

NORTH CENTRAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE

Match Review Panel Process

The North Central Football League along with AFL Central Victoria has appointed a Match Review Panel (MRP) of independent members who will assess video incidents referred by NCFL Clubs or the NCFL Board of Management and make a joint decision if cases are to be referred to the Independent Tribunal for assessment.

1. Who will sit on the Match Review Panel?

The match review panel shall be made up of independent members who have no direct association with any North Central Club. MRP members shall remain anonymous. There will be no need for MRP members to ever attend a tribunal case. The MRP will simply review incidents picked up by official League footage and decide if the incident should be referred to the independent tribunal based on AFL Victoria Country rules as outlined on a report sheet.

The North Central Football Leagues Board of Management, North Central Rules & Events Manager or AFL Central Victoria staff have no involvement in adjudicating on, or, assessing MRP Cases.

2. How will the process work?

Any officially nominated representative of a North Central Football League club (e.g., President, Secretary, Senior Coach, Football Manager, or any other person so delegated with the authority by the Club), can request that the MRP look into a specific incident/s that did not result in an official report by the officiating Umpire/s.

Requests to look at specific incidents need to pinpoint exactly when and where the incident may have occurred and at what stage of the match the incident took place. The NCFL Rules & Events Manager, or designated representative, will then review the match footage to see if any footage of the alleged incident is available.

If there is footage of the incident, a “grab” shall be made and edited to slow the incident down and replay it in several different speeds. This footage will be given to the AFL Central Victoria Football Operations Manager who will then forward to the MRP. The MRP will have a set amount of time to review the footage and determine whether or not the player/official involved may have a case to answer at the Tribunal.

AFL Victoria Country rules shall be used when referring the incident to the Tribunal and a specific charge shall be nominated when the club is informed of the report. It is important to note that the MRP shall take no part in deciding the outcome of the case. This decision shall be left to the Independent Tribunal. The MRP simply determine if a player/official may have a case to answer.

3. What if members on the Match Review Panel cannot agree on a decision to refer a case to the Tribunal?

The MRP shall consist of an odd number of people to ensure there is always a majority result.

4. What are the benefits of the match review panel system?

The North Central Football Leagues Board of Management consider that the officiating Umpires do a fantastic job, but understandably they do not have a 360-degree view of every incident, and as such, they may not always see every indiscretion on the ground. Sometimes their view is impeded by players and sometimes they may be caught on the “blind side”. Where footage is made available, any alleged acts that may have been missed by the Umpires/s and have been captured by video, such incidents shall be referred to the MRP for review.

The North Central Football League will use this technology if it means that players who transgress outside the spirit of the AFL Victoria Country rules are made accountable for their actions. Providing a process where incidents caught on camera are referred to the Tribunal by a panel of Independent members reduces the need for clubs to request investigations which take significant time to complete and often end up costing clubs both financially and physically. With the MRP having the ability to refer cases directly to the Tribunal, cases can be dealt with in a timely manner at a minimal cost to everyone involved.

5. How will clubs be informed a charge has been laid by the Match Review Panel?

The AFL Central Victoria Football Operations Manager will inform clubs if a request to review footage has been received as soon as possible. This early indication will inform clubs that footage is being reviewed and a referral to the Tribunal may eventuate. Clubs shall be informed of any MRP decision to refer a Player/Official to the Independent Tribunal by phone and then follow by an official email.

If there is no charge to be answered to, Clubs will be notified via email.

6. Can set penalties still apply for charges laid by the Match Review Panel?

Yes, set penalties may still apply for charges laid by the MRP provided all normal criteria is met and both clubs and the League are satisfied a set penalty may be offered. It is important to note, the AFL Central Victoria Football Operations Manager shall determine if a player is eligible to accept a set penalty or not. If a set penalty is available, the Club shall be informed with the email notification that the charge has been laid.

7. Will the footage be made available for review by Clubs prior to the Tribunal case?

Yes, all parties will be forwarded a copy of the footage with the email informing clubs of the MRP's decision to refer the incident to the Tribunal. Footage shall not be distributed if the MRP decides there is no case to answer.

North Central Football League feels the implementation of a MRP will continue to assist in making sure a safe environment for players within our competition is provided and will also assist with making sure the workload of club volunteers is minimal by reducing the need for investigations.

8. Deadline for Match Review Panel requests

Clubs have until 5pm Monday following the match concerned to request an incident be assessed by the MRP.

9. Fees for Match Review Panel requests

A fee of \$1,000 (GST inclusive) must accompany any MRP request. This fee may be refunded in part or whole at the discretion of the NCFL Board of Management.

10. Appeals

There is no avenue of appeal against a decision made by the MRP.

If a case moves through the Tribunal process and an outcome has been determined, a Club may appeal the outcome of the Tribunal hearing.