

WHY FOOTBALL SHOULD BE AFFILIATED?

Q. Can a registered match official, officiate in unaffiliated football?

A match official is strongly advised not to referee unaffiliated football as their insurance cover through the County FA will be invalid, additionally any abuse either physical or verbal towards the referee cannot be dealt with by the County FA putting the referee at risk and allowing players to go unpunished.

Also red and yellow cards should be reported to the County FA, in unaffiliated football this will not happen, which would allow players to go unpunished. Any abuse/assault that should occur it would mean it cannot be dealt with by The CFA/FA

All matches officiated in unaffiliated football do not count towards games considered for promotion, Referees deliberately officiating in unaffiliated football could be refused promotion and will not be selected for County Cup Final appointments.

*Match officials in unaffiliated football who are not registered with a County FA **cannot** be Members of the Referees Association and the insurance does not provide cover for match officials outside of affiliated football*

Q. Can a player play in unaffiliated football?

Any player who signs for a club playing affiliated football cannot play unaffiliated football. This would be misconduct and charges could be issued.

Q. I'm a multi team club, with teams playing in an unsanctioned league is this allowed?

No teams playing in unaffiliated football can be part of a larger club playing in affiliated football. This would be misconduct and charges could be issued.

Q. As a club we own our own facility or have long term lease, can unaffiliated clubs play at our venue?

No unaffiliated teams can play or fixtures take place on grounds that are 'owned' by clubs playing affiliated football. The club owning the venue hosting the fixture could be charged.

Q. What is the situation on hiring facilities for those teams playing in unsanctioned leagues?

This decision is up to the facility provider, however the facility provider would want to ensure that all hirers are suitably insured and the appropriate regulations are in place before they would allow any activity to take place.

Q. Are under 18's players and officials covered by FA safeguarding policies if they play unsanctioned football?

Whilst the law of the land would cover any serious issues, from a football perspective we would be unable to ensure the welfare of young people playing. Any U18s playing or officiating would be at the risk of the club or the league playing unaffiliated football. As a County FA we would have to alert the relevant authorities that this was happening.

Q. As an affiliated team can I play against a non-affiliated team?

No affiliated team can play against an unaffiliated team or a team playing in unsanctioned football

Q. Can unaffiliated clubs or unsanctioned leagues receive funding or if they have received funding previously can this be clawed back if not affiliated?

This would be depend on the type of funding and who the funding body is. It is however unlikely that unsanctioned clubs and leagues would receive funding through football bodies as one of the criteria for funding is an affiliation number and a letter of support from the County FA.

Clubs or organisations who have received money previously maybe asked to repay depending on the terms and conditions of the grant.

Q. Will unaffiliated clubs have access to FA/CFA IT?

Clubs and league in unaffiliated football cannot use FA technology systems to administer their game.

Q. A lot of reference is made to breaking the rules, where can I find this?

Breaches of the rules can result in clubs, players, club officials and match officials being charged in line with Rule B4 in the FA Handbook Page 108.

As you can see playing unaffiliated football has no benefits and a lot of risks associated to it.