

Alternate Charges

What are they?

The Amateur FA can raise an alternate (lower) charge when raising serious misconduct charges. The alternate charge will only be considered should the primary (higher) charge be found not proven.

When can a County FA issue an alternate charge?

Alternate charges are only issued in specific cases of serious misconduct:

Primary Charge	Alternate Charge
Assault on a match official	Physical contact on a match official
Physical contact on a match official	Improper conduct against a match official (including threatening and/or abusive language/behaviour)
Assault by participant on participant	Improper conduct (including violent conduct and threatening and/or abusive language/behaviour)

Why would a County FA raise an alternate charge?

The Amateur FA will raise an alternate charge if they are confident that an incident occurred, but there is uncertainty over whether the threshold of the higher charge has been reached; for example whether or not a player made physical contact with a referee during a confrontation, or whether an injury sustained by an individual constitutes “serious bodily injury.”

How does it work?

The player must respond to both aspects of the charge, but the primary (higher) charge will always be considered first:

- 1. Has the primary charge been accepted?***
 - Yes: Sanctions issued based on the guidance for the primary charge.
 - No: The commission reviews the evidence to determine if the primary charge is proven.
- 2. Does the commission find the primary charge proven?***
 - Yes: Sanctions issued based on the guidance for the primary charge.
 - No: The commission proceeds to consider the alternate charge.
- 3. Is the alternate charge accepted?***
 - Yes: Sanctions issued based on the guidance for the alternate charge.
 - No: The commission reviews the evidence to determine if the alternate charge is proven.
- 4. Does the commission find the alternate charge proven?***
 - Yes: Sanctions issued based on the guidance for the alternate charge.
 - No: Case dismissed in its entirety.