



SURREY COUNTY
FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION



Surrey Youth League

18th April 2016

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Why is RESPECT in Youth games important?

- Youth Cases are often **high profile**
- **Youth discipline sets the tone and example for future years**
- An incident at a youth match does not just fall under 'discipline'. There are many other areas that need to be considered – e.g. safeguarding/ welfare.
- Referees are not always appointed.
- Referees / Players give up following poor experiences

What is “Misconduct”

- Poor behaviour or practice by **any participant or spectator**
 - Abusive, offensive, insulting language or behaviour
 - Physical contact and violent conduct
 - Assault
- The state of a pitch, goal nets or if the opposition turned up late is **not** misconduct.
- Verbal abuse by a coach, spectator or offensive remarks made directly to another participant is **misconduct that should be reported.**

See it, hear it, report it – through your **CLUB SECRETARY** only to the discipline@surreyfa.com email address.

Duties of the Referee

- Referees must submit full details on **all** misconduct to the appropriate County FA not the league or competition.
- Registered referees should use Whole Game System to submit a misconduct report
- If no appointed registered referee is present, the referee nominated on the day by the two participating teams has the **same powers and duties** as a registered referee
- – this includes submitting misconduct reports, which should be done by **email** to the Surrey FA Discipline Team
discipline@surreyfa.com

Discipline Changes

- Recruited new discipline commission members
 - Hanna Newton
 - Paul Mallon
 - J-F Burford
 - Paul Blair
- Delivered specialist training to new members around youth football and Respect / poor practice sanctions
- Increasing use of Educational Sanctions.
- Established Internal Raising Standard Group.
- Football Watch scheme reviewed and refreshed.
- Quicker discipline process

How to Report Misconduct

Ensure you include the following;

- Statements from those present at the club who **WITNESSED** or **HEARD** the incident, including the **ACTUAL WORDS USED**, along with a description of the events **IN THEIR OWN WORDS**.
- Only include statements that are relevant to the incident and from those actually present.
- Surrey FA have a dedicated **Investigations Officer** who will most likely contact you and clarify points and/or ask for further statements.

What is the Raising Standards Group?

- An internal action group made up of Surrey FA staff members representing **discipline, referees & welfare**.
- A log of incidents forms a powerful monitoring tool to help proactively address poor behaviour .
- The Group will decide on the outcome following the investigation and respond to the complainant. E.g.
 - **Disciplinary charges and/or**
 - **Observed under Football Watch and/or**
 - **Reminded of their responsibilities and/or**
 - **Monitored further over the next few matches**

Educational Sanctions

Addressing the issue as a learning opportunity rather than/alongside imposing a standard sanction.

- Mandatory Equality Course
- Respect Course
- Safeguarding Children Workshop
- Laws of the Game Online Course
- Club – ‘Avin a Laugh? Workshop

Involves Club Welfare Officer in the process and responsibility shared by club personnel.

Timescales

- Referees report misconduct within 48 hours
- Raising Standards group meets weekly
- Cases take on average 6 weeks
- Correspondence hearing results within 2 weeks from response.
- Personal hearings can take up to 4 weeks to arrange.

Outcome

- After consideration of all the evidence (both from investigation and mitigation submitted by the club/participant) the commission decide against the plea entered on the balance of probability whether it is proven or not-proven,
- Not necessarily a case of “did it happen or not”.
- Review of Youth Cases following discipline process.