



A REFEREE'S DUTY RELATED TO MISCONDUCT

Each match is controlled by a referee who has the full authority to enforce the Laws of the Game in connection with the match to which he has been appointed.

Here are some of the key powers and duties outlined in Law 5 of IFAB Laws of the Game:

- Take disciplinary action against players guilty of cautionable and send-off offences. They are not obliged to take this action immediately but must do so when the ball next goes out of play.
- Takes action against team officials who fail to conduct themselves in a responsible manner and warns or shows a yellow card for a caution or a red card for a sending-off from the field of play and its immediate surrounds.
- Acts on advice of the assistant referees regarding incidents that they have not seen.
- Provides the appropriate authorities with a match report, which includes information on any disciplinary action taken against players and/or team officials and any other incidents that occurred before, during and after the match. Therefore, referees should be aware of their responsibilities following a match should they caution or send off a player for misconduct, or in the event of a serious incident:
 - They must report the incident.
 - They must compile a report and send it to the appropriate authority within the stipulation time:

Within 48 hours of the Game (not including Sundays or Bank Holidays).

- If there are any serious incidents during the match that the officials are made aware of, then it is their responsibility to report it, even if they have not necessarily seen or heard the incident in question themselves. For example, a player informs them they were racially abused, or if a player is taken to hospital.

AN ASSISTANT REFEREE'S DUTY RELATED TO MISCONDUCT

It is the duty of assistant referees to indicate to the referee if misconduct or any other incident has occurred out of the view of the referee (Law 6). They need to advise the referee of a player who uses offensive or insulting abusive language and/or gestures. Or any other forms of misconduct. In such circumstances, the assistant referee will be required to submit a Misconduct Report to the appropriate authority.

Always report Discipline that has occurred in a game. It is a requirement under referee regulations and failure to report could result in a misconduct charge against the referee.

(a) Referees must submit full details on all matters of misconduct, sendings off and cautions only to appropriate Association or Affiliated Association responsible for administering misconduct and not to any other organisation or Competition.

(b) Referees may include on the normal Competition match report forms the names and club details of those personally reported for misconduct but must not include any details of the incident and for all on-field

offences they can only report the names of the player/players cautioned/sent off (including technical areas if appropriate), the club, the time of the offence and the relevant FA offence code.

(c) Should any match official be approached to supply any details, they should immediately report the matter to the Association or Affiliated Association. The FA or County FA has the power to act at any time in relation to the registration of a Referee who has committed a technical irregularity.

A “technical irregularity” includes, but is not limited to, any failure to comply with administrative requirements imposed on a Referee such as the requirements to submit reports, answer correspondence etc.

Facts not opinion

As such it is essential that the report is accurate, brief and clear to provide a true representation of the events with no ambiguity as to what has happened. The way to achieve this is to report the facts and not opinions, and if words were exchanged reports must include the actual words that were used by all parties.

Before leaving the ground (however we do not expect a referee to put themselves in a position which may impact on their safety).

Before leaving the ground, make sure you have the following facts for each incident:

- The full name of player or official concerned with the name of their club, if the player, or indeed club official fails to give their name, then accept this and report that they failed to do so when asked. Include this in your report.
- The time of the incident.
- How did you restart play (if applicable)?
- Jot down some key points on the back of your Match Record Card.

For Example:

- How far away were you from the incident and your position?
- Where did the incident take place?
- What was actually said/done?
- Was contact made and to what part of the body?
- Was there any sign of visible injury and did anyone require treatment?
- Was the opposition player able to continue the game?
- Did the player or club official make any comment to you or one of the other Match Officials.

What if I didn't see the incident?

If an incident is reported to you via a player, club official etc but you did not witness the event, it is still important that you pass this information on to the FA or County FA – Discipline@HampshireFA.Com You are still an important witness in terms of events surrounding the incident.

Summary

- Always report discipline that has occurred in a game. It is a requirement under referee regulations and failure to report could result in a misconduct charge against the referee.
- Ensure that the report is short and concise but factual and covering all (and only) the salient points.
- Avoid your opinions and stick to the facts.
- Submit your report within two working days.
- Only submit reports to the appropriate authorities.
- Do not send reports to Leagues.
- Be prepared to attend disciplinary hearings if requested to do so.