

Consolidated Disciplinary Hearings

What are they?

When multiple misconduct charges are raised relating to the same incident, all cases must be heard by the same commission in one “consolidated” hearing.

Why are all related cases heard together?

The cases are heard together to ensure fairness and that a single commission is able to consider all evidence surrounding an incident, reaching appropriate and proportionate sanctions for all guilty parties. Where one or more parties request a Personal Hearing, this also ensures that those parties have the opportunity to hear and respond to all evidence which may be used in considering their charge.

What happens at a consolidated hearing?

The County FA must serve all evidence on all parties prior to the hearing. This includes the main investigation case file and any responses to the charges raised. At the hearing itself, all parties who have requested a Personal Hearing will be present throughout the hearing. Each party denying their charge will have the opportunity to question County FA witnesses, present their own evidence and witnesses, and question the other party’s evidence and witnesses.

What if some parties do not wish to attend a Personal Hearing?

If an individual or club has been charged and request the case be dealt with by correspondence, the same commission will still review their case/s as part of the consolidated proceedings; however, they may still be invited to attend the hearing as a County FA witness in relation to the charge against the party requesting a Personal Hearing. In this instance they are attending solely as a witness and would not be allowed to discuss their charge unless they submit a change of plea.

How long does the hearing last?

This depends on the number of witnesses being questioned. Due to the duplication of questioning, a consolidated hearing will tend to last longer than a standard disciplinary hearing. If there are no additional witnesses, a hearing will usually last approximately two hours. Please allow roughly 20 minutes for each additional witness.

Can I appeal the decision?

All proven disciplinary cases can be appealed to The FA by the Participant charged. The FA must be notified of your intention to appeal **within seven days of the decision**. You are not entitled to appeal the outcome of a case against another party. More information is available by contacting [Alastair Kay](#).