

REGULATIONS GOVERNING ASSAULTS ON MATCH OFFICIALS

These Regulations shall apply at all levels of the game

1. PREFERRING A CHARGE OF ASSAULT

- 1.1 Upon receipt of a report from a Match Official detailing an alleged assault against him, the appropriate Disciplinary Body i.e. the Football Association of Wales or Area Association will, without delay:
 - 1.1.1 investigate the official's report and if the Disciplinary Body is satisfied that a prima facie case of assault against a match official can be made out against the alleged offender, shall,
 - 1.1.2 take the necessary steps to prefer a Charge of Assault against the alleged offender. Details of the charge shall be addressed specifically to the alleged offender and be sent by First Class post to the alleged offender's home address;
 - 1.1.3 forward a copy of the charge by First Class post to the alleged offender's club(s) and relevant league(s).
- 1.2 The alleged offender shall not participate in any football activity from the date when he is notified of the charge (verbally or in writing) until a Disciplinary Panel has heard and adjudicated on the matter.
- 1.3 In exceptional circumstances, the Disciplinary Body maybe in receipt of information (verbally or in writing) that an alleged assault has occurred and the particulars of the alleged incident are sufficiently serious to warrant immediate concern and therefore, immediate action. Under such circumstances, the Disciplinary Body may impose an immediate interim suspension on the player concerned prior to invoking 1.1 and 1.2 of these Regulations.
 - 1.3.1 In deciding to adopt this course of action, the Disciplinary Body must:-
 - 1.3.2 phone the relevant Club and establish, without delay, address and telephone contact details of the alleged offender; the Club should be informed of the suspension at this point;
 - 1.3.3 contact the alleged offender direct confirming the suspension and reasons for this course of action.
 - 1.3.4 A written report of the incident must be received from the Official concerned within two days of the match (excluding Sundays) and forwarded with a Charge of Assault to the player concerned as detailed under 1.1 of these Regulations.
 - 1.3.5 If the report is NOT received within two days, the Disciplinary Body must lift the suspension by means of contacting the Club and alleged offender direct and make appropriate enquiries with the Officials concerned. This action should be confirmed in writing to all parties.

2. CONDUCT OF THE HEARING

- 2.1 A Disciplinary Panel of the Disciplinary Body must be convened within 14 days as of the date of the letter detailing the Charge of Assault against the alleged offender.
- 2.2 The alleged offender shall be given a minimum of 8 days notice to attend the convened Disciplinary Panel hearing.
- 2.3 The hearing shall be conducted as set out under FAW Rules 28.1.6 – 28.1.14.
- 2.4 Having considered all the evidence available, the Disciplinary Panel shall have the discretion to determine whether the reported actions of the alleged offender constitute a lesser charge of misconduct as set out under FAW Rule 24.2.9.
- 2.5 The Disciplinary Panel will give a decision of proven or not proven at the convened hearing.
- 2.6 If the Charge of Assault is proven, the Disciplinary Panel will request mitigating factors from the offender and due consideration will be given to these factors when considering the level of penalty or sanction to impose.
- 2.7 Where practicably possible, the Disciplinary Panel shall give the penalty or sanction imposed at the conclusion of the hearing.
- 2.8 Whether or not the penalty or sanction is given at the conclusion of the hearing, the Disciplinary Body will confirm the category of assault and penalty or sanctions imposed in writing to the alleged offender within three working days as of the date of the hearing.
- 2.9 In the case of a proven Charge of Assault, any suspension imposed must commence from the date of any imposed interim suspension.
- 2.10 In the case of a lesser charge of misconduct being found proven, the Disciplinary Panel must only consider the penalty or sanctions appropriate to a charge of misconduct. In terms of a suspension being imposed on the alleged offender, consideration must be given to the matches missed as a result of the interim suspension.
- 2.11 If a Charge of Assault is found not proven, the Disciplinary Panel will lift the imposed interim suspension with immediate effect, and inform the alleged offender accordingly at the conclusion of the hearing.
- 2.12 A copy of the decision relating to the hearing must be forwarded to the Football Association of Wales within 5 days as of the date of the hearing.

3. CATEGORIES OF ASSAULT

- A. **Technical Assault** (where there is no element of contact between the offender and match official)

A Technical Assault will occur where a match official is intimidated or threatened with violence of any degree, whether or not there is

an intention to carry out the threat. Careless actions include, but are not limited to, the throwing or kicking of objects or substances or spitting towards a match official but where no contact is made with the said official.

B. Assault (whether or not causing bodily harm)

An assault in accordance with this category is defined as any circumstance of an aggressive nature where physical contact is made with an official whether or not any injury results. This category also includes, but is not limited to, the throwing or kicking of objects or substances or spitting towards the match official where the said object or substance or spit makes contact with the match official.

C. Assault Causing Serious Bodily Harm

An assault shall be regarded as causing serious bodily harm if the official suffers any serious injury, including but not limited to injury to limbs, bones or senses, cuts, bruises, burns or concussion. Serious bodily harm may occur whether or not the Official requires medical treatment or first aid but shall not include harm which at the reasonable discretion of the Disciplinary Panel is deemed bodily harm of a minor nature falling within Category B above.

The relevant category of Assault shall be determined at the entire discretion of the Disciplinary Panel utilising the definitions as set out above and in light of all relevant circumstances including factors particular to the person assaulted and the alleged offender.

4. RECOMMENDED SANCTIONS

A. Technical Assault

Maximum of 182 days suspension from all aspects of football and a minimum of £50.00 fine.

B. Assault (whether or not causing bodily harm)

Maximum of two years suspension from all aspects of football and a minimum of £75.00 fine.

C. Assault causing Serious Bodily Harm

Sine Die suspension with no review to be considered under a period of 5 years and a minimum of £100.00 fine.

In deciding the level of the penalty or sanction within the ranges provided above, the Disciplinary Panel will take in to account all of the circumstances of the case including the subsequent behaviour of the two parties involved and any mitigating evidence put forward.

