



# Behaviour and Discipline Framework

Effective Date: 11 May 2026

## 1. Purpose

This Framework sets out how behaviour and disciplinary matters are managed within football under the jurisdiction of Football West.

Its purpose is to:

- clearly allocate responsibility between Clubs, Associations and Football West
- provide a practical process for managing behaviour that falls below expected standards
- ensure consistency, fairness and timely resolution of disciplinary matters.

This Framework does not replace the FA National Code of Conduct and Ethics or the Disciplinary and Grievance Regulations. It explains how those documents operate in practice at a Football West level.

## 2. Scope

This Framework applies to all participants, including players, coaches, officials, administrators, volunteers and spectators, involved in football activities sanctioned by Football West.

It applies to behaviour occurring:

- during a Match or Competition, or
- in connection with football activities where Football West has jurisdiction.

Integrity matters and safeguarding concerns are managed under separate Football West processes and are not dealt with under this Framework.

## 3. Behaviour Standards

Expected standards of behaviour are set out in:

- FA National Code of Conduct and Ethics
- Football West Disciplinary and Grievance Regulations
- Spectator Code of Behaviour.

All participants are expected to be familiar with, and comply with, these standards at all times. Where behaviour falls below these standards, action must be taken in accordance with this Framework.

## 4. Allocation of Responsibility

The default position is that behaviour issues are managed at the lowest appropriate level.

### 4.1 Clubs

Clubs are responsible for managing behaviour that:

- involves their own members only
- does not involve another Club or Association
- does not warrant Football West intervention.

Clubs must have processes in place to address misconduct promptly and fairly, including warnings, education, internal sanctions or referral to an Association where required.

### 4.2 Associations

Associations are responsible for managing behaviour that:

- occurs within competitions they administer

- involves members from more than one Club within their Association
- cannot be reasonably resolved at Club level.

#### 4.3 Football West

Football West will manage behaviour matters where:

- the conduct involves participants from different Associations or Clubs
- the behaviour is serious, repeated or escalatory
- the matter may bring the game into disrepute
- the matter cannot be appropriately dealt with at Club or Association level
- Football West intervention is otherwise required to protect participants or the integrity of competitions.

Football West may assume control of a matter at any stage if it considers this necessary.

Football West may also intervene where it considers a Club or Association has failed to appropriately manage, investigate or respond to a behaviour matter in accordance with applicable rules, regulations or expected standards.

Where appropriate, Football West may:

- implement interim measures in accordance with the Disciplinary and Grievance Regulations
- provide directions or recommendations to a Club or Association
- require reasonable corrective action or process improvements.

### 5. Reporting

Behaviour concerns should be raised as early as possible.

Where appropriate and safe, concerns should first be raised with the relevant Club or Association.

Formal reports to Football West must:

- relate to conduct within Football West's jurisdiction
- provide sufficient detail to allow assessment
- be submitted through the approved reporting channel.

Football West may decline to progress reports that are trivial, vexatious, out of jurisdiction or lack sufficient information.

### 6. Assessment and Process

When a matter is received by Football West, it will be assessed to determine:

- jurisdiction
- seriousness
- appropriate pathway (Club, Association or Football West).

Where Football West manages the matter, the process will generally include:

- preliminary assessment
- information gathering or investigation (if required)
- consideration under the applicable regulations
- determination and outcome
- communication of the decision

Procedural fairness will be afforded in accordance with the Disciplinary and Grievance Regulations.

## 7. Outcome and Sanctions

Where a breach is established, outcomes may include:

- education or corrective action
- warnings
- conditions on participation
- fines
- suspension or other sanctions permitted under the applicable regulations.

Sanctions will be proportionate to the conduct and consistent with comparable cases.

## 8. Interaction with Other Frameworks

This Framework does not apply to:

- safeguarding matters
- child safety concerns
- integrity matters (including match manipulation, betting or corruption).

These matters must be reported and managed under the relevant Football West Integrity or Safeguarding processes.

## 9. Review and Oversight

Football West will periodically review behaviour and disciplinary trends to ensure this Framework remains effective and fit for purpose.