

Hertfordshire FA



Working Together to Support Referees

We work closely with Hertfordshire Constabulary and by doing so aim to build confidence in the support received from both organisations when referees report incidents

Where there is an incident that may involve a criminal offence we fully support and encourage Match Officials to report this to the Police as well as to us at Hertfordshire FA.

What should be reported?

Whilst there is an expectation that certain things are tolerated as 'part of the game' there is obviously a line and the Police would expect to be notified of the following:

- Discriminatory offences against a protected characteristic - these are Hate Crimes and it is essential that the Police robustly deal with them in partnership with Hertfordshire FA
- Any assault - physical contact with referees, spitting, throwing of water or other items at officials
- Criminal Damage to property
- Threats to harm or kill the official, or their family

How should offences be reported?

*If there is a risk to the safety of the official or another person then you should always **call 999**.*

Generally, the advice from the Police when an offence has been committed and the suspect is still present, would be to **call 999**. However, in the case of officiating a football match their advice is slightly different. In these specific circumstances, the suspect will likely be still be present because they are playing in the match and as such can be readily identified.

Where a spectator rather than a player is involved as a suspect, **calling 999** should be considered in some circumstances, even where there is not a risk to the official's safety. This is because while it is relatively easy to find out who a player is, it is not the case with spectators.

Use of the 999 system during the course a game will likely cause its own issues in terms of its continuation, meaning you will need to consider whether the match should be abandoned.

- Where there is no immediate risk to the official or others but an offence has been committed, crimes can be recorded by **calling 101**, using an **online form** at herts.police.uk/report, **attending a Police station** or by speaking to any Police Officer
- Any other person can make a third-party report on behalf of an official but there are only very limited scenarios where this would be recorded as a crime on their behalf (for example if the victim is unconscious). What a third-party report would do however, is prompt the Police to try and make contact with the victim that they have identified

Information on what any victim should expect from the Police when reporting a crime, along with other guidance and resources can be found on the [Government website](#).