



Milton Keynes Dons

Spectator sanction policy.

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A football club is permitted to accept or deny an individual entry into a stadium. The rights are set out in the contractual terms and conditions concerning the purchase of a ticket, including the acceptance of specific ground regulations.

At MK Dons and Stadium MK we will use the EFL Spectator Sanctioning Guidance as a guide for responding to unacceptable behaviours by supporters of MK Dons, considering the most appropriate and proportionate action to be taken in individual circumstances. Sanctions and the process for considering and imposing sanctions shall broadly follow the EFL Spectator Sanction Guidance document.

Behaviour that breaches ticketing terms and conditions and/or ground regulations, and/or there is a form of illegality on the part of the individual, may invoke the club's right in the case of any misconduct, serious, or persistent breach of the contractual terms and conditions and/or ground regulations, to prohibit future entry to the stadium and other stadiums, eject an individual from the stadium, cancel and withdraw any ticket issued to the purchaser, prohibiting any future sale of a ticket, requiring an individual to attend restorative justice meetings, partake in educational courses or be subject to an Acceptable Behaviour Contract. The most serious issues or incidents may result in consideration by the club to invoke a club ban against supporters.

Criminal behaviour at football matches will primarily be dealt with by the police and the criminal justice system. However, on occasion, it is deemed appropriate for it to be left to the discretion of the club to take appropriate additional action. The EFL advise that any action taken by the club should be fair and proportionate and, as far as reasonably practicable, the process should be used that adheres to the principles of natural justice.

Levels of seriousness

Potential breaches are broken down by seriousness and categorised into levels.

The breaches are explicitly linked to ticketing terms and conditions, the ground regulations and/or criminal behaviour. If individual conduct/actions or misbehaviour is not listed below, clubs should use their discretion when deciding whether to issue a club ban or any other sanction, but this should be carefully considered and proportionate.

The club retains full discretion to impose a differing sanction as are assessed as appropriate based on the merits of each case. However, it is the expectation that any action taken should be within the spirit of the EFL document.

Examples of Level One Breaches

- Smoking/vaping
- Alcohol-related offences (not involving police)
- Persistent standing / standing on seats.
- Anti-social behaviour (including, but not limited to Disorderly Conduct or Threatening Behaviour – Examples such as persistent use of foul and abusive language, excessive gesturing towards opposition supporters and ‘horseplay’ impacting others)
- Conduct that compromises the safety of the spectator and/or others
- Non-cooperation with stewards
- Ejection from home or away stadium (not leading to police involvement)
- Refused entry to home or away stadium (not leading to police involvement)
- Reckless/intentional damage to club property.

Examples of Level Two Breaches

- Deliberate damage to property
- Missile throwing
- Pitch encroachment
- Reckless/intentional damage to club property over £100
- Aggressive language and/or behaviour
- Assault on the club's premises
- Use or possession of pyrotechnics
- Use or possession of illegal drugs
- Use of any other prohibited items (as part of the EFL ground regulations)
- Serious public disorder/anti-social behaviour
- Hate crime/discrimination (including online)
- Breach of existing club ban.

Potential Club sanctions

Safety Standards Letter

The Club has the discretion to issue a safety letter if an individual has demonstrated behaviour that may be a detriment to a safe and enjoyable environment. The behaviour/ incident does not need to be deliberate or with malice, but the club should highlight their concerns and that if the behaviour/incident were to occur again, it could lead to a potential Level One or Level Two breach.

Written Warning

The Club has the option to issue a written warning for behaviour that is not tolerable and may fall under a Level One breach. A written warning can be used as a deterrent to any future misbehaviour/incidents and be deemed a more lenient/proportionate sanction to the level of behaviour/incident that has occurred.

Acceptable Behaviour Contract

An Acceptable Behaviour Contract can be utilised by the club at their discretion, but it should be a proportionate response to the behaviour/ incident. The Acceptable Behaviour Contract is a written agreement between the club and the individual. In signing the agreement, the individual agrees to abide by the terms specified, i.e., for an individual not to persistently stand. The Acceptable Behaviour Contract can be issued to any individual over the age of 10 and where the individual is under the age of 18, their parent/guardian should be involved in the process. The duration of the agreement is discretionary and it is recommended that it is reviewed frequently to ensure it is still fit for purpose, does not require amending or if the individual is demonstrating improved behaviour. The club has the discretion to extend, amend or terminate the agreement at any point. If the Acceptable Behaviour Contract is breached, this can be used as evidence to illustrate that further sanctions are required. If further action is required, it should be proportionate.

Suspended Club Ban

The Club has the discretion to issue a suspended club ban. The suspension element of this sanction can act as a proportionate and fair response to Level One breaches, particularly those that may have been a one-off incident. The nature of such sanction will ensure that the individual's behaviour must improve and may act as a deterrent to any future misbehaviour/ incidents. As with all sanctions, a suspended club ban should be proportionate and necessary. An individual should have the right to meet with the club and the right to appeal.

Club Ban

The Football Clubs has the discretion to issue a club ban for Level One and Level Two breaches. A club ban should be deemed the most serious of the sanctions available and any decision to issue such a sanction should be carefully considered, proportionate and necessary based on the merits of each case.

The Club may make use of the EFL templates provided in their Spectator Sanction document in formal processes taken against spectators. is provided by The Academy the guidelines on Health & Safety, Qualified Drivers, Licensed Vehicles and Safeguarding Children Policies will be adhered to.