



Middlesex FA

Rectory Park
Ruislip Road
Northolt
UB5 5FA

President John Davies

Chairman John Taylor

Chief Executive Kayleigh Saunders

03 January 2023

To Club Secretaries and Club Welfare Officers:

Disciplinary Update – Middlesex FA

I hope you are well.

Since the beginning of the season, we have monitored some concerning trends in regard to behaviour of club officials, players and spectators at matches. These issues are detailed below:

- **Discrimination** – So far this season we have received a large increase in reports regarding discriminatory abuse this season, across all age groups. Please can we take this opportunity to remind those within your clubs that discriminatory language/behaviour is extremely serious and it's of vital importance that we remove this from the game and society. Cases found worthy of charging will be referred to The FA Serious Case Team to be heard. Serious Cases include all discriminatory reports, reports of threatening behaviour and/or physical contact against a Match Official and assault against another participant.
- **Spectator Behaviour** – Despite The FA's best attempts with its Enough is Enough campaign, spectator behaviour is an area which is particularly concerning in youth football and especially behaviour towards Match Official(s). We understand that football can be competitive, however this behaviour is contributing to a worsening playing environment, which is something that needs addressing. There is a new club charge for spectator behaviour, which comes under E21 and will be used should reports of poor behaviour be reported to the County FA. Please note that this is in addition to E20 charges for failure to control players and officials, meaning two separate charges could be raised if the thresholds are met.
- **Entering Field of Play** – Please remember that no spectators or club officials should enter the field of play without the permission of the Referee. Failure to adhere to this can result in potential club charges and is something that has unfortunately become more common in recent weeks.
- **Abandoning Fixtures** – Similarly to the above, it is solely the Referees' decision to abandon fixtures. A club is not permitted to abandon the fixture on their own accord. Doing so will result in club charges. If there are concerns regarding opposition behaviour, Referee performance or similar, please report this to the County FA following your match, where the behaviour will be investigated and dealt with. The only exception to this is if the club feels they can no longer continue due to receiving discriminatory abuse/behaviour. A club doing so would still be charged for abandoning the fixture, however the sanction would be dropped if the report of discrimination was to be found proven.

Please can we ask you in your roles to ensure this is shared within your clubs and to re-circulate your codes of conduct and make sure these are adhered to by all participants. We are soon due to start a process of attending fixtures on a random basis, which we hope will ensure standards are improved across the board and that poor behaviour is removed from the game.

Thanks a lot for your assistance. We are realistic and know that it's not possible to remove ALL poor behaviour in the game, however we hope highlighting these issues can help to greatly improve the playing environment for all within Middlesex.

Yours Sincerely

Daniel May

Head of Football Services

Football – play your role