

OLD WOKINGIANS FOOTBALL CLUB - DISCIPLINARY CODE – May 2019

PURPOSE

- Amateur Football Combination rule 23f requires all clubs to have an internal Disciplinary Code, to ensure the good name of the club and to maintain the standards of discipline expected within the AFC. The code also gives the club's players clear guidance as to the standards expected of them, and clarity as to the punishments they can expect if they transgress.
- The purpose of this Disciplinary Code is therefore to deal speedily with misconduct and to reduce the number of offences by illustrating to the membership the seriousness with which the Club Committee view discipline.

The Club Disciplinary Sub-Committee (The "Disciplinary Sub-Committee (DSC)")

The Disciplinary Sub-Committee shall consist of three members of the Club, being the Club Secretary (or Chair or Vice Chair) who shall chair the meetings of the DSC, and a minimum of two others at the Club Secretary's (or Chair's or Vice Chair's) discretion. Ideally this will include the Team Captain of the offending player (or another player/spectator, as witness) and one other Committee Member.

PROCEDURE

- a) All disciplinary offences must be reported to the Club Secretary immediately (i.e. ideally the same day as the offence). This can be verbally, however written (via text or email) should be undertaken, if either party does not make it back to the Clubhouse; and in all cases must be reported by 6.00pm the next day. They will then be dealt with in accordance with the scale of fines and suspensions set by the Club Committee.
- b) The Club Secretary will notify the Team Captain and the player of the fine and/or suspension of the player, as dictated by the current scale of fines and suspensions.
- c) There is no right of appeal against yellow cards except on the ground of mistaken identity.
- d) In the case of a red card, the player may appeal to the County FA (AFA), on payment of the appropriate fee by the player (currently £50), on the grounds of mistaken identity or where the player alleges the referee has made an obvious error.
- e) Where an appeal to the County FA (AFA) against a red card is proposed by the player, the DSC will consider the case. The DSC will decide whether to support the appeal and may recommend to the full Club Committee a variation of the Club fine or suspension set out in the current scale.

f) In the case of a Misconduct Charge being brought against a player (or the Club), the DSC will manage the Club's position, reporting to the full Club Committee and liaising with the player(s) where relevant.

g) An offending player who does not pay to the Club, when required, any fine imposed upon him either by the County FA (AFA) or under this Code by the Club, shall not play for the Club again until the fine has been paid in full.

h) The scale of suspensions and fines under this Code will be agreed at the Club AGM, though may be varied from time to time by the Club Committee if required.

i) The Club Secretary shall advise the Club Treasurer of any offence where the payment of a fine to the club is involved and the Club Treasurer shall ensure the fine is paid.

j) The DSC shall advise the Chairman/Vice Chairman/ Team Secretary and Team Captains in order that any player suspended under this Code or who may not have paid his fine, is made UNAVAILABLE FOR SELECTION until the ban is served in full and /or the fine paid.

k) The DSC shall advise the Club Committee of all offences, sanctions and appeals made under this Code.

l) If a player is suspended, he will miss the required number of matches playable by the team in which he normally plays. If there is any doubt as to the identity of that team, the DSC will make the final ruling on the point.

Misconduct and Red Card Appeals

The DSC will deal with all Misconduct Charges and with any appeals against red cards.

The DSC will meet at the first available opportunity following the offence, preferably the same day, although in some cases it may be advisable to wait for the referee's report from the County FA. The Team Captain will advise the player to make himself available for the meeting.

The meeting will take the following form;

1) The Team Captain on the day and any other key witness(es) will give their accounts of the incident to the DSC, who will discuss the case in private.

2) The offending player will then be invited to give his version of the incident, if he wishes to.

3) The DSC will further discuss the incident and reach a decision.

4) The offending player will be advised of the DSC decision and any final observations will be made.

The offending player will not be present at stages 1) and 3). All the above proceedings shall be dealt with verbally, unless any of the members involved wish to submit written reports.

The offending player will have the right to appeal to the full Club Committee if he is dissatisfied with the DSC's handling of the case. However, frivolous appeals may result in a harsher penalty!

OLD WOKINGIANS FC DISCIPLINARY CODE
SCALE OF FINES AND SUSPENSIONS – May 2019

1. CAUTIONS

The following items a) to d) **INCLUDE ANY FINES OR SUSPENSIONS** SET BY THE COUNTY FA (AFA)

CAUTIONS IN THE SAME SEASON		FINE	SUSPENSION
a) First Caution	i) For dissent...	£20	NONE
	ii) For any other offence...	£10	NONE
b) Second Caution	i) Both cautions for dissent...	£20	1 MATCH
	ii) Second yellow is for any other offence...	£10	NONE
	iii) Second caution is for dissent...	£20	NONE

c) Third and Fourth..... A **£20 fine** will apply for each of the 3rd and 4th cautions plus, in each case, a **TWO MATCH, OR ONE MATCH SUSPENSION FOR EACH DISSENT CAUTION THIS SEASON - (whichever is the longer ban).**

d) Fifth Caution A **£20 fine** plus **SUSPENSION TO THE END OF THE SEASON (or 8 WEEKS, if longer, with any unserved balance at the end of the season to be carried over into the following season).**

2. DISMISSAL/MISCONDUCT CHARGES

The following items e) to h) **ARE IN ADDITION TO SANCTIONS IMPOSED BY THE COUNTY FA (AFA)**

a) Sending offs carrying **three** AFA disciplinary points (e.g. two cautions, preventing an obvious goal-scoring opportunity)**£20 fine and a warning** that a further sending off offence will result in suspension to the end of the season (or 8 weeks as per (1d) above).

b) Sending offs carrying **four** AFA disciplinary points (e.g. use of offensive, insulting or abusive language)**£20 fine plus a club suspension of TWO MATCHES** and a warning as per that described in (a) above.

c) Offences carrying **five** AFA disciplinary points (e.g. Serious Foul Play, minimum for Misconduct Charges)**£20 fine plus a club suspension of BETWEEN TWO & FIVE MATCHES** and a warning as per that described in (a) above.

d) Offences carrying **six or seven** AFA disciplinary points (e.g. violent conduct, spitting at an opponent)**£20 fine plus a club suspension UNTIL AT LEAST THE END OF THE SEASON WITH A REVIEW AT THE AGM TO DECIDE ON EXPULSION OR NOT.**

NOTE: AFA Suspensions – Qualifying Matches re suspension are defined as stated on Page 201 s11.3 of the AFA Handbook (page follows). OWFC will use these definitions an all cases.

(b) **PLAYERS SENT OFF UNDER LAW 12**

A player dismissed from the Field of Play will be suspended automatically from Friendly Matches until such time as his Club has completed its next Friendly Match, as decided by the relevant County Football Association.

(c) **RULE E1 OF THE ASSOCIATION**

A charge of Misconduct pursuant to Rule E1 of the Rules of The Association may be brought against a Player in relation to any incident arising in a Friendly Match notwithstanding that the same incident has been dealt with pursuant to this Memorandum. A Disciplinary Commission considering a charge under Rule E1 in such circumstances shall have regard to any punishment imposed under this Memorandum, and any suspension imposed will be from playing all football.

B. COMPETITIVE MATCHES

11.1 Any period of suspension automatically imposed for a dismissal from the field of play will commence 14 days from the date of the offence irrespective of whether paperwork has been received from the relevant Association. The suspension will be complete once the Player's team has completed the appropriate number of matches, in approved competitions, according to the suspension as defined below under 11.3. In respect to County FA and League Representative football, any suspensions will be from Representative football only and not any other level of football unless a Disciplinary Commission has specified that the suspension is to be from all football.

11.2 Any period of suspension automatically imposed as a result of cautions under 11.4 will commence 14 days from the date of the last offence irrespective of whether paperwork has been received from the relevant Association. The suspension will be complete once the Player's team has completed the appropriate number of matches, in approved competitions, according to the suspension as defined below under 11.3.

11.3 The matches that can be used to clear a Player of suspension are those to be played in a domestic competition organised by The Football Association (including The FA Challenge Cup, and The FA Vase and FA Sunday Cup), the League in which the Team play (including their League Cup(s)) and the Team's County Cup Competitions. In addition, any Competition in which a Club participates may also be considered providing that such a Competition has been designated as a qualifying competition by the sanctioning authority prior to the commencement of the season.

During periods of automatic suspension, the Player is suspended from playing only for the day type category that the Player's team usually plays in (including friendly matches and other Cup Competitions). If the suspension is for a Saturday team, the suspension is from all Saturday team football (including midweek fixtures) only and if for a Sunday team, for all Sunday team football only (including midweek fixtures). If the suspension is as a result of a misconduct charge, during the whole period of suspension the Player is suspended from playing all football (including friendly matches and other Cup Competitions). The categories of football affected by this regulation are Saturday, Sunday, Midweek, Veterans and Representative football. This will be deemed to be a suspension from playing only, unless specified otherwise by a Disciplinary Commission.

In exceptional cases where an application has been made to the County FA by the participant that the suspension from all football is considered as being disproportionately harsh due to the period taken to serve the suspension in relation to the other categories of football, the matter may be reviewed only by The Football Association and may then be amended to a category type suspension, at the Football Association's discretion.