

UNDERSTANDING THE DISCIPLINE PROCESS: What can we do?

As a Club:

- Based on [The FA's codes of conduct template](#), you should design and adhere to your club code of conduct and club rules
- You should actively support referees at matches both on the pitch, e.g. in supporting their decisions, and off the pitch, e.g. by providing a referee's changing room pre and post game
- If the referee is unable to ask a parent or spectator to leave the vicinity of the field of play, the team officials are also responsible for taking the relevant action against the parent or spectator in support of the referee
- **You have the power to remove individuals from membership to the club.**

As a League:

- Leagues should first work with clubs to address issues, however if this persists or there is no improvement, you should follow the league rules (SCOR/SCORY*) to remove clubs from membership for undesirable conduct (ensuring all league procedures are followed).
- Member clubs can be put forward for a vote of expulsion within a Special General Meeting (SGM)
- **A league can refuse or terminate the registration of a player for continuing misconduct**
- This applies when a player has accumulated more than 112 days of suspension or 10 matches in match based discipline in any competition two years from the first offence date
- **Leagues can also refuse teams entry to invitational cup competitions**

As a County FA's:

- You should follow the [grassroots discipline process](#), implementing yellow cards, red cards, and misconduct charges.
- **Suspensions can be issued** to participants in football with suspensions given in days or matches.

As a Coach or Manager:

- You should create an atmosphere of **positivity** and set the right tone of **encouragement** amongst your team
- You should ensure the codes of conduct are upheld and visible to all players, parents and coaches

As a Referee:

- You have the power to abandon the match due to the behaviour of the parent or spectator
- When matches are abandoned, there is a period of **42 days** whereby charges can be raised and adjudicated upon. In instances whereby a match is not abandoned, the time period for a charge to be raised and proven is **180 days**, although a number of cases are closed within this timeframe.

Notes: *Standard code of rules & standard code of rules for Youth



For more information or support,
please contact your local County FA