

Berks & Bucks FA

Club Guides



Accumulation of Offences

There are a series of accumulation charges applied to Clubs when they reach a threshold of certain offences. The financial penalties for these charges vary depending on the level of football at which the Clubs plays, and the number of times the threshold has been reached:

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|--------------------------------|---|
| Respect Sanctions | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Club accumulates 6, 10, 15 or 20 yellow cards for dissent, red cards for abusive language or proven misconduct charges |
| Multiplayer misconduct charges | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A Teams has six or more players cautioned or sent off in one game |
| Charges under FA Rule E20 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Any individual team reaches 75 disciplinary points;• The Club receives four or more proven incidents of violent conduct across all teams;• The Club receives proven misconduct charges relating to the abandonment of two or more games;• The Club has two or more charges proven against its players for aggravated misconduct charges. |

The same offence can count towards multiple charges under these regulations, so Clubs must be aware that a single offence can incur multiple fines at different times throughout the season.

Practical examples

The following examples will help explain the impact of these accumulation charges on a single disciplinary offence.

Scenario 1:

John plays for a local Saturday adult men's Team at Step 5. He receives a red card for using abusive language towards a referee. The Club wait until John has given them the money for the fine before they pay the County FA. It takes John three weeks to pay the Club, meaning they incur a 25% late fee.

In this example, the red card has accumulated a 25% late fee of £10 in addition to a basic fine for the offence. Due to the nature of the offence, the charge will also contribute towards the Team's accumulation of Respect offences. When a Team makes six Respect offences, they will receive a warning and £15 administration fee; however, if the Team goes on to hit 10, 15 or 20 offences they will receive additional fines on a sliding scale.

Every disciplinary offence also carries a "points" total. If a Team accumulates 75 points across the course of the season – not uncommon for adult male Teams playing at Step 5 and above – they will receive a misconduct charge from the County FA. This typically results in a £75 fine, along with a £15 administration fee, but can be varied at the discretion of a disciplinary panel if there are mitigating/aggravating factors. A red card for abusive language carries 4 disciplinary points.

As you can see from the table below, if the Team were to accumulate 14 additional Respect offences across the course of the season along with the standard penalty for 75 disciplinary points, the red card would contribute £71.47 towards Player and Club fines:

| Offence | Total Cost | Portion of fine | Individual contribution |
|----------------------|------------|-----------------|-------------------------|
| Red Card | £40.00 | 1/1 | £40.00 |
| Late Fee | £10.00 | 1/1 | £10.00 |
| Respect Charge – R06 | £15.00 | 1/6 | £2.50 |

| | | | |
|----------------------|---------|------|--------|
| Respect Charge – R10 | £65.00 | 1/10 | £6.50 |
| Respect Charge – R15 | £115.00 | 1/15 | £7.67 |
| E20 Charge – 75 pts | £90.00 | 4/75 | £4.80 |
| | | | £71.47 |

Scenario 2

Sarah plays for an adult Women's Team within a large Club. During a major confrontation she is seen striking an opposition player and is shown a red card for violent conduct. She is one of six players cautioned or sent off for her Team that day.

In this instance, the red card for violent conduct will contribute towards a Multiplayer Misconduct Charge ("MPM") for the Team having six or more players cautioned or sent off in one match. If this is the first instance that season, the Team will receive a warning and £15 administration fee; however, should the Team receive additional charges under this rule during the season they will receive additional fines on a sliding scale.

As a large Club, it is not unlikely they will accumulate four or more charges for violent conduct during the season across all Teams. This would result in a misconduct charge from the County FA. This typically results in a fine around £100, along with a £15 administration fee, but can be varied at the discretion of a disciplinary panel if there are mitigating/aggravating factors.

Under this scenario Sarah's red card for violent conduct could cost the Club closer to £100 than the basic £55 initial fine.

| Offence | Total Cost | Portion of fine | Individual contribution |
|--|------------|-----------------|-------------------------|
| Red Card | £55.00 | 1/1 | £55.00 |
| MPM – 1 st offence | £15.00 | 1/6 | £2.50 |
| MPM – 2 nd offence | £40.00 | 1/12 | £3.33 |
| MPM – 3 rd offence | £65.00 | 1/18 | £3.61 |
| MPM – 4 th offence | £90.00 | 1/24 | £3.75 |
| E20 Charge – 4 proven instances of violent conduct | £115.00 | 1/4 | £28.75 |
| | | | £96.94 |

Budgeting for Additional Misconduct Charges

There is no right or wrong way Clubs should adopt for managing additional misconduct charges. You must find the right method for your Club and Players. However, the following basic options could be considered:

1. Pay for additional misconduct charges out of general Club finances

- Pros*
 - *Club is responsible for all payments*
 - *Avoids additional administration and chasing of Players*
- Cons*
 - *Club must budget for potential charges*
 - *May impact resources or other budget lines*
 - *Individual Players not held accountable for their behaviour*

2. Charge Players for potential future misconduct charges at the time of the offence

- Pros*
 - *Avoids having to go back to Players later in the season*
 - *Guarantees additional fees can be paid promptly*
 - *Assigns cost of additional fees proportionately to the offenders*
 - *Avoids issues if player leaves Club after incurring penalties*
 - *Any surplus can be invested into the Club, reimbursed to the Player, or go towards rewards for all Players (e.g. behind the bar at an end-of-season party)*
- Cons*
 - *Players may object to being charged for potential fines not yet incurred*
 - *Club needs to appropriately calculate cost of potential additional fees*

3. Charge Players for their contribution once additional misconduct charge thresholds are met

- Pros*
 - *Assigns cost of additional fees proportionately to the offenders*
 - *Players only charged when additional fees applied*
- Cons*
 - *Players may object to being charged a long time after the offence*
 - *Risk that Player may have left the Club between the offence and the additional misconduct charge*

4. Charge *all* Players equally for additional misconduct charges

- Pros*
 - *Encourages collective responsibility for behaviour on the pitch*
 - *Players only charged when additional fees applied*
 - *Each Player responsible for relatively small amounts, therefore financially manageable*
- Cons*
 - *Well-behaved Players must pay for fines incurred by poorly behaved teammates*
 - *Risk that offenders may have left the Club between the offence and the additional misconduct charge leaving other players responsible for them*

Whichever model is adopted, Clubs are strongly urged to make all Players aware of their internal procedures, and that, if additional fees are charged to Players for potential future misconduct cases, they are completely transparent over the use of those funds.