

Amateur FA Football Services Guides



Misconduct Charges

What are they?

A County FA will raise disciplinary charges for incidents of misconduct which occur outside of on-field disciplinary procedures, or where an on-field incident meets certain criteria. Charges can be raised against players, club officials, match officials or against clubs themselves for failing to ensure their players and/or officials and/or spectators conduct themselves in an orderly manner.

What kind of behaviour is included?

Common misconduct charges include, but are not limited to:

- Abusive language
- Threatening behaviour
- Violent Conduct
- Acts of assault
- Discriminatory comments
- Physical contact on a match official
- Playing under suspension
- Mass confrontations between players
- Refusing to complete a match (thereby causing its abandonment)

What happens after a charge has been raised?

The club secretary will be notified when a charge has been raised. The case papers and case file are available for download from the Whole Game System.

It is the club secretary's responsibility to ensure the player is notified of the charge and confirm how they wish to respond.

How do we respond?

The player/club charged must confirm if they accept or deny the charge and if they wish the case to be dealt with by correspondence or they wish to attend a personal hearing. There is a fee for personal hearings (£30 at Non-NLS), which will be returned if the case is found not proven.

How are sanctions reached?

The disciplinary commission will first consider whether, having considered all evidence provided, they believe the charge is proven or not proven. The commission have to be satisfied that the charge is proven **on the balance of probability** - ie that it is more likely than not that the incident occurred.

If the charge is found proven, the commission will first consider the severity of the incident and review the player/club's five year disciplinary record. They will then consult The FA's Sanction Guidelines and consider any aggravating or mitigating factors that may lead to a reduced or increased penalty before reaching a decision on what sanctions should be imposed.

Can I appeal the decision?

All proven disciplinary cases can be appealed to The FA by the player/club charged. The FA must be notified of your intention to appeal **within seven days of the decision**.