

# A NOTE TO REFEREES ON THE GRADING OF OFFENCES THAT RESULT IN A DISMISSAL

## Misconduct Gradings

- Referees should not apply gradings based on what they think the length of suspensions should be and submit based solely on grading description. Basing gradings on suspensions and not grading description presents a risk to challenge by player at judiciary hearing
- Providing a strict guide to gradings is difficult as there a multitude of facets to consider
- Grading assessments for Misconduct need to consider the following:
  - **Outcome** – e.g. opponent is injured as a result of misconduct and cannot return to play (most severe), no impact to opponent (least severe)
  - **Risk** – potential for opponent to be injured severely even if they are not (e.g. spear tackle, where player is forcibly driven into ground from the vertical (extremely high risk), but player is not hurt – still most severe)
  - **Intent** – high tackle categories already cover intent, for other charges if there is clear intent/premeditation (most severe), reckless (severe), careless (least severe).
  - **Context** – ground/weather conditions may affect a player’s ability to take action to avoid contact, provocation of opponent, self-defence action rather than retaliation, etc.
- Each incident should be treated on its own merits based on a mix of the above

## Before Player is Dismissed – Multiple Misconduct Incidents

- A referee may make multiple misconduct charges for incidents occurring prior to dismissal.
- When submitting charges for multiple incidents the Referee can do so in 1 of 2 ways:
  - submit misconduct report for each incident; OR
  - submit one report with each charge marked BUT, in the description, CLEARLY articulate the separate incidents
- Example of multiple misconduct incidents may be (albeit unlikely but possible):
  - Player makes head high tackle – charge 1
  - Scuffle follows, then player kicks another player – charge 2
  - Order is re-stored, but a secondary scuffle in another group happens, and player then goes and strikes another player – charge 3
  - Order is re-stored, Referee about to control situation, player then motions an offensive gesture to crowd in contrary manner – charge 4
  - Referee calls player over, and before referee dismissed, player abuses referee – charge 5
- Note that because a player makes multiple strikes on an opponent or strikes multiple opponents in same scuffle this **does not constitute multiple charges** and would only be a single charge.
- However, a player can answer more than one of the same charges should each incident be clearly separate incidents, for example:

- Player strikes a player (first Striking charge 1) , scuffle ensues, and order restored. A new clearly separate scuffle occurs, and same player strikes a player (second Striking charge)

**After Player Is Dismissed – Code of Conduct**

- Once the Referee has made the signal for a player to be dismissed from the match, any action after this point by the player is subject to the Code of Conduct.
- For example, after Referee has directed the player to leave; the player - when leaving - may breach the Code through actions such as abuse of the Referee, gestures of contrary nature to any persons, physical altercations, etc.
- A separate Code of Conduct report should be submitted in addition to any misconduct charge(s)