



MEDIA RELEASE

UNDER EMBARGO UNTIL 00:01 TUESDAY 30 JULY 2019

'SIN BINS' TO BE INTRODUCED ACROSS GRASSROOTS FOOTBALL FROM 2019-20 SEASON

- Temporary dismissals – also known as 'sin bins' – will be introduced across all levels of grassroots football from next season
- Player dissent will result in 10-minute temporary dismissals from the pitch
- The decision follows research of over 135,000 matches and a successful two-season pilot phase, which saw a 38% reduction in dissent across 31 participating leagues

The Football Association [The FA] has today announced that temporary dismissals, also known as sin bins, will be introduced across all levels of grassroots football from the start of the 2019/2020 season.

The mandatory rule change will be implemented up to Step 5 of the National League System and Tier 5 and below in women's football. Sin bins of 10 minutes will be issued at the discretion of referees as punishment for dissent, and will apply to all levels of grassroots football, including youth, veterans, and disability.

The FA successfully piloted sin bins across 31 leagues during the 2017-18 and 2018-19 seasons as part of its commitment to improve the match day experience for all. After gathering positive feedback from players, referees and coaches, The FA will now roll out sin bins across all leagues at grassroots level in a bid to increase participation and to continue improving match day experiences for all.

Mark Bullingham, Chief Commercial & Football Development Officer, said: "The introduction of sin bins is a positive step for grassroots football. They empower referees to issue punishment for dissent offences which will be served immediately.

"Dissent can either be by word or action and is an expression of disagreement with a referee's decision making. It is an entirely unnecessary and ugly part of football, and our pilot phase showed that sin bins encourage players to be aware of their own actions and act as a greater deterrent to repeat offensive behaviour, which will improve the game for everyone involved."

Across the two-season trial period, results showed:

- 25 of 31 leagues showed an overall reduction in dissent
- 38% total reduction in dissent across all leagues



- 72% of players, 77% of managers/coaches, and 84% of referees want to continue with sin bins after the trial period.

Sin bins will be indicated by the referee showing a yellow card and clearly pointing with both arms to the side lines. This will result in a 10-minute dismissal from the pitch during which time the player is not allowed to be substituted or involved in the game in any way.

Unlike cautions, which will continue to be issued for unsporting behaviour and foul play, players will not be required to pay the £10 administration fee for temporary dismissals.

A second temporary dismissal in a match will result in the offending player being dismissed for a further 10 minutes, after which they may not re-join the match, but may then be substituted if the team has substitutions remaining.

County FAs will offer training to referees while all participating club secretaries and players will receive a guide.

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For further information, please contact:

Aaron Bains

Corporate Communications Manager

Aaron.Bains@TheFA.com / 07891 610599

About The FA

The Football Association [The FA] is the not-for-profit governing body of football in England. It is responsible for promoting and developing every level of the game, from grassroots through to the professional game, and successfully generates enough revenue to support the investment of £180m into English football each year.

The FA oversees 28 England international teams, across men's, women's, youth and disability football, as well as running FA Competitions, including the Emirates FA Cup and SSE Women's FA Cup, and the world-class facilities of Wembley Stadium and St. George's Park, all with a purpose to Unite the Game and Inspire the Nation.