

Unacceptable Conduct

H25 A person present at or in a stadium where an Official Match is being played engages in Unacceptable Conduct where their conduct is violent and/or disorderly.

H26 Conduct is violent where there is (i) actual, attempted or threatened physical violence against a person or persons; or (ii) intentional damage to property.

H27 Disorderly conduct includes

H27.1 conduct which stirs up or sustains or is likely or designed to stir up or sustain, hatred or ill will against or towards a group of persons based on their membership or presumed membership of a group defined by reference to a category mentioned in Rule H29 or against an individual who is or is presumed to be a member of such group;

H27.2 using threatening, abusive or insulting words or conduct;

H27.3 displaying any writing or other thing which is threatening, abusive or insulting; and

H27.4 using words or conduct or displaying any writing or other thing which indicates support for, or affiliation to, or celebration of, or opposition to an organisation or group proscribed in terms of the Terrorism Act 2000.

Presumed in the context of Rule H27.1 means presumed by the person or persons engaged in the conduct.

H29 The categories referred to in Rule H27 are:-

H29.1 female or male gender;

H29.2 colour, race, nationality (including citizenship) or ethnic or national origin;

H29.3 membership of a religious group or of a social or cultural group with a perceived religious affiliation;

H29.4 sexual orientation;

H29.5 transgender identity; and

H29.6 disability.

H30 In Rule H29.3 religious group means a group of persons defined by reference to their religious belief or lack of religious belief, membership of or adherence to a church or religious organisation, support for the culture and traditions of a church or religious organisation and/or participation in activities associated with such a culture or such traditions. .

H31 In Rule H29.5 transgender identity means any one or more of transvestism, transsexualism, inter-sexuality or change of gender.

H32 In Rule H29.6 disability means physical or mental impairment of any kind.

H33 The Home Club in any Official Match must ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable,

H33.1 good order and security;

H33.2 that policies and procedures have been adopted and are implemented to prevent incidents of Unacceptable Conduct; and

H33.3 that any incidents of Unacceptable Conduct are effectively dealt with, all at its Stadium on the occasion of an Official Match

H34 Each Club must ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable, that:

H34.1 its Players, officials, supporters and any person exercising a function for or connected with the Club do not engage in Unacceptable Conduct at a Stadium on the occasion of an Official Match;

H34.2 it identifies any of its supporters who engage in Unacceptable Conduct at an Official Match; and

H34.3 it takes proportionate disciplinary measures in respect of supporters so identified in terms of Rule H34.2.

H35 Any failure by a Club to discharge a requirement to which it is subject by virtue of Rules H33 and/or H34 shall constitute a breach of these Rules.

H36 In any proceedings in terms of the Rules against a Club in which it is alleged that there has been a failure by that Club to discharge a requirement to which it is subject by virtue of Rules H33 and/or H34 it shall be for the Club concerned to prove that it was not reasonably practicable to do more than was in fact done or (as the case may be) that there was no better practicable means than was in fact used to discharge such requirement. Account shall be taken in such proceedings of the effect of decisions and actions of the local police, public authorities and other Club taking part in an Official Match, in determining whether the requirements of Rules H33 and/or H34 have been discharged.

H37 The Board may from time to time issue and publish Guidance for Clubs on Unacceptable Conduct; any amendment to such approved guidance to be issued and published from time to time by the Board.

H38 In any proceedings in terms of the Rules against a Club in which it is alleged that there has been a failure by that Club to discharge a requirement to which it is subject by virtue of Rules H33 and/or H34 a Commission shall when deciding whether such a requirement has been discharged, take into account whether the Club concerned has complied with any Guidance for Clubs on Unacceptable Conduct.

H39 Proceedings in terms of the Rules against a Club in which it is alleged that there has been a failure by that Club to discharge a requirement to which it is subject by virtue of Rules H33 and/or H34 may only be commenced where the Secretary has received from:-

H39.1 the police;

H39.2 the Scottish FA acting on information received by it from the relevant Official Match referee or other match official;

H39.3 any representative of the Company attending the relevant Official Match on behalf of the Company;

H39.4 the other Club which took part in the relevant Official Match;

a written complaint or other written communication which, in the opinion of the Board, provides grounds to believe that such a requirement may not have been discharged; and/or

H39.5 the Secretary has received or has been apprised of information which in the opinion of the Board, provides grounds to believe that such a requirement may not have been discharged and that the information is such that such proceedings are appropriate notwithstanding that a written complaint or other written communication has not been received from a person or party listed in Rules H39.1 to H39.4 (inclusive).