



Respect



Dealing with breaches of Respect Codes

Club, League and Northamptonshire FA's roles

Clubs and leagues have an important role to play in dealing with poor behaviour from players, officials and spectators.

The Respect Codes of Conduct identify a range of sanctions which can be applied in the event of misconduct or poor behaviour. Whilst the NFA or The FA will deal with reported misconduct, clubs and leagues also have a role to play in educating their membership as to what is – and what isn't acceptable behaviour and taking action when the codes are broken.

The Respect Codes of Conduct are the basis for the good practice expected from all youth football participants:

1. Young Players
2. Spectators and Parents/Carers
3. Coaches, Team Managers and Club Officials
4. Match Officials

Each Code explains the actions that can be taken if the Code isn't adhered to

Clubs

It's important for Clubs to be clear about the expectations from their members and to educate people when guidance is required.

Should this guidance be disregarded then the management of a Club has the right to implement sanctions against offenders.

The club Welfare Officer and the club committee should deal with breaches of the codes.

SANCTIONS should:

Be fair and consistent – treating people in the same way regardless of their position in the club

Be proportionate to the offence

Be progressively more serious for repeat offenders

Follow a process which allows people to know when they have broken a Code of Conduct and provides them with an opportunity to explain their actions.

If Sanctions are not adhered to

A meeting with the Welfare Officer with an explanation of why behaviour is not acceptable and what will happen if it continues

A formal meeting with the club committee with a warning and recommendations to further conduct

Attendance at a Safeguarding course

Mentoring (particularly for coaches)

Omission from the team

Request for non-attendance at matches

Suspension or removal from club membership in severe cases.

Any breach of the Codes by Young players should be dealt with by the club

League

The League Welfare Officer and the League Respect Committee can deal with issues that clubs are not dealing with, e.g. clubs not adhering to marked areas of pitches, consistently criticising officials, parent behaviour. (Leagues can use same actions as clubs). The League Welfare Officer will need to liaise with clubs and Northamptonshire FA's Welfare Officer to ensure who is dealing with complaint. The County Welfare Officer will also monitor the cases and complaints dealt with by the league.

MISCONDUCT

If a breach of the code is considered by Northamptonshire FA or The FA to be one of "misconduct", action may be taken by the NFA or The FA only. Such issues would cover all on-field misconduct (eg. violent conduct, abusive behaviour towards the match officials by players) or off-field offences by Clubs, their officers or spectators (eg Crowd abuse, inappropriate comments about match officials in the media, including websites and social networking sites). Such sanctions could result in a fine, individual or club suspensions or other sanctions considered appropriate by the commission hearing the case.

Where a breach is at a level where it is contrary to the rules of a competition or League but not considered to be misconduct by The FA or the NFA, action may be taken by the relevant competition providing such breach occurred whilst participating in that competition, (e.g. failure to fulfil a fixture, playing ineligible players, failure to confirm appointments to match officials) Such sanctions may also include fines, reduction of points or ultimately expulsion from the competition or excluded from a competition by Members at an AGM/EGM.