

Transferring suspensions across seasons

What are they?

Any suspension outstanding at the end of a season is automatically carried through to the following season. However, due to the different categories under which football is divided, this can cause confusion and difficulties for clubs and players to track.

How is a suspension normally served?

Grassroots football (Step 5 and below) discipline is divided into match-based categories depending on the level of football:

Saturday • Sunday • Midweek • Representative • Veterans • School • Friendly

Suspensions for red cards must be served in the category in which they were received. When the player misses the relevant number of games for the team he was carded for, the suspension is served.

Suspensions for misconduct cases are from all football and may be match-based or day-based. When the player misses the relevant number of games for the team he received the charge for - or misses the required number of days - the suspension is served.

What happens at the end of a season?

At the end of a season, any outstanding match-based suspension is automatically carried through to the beginning of the following season. They are therefore eligible to play in pre-season friendlies and the suspension re-starts when the team the suspension was picked up for play their first qualifying fixture of the new season. Day-based suspensions continue throughout the off-season.

What happens if a player changes days, moves clubs or moves up an age group?

If a player moves to a new day of football and is suspended for a red card, they are eligible to continue playing on the new day of football.

Where a player moves to a new club at the same level of football, playing on the same day, the suspension is transferred to the new club and the County FA need to be informed of the change.

Where a youth player moves within youth football to a new age group, playing on the same day, the suspension is transferred to the new age group.

If a player moves from non-Step football to Step Football (and vice versa), or to a new day of the week, there is no impact on red card suspensions. For misconduct suspensions there are two options:

1. The FA can approve for the suspension to move to the new level of football.
2. The suspension is served based on matches the previous club play. For a match-based misconduct suspension, this means that the player is eligible to play for their new team until such time as the team they were reported for start their season, at which point the suspension is applied to all football.

What if a player has a standard charge and misconduct charge?

Sometimes a player may receive a red card and misconduct charge for the same incident - for example if they are sent off for making an offensive comment aggravated by a personal characteristic or the standard punishment is deemed insufficient. In all cases, the misconduct charge (and suspension from all football) takes precedence.

Suspension Transfer Guide

Old Club	New Club	Type of suspension		
		Red Card	Misconduct - Matches	Misconduct - Days
Adult & Youth Saturday	Adult & Youth Saturday	Must miss required number of games for the new club	Must miss required number of games for the new club	Suspended until required number of days have been served
Youth Saturday	Youth Sunday	Eligible to play Sunday football throughout	Eligible to play Sunday football until Old Team begin fixtures; then suspended until Old Team have completed required number of fixtures	
Adult Non-Step Saturday	Adult Non-Step Sunday			
Adult Step 5-7 Saturday	Adult Step 5-7 Sunday			
Youth (any day)	Adult (any day)	Not applied to new level of football.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. FA can approve transfer to new age group/level. 2. Player eligible to play for New Team until Old Team begin fixtures; then suspended until Old Team have completed required number of fixtures 	
Adult Non-Step (any day)	Adult Step 5-7 (any day)			
Adult Step 5-7 (any day)	Adult Non-Step (any day)			