

# OFF THE PITCH

**A PLAYERS GUIDE TO ON AND  
OFF THE PITCH BEHAVIOUR**



# RED CARDS

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Suspensions will still be immediate but based on a competition rather than a blanket ban that has been used in the past.

So, every league and every cup will be treated completely separately meaning that if you are sent off in a league match the suspension would only apply in league matches and you would still be able to play in cup matches.

The same would apply to cups, so if you get sent off in the FAW Welsh Cup you would be suspended from FAW Welsh Cup matches but able to play in other cup matches and league matches.

This also applies to Reserve and Youth matches so dismissals in these competitions only apply to the competition they are received in.

Each Red Card offence carries a different length of suspension which are as follows:

OFFENCE	OFFENCE DESCRIPTION	NO. OF MATCHES
S1	Serious Foul Play	3
S2	Violent Conduct	3
S3	Spitting at an opponent or any other person	3
S4	Denying a Goal Scoring opportunity by handball	1
S5	Denying a goal scoring opportunity by physical means	1
S6	Using offensive insulting or abusive language / gestures	2
S7	Second Cautionable offence	1

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You will receive an additional 1 match ban for every further sending-off you receive during the season.

Each Red Card offence carries a £10 administration fee, this must be paid via MyComet within 31 days of the offence or you will be made ineligible to play until this has been paid.

If you feel aggrieved of any sending off you receive contact your club secretary as soon as possible and they can appeal this to the FAW either as a claim of wrongful dismissal or as a claim of mistaken identity.



# YELLOW CARDS

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You can be shown a yellow card for the following types of offences:

- Unsporting behaviour
- Dissent by word or action
- Persistent infringement of the Laws of the Game
- Delaying re-start of play
- Failure to respect the required distance when play is restarted
- Entering or re-entering the field of play without the referee's permission
- Deliberately leaving the field of play without the referee's permission

As with Red card suspensions from accumulation of cautions will be on a competition basis.

This means that every competition will also have a separate caution count.

For league matches every 5,10,15 cautions throughout the season you receive a 1,2,3 match suspension respectively.

For cup matches every 2 cautions you receive will result in a 1 match suspension. Caution counts will be reset after the Quarter Final match so that players are unable to be suspended for accumulated of caution for the Final.

Each Yellow Card offence carries a £10 administration fee, this must be paid via MyComet within 31 days of the offence or you will be made ineligible to play until this has been paid.

# GENERAL PLAYER CONDUCT

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## **SURROUNDING MATCH OFFICIALS**

- You are reminded of the need to show respect to the Match Officials at all times.
- Players should not surround match officials when they make decisions.
- Match officials may report incidents of players surrounding them and players may be liable to disciplinary action.

## **MASS CONFRONTATIONS**

- Players are reminded not to be involved with confrontations with opposing players or officials. They should allow the match official to give out sanctions (yellow or red cards) rather than taking the law in to their own hands.
- Match Officials may report incidents where numerous players or Club Officials are involved in a confrontation with opposing players or Club Officials.

- These are deemed to be mass confrontations and may lead to a charge.
- Your club may receive a significant fine in the event of a charge being found proven, and for repeat offences, the sanctions become considerably greater.

## **REACTION TO BEING SENT OFF**

- Players are reminded of the need to respect a Match Official's decision even if you disagree with it.
- In particular, a refusal to leave the pitch upon being dismissed or a delay in doing so or a bad reaction to such a decision, may lead to a disciplinary charge against the player with an additional fine and suspension on top of any suspension received for the red card.

## **TECHNICAL ASSAULTS ON MATCH OFFICIALS**

- Players should act in an orderly fashion before, during and after a match and not direct their frustrations to anyone especially match officials.
- If a player is reported for using intimidating or threatening language towards a Match Official, they will be charged with assault on a match official.
- The FAW take these incidents very seriously and if found proven players can be suspended for up to 6 months.
- Where physical contact is made with a match official, a suspension can be anything up to a sine die suspension for up to 5 years from all football related activity.

# SOCIAL MEDIA ADVICE

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When used correctly, social media can be instrumental in raising the profile of your club and the game in general, however, please consider the following advice:

- Be respectful and positive, treating others as they would wish to be treated
- Remember that the internet is permanent and information travels fast and easily online
- Be in the right state of mind when writing a post and not when you're angry or upset
- Be responsible for what is written and uphold the positive image of the game

The following types of post and/or comments (including any directed at or sent to a match official), including retweets or comments shared from your account, may lead the FAW to take disciplinary action:

- Implication of bias
- Questioning integrity
- Personal or offensive comments
- Bringing the game into disrepute

# NON DISCRIMINATION REGULATIONS

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The FAW follow FIFA and UEFA regulations to resolve any acts of discriminatory behaviour in order to eliminate it from the game. Discriminatory behaviour can include a player or official who offends any person or group with words or actions. Examples of discriminatory behaviour can include:

- Age
- Disability
- Gender
- Gender Reassignment
- Skin Colour
- Race
- Religion or belief
- Sex
- Sexual orientation
- Language
- Ethnic origin
- Political opinion
- Wealth

The sanction, if found proven of discriminatory behaviour, will be a suspension for at least 10 matches. If a player breaches these regulations, they will also be fined at least £500. If an official breach these rules, a fine of at least £750 will be imposed.

In cases where several players from a club or supporters breach the regulations sanctions can include; ground suspensions, point deductions, ground closures, demotion/disqualification and expulsion from a competition.

If you witness or are subjected any acts of discrimination you can report this to **ReportIT@faw.co.uk** and the FAW will investigate. The FAW will protect your right to anonymity if requested.

# A GUIDE TO THE BETTING, INTEGRITY & MATCH FIXING RULES

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FAW has revised its Rules on Betting, Integrity & Match Fixing and they will apply to all Match Officials and everyone connected to a Club or League in Wales.

## BETTING

You are not allowed to place any bets, or accept any bets, on any game within Wales.

If your club participates in a competition outside Wales, such as the UEFA Champions League for example, you are not allowed to place any bets, or accept any bets, on your own team. Neither must you bet, or accept any bet, on any other match in that competition even if your club is eliminated.

## MATCH FIXING

You must not offer, or attempt to offer, any bribe or reward to anybody in order to influence the result, progress, conduct or any other aspect of any match. You must also not accept any such bribe or reward. Whilst participating in a match, you must not fail to perform your duties or responsibilities to the best of your ability for any kind of reward.

## INTEGRITY

It will be an offence for you to fail to report to the FAW any approach from a person,

organisation or third party if asked to influence the course and/or result of a match or competition in an unlawful or undue manner. It will also be an offence for you to fail to report any information or behaviour involving any person, organisation or third party should you be aware of any activities aimed at influencing the course of a match or competition in an unlawful or undue manner. You must never use or provide others with any information that is obtained through connections with people involved in the game, which damages, or could damage, the integrity of a match or competition.

## CONSEQUENCES

A breach of the FAW Betting, Integrity & Match Fixing Rules may result in a worldwide lifetime ban from football.

If you witness or are subjected any acts of betting or match fixing you can report this to [integrity@faw.co.uk](mailto:integrity@faw.co.uk) and the FAW will investigate. The FAW will protect your right to anonymity if requested.

## COVID-19 REGULATIONS

This season the FAW have introduced new COVID-19 related regulations to allow for a safe return to play for all involved in football. As such there are new guidelines all players and team officials should be aware of for the 2020/2021 season.

As a reminder the following types of behaviour should be followed whilst attending and participating in a match or training:

- Complete the Pre-Match Questionnaire
- Disinfect hands at regular intervals
- Wear a face covering (except when playing)
- Maintain Social Distancing on team buses, changing rooms and dugouts
- Sit in the correctly allocated seat for you
- Have good coughing or sneezing etiquette
- Avoid spitting (this is now a cautionable offence in the 2020/2021 Laws of the Game)
- Avoid handshakes
- Only consume liquids from your own labelled supplies
- If you are a team official entering the field of play such as a physio you need to ensure you are wearing the correct PPE
- Contact your club if you feel unwell
- Comply with contact tracing if required
- Stay home when required to do so

Failure to behave within the manner as listed can result in disciplinary sanctions such as suspensions and fines against the individual and/or the club. Therefore, it is important that these measures are treated with the upmost importance.

**These measures are designed to keep you and those around safe in these uncertain times.**



Players are reminded of their responsibilities to uphold the FAW Fair Play Code. Remember that your club could be entitled to a cash prize of £1,000.

\*If there is any discrepancy in the interpretation of the English and Welsh versions, the English text shall prevail.

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