



MALMESBURY YOUTH FOOTBALL CLUB

Tackling Discrimination Within Youth Football

Issue Date : January 2026



The FA and County FA's are determined to provide an inclusive football experience for anyone who wishes to play, coach, officiate, administer, support or be involved in any role in English football. An experience that is reflective of our diverse communities, safe for all and free from abuse and discrimination.

As part of The FA's commitment to deliver English Football's Inclusion and Anti-Discrimination plan, we have enhanced the way in which discriminatory cases are heard at grassroots level.

The following is a brief summary of the information available on the FA website:

Sanctions for Aggravated Breaches

Discriminatory behaviour is unacceptable and there is a mandatory minimum 5 match suspension and education programme for those found guilty of an "Aggravated Breach" of FA Rule E3.

3 (1) A Participant shall at all times act in the best interests of the game and shall not act in any manner which is improper or brings the game into disrepute or use any one, or a combination of, violent conduct, serious foul play, threatening, abusive, indecent or insulting words or behaviour

(2) A breach of Rule E3(1) is an "Aggravated Breach" where it includes a reference, whether express or implied, to any one or more of the following :- ethnic origin, colour, race, nationality, religion or belief, gender, gender reassignment, sexual orientation or disability.

The sanction changes for a breach of E3 (2) are as follows –

- for a first offence of face-to-face discriminatory abuse the sanction will be a mandatory minimum **five match suspension** in all cases
- this sanction may be increased depending on the specific facts of any case
- any further such offence will carry a mandatory minimum suspension of more than five matches, with an entry point of ten matches
- the mandatory minimum sanction will not apply to offences committed in writing or via mobile phones, the internet or TV (though it is likely a form of match based sanction will apply)
- it will also not apply where the discriminatory term relates only to nationality (again it is likely a form of match based sanction will apply)
- Club will be liable to be sanctioned if two or more of its Participants commit an act of discriminatory abuse in any twelve month period
- In all cases the Participant may be fined as well as suspended, and will be required to undergo an education programme



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- Where a youth player is aged 12-15 (inclusive) and commits an aggravated breach of FA Rule E3(1) for the first time, a Regulatory Commission shall impose a suspension of at least five matches. The Regulatory Commission may increase this suspension depending on any additional aggravating factors present. A minimum of one match shall come into effect immediately and any remainder of the suspension shall be suspended on such terms and for such periods as the Regulatory Commission considers appropriate.
- Where a second or further aggravated breach is committed by a youth player aged 12-15 (inclusive), a Regulatory Commission shall impose an immediate suspension of more than five matches, taking into consideration an entry point of an immediate suspension of ten matches, and any aggravating or mitigating factors present.
- A disciplinary charge will not be raised for an aggravated breach of FA Rule E3(1) for a youth player under the age of 12, the primary aim in such cases will be education.

For your information

Every County FA is tasked with establishing a local football anti-discrimination football panel. Commissions will be made up of a Chairperson from the central panel, a member of the local football anti-discrimination panel and a County FA Council member.

How do I report?

The FA recognises that there is under-reporting of incidents of racism and discrimination in the game and we encourage those who feel that they have been discriminated against to report their concerns. Concerns need to be reported to the Wiltshire County Football Association or to Kickitout.org.

For charges against a club in respect of misconduct by spectators, a club will not be found guilty of misconduct if it can show that all events, incidents or circumstances were the result of circumstances over which it had no control, or for reasons of crowd safety, and that it had used all due diligence to ensure that responsibility was discharged.

The FA has launched the Reporting Discrimination videos - a series of short films to show players and fans of the game how to play their part in eradicating discrimination from football. I have added the URL's at the bottom of the page so that you can watch these without going through the FA website.

While giant leaps have been made to end discriminatory language and behaviour from the beautiful game, the authorities still rely on the help of the thousands involved at the grassroots level. In parks and playing fields up and down the country the Football Association needs you to carry on the good work and remain proactive in the battle against discrimination. **After all, if an incident goes unreported, it cannot be dealt with.**



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So players and fans are being encouraged to '**See It. Hear It. Report It.**' These animated films explain how to go about reporting incidents of discrimination – and this has to start at the grassroots level. Please take the time to watch these video's.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YwCuik0IRmU&feature=player_embedded

https://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=EeqbfN-0mJs

For the majority of the millions of people involved in football each week, either as a player, employee, volunteer, or supporter, the experience is extremely positive, helping to develop a lifelong love of the game. However, there can be occasions when some behaviours occur that are unacceptable. Discriminatory abuse occurs in many forms – and the use of any threatening, abusive, indecent or insulting words or behaviour in reference to a person's ethnic origin, colour, race, nationality, religion or belief, gender, gender reassignment, sexual orientation or disability is completely unacceptable. Aggressive and subtle discriminatory abuse persists across British society and it is unsurprising that this behaviour can also manifest in football.

Central to English Football's Inclusion and Anti-Discrimination Action Plan 2013 – 2017 is to deliver "football for everyone". We are determined to provide an inclusive football experience for anyone who wishes to play, work in, or support English football. An experience that is reflective of our diverse communities, safe for all and free from abuse and discrimination.

Anyone who believes they may have witnessed or been a victim of discrimination or abuse during a game is encouraged to report it to the referee immediately.

**DISCRIMINATION
IS NOT
ACCEPTABLE**

TO REPORT DISCRIMINATION

Email: footballforall@TheFA.com

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