



Amateur Football Combination

Spirit of Football

www.amateurfootballcombination.com

President: A. MEYER, Esq.

Honorary Secretary: John Monk
Tel: 020 8366 7704

Chairman: J. BUTRESS, Esq.

5 Robson Close, Enfield, Middlesex, EN2 8PZ
secretary@amateurfootballcombination.com

Danny McConnell
PO Box 605
Bromley
Kent, BR2 0ND
Tel: 020 8325 2448
E-Mail: danny@pbmsports.com

AFC Discipline

Introduction

One of the core values that we cherish within the Amateur Football Combination is good discipline, whether it be from players, spectators or other participants. It is a fundamental part of our Spirit of Football campaign, and key to the whole ethos of how we play our football on a Saturday afternoon.

Over the last few weeks a number of changes have been made to the AFC Website through our Sin Bin & Discipline section, and the purpose of this letter is to draw the attention of these to clubs.

AFA Current Suspensions

The AFA (Amateur Football Alliance, the Parent County for most of our clubs) are now publishing regularly on their website details of participants who are currently banned from football. One can find a similar link on the FA website for the leagues whose discipline they handle (Premiership, Football League, Conference etc) and many other counties (Hampshire and Birmingham, to name two examples) even manage to get these lists published in the local newspapers (not really practical for the Amateur Football Combination of course).

Simply put, if a player or other participant is given a ban by the county, he or she should abide by it, and if he fails to do so, the club concerned should expect to be punished accordingly, with further bans and fines from the County F.A., and points deductions and fines from the Amateur Football Combination being likely sanctions.

Note that all of these bans are “time bans” – at our level of football (where players aren’t on “signed contracts”) a ban is for a set period of time, rather than a specific number of games. Those bans are for all football, so a 7 day ban could mean a player misses a Saturday game in the AFC, a match for his Sunday club and a match in his midweek league.

One of the most common surprises for players at amateur level is the relatively long bans they can receive compared to professional players. Generally a professional player is restricted to a maximum three match ban because otherwise it might threaten his livelihood, but those restrictions don’t apply at amateur level (and many people don’t think should do so at professional level either).

AFA & League Sine Die Bans

We are also now publishing on the website the names of people who’ve been banned “sine die” (effectively meaning they’ve been banned with no plans for a review) either by the AFA, or by the League. The list is short, and it isn’t easy to get onto it, but those people who’ve managed to do so aren’t people we want involved in our football, and we want to make sure that all of our clubs are aware of their position.

Note: in many cases players banned “sine die” have been done so with the co-operation of a club. If a club has a problem player, we hope they will assist us in dealing with the player, and often the club’s name indicates this.

Playing in the Spirit of Football, Promoting Fair Play and Respect for All

Club Bans

We are also now publishing on the website the names of people who've been expelled by any of our member clubs.

Clubs are reminded that league rule 17g requires that any player expelled by a club independent of the league are required to inform the Secretary of the League within 7 days of the decision.

Participants listed here are not banned from joining other clubs, this section of the website is simply intended to act as a "buyer beware" – if Joe Bloggs has been thrown out of Old Cloggers FC because he won't pay match fees, it might be something Old Wellyers might want to know before they start to allow him to play for them. If you see the name of a player and want more details, please contact the club concerned who are shown as having expelled him.

Rule 17g

AFC Rule 17g states:-

Any Club that expels a player independently of action taken by the Executive Committee shall inform the Secretary of the League within 7 days of the decision.

If there are any players that a club has seen fit to expel, can you please ensure that these are notified to Danny McConnell or John Monk as soon as possible.

Disciplinary Codes

According to AFC Rule 23f, each club is required to have its own Disciplinary Code (this requirement also exists within AFA rules), which at its most simple level outlines how a club expects its own members to behave, and what action may be taken by the club if they fail to do so.

Every club will have its own disciplinary code, and it's that code that is applied when you hear of a professional player being docked two weeks wages for an offence (usually they do it very quietly, but there are many professional players who'll find a week or twos wages being handed over to a charity because of dissent and so forth) or even more seriously (being topical, I'm sure you'll find conditions under which a player can be sacked is within Queens Park Rangers Discipline Code).

For those AFC Clubs who don't currently have a Disciplinary Code, a sample code can be found on the AFC Website, or can be obtained from Danny McConnell or Mike Sainsbury.

By the end of the current season, the League wish to have collected in the Disciplinary Codes for all of our clubs, and if necessary ensure that any "gaps" are filled in by those clubs during the summer (a Club Disciplinary Code ought to be agreed at the club Annual General Meeting).

To this end, can all clubs please submit their current discipline codes to Danny McConnell by 30th April 2007.

F.A. Punishments and Procedures

The website also has a section showing current punishments and procedures which are applied at our level of football. All of these can be found in the AFA handbook, but it's worth drawing the attention of all of your club members to the section, so that they are at least aware of what punishments can be applied in cases of indiscretion.

Summary

Please can all clubs ensure that the details of any banned members, plus their current Disciplinary Codes are submitted to Danny McConnell as soon as possible. If the answer to the Disciplinary Code is "we didn't know, we're working on it" then please let me know – our priority is to ensure that all clubs are working towards this.

Yours,



Danny McConnell (Assistant Secretary - Communications, Amateur Football Combination).