

Amateur FA Football Services Guides



Aggravated Misconduct Charges

What are they?

The Amateur FA has the option to raise an “aggravated” misconduct charge under FA Rule E3(2) if they believe that an individual has used offensive or threatening language which included reference to one of the following protected characteristics:

Ethnic origin	Race	Colour
Sexual Orientation	Gender	Gender reassignment
Religion or belief	Disability	Nationality

A charge can be raised under FA Rule E3(2) for *direct or implicit* reference to one of these characteristics.

How do we respond?

There are two aspects to an aggravated charge which need to be responded to:

1. Improper Conduct (including foul and abusive language)
2. Improper Conduct (aggravated by reference to a person’s Ethnic Origin, Colour, Race, Nationality, Faith, Gender, Gender reassignment, Sexual Orientation or Disability).

Each charge is considered separately, and the player/club charged can:

1. Accept both charges;
2. Deny both charges;
3. Accept the first charge and deny the second; *i.e admit that they made an offensive remark against an opponent, but deny that the comment included reference to the protected characteristic.*

The player/club charged must confirm if they accept or deny the charges 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 (£50 at Step 5-7, £30 at Non-NLS/Youth), which will be returned if the case is found not proven.

What happens next?

The FA will assign a secretary and a panel to consider the decision, either as a personal hearing or by correspondence. For Personal Hearings, there will be an FA appointed secretary, FA Appointed Chairman and at least 2 other panel members. The panel will have all received additional training from The FA to assist them in considering discrimination cases.

Following the decision, The FA will prepare Written Reasons explaining the decision of the panel. These will be circulated to the Participant charged, and in cases involving adult football published on the FA and Amateur FA website. Written Reasons for cases involving Young Persons (under 18s) will not be published publicly.

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.**