

Blackpool, Fylde & Wyre Districts Referees' Association

Cautions and Send Offs

Apart from actually abandoning a game Cautioning and Sending Off a player is the more serious sanction a referee has. It follows therefore that if you have to do either of these, you must be correct in Law and carry out the correct procedure.

**YOU MUST KNOW THE LAW AND THE SEVEN CAUTION OFFENCES
AND THE SEVEN SEND OFF OFFENCES.**

Learn them and always use the correct phraseology when speaking to the players.

Referees never ever go hunting for players to caution and Send Off. Don't worry they will come to you quick enough in certain cases. In fact the games you will look back on with pleasure are the games when you have controlled the players and never had to caution or send off anyone. That does not of course mean you can overlook cautionable offences or caution when you should actually have sent someone off.

You first few games will probably be with the Poulton Primary League or the Under 11's and Under 12's in the Blackpool and District \Youth League. If they are will you remember that the players will be very young and won't have the knowledge or skill to avoid unnecessary challenges sometimes.

At this level our advice would be to talk to the youngsters and advise them rather than rushing to get your cards out. This will have two benefits, it will enable you to recognise illegal challenges and will allow you to steer young players in the right direction. Using common sense in these circumstances is good for the game, but common sense can never be an excuse as the players are growing older and getting craftier.

However by the time the players are in Under 13's or Under 14's, you will see that they are learning bad habits and are starting to challenge your authority and undermine you. Perhaps this is the time when you can start to use the proper response to their misconduct.

It follows that eventually you will find yourself having to caution a player. We advise that you think **NOW** how you are going to do it and what you are going to say to the player. Try to adopt a systematic approach right from the start, that way you will not miss anything out or get the wrong details. This is very important, as we shall see later.

What the FA says you should do:-

“The attention of the referee is therefore drawn to the procedure, approved by the Council of the Football Association, that when cautioning a player, the referee should state that the player is being cautioned, inquire his name and indicate that if he persists his misconduct, after having received a caution, he will be ordered from the field.”

“Only after this procedure has been completed, will the referee show the yellow card. Referees are reminded that cards are only used with players. They are not shown to coaches or other club officials.”

Remember (2005 Law Amendments)

Referees can show red and yellow cards to players or substitutes before and after the game, whilst still on the Field of Play

Suggested Caution Procedure

1. Take the player to one side as far away from the others as possible. Do not let other players be close to you or crowd you.
2. First words to player, **“I AM CAUTIONING YOU FOR.....”**
(Always use correct phraseology as listed in Law 12 of the Laws of the Game)

Remember further misconduct at this point could be classified as second offence if deemed necessary

3. “WHAT IS YOUR NAME”

Check spelling if unsure. Check player’s number. Make sure you have correct details, Ask the player to spell his name if necessary. Do not rely on team sheets.

Deal with any complaints of time wasting by saying “ Don’t worry the watch is stopped etc”

4. We suggest always tell the player
“DO YOU REALISE THAT IF YOU COMMIT FURTHER MISCONDUCT I MAY BE FORCED TO SEND YOU OFF. DO YOU UNDERSTAND?” (Then he can’t complain he didn’t know)

5. SHOW YELLOW CARD

Step back a pace so that when you raise the card it is not too close to the player’s face. Ensure the player is still facing you and knows that he is the one being shown the card

6. Give yourself and the player time to get into his proper positions before restarting the game. Give yourself time to put your notebook and pencil into your pocket. Those few seconds delaying the restart will help to calm things down.

Suggested Send Off Procedure

1. Take the player to one side
2. **“WHAT IS YOUR NAME?”**
Check spelling, number etc to ensure you have the correct details. Try and get his details before telling him you are sending him off, as this might be less confrontational.
3. **“ I AM SENDING YOU FROM THE FIELD OF PLAY FOR.....”** (Always use the correct phraseology as listed in Law 12 of the Laws of the Game)
4. **Show the Red Card**
Ensure that you have taken a step back from the player show that you don't endanger him when you raise the red card
5. Ensure he has leaves the field completely and doesn't just stand on the touchlines where he might cause further trouble. If he refuses to go, call on the help of the captain and/or manager to get him to leave. Remember your final sanction if he refuses to move might have to be abandoning the game.

Summarising

You must know all the Caution and Send Off offences.

Always use the correct terminology – it makes you sound much more professional.

Always be polite, despite any provocation from players or managers.

Develop and use a set pattern of speaking to the players when dealing with Cautions and Send Offs (that way you won't get flustered and forget something)

Always ensure the player's details are correct. If you are not sure ask him to spell the names out.

Keep you cards in separate pockets (so you never produce the wrong one)

Stay calm. Don't hurry – make sure your book and pencils are secure before thinking about restarting the game.

Allow the player to get back into position

Get yourself into position. Now you can restart the game

After the Game

Always send the misconduct forms to the LFA. Remember you can do this by using the e-mail forms as well as the written Misconduct Forms. They must be sent within 48 hours of the game finishing.

If teams approach you after the game to 'forget' the misconduct reports, it may be necessary to report that approach as well!

Misconduct by managers or spectators are reported on separate forms.

Caution and Send Off Reports can be sent to the Lancashire Football Association either by e-mail or by written copies. You can download copies from the LFA Web Site or ring the LFA Discipline Department and they will send you copies.

The Caution Reports are very easy to complete. You merely have to complete the relevant boxes and then indicate the category of offence (C1 to C7)

But it is most important that you get all the facts on the report correct. For example the correct full name of the offender, the correct teams, the correct date etc. It is amazing that many referees submit reports with incorrect details in them. Always take your time and check that everything is OK. If you have cautioned several players in the same game, you can submit them all on the same form.

If you having any problems contact someone from the Referees' Society to help you.

Send Off Reports are slightly different. You have to describe in your own words what occurred. Do not over elaborate, merely describe what happened. E.g. in 50th minute player A reacted to a challenge and punched Player B in the face.

In foul, insulting or abusive language is used, you must write down the exact words that were spoken.

In violence is used, if you can, explain what the injuries resulted. For example, a slap across the face might not cause any injury but a punch may cause blood to flow. If the injured player has to leave the field to receive hospital treatment, that is very relevant to any punishment that may be handed out.

If you having any problems contact someone from the Referees' Society to help you.

Always keep a copy of any letters or reports you submit, as this may help you at subsequent hearings.