

Respect in the National Game

Working with County FAs and regional/local leagues, The FA is opening up the **Respect** programme to the whole grassroots football pyramid.

The programme includes four practical steps to improve behaviour, both on the pitch and on the sidelines:

1. Codes of Conduct for players, referees, coaches and spectators. The codes of conduct set down basic principles which everyone must accept and adhere to, with related actions for repeated breaches.

2. Designated Spectator's Area demarcated by touchline barriers, keeping spectators about 2 metres back from the pitch. This allows the assistant referees to perform their function unimpeded, and in the pilot scheme has demonstrated a marked restraining effect on spectator behaviour. Spectators will be on the opposite touchline to the coaches. The Football Foundation will provide £1m of funding towards the barriers at youth games.

3. Referee managing the game, captains taking more responsibility for the behaviour of their team.

Leagues are encouraged to opt into the programme by adopting the "**Respect** toolkit" provided by The FA. This includes:

- Guidance notes on the operation of the **Respect** steps, with versions tailored specifically to clubs, leagues, and referees.
- Order forms for obtaining touchline barriers at a specially negotiated rate
- Codes of conduct
- Captain's guidance leaflets and **Respect** armbands

Respect in the Professional Game

The Football Association, Premier League, Football League, Professional Footballers' Association (PFA), League Managers Association (LMA) and Professional Game Match Officials (PGMO) are working in partnership in the professional game, with the emphasis on the relationship between referees, and players and managers.

The key steps to be introduced in the Premier League and Football League are:

1. Referee managing the game, captains taking more responsibility for the behaviour of their team

Referees have been instructed to work with captains to manage the players and the game effectively. They have also been reminded of their responsibility to control the game by applying the Laws of the Game and dealing firmly with any open show of dissent by players. The instruction to referees is to stay and deal with dissent rather than moving away.

While the captain does not have any special privileges under the Laws of the Game, captains will be expected to take on more responsibility for the conduct of their team. Under the Respect programme, the referee will work with the captain to manage the players and the game effectively. The captain will act as the main contact point for the referee, and will be called over to an incident involving a team-mate even if he is some distance away.

2. Pre-match briefing meeting with referee and managers/captains

The referee will meet with the captains and managers (or a senior member of the coaching staff) at least one hour before kick-off to view the team colours, see the team-sheets but also to provide the referee with an opportunity to give a clear message of how he intends to manage the game and work with the captain to do this.

3. Team handshake before kick-off

This already happens in the Premier League and has been adopted by the Football League for the coming season.

4. Improved behaviour in the technical area

Managers/coaches/team officials should be removed to the stands if they leave the technical area to berate the match officials in breach of the Laws of the Game, or ignore the instructions of the Fourth Official to return to the bench after giving instructions and having a suitable amount of time to see if they have been carried out.

In addition, there will be no TV monitors in the technical areas at any level of the game. This is expressly prohibited by Premier League rules, which were amended in June this year, followed by a blanket ban from the International Football Association Board (IFAB), the body responsible for the Laws of the Game.