



Surrey FA – Discipline League Meeting

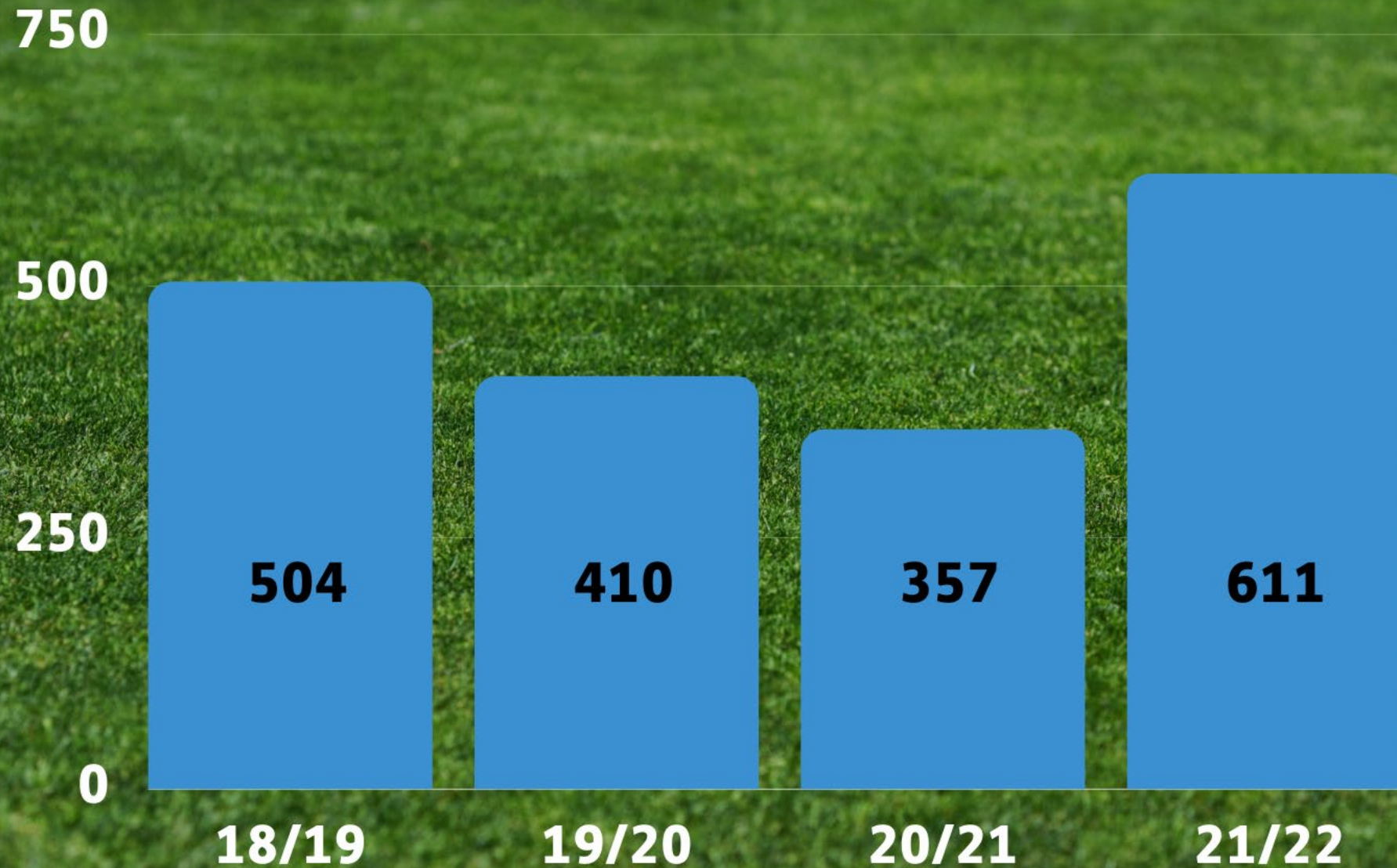
Monday 3rd December

Referee statistics



- We have seen statistics that show that 93.7% of football match officials had been physically or verbally abused during a match
- Further statistics also highlighted that nine in ten referees said they had been verbally abused, with 59.7% experiencing some form of abuse every two games.
- For example, around 55% of officials in cricket and rugby said they experienced abuse while in charge of a match.
- Re-registration of referees was down 31% from last season
- With a 24% loss of referees in 2021/22
- “approximately 8,000 matches being played without a referee” per season.

Investigations (2018 – June 2022)



Discipline case overview

	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22
Investigations (Youth / Adults)	410 (209/201)	357 (147/210)	611 (272/339)
Abandoned Games	37	59	62
Referee Assault	3	5	2
Referee Physical Assault	3	9	4
Referee Threats	13	1	36
Charges Success	89.23%	92.94%	91.56%



DISCIPLINE

2021-22 SEASON



611
MISCONDUCT
CHARGES



111 CHARGES
AGAINST
SPECTATORS



♀=♂
62

DISCRIMINATION
CASES



36
REFEREE
THREAT OR
CONTACT



25%
OF RED CARDS
ARE FOR ABUSE



61
ABUSE CHARGES
TO REFEREES U18



119
NON-PLAYING
PARTICIPANT
SANCTIONS



1178
SIN BINS



62 ABANDONED
GAMES



SURREY FA





ENGLAND
FOOTBALL

SURREY FA IS PROVIDING THIS UPDATE AS A RESULT OF A SERIES OF UNACCEPTABLE INCIDENTS TAKING PLACE IN LOCAL GRASSROOTS FOOTBALL SO FAR IN THE 2021/22 SEASON

PLEASE NOTE: Some of the content below contains expletives, inappropriate language and discriminatory comments.

Abusive behaviour within football towards anyone is totally unacceptable. To be clear: **no matter how good, bad or indifferent you think a referees' performance is, this does not give you any right whatsoever to approach a referee or make abusive comments.** A referee will make mistakes, just like the player who misplaces a pass or misses an open goal.

The following are real examples of incidents that we have recently dealt with. The sanctions issued are determined by The Football Association (FA) in line with Disciplinary Regulations. Any match-based suspensions are from All Football until the team that the offenders were participating for have completed the relevant number of matches.

- 1** Player has grabbed hold of the Referee and threatened to strike him - **The player received £100 fine & 182 day ban.**
- 2** After the conclusion of a match a player sent the Referee a very explicit picture message whilst criticising his performance - **The player received £60 fine & 6 match ban.**
- 3** A player has slapped the Referees card out of his hand when being shown a red - **The player received £100 fine & 182 day ban.**
- 4** Player threatened to break the Referees legs - **The player received £70 fine & 82 day ban.**
- 5** Club A charged with failing to control their spectators for comments such as "Faggott" - **Case proven £200 fine and online education issued to club reps.**
- 6** Participant has threatened referee with comments such as "you'll be lucky to get out of the park to see your wife and kids" - **Case proven 147 day ban £90 fine**
- 7** Manager has verbally threatened a player threatening to "smash his head in" - **Case found proven 6 match ground ban & £75 fine**
- 8** An U11 match abandoned due to a coach confronting an opposing player on field of play and then parent of player becoming involved. **Both clubs charged and case found proven fines totalling £180.**
- 9** Parent spectator has verbally threatened referee to break his "Fu***g legs" - **Case found proven £70**
- 10** Player A has made a comment to referee of a homophobic nature – Case proven 6 match ban and an online education course to be undertaken.

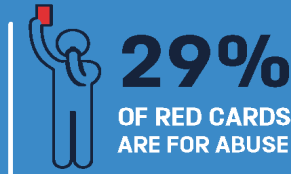
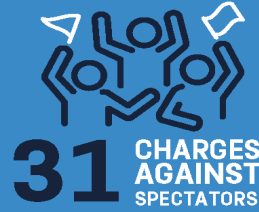
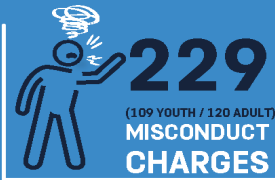




ENGLAND FOOTBALL

DISCIPLINE

2022-23 SEASON SO FAR



SURREY FA



Online Hate

Surrey FA have noticed an increase in discriminatory comments on social networking sites relating to football, Surrey FA wish to issue a reminder to anyone using social media.

Please see reminders below:

- This reminder **applies to all participants**, that any comment they make which is offensive, threatening, violent will result in action being taken against them by Surrey FA.
- **To clarify a participant is a player, referee, coach, parent, club official or any other individual who has an active involvement** with football.
- Participants are responsible for any comments or posts that are associated with their account.
- **Clubs and Leagues are responsible for all content of their own websites and accounts**, and if comments cannot be traced back to an individual, the club or league will be held accountable for these.



Online Hate

Cases involving media comments or comments made on social networking sites are charged under FA Rule E3(1). Should the comments include a reference to any one or more of a person or person's ethnic origin, colour, race, nationality, faith, gender, sexual orientation or disability, these are considered 'aggravating factors' and FA Rule E3(2) may apply. This allows for a Regulatory Commission to consider the imposition of a doubled sanction.

- Things to consider:
- Code of conducts
 - Social media footprints
 - Retweeting or reposting



Club Referee

- **SCORY Rule 23(b) - "where an official referee isn't appointed, the agreed individual has the full powers, status and authority of a registered referee"**
- **FA Handbook Reg 13 - "Referees must submit a report to the relevant Affiliated Association within two days of the Match (excluding Sundays) stating the cautionable, sending-off offences and/or extraordinary incidents"**
- **Review of the Refereeing pages on Surrey FA.com currently under review**
- **Youth referees can only officiate age groups below their current age, for example:**
 - **16 yr old can referee U15s & below**
 - **14 yr old can referee U13's & below**



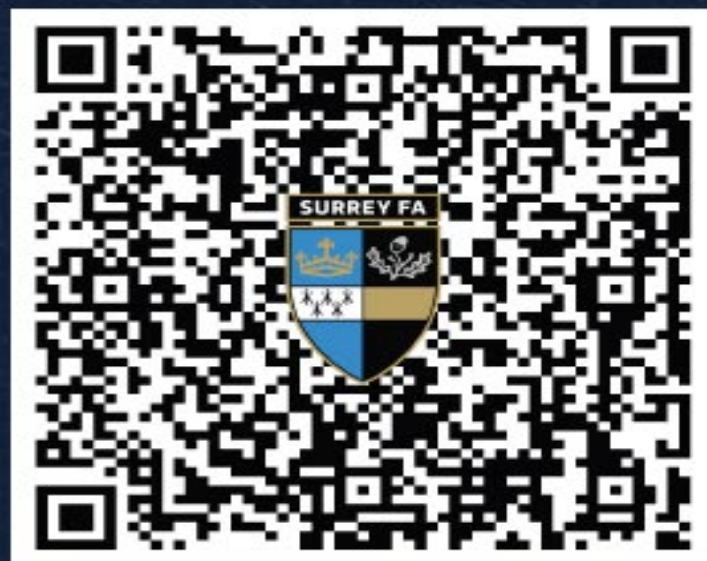
Responsibilities

The Referee:

- enforces the Laws of the Game
- controls the match in cooperation with the other match officials
- acts as timekeeper
- keeps a record of the match and provides the appropriate authorities with a match report, including information on disciplinary action and any other incidents that occurred before, during or after the match
- supervises and/or indicates the restart of play
- ensures player safety



Discipline Report Form



If you have cautioned, sent off a player or abandoned the game, please provide necessary information via the form provided by Surrey FA. Accessible through the above QR code

Additional



We are often asked by Clubs and Club Referees who officiate games what responsibilities do they actually have when taking the whistle. The answer to this is very simple, yes.

Therefore, a Club Referee has exactly the same power when officiating to a qualified, registered Referee, and are also obliged to ensure that any disciplinary offences are reported to the County FA. It is extremely important to report discipline, as it will help us to ensure that poor behaviour is dealt with appropriately in line with FA Regulations.



FOOTBALL DESERVES BETTER. ENOUGH IS ENOUGH.



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, by supporting their decisions, and off the pitch, by providing a referee's changing room pre and post-game.
- Assist the referee by asking any parent or spectator who is demonstrating negative behaviours (for example excessive or aggressive shouting, arguing, or swearing) to leave the vicinity of the field of play. Please note that for any discriminatory abuse there is a separate process that must be followed. You can find out more information [here](#). The team officials are also responsible for taking the relevant action against the offending persons in support of the referee.
- Under certain circumstances, you may have the authority to remove individuals from membership of the club. Clubs should review their Articles and other membership documents in this respect.

AS A LEAGUE:

- Leagues below Step 6 of the National League System (NLS) should first work with clubs to address issues.
- However, if the issue persists at a particular club, you may consider the league rules (SCOR/SCORY Rule 12*) to assess whether there is a basis to remove the club from your membership for undesirable conduct (whilst ensuring all FA and league procedures are followed).
- At Steps 5 & 6 of the NLS, Leagues should consider what additional options are available to them within their Articles.
- Below Step 6 of the NLS and at Tier 3 and below of the Women's Football Pyramid, Member clubs can be put forward for a vote of expulsion within a Special General Meeting (SGM).
- A league may be able to refuse or terminate the registration of a player for repeated proven misconduct.
- This applies when a player has accumulated more

than 112 days of suspension or 10 matches in match-based discipline in any competition in a period of two years or less from the date of the first offence (SCOR/SCORY* Rule 18.G(iii)).

- Leagues can also refuse teams entry to invitational cup competitions.

AS 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.
- You should work with the referee when experiencing discriminatory abuse to ensure that the correct protocol is followed.

AS A REFEREE:

- You have the power to abandon the match due to the behaviour of the parent or spectator.
- When matches are abandoned (save for when prior dispensation is granted by The FA) there is a period of **28 days** whereby charges must be raised, and a Disciplinary Commission will consider the charge(s) within 14 days of the issuing of the charge. In instances whereby a match is not abandoned, the maximum time period for a charge to be raised and considered is **180 days**, although many cases are closed within this timeframe.

**Standard Code of Rules & Standard Code of Rules for Mini Soccer and Youth Football Competitions*