

Sin Bins - A Summary of Temporary Dismissals In Use next Season on the Amateur Football Combination

The following is a summary of the experimental law to be introduced next season on the Amateur Football Combination with the consent of the Football Association. It is based on the Guidelines for Temporary Dismissals at pages 26-29 of the Laws of the Game for season 2017/18. The advice below *in italics* does not appear within the FA Guidelines but is intended to assist League Referees with match control and game management.

The Sin Bin for Dissent

1. All cautions for dissent by players on the FOP will be dealt with by the Sin Bin.
2. Substitutes or substituted players showing dissent are cautioned in the usual way, not sent to the Sin Bin.
3. The referee signals a caution for dissent using the yellow card, as for any other caution.
4. When signalling a caution for dissent the referee uses both hands to point to the touchline where the player must go.
5. A player sent to the Sin Bin remains in the technical area of there is one, or with the team coach, unless warming up on the touchline. *Advice to referees: if there is no technical area the player should remain near the half way line off the Field of Play (FOP)*

The Sin Bin Period

1. The player remains off the FOP for 10 minutes when the watch is normally running, not including time lost for stoppages. *Advice to referees: Note the time or the minute of the match when a player is sent to the sin bin or is to return from the sin bin. Don't leave the timing to your memory.*
2. The 10 minutes begins when the referee restarts play after the player has left the FOP.
3. After sending a player to the Sin Bin the referee stops the watch during all normal stoppages, including injuries and substitutions.
4. The referee decides when to permit the player to return to the FOP and signals when the player can return. This can be during a stoppage in play OR during play. *Advice to referees: (1) signal re-entry only when the ball is out of play; (2) If there is a neutral Assistant Referee ask him to signal to you at the first stoppage after 10 minutes; do not delegate the decision to allow the player to return to the Assistant Referee – who may then be placed under pressure from the player's team/coach.*
5. The player re-enters the FOP from the touchline, not necessarily at the half way line. *Advice to referees: Allow re-entry only at the half way line.*
6. The competition decides who helps the referee to time the Sin Bin period – it can be delegated to the neutral Assistant Referee, Fourth Official or a team official, *Advice to referees – delegate to the neutral Assistant Referee if there is one; if not, time it yourself – don't delegate to a team official.*

7. If the 10-minute period has not expired at the end of the first half, it continues into the second half.
8. In a cup match where extra time is played and a player is in the Sin Bin at the end of normal time or at the end of the first period of extra time, the 10-minute Sin Bin period continues into the first period of extra time or the second period as the case may be.
9. If the 10-minute period has not expired at the end of extra time and there are kicks from the penalty mark, the player in the Sin Bin may participate in the taking of kicks. *Advice to referees - the player must participate in the taking of kicks unless removed by his captain to balance out the number of players from both teams taking kicks.*

Substituting a player in the Sin Bin

1. A player in the Sin Bin cannot be substituted until the 10-minute period has expired.

Repeat Offenders

1. A player already cautioned for dissent who is later cautioned for dissent for the second time in the match is sent to the Sin Bin for 10 minutes once again. After the expiry of the second 10-minute period the player cannot return to the FOP but can be substituted. *Advice to referees: the player is not shown a red card after the second Yellow Card as he can still be substituted.*
2. A player cautioned for dissent who returns to the FOP after the Sin Bin period has expired and is later cautioned for a non-dissent offence, is shown a second yellow card but continues to play.
3. A player cautioned for dissent who during the Sin Bin period commits any cautionable offence, cannot return to the FOP and cannot be substituted. *Advice to referees: the player is shown a red card because he has been dismissed for the remainder of the match and cannot be substituted.*
4. A player cautioned for a non-dissent offence, who is later cautioned for dissent, is shown a second yellow card and sent to the Sin Bin for 10 minutes and then returns to play.
5. A player cautioned for a non-dissent offence who is later cautioned for dissent and sent to the Sin Bin who then, after returning to the FOP, commits a second dissent offence, is shown a third yellow card and dismissed. *Advice to referees: the player is also shown a red card because he has been dismissed for the remainder of the match and cannot be substituted.*

AFA Disciplinary Procedures after Sin Bins

1. The £10 administration fee for temporary dismissals will be waived under FA Guidelines.
2. The standard disciplinary points will be logged against both the club and player records.