**RESPECT SANCTION SYSTEM**

Respect Offences

69    A Respect Offence for the purposes of Respect Sanctions comprises any of the following:

69.1   a caution received by a Player for dissent;

69.2    a sending-off of a Player for using offensive, insulting or abusive language and/or gestures;

69.3   or any proven Charge issued to a Player or an occupant of the technical area for Misconduct on a Match day.

70     Where any team accumulates a set number of Respect Offences during a playing season, a Respect Sanction shall be imposed on that team’s Club in accordance with the table at paragraph 72 below.

71    Where any team accumulates 20 Respect Offences during a playing season, that team’s Club shall be issued a Charge for a breach of Rule E20. Further Charges for a breach of Rule E20 shall be issued against the team’s Club for every five Respect Offences accumulated after the twentieth.

Respect Sanctions

72     The Respect Sanctions referred to in paragraph 70 above are as follows:

|  | **STAGE 1**  **ACCUMULATION OF 6 RESPECT OFFENCES** | **STAGE 2**  **ACCUMULATION OF 10 RESPECT OFFENCES** | **STAGE 3**  **ACCUMULATION OF 15 RESPECT OFFENCES** | **STAGE 4**  **ACCUMULATION OF 20 RESPECT OFFENCES** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **STEP 5** | Warning as to future conduct | £150 | £300 | Club issued with a Charge |
| **STEP 6** | £75 | £150 |
| **Outside the National League System (including Youth Football)** | £50 | £100 |

73    An administration fee of £10.00 will be charged to the team’s Club for the cost of processing each Respect Sanction.

Responding to the imposition of a Respect Sanction

74    A Club may submit a written plea in mitigation in respect of the Respect Sanctions imposed at Stages 2 and 3 only and this mitigation may be considered by a Disciplinary Commission at a non-personal hearing.

75    There is no right of appeal in relation to the Respect Sanctions imposed up to and including Stage 3.

**DISCIPLINARY ACTION AGAINST CLUBS – MULTIPLE OFFENCES IN A SINGLE MATCH**

76        An Affiliated Association will take disciplinary action against a Club if six or more Players in one of a Club’s teams are either cautioned or sent off in a single Match.

Clubs at Steps 5 to 7 of the National League System

77         On the first occasion that this happens in a playing season, the Affiliated Association will impose an automatic fine on the Club in accordance with the following table:

| **STEP OF THE NATIONAL LEAGUE SYSTEM** | **FINE** |
| --- | --- |
| Step 5 | £150 |
| Step 6 |
| Step 7 | £75 |

78    For each successive occasion that this happens in the same playing season, the automatic fine imposed by the Affiliated Association will be a fine that is double and then treble (and so on) the amount set out in the table at paragraph 77 above.

Clubs Outside the National League System

79     On the first occasion that this happens in a playing season, the Affiliated Association will issue a Charge against the Club and warn the Club as to the future conduct.

80     On the second occasion that this happens in the same playing season, the Affiliated Association will impose an automatic fine on the Club of £25. For each successive occasion that this happens in the same playing season, the automatic fine imposed by the Affiliated Association will increase by £25.

Plea in Mitigation

81     In truly exceptional circumstances, a Club may submit a written plea in mitigation against the imposition of a fine under paragraphs 77, 78 or 80 above.

**DISCIPLINARY ACTION AGAINST CLUBS – ACCUMULATION OF PENALTY POINTS BY A CLUB’S PLAYERS**

General

82    The purpose of the penalty points system is to assess the disciplinary record of Players of each of a Club’s teams across a playing season.

83    The number of penalty points accumulated by a one of a Club’s teams is calculated in accordance with paragraphs 84 to 85 below.

Calculating Penalty Points Totals

84     Each cautionable offence and sending-off offence committed by a team’s Players in each Match during a playing season (together with each Charge issued to a team’s Players in that playing season) will incur that team a set number of penalty points.

85     The number of penalty points incurred for a cautionable offence, each sending-off offence and Charge are as follows:

| **TYPE OF OFFENCE/CHARGE** | **PENALTY POINTS INCURRED** |
| --- | --- |
| Cautionable Offences | 1 penalty point (with the exception of a caution for dissent, which will incur 2 penalty points) |
| Denying the opposing team a goal or an obvious goal-scoring opportunity by deliberately handling the ball | 3 penalty points |
| Denying a goal or an obvious goal-scoring opportunity to an opponent whose overall movement is towards the offender’s goal by an offence punishable by a free kick | 3 penalty points |
| Serious foul play | 5 penalty points |
| Spitting at an opponent or any other person | 7 penalty points |
| Violent conduct | 6 penalty points |
| Using offensive, insulting, or abusive language and/or gestures | 4 penalty points |
| Receiving a second caution in the same Match | 3 penalty points |
| Charge | 5 penalty points (subject to any increase by the Disciplinary Commission) |

Accumulation of Penalty Points

86     Where a team accumulates 75 penalty points during a playing season, that team’s Club shall be issued a Charge for a breach of Rule E20.

**DISCIPLINARY ACTION AGAINST CLUBS - MISCELLANEOUS**

87      A Club may be the subject of a Charge for a breach of Rule E20 where that Club:

87.1    has been the subject of two or more proven Charges where the Matches to which the Charges relate were abandoned as a result of the Misconduct;

87.2    has four or more incidents of violent conduct across any of its teams. Violent conduct includes all sending-off offences for violent conduct and any proven Charge relating to an assault on a Match Official, physical contact on a Match Official or assault on a Participant; or

87.3   has two or more Charges for an Aggravated Breach issued against any of the Club’s Players in a 12-month period which are found proven.

**ABANDONED MATCHES**

88     If a Referee’s report indicates that a Match has been abandoned due to alleged acts of Misconduct of either team, the Affiliated Association shall without delay conduct an investigation in to the matter.

89     Following the investigation, the Affiliated Association, may issue a Charge against the Club or the relevant Participants.

90      A Disciplinary Commission shall meet to consider the Charge within 28 days of (the date of) the Charge letter.