

GREAT YARMOUTH TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB

(Founded 20 JULY 1897)



Smudgers Clubhouse, Wellesley Recreation Ground,
Sandown Road, Great Yarmouth, NR30 1EY.

CLUB ZERO TOLERANCE POLICY

Club Rule 9.5:

ZERO TOLERANCE shall be a policy of giving the most severe punishment possible to any duly elected Club officer, appointed Club Team official, registered Club player, Club supporter or any person purporting to be supporter of the Football Club who commits abuse or assault made towards a Match official. This zero-tolerance approach shall be designed to foster good sportsmanship, provide a friendly and safe environment, and support the development of Match officials, many of whom may be relatively young and inexperienced. Failure to respect the authority of the Match officials, sets a bad example for everyone else involved in the game of association football, especially the Club players and can rapidly lead to a hostile, negative environment where playing the game is no longer the focus of the activity. This policy is not intended to suggest that Match officials are always correct, clearly Match officials do and will continue to make mistakes. This is particularly true with respect to the youth Match officials who are learning how to officiate games and are sometimes asked to referee games at a higher level than they may be comfortable with. When mistakes are made by Match officials, there are proper procedures for the Football Club to report its concerns regarding the quality of the match officiating.

Abuse of a Match official;

- Abuse of a Match official is a verbal statement or physical act not resulting in bodily contact which implies or threatens physical harm to a Match official or a Match official's property or equipment.
- Abuse of a Match official includes, but is not limited to the following acts committed upon a Match official: using foul or abusive language toward a Match official that implies or threatens physical harm; damage to or destruction a Match official's physical property; or spitting at (but not on) a Match official.

Assault of a Match official;

- Assault of a Match official is an intentional act of physical violence at or upon a Match official. (For purposes of this Policy, "intentional act" shall mean an act intended to bring about a result which will invade the interests of another in a way that is socially unacceptable. Unintended consequences of the act are irrelevant).
- Assault of a Match official includes, but is not limited to the following acts committed upon a Match official: hitting, kicking, punching, choking, spitting on, grabbing or bodily running into a referee; head butting; the act of kicking or throwing any object at a Match official that could inflict injury; damaging a Match officials uniform or personal property, i.e., car, equipment, etc. as well as menacing or stalking.
- In a case where the alleged incident is of a physical nature the Match official involved should immediately inform the local police service and file a formal complaint.

Unacceptable improper behaviour shall not be tolerated and anyone found guilty of exhibiting hostile, negative, sarcastic or otherwise ill-intended behaviour toward a Match official shall be dealt with under the Clubs Disciplinary & Appeals Policy and Procedures ([Addendum 7](#)). Appropriate Football Club

sanctions for improper behaviour shall be established quickly and enforced without exception with the possibility of further sanctions being implemented by the County FA in more serious circumstances.

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