



CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS EVENTS NETWORK

SPORTS EVENTS AND SPORTS DISPUTES POLICY

DATE OF POLICY IMPLEMENTATION: MAY 2020

DATE OF NEXT MAJOR REVIEW: JULY 2025

APPROVAL AUTHORITY: CSEN COMMITTEE

GOVERNING AUTHORITY: CSEN BOARD

RESPONSIBLE OFFICER: CSEN EXECUTIVE OFFICER

BACKGROUND

It has been recognised that whilst the CSEN Code of Conduct sets out the required code of conduct for our sporting competitions, there still needed to be a policy developed for how to handle breaches of this Code of Conduct in terms of disciplinary matters. It was also felt that a mechanism for handling disputes should also be formalised.

These guidelines aim to have any disputes settled at the point of the game if possible. A process for appeals has been set up if needed.

These guidelines also recognise that disciplinary matters are primarily the responsibility of the student's Principal. Nevertheless, an offending student will also have to meet the penalties imposed by the association for misconduct.

GUIDELINE # 1:

That in dealing with disputes from events in which CSEN are organising and member schools are competing, the following list of levels are identified as terms of reference for the management of dispute processes.

LEVELS OF HOW DISPUTES ARE TO BE HANDLED FOR REGULAR COMPETITION EVENTS

(Interschool Sport, Rally Days, Sports Championships etc.)

Level 1	Referee/Umpire
Level 2	The Convenor of the sporting activity.
Level 3	The Sports Coordinators of the relevant schools.
Level 4	Principals from the relevant schools.

(No complaint is to be sent to the CSEN Board without it first being discussed by the Sports Coordinators and Principals of the relevant schools.)

Level 5	CSEN Board and if required the appeals process.
Level 6	CSEN Board (for review of Board processes only)

(CSEN Executive Officer cannot overrule CSEN Board decision on an issue but can inform and discuss with the Board any changes of approach for future events.)



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LEVELS OF HOW DISPUTES ARE TO BE HANDLED AT MAJOR CARNIVALS

(Athletics, Swimming, Cross Country etc.)

Level 1	Referee/Umpire
Level 2	Sports Coordinators of the sporting activity from both schools.
Level 3	A Disputes Committee will be established.

After the event:

Level 4	CSEN Board in conjunction with members of the Disputes Committee on the day.
Level 5	CSEN Executive Officer (for review of Board processes only)

(CSEN Executive Officer cannot overrule CSEN Board decision on an issue but can inform and discuss with the Board any changes of approach for future events.)

GUIDELINE # 2:

That in respect of each competition organised, the Convener of the competition establish a Disputes Committee to hear any disputes that might arise, as required. Further, the Disputes Committee be established along the following lines.

DISPUTES COMMITTEE

A Committee of 3 people is to be selected as required.

The Disputes Committee Members should not be a member of staff of a school that is party to a dispute.

The Disputes Committee can call in members of the CSEN Board if considered necessary.

GUIDELINE # 3:

That the following Sports Disputes Policy be adopted and applied throughout all events in which CSEN organises and member schools participate. That all officials be made aware of the CSEN Code of Conduct, the Sports Disputes Policy and their responsibility to enforce them.

DISCIPLINE POLICY

Disciplinary matters are primarily the responsibility of the Principals of the schools which offending students attend. Nonetheless an offending student will also have to serve the penalties imposed by CSEN.

On field issues are to be implemented at the referee's discretion, however, members of the CSEN Board have the authority to intervene during a game if the CSEN Code of Conduct is breached.



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In addition, on the report of the Principal of a participating school, further disciplinary action may be taken for on-field and/or off-field offences by players, student spectators, parents, coaches and/or staff.

ON AND OFF-FIELD ISSUES

On-field issues are to be implemented by the referees at their discretion.

Off-field issues to be implemented by the referees/teacher-in-charge at their discretion

Offences giving rise to this type of action may include on-field and off-field events, initiated either by the referee or a member of supervising staff. These may include the following:

- sledging or verbal provocation
- arguing with the referee
- acting in a manner which is in breach of CSEN Code of Conduct
- inappropriate behaviour at a school/venue
- abusing players from either side
- encouraging unacceptable behaviour and play
- arguing with/abusing the Sports Coordinator or supervising teacher/coach of another school
- interfering with the course of the game (eg pitch invasion)

APPEALS PROCESS

When the results of each game are given to the results coordinator, a report should be attached indicating what took place.

If it is deemed necessary by the Competition Convener, an incident may be referred to a Disputes Committee to discuss the details and make a ruling.

After discussion with both the Sports Coordinators and Principals of opposing schools, the Principal of a school can request that the Disputes Committee meet to adjudicate on the details of the incident. This request must be in writing and presented within two working days of the incident to the CSEN Board.

After a Disputes Committee has made a ruling, the schools involved will be informed and each school has one full working day to lodge an appeal concerning the panel's ruling. Appeals are addressed to the relevant Competition Convener. The CSEN Board will call on members from the Disputes Committee to assist in the review of the original adjudication. Their joint ruling will be final.

Schools can lodge an expression of concern regarding the final ruling to the CSEN Board to enable a review of the processes, but the Executive Board will not overrule the finding of the CSEN Disputes Committee.



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APPEALS PROCESS FOR CARNIVALS

At the conclusion of a Major Carnival, any offences will be put in writing (within 1 week) by the Disputes Committee and sent to the Principal of the offending school with further disciplinary recommendations.

If the Principal requests further discussion of the matter, an appeal must be lodged within 1 week to the CSEN Board. A meeting will then be organised between the Principal, Disputes Committee members and any other relevant people, to resolve the problem.

Schools can lodge an expression of concern re the final ruling to the CSEN Executive Board, to enable a review of the processes, but the CSEN Executive Board will not overrule the finding of the CSEN Disputes Committee.