

Criteria

To provide guidance to Participants, the following criteria will be applied by The FA when dealing with the type of cases set out below. Such cases will be subject to the Schedule C Fast Track disciplinary procedures.

E20 Cases (excluding crowd control matters)

E20 (a) Mass Confrontations

Where two or more players and/or club officials from a team are involved in a confrontation with opposing players and/or club officials.

Where brought to the attention of The Association, in considering whether the matter should lead to formal disciplinary charges, the factors to be considered include the following:

- (a) The number of players and/or club officials involved;
- (b) The nature of the behaviour of those involved;
- (c) The duration of the incident;
- (d) Disciplinary action taken by the Match Referee as a result of the incident;

The FA will take into account such factors and other relevant features of the incident and have regard to the wider interest of football in light of the overall nature of the incident to determine whether formal disciplinary action should be taken. In the majority of cases, it is anticipated a standard sanction will be offered.

However, for those incidents where the features of offending are of a more serious character the standard approach would not be appropriate and in such circumstances Regulatory Commissions will need to determine the appropriate sanctions. In respect of Mass Confrontations, the type of characteristic/features of offending that would mean that the cases is treated as exceptional and no standard sanction would be offered include the following:

- (a) The potential incitement of the crowd;
- (b) The proximity of the incident to the crowd;
- (c) The level of violent behaviour;
- (d) The involvement of bench personnel;
- (e) The necessity of police and/or steward involvement;
- (f) The overall context of the fixture.

E20 (a) Surrounding Match Official

Where three or more players of one club approach a Match Official in a confrontational manner.

Where brought to the attention of The Association, in considering whether the matter should lead to formal disciplinary charges, the following factors will be considered:

- (a) The number of players and/or club officials involved;
- (b) The behaviour of those involved;
- (c) The duration of the incident;
- (d) Disciplinary action taken by the Match Referee as a result of the incident.

The FA will take into account such factors and other relevant features of the incident and have regard to the wider interest of football in light of the overall nature of the incident to determine whether formal disciplinary action should be taken. In the majority of cases, it is anticipated a standard sanction will be offered.

However, for those incidents where the features of offending are of a more serious character the standard approach would not be appropriate and in such circumstances Regulatory Commissions will need to determine the appropriate sanctions. In respect of surrounding a Match Official, the type of characteristic/features of offending that would mean that the case is treated as exceptional and no standard sanction would be offered include the following:

- (a) The potential incitement of the crowd;
- (b) The proximity of the incident to the crowd;
- (c) The level of violent behaviour;
- (d) The involvement of bench personnel;
- (e) The necessity of police and/or steward involvement;
- (f) The overall context of the fixture.

E3 Misconduct Criteria

Misconduct by occupants of the technical area during matches

Where brought to the attention of The Association, in considering whether the matter should lead to formal disciplinary charges, the following factors will be considered:

- (a) The nature of the behaviour of the individual concerned;
- (b) Any dissent, disrespect or abusive behaviour;
- (c) The public nature or otherwise of the reported behaviour;
- (d) The duration of the incident;
- (e) Disciplinary action taken by the Match Referee as a result of the incident;

The FA will take into account such factors and other relevant features of the incident and have regard to the wider interest of football in light of the overall nature of the incident to determine whether formal disciplinary action should be taken. In the majority of cases, it is anticipated a standard sanction will be offered.

However, for those incidents where the features of offending are of a more serious character the standard approach would not be appropriate and in such circumstances Regulatory Commissions will need to determine the appropriate sanctions. In respect of these types of misconduct cases, the type of characteristic/features of offending that would mean that the case is treated as exceptional and no standard sanction would be offered include the following:

- (a) The level of aggression demonstrated in the alleged behaviour;
- (b) Any degree of violent conduct;
- (c) Any threatening behaviour;
- (d) Any potential or actual incitement of the crowd;
- (e) The unusual nature of the reported behaviour;
- (f) The necessity of police and/or steward involvement;
- (g) The overall context of the fixture.

Exceptional Cases

In addition to the above cases, there will be other features of offending or circumstances relating to the Participant which mean that it is not possible to offer a standard sanction. These will include the following:

- (a) The Participant has more than 1 other similar charge in the preceding 12 months.
- (b) Any language used includes language aggravated by race, colour or gender.

In these circumstance also, Regulatory Commissions will determine the appropriate sanction.