

It has been made clear that our club is skating on very thin ice over the way certain people have been talking to match officials, this is to cease immediately and will not be tolerated under any circumstances in the future.

The level of personal abuse directed at officials on Friday was totally unprofessional and makes our club look mean spirited and pathetic; it goes without saying that this type of constant distraction to the officials will not help either grade or their chances for victory.

In accordance with the laws of our game;

Law 10(4)(s) states that:

“All players must respect the authority of the referee. They must not dispute the referee’s decisions. They must stop playing at once when the referee blows the whistle except at a kick-off or at a penalty kick following admonishment, temporary suspension, or send off.

**Penalty:** Penalty Kick”

Regardless of the player’s perception of the Referee’s ability, all Referees are to be afforded this respect.

a) The provisions of the Code of Conduct – *please note that verbally berating a Match Official by members of the Coaching Staff at half time or after the game is a breach of the Code of Conduct*

b) The requirement of everyone being back at least 5 metres back from the playing enclosure during a game applies to all members of the Coaching staff from your Club / Sub Union.

As of our next game the following protocol be in force;

- a. on the first detected occasion anyone in the crowd abuses or insults an official: **verbal warning** that the behaviour is unacceptable and any further occurrences will lead to that person being asked to leave the ground,
- b. on the second occasion: the person will be **ejected** from the ground,
- c. if the ejected person is a registered player or official of our club they will be directed to front the committee on the next Tuesday after the incident and give reasons why they should be allowed to remain in the club.