



PROTOCOL FOR DEALING WITH RACIST ABUSE AIMED AT PLAYERS, MANAGERS OR MATCH OFFICIALS

As part of the game's continued efforts at tackling acts of discrimination it has been decided to re-emphasise the protocol in place for dealing with any racist abuse directed at Players, Managers or Match Officials by spectators during Premier League Matches.

The protocol was initiated by the game in England in Season 2004/05 and has since been adopted by UEFA who refer to it as the "three strike rule".

The protocol is designed to ensure that incidents of racial abuse are effectively addressed, participants feel protected and perpetrators are identified and dealt with, while at the same time ensuring that the match is not unduly interrupted. It is as follows:

- The incident should in the first instance be brought to the attention of the Referee
- The Referee should report the matter to the Home Club's Safety Officer and the Police
- The Police and Safety Officer should seek to identify the person/people responsible and take appropriate action while the game continues
- If, after a reasonable amount of time, the problem continues then the Referee, in consultation with the Police and Safety Officer, may remove the Players from the Field of Play and suspend the match, allowing the Police and Safety Officer a further opportunity to deal with the problem
- Only if the matter cannot be dealt with satisfactorily, warnings having gone unheeded and the welfare of any of the Participants, in terms of facing the threat of continued racist abuse, remaining at risk, should the Referee consider abandoning the game;
- Any decision to suspend or abandon a game should be taken by the Referee after full consultation with the Police and Safety Officer.

Where no Police are present in the stadium then the initial decision making responsibility falls on the Safety Officer, including informing the Police.

The protocol has been agreed by the Premier League, Football League and Football Association in the knowledge of and after consultation with the following organisations:

- The Professional Footballers' Association
- The League Managers' Association
- The Professional Game Match Officials Board
- The Football Safety Officers Association
- Kick It Out
- The Association of Chief Police Officers

End
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