

Match Officials' Code of Conduct

We all have a responsibility to promote high standards of behaviour, and ensure that there is an inclusive and welcoming environment at football matches played in Wales.

The behaviour of Match Officials has both a direct and indirect impact on the conduct of everyone involved in Welsh football – both on the field and on the sidelines.

This Code of Conduct must be adhered to by all Match Officials, at every level, when officiating **Official Match(es)**, **Open Friendly Match(es)** or **Closed Friendly Match(es)**.

I will:

- Officiate every Match with honesty and impartiality.
- Declare any conflicts of interest with a club, person or organisation to the FAW at the beginning of each season via COMET.
- Report at the first reasonable opportunity, any information relating to suspected/planned breaches of the FAW Rules and/or Regulations (including, but not limited to, betting breaches) and any activity which may damage the integrity of a Match or competition or bring the FAW or the game of Association Football into disrepute.
- Apply the Laws of the Game and competition rules fairly and consistently.
- Manage all Matches in a positive, calm and confident manner.
- Present myself in an appropriate kit and ensure that I have the necessary equipment in line with the FAW Referee Regulations.
- In respect of misconduct not covered by the Laws of the Game, report such instances to the relevant discipline departments as soon as reasonably possible, including the police if necessary.
- Respond appropriately to offensive, insulting or abusive language or behaviour from anyone involved in the Match in line with the Laws of the Game and FAW Rules and Regulations, and report any incident to the relevant governing body when necessary.
- Support my Match Officials colleagues at all times.
- Ensure I communicate with others involved in the Match in a respectful manner.
- Set a positive personal example by promoting good behaviour and showing respect to everyone involved in the Match at all times.

- Communicate with the players in a calm and clear manner and engage with any reasonable requests for clarification from the Team captain (in play) or Team Manager (during a stoppage/post-Match).
- Ensure I am physically and mentally prepared for every Match, maintaining required fitness levels throughout the season.
- Ensure my administrative responsibilities are maintained, including closing any unavailable dates on COMET, registering conflicts of interest, and advising referee appointers at the earliest convenience if I am unable to fulfil a fixture.
- Ensure all post-Match administration is completed within the time frame stipulated by the relevant association.

Furthermore, I understand that I have a duty to adhere to all safeguarding measures stipulated by the FAW in order to protect everyone involved in the Match. Therefore, I understand that I must:

- Hold a valid FAW DBS check appropriate to my role, ensuring it remains valid and in date, and recorded on the FAW COMET system.
- Comply fully with FAW safeguarding policies and procedures at all times.
- Complete any mandatory safeguarding training within the required timescales and undertake any refresher training when directed to do so.
- Report at the first reasonable opportunity any safeguarding concern, disclosure, or behaviour to the Safeguarding Officer or FAW Safeguarding department.
- Cooperate fully with any safeguarding inquiries, risk assessments, or investigations and accept that interim suspension may be applied where safeguarding thresholds are not met.
- Ensure that male and female Match Officials use separate changing rooms. If no separate facility is available, I will seek an alternative appropriate arrangement such as changing at different times.
- Ensure Match Officials under the age of 18, use separate changing rooms to adult Match Officials. If no separate facility is available, I will seek an alternative appropriate arrangement such as changing at different times.

I understand that if I do not adhere to the above Code of Conduct, I may be:

- Required to meet with the Referees' Officer of the Area Association, and/or the Match Officials' department at the FAW to discuss any incident, and/or alleged failure to adhere to this Code of Conduct.
- Required to present to the Referees' Committee of either the Area Association and/or the FAW to discuss any incident, or alleged failure to adhere to this Code of Conduct.
- Reported to the to the Area Association and/or FAW Discipline and Safeguarding teams if my conduct at any time amounts to a breach of FAW Rules and/or Regulations.
- Required to engage in a formal discussion with the FAW Safeguarding team if any of my actions are related to a safeguarding concern.