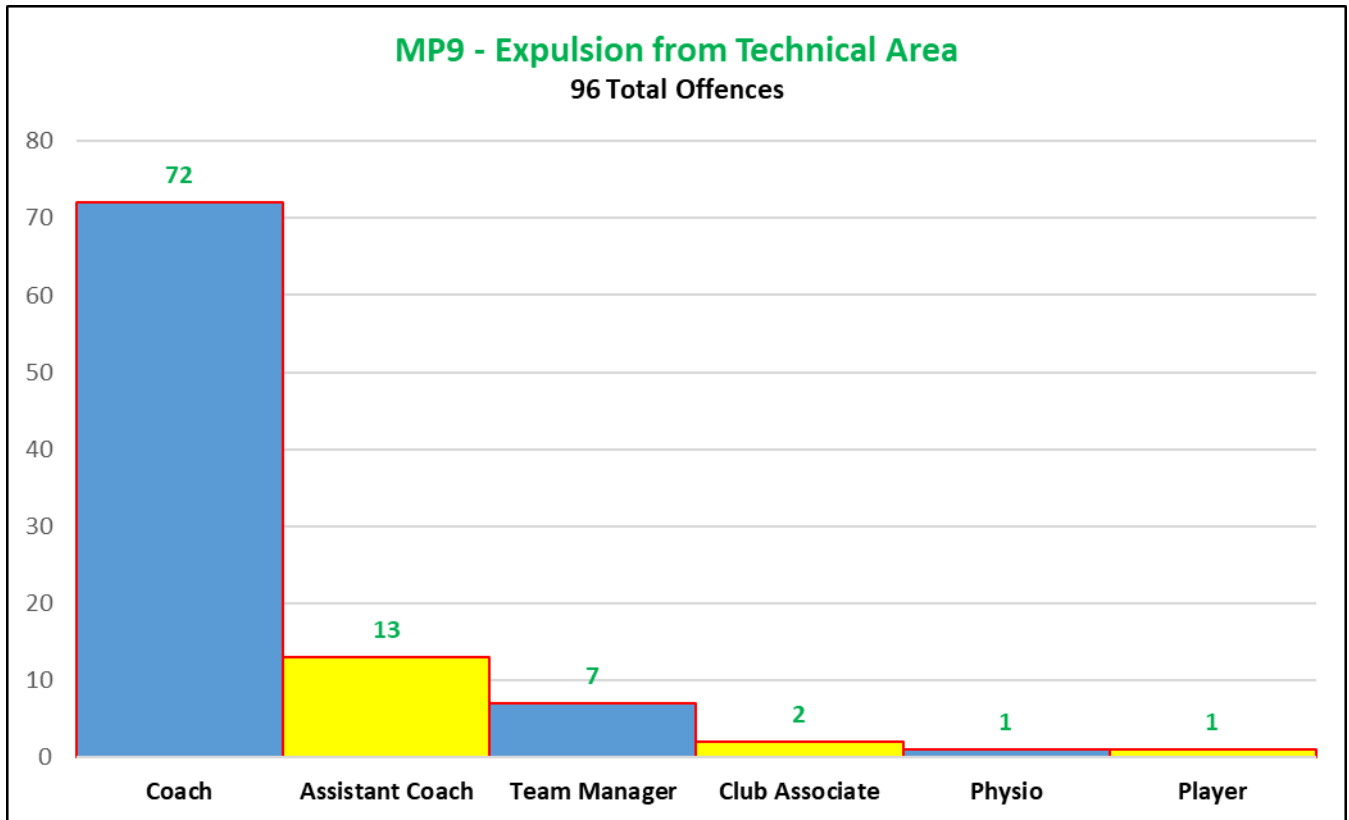
Alarmingly, participants who have no role to play in the game whatsoever (Club Associates, Spectators, Parents, Supporters, Relatives etc) make up over a quarter of all MP charges.

In 2018, several incidents involving Club Presidents, Club Match Officials and Club Administrators resulted in those individuals being charged and penalised for their indiscretions.

Overall, **80%** of all incidents resulting in charges being issued by FV were for non-playing Football participants. This clearly indicates that behavioural problems within the game are not just on the pitch but occurring all around it.

Clubs have a huge role to play in reversing this behaviour through proactive Club culture policies and education of its members.

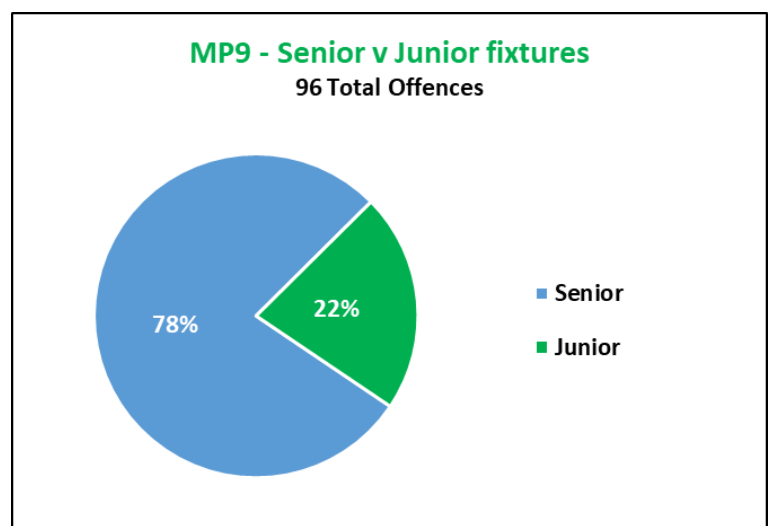
MP9 – EXPULSIONS FROM TECHNICAL AREA



Even though only **12%** of fixtures are in the NPL, **35%** of total technical area expulsions were in this competition.

79% of NPL Clubs had at least one technical area expulsion. This figure lowers to **59%** when including NPL2 Club offences. There were no offences recorded in the NPLW.

Approximately one fifth of technical area expulsions occur in junior fixtures, which are largely refereed by Junior Match Officials.



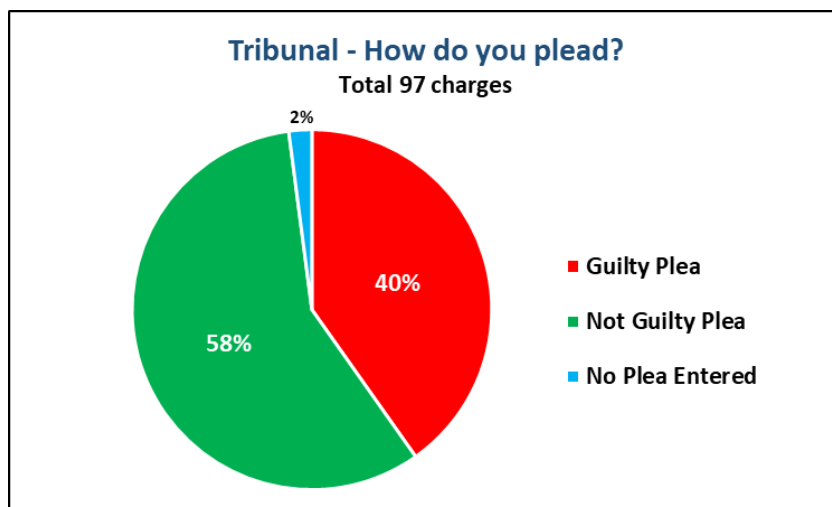
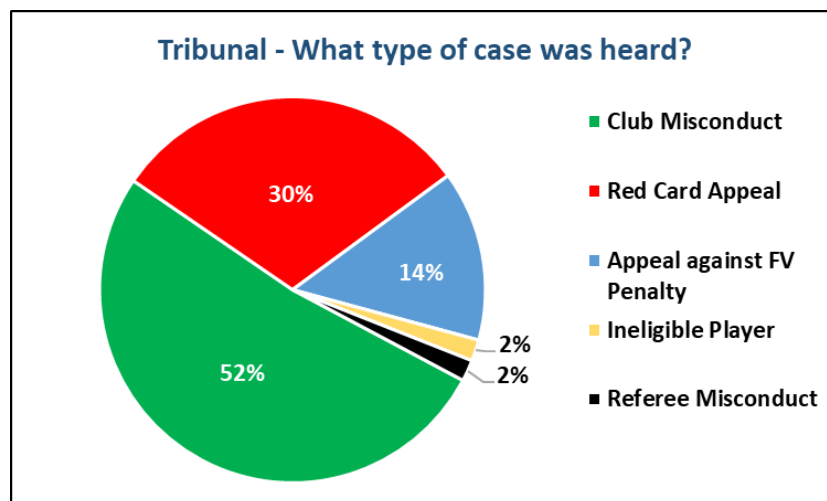
TRIBUNAL DETERMINATIONS

There were 41 Independent Tribunals held in the 2018 season. From these, two of the Tribunal decisions were appealed.

The sitting Tribunal members are Independent of FV and the panel is made up of legal professionals, business professionals, ex-Referees, ex-Club administrators, and other sport administrators. All have a passion for, and a connection with Football.

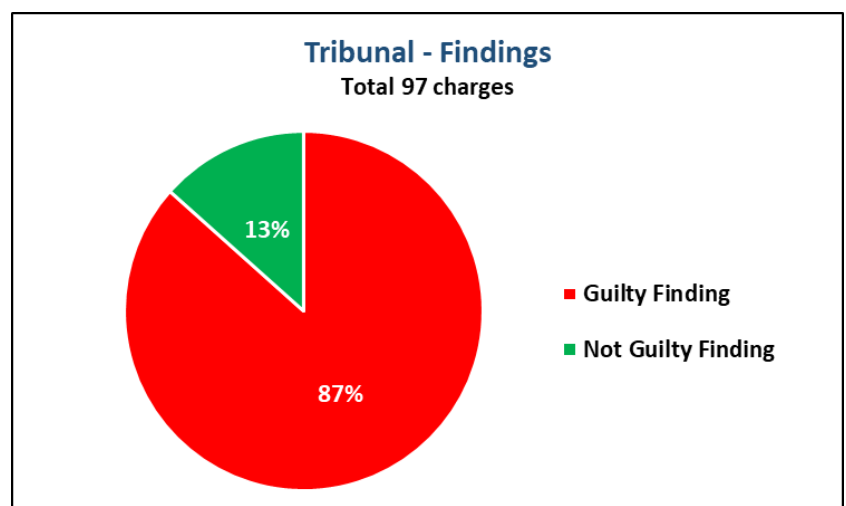
Hearings are held throughout the season to hear serious matters referred to it by FV, appeals against FV administrative penalties, as well as Red Card Appeals.

Within the 41 Tribunals, 97 charges against Clubs or Individuals were heard.



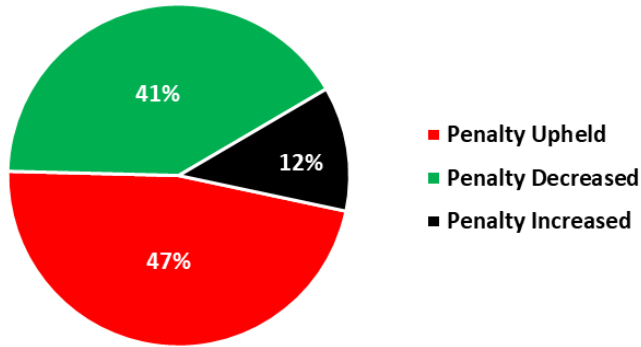
Consistent with previous years, around 60% of those charged pleaded “Not Guilty” at the Tribunal.

87% of the charges referred to the Tribunal resulted in a “Guilty” finding. This includes Red Card Appeals and appeals against FV administrative penalties.



Red Card Appeals

Total 17 appeals

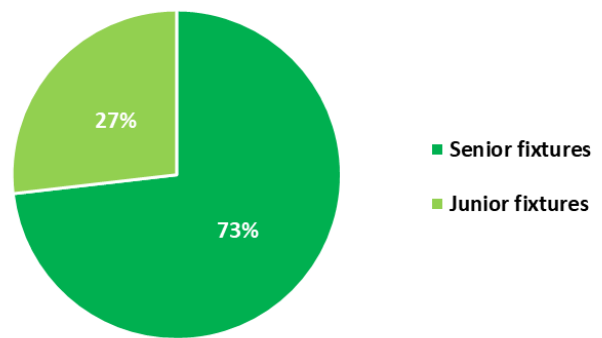


Two out of five appeals against Red Card penalties issued by FV, resulted in the penalty being decreased by the Independent Tribunal.

Over a quarter of matters referred to the Independent Tribunal involved incidents which occurred at junior fixtures.

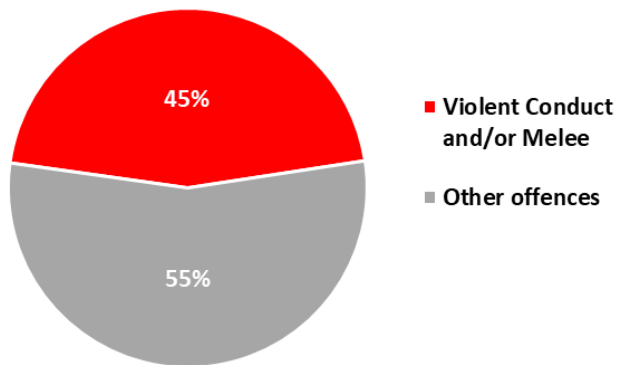
Tribunal - Senior or Junior

Total 41 cases



Tribunal - Violent Conduct

Total 97 charges



Almost half of all charges referred to the Independent Tribunal to determine, were for offences of violent conduct or involvement in a Melee. With a quarter of Red Cards being shown for the same offences, this shows the extent of the issue within the game.

These are avoidable incidents which can cause serious injury and potentially, criminal charges.

WARNINGS & REPRIMANDS

The Discipline Department issued 76 official Warnings & Reprimands during the 2018 season. This was an increase from 54 in 2017 and is consistent with FV's approach of working with our Clubs in trying to promote a positive change in behaviour rather than by simply charging and penalising the Club.

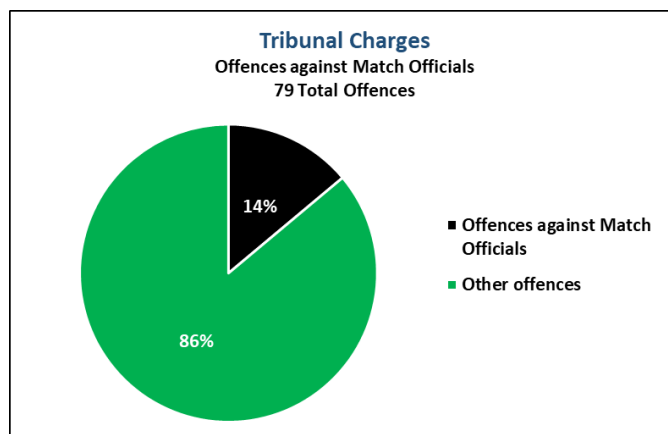
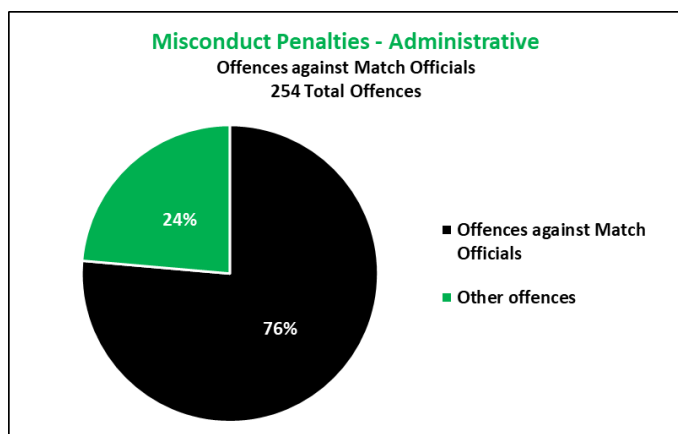
Around one in five complaints investigated by FV, result in a No Action finding. This is due to several factors including but not limited to; insufficient evidence being provided, the complaint itself falling below the threshold of an MP charge being issued, or the complainant being unwilling to pursue further action.

OFFENCES AGAINST MATCH OFFICIALS

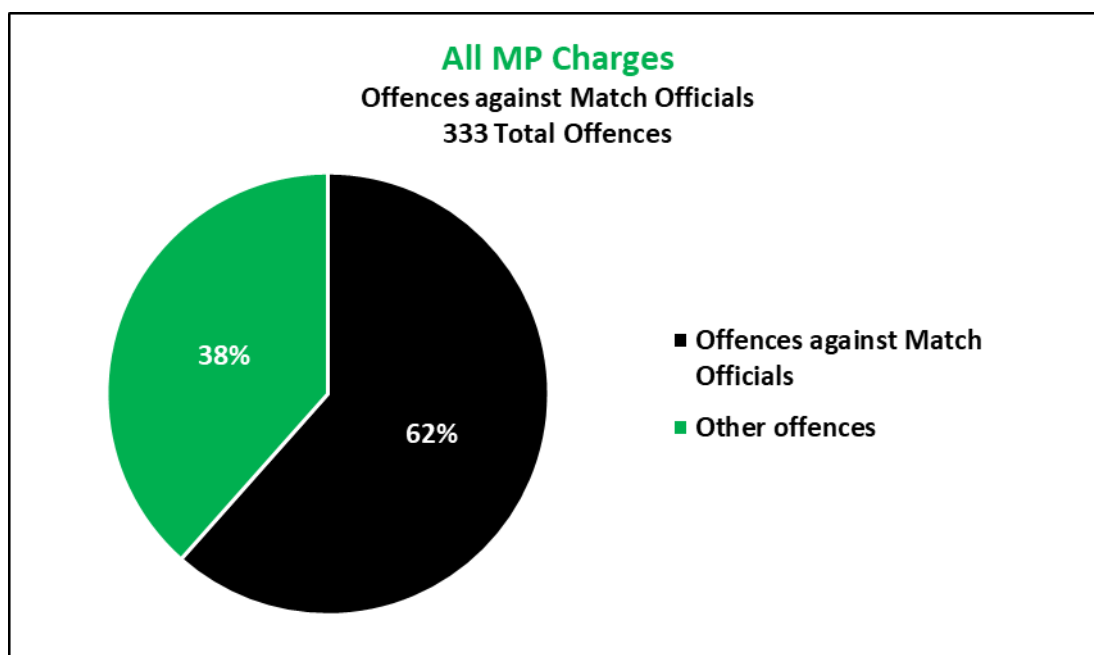
A key focus of the Discipline Department is the protection of Referees from abuse. As mentioned earlier in the report, 30-40% of Referees do not return to the game each season. **Law 5** of the IFAB Laws of the Game (LOTG) gives the Referee full authority to enforce the LOTG and make all decisions connected with play. These decisions are final and must always be respected. In short, the Referee is the only person involved in the game whose opinion matters and they can show their discretion when making these decisions. They are the independent arbitrator and authority.

The reality is that far too often these decisions are not respected. Spectators, technical staff and players feel that their opinion of any given incident holds more weight than that of the Match Official. Whilst all participants may have a different opinion to the Referee, displaying their disapproval can be and is a sanctionable offence within the GDT. Without a Referee there is no game.

In 2018, **76%** of the Misconduct charges issued administratively by FV, were related to Referee abuse.



When added to matters referred to the Independent Tribunal, this figure is amended to **62%** of all Misconduct charges. A perturbing and wholly unacceptable statistic.



All stakeholders have a role to play in stemming the tide of Referees who leave the game, for the good of the game. Clubs must start developing a culture of Respect within all their members to reinforce Law 5 and advise of the penalties associated with Referee abuse.

OVERALL STATISTICS – COMPARISON LAST 5 YEARS

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
YC Accumulation	234	464	438	513	544
Red Cards	1297	1349	1325	1368	1502
Total Suspension	1531	1813	1763	1881	2046
% change	N/A	18%	-3%	7%	9%
Administrative	54	75	103	148	254
Tribunals	93	108	121	54	41
Warnings	19	17	60	54	76
Total Misconduct	1697	2013	2047	2128	2417
% change	N/A	19%	2%	4%	14%
Registered Players	55,798	62,133	66,180	66,847	66,777
% change	N/A	11%	7%	1%	> -1%

IN SUMMARY

The misconception that certain behaviours *'are just part of the game'* continues to permeate the sport. Notably, instances showing the negative attitude and lack of respect towards Match Officials has risen this season. Two players were issued with five-year bans for their misconduct and numerous Club Associates (including Club Presidents) have also been heavily sanctioned.

Reports of violent behaviour occur on a weekly basis and several victims have pursued Police action separately of the Football Victoria disciplinary process.

A change in culture must be driven from within Clubs and their hierarchies. Considering that four out of every five incidents are caused by or involve non-playing participants, it further highlights that the issue of poor behaviour isn't just with the players on the pitch.

Whilst registered player numbers have stagnated in the last three years, overall Misconduct has increased by **14%** since 2017. This includes an increase in Yellow Cards, Red Cards and administrative penalties. Since 2013, overall Misconduct has risen by **42%**.

Framing it another way - in 2018 the Discipline Department had to sanction or investigate an incident one in every 16 games played.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR 2019

- FV to continue to educate Clubs on the penalties associated with potential breaches of the GDT.
- Clubs to educate their Club Associates on the penalties associated with breaches of the GDT.
- Problematic Clubs to make serious efforts to change their own culture and standards of behaviour.
- Continued focus on the protection of Match Officials.
- Continue to heavily sanction perpetrators of abuse, unruly behaviour and violence.
- Seek life bans for those who commit serious acts of Misconduct.
- Ban those who abuse Football Victoria staff.
- Referees to improve the quality of information provided in Incident and Misconduct Reports.



FOOTBALL
VICTORIA