



Procedure – Implementation & Guidance

Procedure – Discipline Offences

From the commencement of season 2022/23 the Disciplinary System will be aligned with that of the Scottish FA's Disciplinary Procedures for on-field offences in terms of the application of suspensions and the appeals procedures.

The system will apply to all Scottish Junior FA matches.

Schedule of Offences

SENDING-OFF OFFENCES

A1	Serious Foul Play
A2	Violent Conduct
A3	Spitting at an opponent or any other person
A4	Denying the opposing team or an opponent a goal or an obvious goal scoring opportunity as defined by Law 12
A5	Offensive, insulting or abusive language and / or gestures
A6	Receiving a second caution in the same match

CAUTIONABLE OFFENCES

B1	Unsporting behaviour
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There are different circumstances when a player must be cautioned for unsporting behaviour which include, but are not limited to, when a player:

- Impedes an opponent with contact
- Recklessly trips or attempts to trip an opponent
- Recklessly tackles or challenges an opponent
- Recklessly kicks or attempts to kick an opponent
- Denies an opponent an obvious goal scoring opportunity as defined by Law 12
- Holds or pushes an opponent
- Commits an offence which interferes with or stops a promising attack outwith the penalty area
- Excessively celebrates the scoring of a goal as defined by Law 12
- Handles the ball deliberately
- Shows a lack of respect for the game
- Commits an act of simulation
- Commits any other offence(s) deemed by a match official to be unsporting behaviour.

B2	Dissent by word or action
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B3	Persistently offending against the Laws of the Game
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B4	Delaying the restart of play
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B5	Failing to respect the required distance at restart of play
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B6	Entering or re-entering or deliberately leaving the field of play without the referee's permission.
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Sanctions

SENDING-OFF OFFENCES

Any player sent off during a match shall be subject to the following automatic suspension/fine:

1	Serious Foul Play	2 games + £15 fine
2	Violent Conduct	
a)	Punching an opponent/attempting	2 games + £20 fine
b)	Kick an opponent/attempting	2 games + £15 fine
c)	Pushing an opponent/attempting	2 games + £10 fine
d)	Elbowing an opponent/attempting	2 games + £20 fine
e)	Head butting an opponent/attempting	2 games + £20 fine
f)	Stamping on opponent/attempting	2 games + £20 fine
g)	Others	2 games + £10 fine
3	Spitting at an Opponent or Any Other Person	2 games+£20 fine
4	Denying the Opposing Team or an Opponent a goal or an Obvious Goal Scoring Opportunity as Defined by Law 12	1 game + £10 fine
5	Offensive, Insulting or Abusive Language and/or Gestures	1 game + £10 fine
6	Receiving a Second Caution in the Same Match	1 game + £10 fine

All suspensions are effective immediately and shall apply to the club's next official match(es), in Regional Junior Leagues and Local/Inter Regional Cup Ties to relevant appeal procedures].

Any misconduct incurred and any suspensions generated in Scottish Junior Cup matches will only be served in the Scottish Junior Cup matches (i.e. either the next Round or the following season) and will not apply to any League or Domestic Cup competitions.

CAUTIONABLE OFFENCES (LEAGUE)

The following sanctions shall be applied for the accumulation of cautionable offences within the relevant league competition:

5 cautions	1 game + £10 fine
10 cautions	2 games + £10 fine
15 cautions	3 games + £10 fine
16 cautions	dealt with by Regional Committee

Suspensions shall be effective from the 14th day following the 5th/10th/15th caution, as appropriate, and shall apply to all SJFA matches.

N.B. Cautions which result in a sending-off for receiving a second caution in the same match will not be added to a player's cumulative total of cautions.

CAUTIONABLE OFFENCES (CUP)

The following sanctions shall be applied for cautions incurred within SJFA Cup Competitions (and shall not be recorded in a players' league cumulative total):

- Domestic Cup Tie - £5 fine per caution
- Scottish Junior Cup - £10 fine per caution
- Scottish Junior Cup - Double caution £10 plus 1 game

Reporting of Offences

After each match, the Referee will submit a report online showing:

- The Player's number – the player's name – the offence number
- The Official – name & position



ON FIELD DISCIPLINE / APPEALS

Procedure – Implementation & Guidance

Season 2023/24

Appeals

Please note that all appeals must be accompanied by video evidence of the incident or the Appeal shall not be permitted.

Appeals may be submitted on the grounds of either Mistaken Identity or Wrongful Dismissal or Wrongful Caution as follows:

APPEAL - MISTAKEN IDENTITY

An appeal on the grounds of Mistaken Identity may be submitted in respect of any cautionable or sending-off offence listed within the Schedule of Offences.

In all Mistaken Identity Appeals the name of true perpetrator of the offence must be named as part of the Appeal or it will not proceed.

APPEAL – WRONGFUL DISMISSAL OR CAUTION

An appeal on the grounds of Wrongful Dismissal or Caution may be submitted **only** in respect of the following offences:

- A1 Serious Foul Play
- A2 Violent Conduct
- A3 Spitting at an Opponent or Any Other Person
- A4 Denying the Opposing Team or an Opponent a goal or an Obvious Goal Scoring Opportunity as Defined by Law 12
- B1k Commits an act of simulation

PROCEDURE

All Appeals must be lodged with the nominated Regional Official or, in the case of the Scottish Junior Cup, with the SJFA Assistant Secretary, within 2 working days of the game (no later than 5.00pm) and accompanied by relevant supporting documentation and evidence.

The Region/Association/Club can access a full report via the Club Admin System. On receipt of a properly lodged Appeal, the automatic suspension will be lifted. Such Appeal will be heard by the appropriate Committee as soon as possible and, generally, before the club's next match.

If the Appeal is upheld, the offence and resultant sanction will be quashed and the Appeal fee shall not become payable.

If the Appeal is dismissed, the Committee will deal with the Player/Official on the merits of the incident, the appropriate sanction will become effective immediately, and the Appeal fee shall become payable.

In the event that an Appeal submitted to the Region or the SJFA has not been determined prior to the player / club's participation in the Scottish Senior Cup or the Pyramid Play-offs, such player shall not be eligible to participate in those fixtures.

For all on-field Standard Offences, as above, the decision of the Regional and SJFA Committees will be final and binding.

NB Appeals considered to be of a frivolous nature or an attempt to circumvent the discipline procedure may be dealt with by way of an additional suspension/financial penalty. In these circumstances the applicant may also be responsible for the cost, or part thereof, of convening any meeting.

Team Staff Misconduct

Technical/Coaching Staff & Officials who are removed from the Technical Area or reported by a Match Official shall be automatically fined £50 subject to the right of appeal. In the event of a second offence being committed in the same season, a fine of £50 + 2 game ban will apply, third offence £50 + 3 game ban.

Technical/Coaching Staff & Officials who receive a caution by a Match Official, these will be accumulated over the season (across all competitions) the sanctions will be 4 Cautions – 1 match ban; 8 cautions – 2 match ban; 12 cautions – 3 match ban; 16 cautions and above will be dealt with SJFA/Region Committee.

If the offence is of a serious nature, the Committee will reserve the right to increase the punishment to reflect the seriousness of the offence.

The Official has 5 days to submit an appeal.

Excessive Misconduct

Where match officials submit an Excessive Misconduct Report then the Regional Official or SJFA Secretary will write to the player / official via the club requesting their comments / observations on the report and the matter will be dealt with at the next scheduled meeting.

Appeal Fee

ON-FIELD OFFENCES

An appeal fee of £25 will become payable in the event of the appeal being dismissed.

TEAM STAFF OFFENCES

An appeal fee of £25 will become payable in the event of the appeal being dismissed.

Guidance Notes

- Please note, suspensions will apply to all fixtures including Scottish Senior Cup tie & Pyramid play-offs.
- All fines and suspensions incurred under the accumulation of cautions will be notified to the player via the club.
- It is the responsibility of the club to ensure the player / Official, etc. complies with the ordering off system.
- All fines must be paid within 7 days.
- Players reported for "off the field" offences will be dealt with as previously by the appropriate Committee
- Serious offences to be dealt with on their merit by the appropriate Committee (i.e. both players & team officials.)
- Any player who accumulates 3 red cards during the season for the offences A1, A2, A3 and/or A5 will have subsequent suspensions and fines doubled.

Alex McDowall
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Scottish Junior F.A.

September 2023