

Hertfordshire FA



Know the Rules - Match Abandonments

Walking away from a game could lead to significant sanctions, so it's important to understand the rules. Below are details of the relevant FA and League rules relating to abandoned matches:

FA Rules

Rule E3

FA rule E3.1 states that a Participant shall at all times act in the best interests of the game and shall not act in any manner which is improper or brings the game into disrepute or use any one, or a combination of, violent conduct, serious foul play, threatening, abusive, indecent or insulting words or behaviour.

The recommended sanction for this offence is:

Improper Conduct (not including threatening and/or abusive language/behaviour)

Steps 5 – 7

- Low: 0 - 1 match suspension/£0 - £25 fine
- Medium: 1 - 2 match suspension/£15 - £40 fine
- High: 2 - 3 match suspension/£20 - £50 fine

Youth Teams

- Low: 0 - 1 match suspension/£0 - £15 fine
- Medium: 1 - 2 match suspension/£10 - £20 fine
- High: 2 - 3 match suspension/£20 - £40 fine

Outside NLS Teams

- Low: 0 - 1 match suspension/£0 - £20 fine
- Medium: 1 - 2 match suspension/£10 - £30 fine
- High: 2 - 3 match suspension/£20 - £40 fine

FA Rule E20

FA Rule E20 states that Each Affiliated Association, Competition and Club shall be responsible for ensuring:

E20.1

that its directors, players, officials, employees, servants, representatives, spectators, and all persons purporting to be its supporters or followers, conduct themselves in an orderly fashion and refrain from any one or combination of the following: improper, violent,

threatening, abusive, indecent, insulting or provocative words or behaviour, (including, without limitation, where any such conduct, words or behaviour includes a reference, whether express or implied, to any one or more of ethnic origin, colour, race, nationality, religion or belief, gender, gender reassignment, sexual orientation or disability) whilst attending at or taking part in a Match in which it is involved, whether on its own ground or elsewhere; and

E20.2

that no spectators or unauthorised persons are permitted to encroach onto the pitch area, save for reasons of crowd safety, or to throw missiles, bottles or other potentially harmful or dangerous objects at or on to the pitch.

The recommended sanctions for this offence are:

Step 5-7

- Low: £0 - £75 fine
- Medium: £75 - £150 fine
- High: £150 - £250 fine

Non NLS

- Low: £0 - £50 fine
- Medium: £25 - £75 fine
- High: £75 - £150 fine

Youth Teams

- Low: £0 - £40 fine
- Medium: £25 - £60 fine
- High: £60 - £100 fine

League Decisions Following a Match Being Abandoned

Once the relevant County Association has dealt with all disciplinary matters in relation to the Match the League will have the opportunity to deal with the match in question, by reviewing the competition rules, especially Rule 20 (E) (iii) and (IV)

As per Standard Code of Rules / Standard Code of Rules Youth

20 (E) (iii)

In the event of a Competition Match not being played or abandoned owing to causes over which neither Club has control, it should be played in its entirety on a date to be mutually agreed by the two Clubs and approved by the Competition. Failing such agreement and notification to the Competition within [] days the Competition shall have the power to order the Match to be played on or before a given date.

Where it is to the advantage of the Competition, the Management Committee shall also be empowered to order the score at the time of an abandonment to stand. *Providing gate money is taken and retained the visiting Club shall receive their actual standard class rail or bus fares or the equivalent for [] persons, or car allowance at [] p per mile for transporting [] persons, or hire charge of a coach (receipt to be submitted). The residue (if any) to be equally divided between the two Clubs after deducting the cost of advertising, printing, posting, police and Match Officials charges. The home Club shall take the whole of the proceeds of the second Competition Match.*

Failure to comply with this Rule will result in a fine in accordance with the Fines Tariff.

Rule 20 (E) (IV)

The Management Committee shall review all Competition Matches abandoned in cases where it is consequent upon the conduct of either or both Teams. Where it is to the advantage of the Competition and does no injustice to either Club, the Management Committee shall order the score at the time of the abandonment to stand. In all cases where the Management Committee are satisfied that a Match was abandoned owing to the conduct of one Team or its Club member(s) they shall award the points for the Match to the opponent. In cases where a Match has been abandoned owing to the conduct of both Teams or their Club member(s), the Management Committee shall rule that neither Team will be awarded any points for that Match and it shall not be replayed. No fine(s) can be applied by the Management Committee for an abandoned Match.