



FOOTBALL FEDERATION SA

Procedures and Policies

Subject:	Procedure for Match Officials to Address Inappropriate Sporting Behaviour		
		Date Implemented	Feb 2009
	<i>This policy will be reviewed annually.</i>	Date Amended	Feb 2013

Rationale

Everyone that participates in sport has the right to feel safe and to be treated fairly and with respect. It is the responsibility of all sporting clubs and organizations to ensure that participants act within the rules and spirit of the game, officials and coaches are treated with respect and spectators support in a positive environment.

To assist all clubs and affiliated associations the Football Federation SA have developed a Respect Program. This program provides a range of resources for clubs and affiliated associations to implement to develop a safe and enjoyable environment for all.

To create a positive environment for everyone that participates in the sport, the Football Federation SA (FFSA) have also developed this policy to address the use of Offensive, Abusive or Insulting Language as outlined in the Football Federation Australia (FFA) Disciplinary Regulations.

These procedures are to be implemented by match officials to address the use of inappropriate sporting behaviour at all games under the jurisdiction of the FFSA.

Procedure to Address Inappropriate Sporting Behaviour:

1. The following actions should not be tolerated at any sanctioned FFSA Games:
 - a. Offensive, Abusive or Insulting Language
 - b. Discrimination and harassing behaviour
 - c. Violent conduct of any nature
2. If a match official is experiencing any Offensive, Abusive or Insulting Language from players or club officials they are to implement the required sanctions as outlined in the Laws of the Games.
3. If a match official is experiencing Offensive, Abusive or Insulting Language from any other person where on field sanctions cannot be applied, in the first instance it must be brought to the attention of a club official and/or ground steward who is required to address the behaviour with the person.
4. If the behaviour continues, the match official will provide the club official and/or ground stewards with a further opportunity to address the inappropriate behaviour.
5. If the match official has exhausted both of these avenues and no resolution has been achieved and inappropriate behaviour continues, the match official will abandon the game.

6. If the game is abandon the match official must submit a report into the FFSA within 48 hours outlining the reasons for terminating the game and also identifying the people they believe were displaying inappropriate behaviour.
7. On receipt of the report, FFSA will investigate the incident. A report will be required from the clubs participating in the game and all match officials that attended the game.
8. Following the investigation the following action may be taken:
 - a. A club may be deemed to be guilty of inappropriate behaviour and the relevant Competition Rules and Regulations and Operating Guidelines applied.
 - b. The matter may be referred to the Disciplinary Committee for adjudication.