

What is a Policy Breach?

A **Policy Breach** occurs when a Party fails to comply with the AFL's policy structure, including:

- The **Policy Handbook**
- The **Rules**
- The **AFL NSW/ACT Code of Conduct**
- The **AFL Coaches' Code of Conduct**
- Any policies listed under **Rule 6.4**

A **Party** may include a Club, Coach, Official, Player, Club Member, Parent/Guardian of a Player, Spectator, or any person connected to Australian Football under these Rules.

Notice of Investigation

Once a **Notice of Complaint (Policy Breach)** is received, the **Controlling Body** will notify the offending Club. This **Notice of Investigation** will include:

- **Details of the Complaint** (incident description from complainant)
- **Time, Date, and Venue** of the alleged breach
- **Individuals involved** in the breach
- **Additional evidence** (if provided)
- **Response opportunity** (submit witness statements, photos, footage, medical documents)
- **Deadline to respond** before further action
- **Point of contact** for procedural queries

After the deadline, the **Controlling Body** will assess all provided materials and determine whether to:

- **Dismiss the Complaint** (insufficient evidence or no breach found)
- Issue a **Notice of Breach**
- Issue a **Notice of Remedial Action**

Notice of Breach

If a breach is confirmed, the **Notice of Breach** will provide:

- **Details of the breach** (facts accepted by the Controlling Body)

- **Time, Date, and Venue** of the incident
- **Persons subject to the breach**
- **Early Guilty Plea Offer** or **Direct Tribunal Referral** (depending on severity)
- **Options to accept or dispute the decision**

Options for the Offending Party:

- **Accept the Breach:** The sanction is recorded, any suspension begins, and the case is closed.
- **Decline the Breach:** The matter is referred to the **AFL NSW/ACT Tribunal** for review (if no Early Guilty Plea is available).

Notice of Remedial Action

If the **policy breach is minor** or mitigating circumstances apply, a **Notice of Remedial Action** may be issued instead of a formal breach. This notice includes:

- **Summary of the incident**
- **Findings of the investigation**
- **Required remedial actions**
- **Deadline for acceptance** by the Club
- **Deadline for completion** of remedial actions

Key Takeaways

Clubs & individuals must comply with AFL policies and codes. **Investigations follow a structured process** to ensure fairness. **Offending parties have options** to accept, dispute, or complete remedial actions depending on Breach. **Failure to comply** may result in formal breaches and tribunal proceedings.