

New Match Officials Policy

Intent

This policy is to protect new referees from abuse and threat and encourage the participation and development of new referees into the FFNT system.

Associated Policies

1. FFA Code of Conduct
2. FFNT Code of Behavior
3. FIFA Laws of the Game

Rationale

The FFNT requires competent active match officials to adjudicate competition fixtures. New referees need to be trained and developed to supply adequate numbers of match officials to Zone competitions. Currently football is losing more match officials than the number joining. Intimidation, abuse and threatening behavior are the most common reasons for match officials leaving football. This policy has been developed to protect current referees and encourage new referees to participate in an enjoyable and harassment free environment.

Responsibilities

FFNT

- Promote refereeing as a sport to youth and adults alike who do not wish to play but still want an active involvement in football.
- Oversee application of this policy
- Monitor Zones responses to send off reports and reports of misconduct.
- Provide financial support for the development of referees.

Zones

- Ensure appropriate behavior of players, spectators and officials at all venues.
- Apply appropriate sanctions to players, officials and spectators who breach this policy and / or the associated policies as identified above.
- Report breaches of this policy to FFNT

Referees Standing Committee

- Ensure appropriate training and learning opportunities for developing new referees.
- Mentor and support new referees.
- Ensure adequate number of qualified match officials.

Clubs

- Encourage members aged 13 years and above to attend a referees course and officiate at junior matches.
- Support this policy and the associated policies as identified above.
- Apply appropriate sanctions to club members breaching this policy and associated policies as identified above.
- Report breaches of this policy to the FFNT and Zone committee

Actions

- All new referees to wear a different officiating top or bib so as to be easily identified as a "New Referee".
- Appropriately qualified senior referee to be in attendance at each new referee match to provide support and mentoring.
- Appropriately qualified senior referee to undertake regular assessment and feedback to each new referee with a minimum of three assessments each season.

Penalties

The following penalties are in place for any person who intimidates, abuses or threatens a “new referee” either on the field, pre or post game at the field or in the car park or surrounding areas. Any intimidation, abuse or threatening behavior outside the control of FFNT will be immediately forwarded to Police for further investigation.

Players

- Any player who intimidates abuses or threatens a “new referee” will be immediately issued a red card and will be suspended for a period of two weeks.
- Any player who intimidates abuses or threatens a “new referee” and has previously received a red card for this action in the current season will receive a red card and will be suspended for a period of three weeks and will also be required to undertake a “Laws of the Game” course before that player is permitted to play again.

Coaches / Team Officials

- A coach or team official who intimidates, abuses or threatens a “new referee” will be immediately suspended from the technical area.
- A coach or team official who intimidates, abuses or threatens a “new referee” and has previously been removed from the technical area for the same offence in that season will receive an automatic three week suspension from the technical area.

Supporters

- A supporter who intimidates abuses or threatens a “new referee” will be immediately evicted from the grounds.
- A supporter who intimidates abuses or threatens a “new referee” and has previously been removed from the grounds for the same offence in that season will be prohibited from entering that ground for a period of three weeks.

Distribution

This policy will be distributed to all zones and clubs and will also be issued by the senior referee to coaches before each game in which a “new referee” is officiating for the first four weeks of the 2011 season.

Recommendations

Clubs / Zones

- It is imperative that club coaches and referees communicate on a regular basis. Thus club coaches and referees are to meet on a monthly basis to discuss the progress of this policy and also to discuss any other issues. These meetings are to be chaired by the zones and attended by club coaches, referees and if requested FFNT representatives.

Review

This policy is to be reviewed at the completion of each season and a record of any suspensions kept and discussed at both the monthly meeting and the annual review.