

# **FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION OF WALES**



## **SANCTION POLICY**

**Every football fan should feel safe when watching (and travelling to) matches.**

The Football Association of Wales (FAW) is fully aware that inappropriate behaviours do not represent even a small minority of our supporters. However, the importance of a safe matchday environment is paramount to everyone who attends or works at our events and therefore we take instances of inappropriate behaviour extremely seriously, specifically (but not limited to):

- The use of smoke bombs and pyrotechnics
- Pitch incursions (individual and mass invasions)
- Anti-Social behaviour, public and violent disorder.
- Throwing objects
- Discriminatory behaviour
- Drug-taking

**The FAW will NOT tolerate any form of inappropriate behaviour. and will not hesitate to promptly impose any sanction (or a combination of sanctions) outlined within this Sanction Policy in response to inappropriate behaviour.**

**The FAW retains full discretion to impose a differing sanction as it deems appropriate based on the circumstances of each case.**

### **Section A - Association Sanction Policy (Warnings, Bans & denial of entry).**

Where transgressions have taken place, such as a minor breach of ground regulations a person may be warned or issued a written warning about their ongoing behaviour. In some cases, poor behaviour may lead to persons being ejected from a stadium or banned from future attendance.

More serious transgressions will lead to FAW bans, with the most serious transgressions leading to action being undertaken by the police and in some instances lengthy FAW sanctions will also be applied.

It should also be noted that persons issued with a S.35 order by South Wales Police for anti-social behaviour prior to any event at Cardiff City Stadium (or such other stadium at which a match organised by the FAW takes place) will be denied entry on the day as instructed by the stadium Designated Premises Supervisor who determines that such refusals are for the overall benefit of the event.

### **Section B – Classification of transgressions**

Where transgressions have taken place, they are broken down by seriousness & categorised into 4 Levels. The breaches are explicitly linked to criminal behaviour, the ground regulations and/or ticketing terms & conditions.

### **Level One Breaches (Sanction: Warnings and/or short-term FAW ban).**

**Considered minor transgressions, these matters are dealt with by the police & stewards & should not (normally) lead to arrest or summons.**

These minor breaches of ground regulations may normally see a person being verbally warned or issued a written warning about their ongoing behaviour. In some cases, this may lead to persons being ejected from the stadium for issues such as:

- Smoking/vaping
- Alcohol-related offences (not involving police)
- Persistent standing / standing on seats
- Anti-social behaviour (including but not limited to section s.5 Public Order Act 1986). *Examples such as use of foul & abusive language, 'horseplay' and gesturing towards or impacting others*
- Conduct that compromises the safety of the spectator and/or others
- Non-cooperation with stewards
- Ejection from home or away stadium (not leading to police involvement)
- Refused entry to home or away stadium (not leading to police involvement)
- Reckless/intentional damage to FAW or venue property under the value of £100
- Following police warning or caution for the use or possession of illegal drugs
- Inappropriate social media use where an individual is identified.

### **Level Two Breaches (Sanction: Short & medium-term FAW ban).**

**More serious transgressions dealt with by the police and/or stewards that may but do not (normally) lead to arrest or summons.**

These breaches of ground regulations normally see a person being warned, ejected & subsequently issued with an FAW ban and/or written warning about their ongoing behaviour for issues such as:

- Use of any other prohibited items as per the ground regulations
- Aggressive language and / or behaviour
- Anti-social behaviour and public disorder (including but not limited to section s.4A & section s.5 Public Order Act 1986). *Examples such as persistent use of foul & abusive language, excessive gesturing towards or impacting others*
- Use or possession of illegal drugs
- Assault on the association, venue or club's premises
- Deliberate damage to property
- Reckless/intentional damage to association, venue or club's property over £100
- Abusive social media use where an individual is identified.

In some cases, these transgressions may lead to persons being arrested or retrospectively summonsed as a result of their actions.

**Level Three Breaches (Sanction: Police action & interim or medium-term FAW ban).**

**Matters dealt with by the police and/or stewards that may lead to arrest or summons. These transgressions will result in a medium FAW ban.**

These serious breaches of ground regulations will normally see a person being ejected, arrested or identified for further action. Persons arrested for these more serious incidents will face an interim FAW ban for issues such as:

- Missile throwing
- Pitch encroachment
- Use or possession of pyrotechnics
- Serious anti-social behaviour, public or violent disorder (including but not limited to section s.1-4 Public Order Act 1986)
- Hate crime/discrimination (including online)
- Breach of existing FAW ban
- Threatening of association, venue or club directors, players and/or staff.

**Level Four Breaches (Sanction: Police Action & Interim or medium-term FAW ban).**

**Matters dealt with by the police yet remaining a grave concern to the Football Association of Wales.**

Following conviction, serious or continued breaches of ground regulations or continuous disruption of the FAW, venue or club's normal activities.

- Convicted for Level 3 breach but not issued Football Banning Order (FBO).
- Persistent breaches of Level 2-3 sanctions.
- Continuous disruption of the FAW, venue or club's normal activities.
- Continuous threatening of FAW, venue or club directors, players and/or staff.

**Section C – Length of Bans (games will include home and away matches)**

Any fan who is identified as being in breach of the ground regulations, in possession of any prohibited item, or deemed to have conducted themselves in an inappropriate manner as highlighted above will be subject to a warning or an imposed ban, at the discretion of the FAW's Stadium Safety and Security (Sanction) Panel which is comprised of Wayne Nash (FAW Security Officer) Sgt Wayne Palmer (South Wales Police) & a member of the FAW's Ticketing/Operations department.

- Level 1  
Following minor offences/ breaches of ground regs & conditions  
**Warning: FAW ban of up to 3 matches.**

- Level 2  
Following more serious breaches of ground regulations and conditions  
**FAW Ban of 3 matches.**
- Level 3  
Following serious incidents and breaches of ground regulations and conditions  
**Interim ban while police conclude any action and/or FAW ban of between 3 and 10 matches**
- Level 4  
Following actions that cause the FAW grave concern or continued disruption of FAW, venue or club ground rules and regulations, persons threatening or intimidating FAW, venue or club staff  
**12-to-18-month FAW ban.**

FAW bans extend to all home and away matches and prevents those banned from purchasing any tickets to home & away matches through the FAW ticketing department and their authorised agents.

## **Section D – Appeal Procedure**

To appeal a ban in the first instance please e-mail [mevans@faw.cymru](mailto:mevans@faw.cymru) heading the e-mail “Ban Appeal”.

The Appeal will be heard by the Stadium Appeal Panel who will normally be comprised of Mark Evans (FAW Head of Football Operations), Paul Corkery (FSA Cymru), Supt Steve Rees (South Wales Police) or another member of the Welsh Football Policing Unit.

The appeal procedure for any bans issued will be:

- Less than 5 matches: appeal after 1 match (due to pragmatic constraints)
- More than 5 and up to 10 matches: an appeal can be lodged after 3 matches.
- Bans that exceed a period which equates to more than 10 matches – an appeal can be lodged after 7 matches or 50% of the matches, whichever is the lesser.

The FAW is working with clubs and South Wales Police to determine and introduce a restorative justice mechanism with the aim of repairing the harm and finding a positive way forward.

Persons who successfully appeal will have the recorded incident expunged from their record and match tickets refunded.

Any persons not complying with a FAW ban (i.e., gaining or attempting to gain entry to any ground where Cymru are playing whilst a ban is in force) will have an extension added to their current ban, at the discretion of the Stadium Safety Sanction Panel.

In line our cooperation agreement, South Wales Police will be informed when an association ban is administered. The football authorities, including the SGSA and the Safety Advisory Group may be updated periodically as required.

Previous recorded incidents will be taken into consideration when issuing sanctions.

Please note any person issued with a FAW ban will not be eligible for any refunds or discounts in relation to an individual match, campaign ticket or membership purchases.

FAW bans of more than one year will result in cancellation of tickets, membership & the FAW discounts involved. FAW bans will extend into stadia operated or managed by the FAW & may be published within FAW or other media publications.

There is no right of appeal via the FAW against a Football Banning Order issued by HM Courts. Such appeals must be made to the issuing court.

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