



SCOTTISH COMMUNITIES CUP

ON FIELD DISCIPLINE / APPEALS

Procedure – Implementation & Guidance

Season 2025/26

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

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

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 Scottish Communities Cup. Misconduct incurring and any suspensions generated in Scottish Communities Cup matches will only be served in the Scottish Communities 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

The following sanctions shall be applied for cautions incurred within Scottish Communities Cup:

- £10 fine per caution
- Double caution £10 plus 1 game

SEMI-FINAL & Final CUP TIES

The fines in the above ties are increased.

Semi Final	£50 per Caution	
Semi Final	£100 per Red Card	Plus appropriate Suspension as above
Final	£100 per Caution	
Final	£200 per Red Card	Plus appropriate Suspension as above



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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 Scottish Communities FA Discipline Secretary, within 2 working days of the game (no later than 5.00pm) and accompanied by relevant supporting documentation and evidence and appeal fee.

The Club can access a full report via the Comet 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 Scottish Communities Cup next match.

If the Appeal is upheld, the offence and resultant sanction will be quashed and the Appeal fee shall be returned.

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 be retained.

For all on-field Standard Offences, as above, the decision of the Scottish Community FA Committee shall 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.

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.

Any Club Official removed from the Technical Area by a Match Official should move out with a minimum radius of 30 metres of the Technical Area. They are then not permitted to continue coaching or shouting instructions to players, etc. and must not be in the vicinity of the changing rooms (including access ways) prior to and during half-time and full-time.

Any Official serving a suspension is not permitted to enter the changing room or the confines of the playing surface for one hour before until one hour after the game.

Excessive Misconduct

Where match officials submit an Excessive Misconduct Report then the Scottish Community FA Discipline 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 £50 should be submitted with appeal in the event of the appeal being dismissed this will be returned.

TEAM STAFF OFFENCES

An appeal fee of £50 will become payable in the event of the appeal being dismissed.

Guidance Notes

- Please note, suspensions will apply only to Scottish Communities Cup.
- All fines and suspensions incurred 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, or they may be doubled.
- 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.)
- All fines and suspensions can be accessed through Comet System.

John Fyfe
Discipline Secretary
Scottish Communities F.A.

August 2025