



Broomfield Football Club - Protocol for dealing with abusive behaviour aimed at Players, Managers, Coaches or Match Officials by Spectators

This protocol specifically aims to deal with the match day process for match officials where discriminatory behaviour by spectators is witnessed at football matches at Broomfield FC. It is not intended to go into the wider details of what constitutes abusive behaviour, nor the investigation process or the full procedure for dealing with incidents of discrimination or abuse.

This protocol applies specifically where incidents are witnessed by players, managers, coaches, club or match officials on Broomfield FC home pitches. It aims to ensure that any abusive behaviour directed at players, managers, coaches or match officials is effectively addressed and that Players and Match Officials feel protected. Offenders should be identified and dealt with efficiently by Broomfield FC whilst ensuring that the match, where possible, is not unduly interrupted.

- The incident should in the first instance be brought to the attention of the match referee during a break in play.
 - The match referee should report the incident to a relevant responsible Broomfield FC club representative. The identity of that club representative will vary game to game and the match official will determine the best person from the club to assume this responsibility and is likely to be the Home Team Manager, or any other Club Official (Senior Executive Committee Member) present on the day.
 - The club representative should seek to identify the person/people responsible and take appropriate action while the match continues in order to stop the abusive behaviour. This may result in the individual being asked to leave the football club by a Club Representative*. It should be noted that Broomfield Football Club is private property and we reserve the right to ask any individual to leave the football club if their behaviour does not meet our expectations.
 - If, within an amount of time agreed by the match referee to the club representative, the problem continues, the referee may remove the players from the field and suspend the match, allowing the club representative a further opportunity to deal with the problem.
 - If in the opinion of the match referee the matter cannot be dealt with satisfactorily and the welfare of any participants, in terms of the threat of continued abuse, remains at risk, the match referee should consider abandoning the match.
 - Any decision to suspend or abandon a match **should be taken solely by the match referee** after full consultation where deemed appropriate with both team managers and captains.

Whilst this protocol is aimed at incidents of discriminatory or abusive behaviour by spectators, the match referee must report all incidents brought to their attention to Essex County Football Association as an extraordinary incident even if they themselves did not hear the abuse. Any person that witnesses any form of discriminatory or abusive behaviour should report the matter on match days immediately to the match referee and submit a follow up report to Essex County Football Association.

***A Club representative will be a Broomfield FC Team Manager, Coach or Club Official (including Respect Marshalls)**