



STEVENAGE FOOTBALL CLUB

Crowd Disorder & Anti-Social Behaviour Plan (External)

#WEARESTEVENAGE



Crowd Disorder & Anti-Social Behaviour Policy

EXTERNAL VERSION

Date of Last Review	1 st March 2023
Review Undertaken By	M. Pink – CEO, authored by L. Warren (Safety Officer)
Policy Overview	
Our Crowd Disorder and Anti-Social Behaviour Policy provides all with details of how the Club manages issues of disorder and anti-social behaviour to minimise the risk of harm and injury and promote our value of inclusivity.	
Contents	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Introduction• Eliminating discrimination• Valuing supporters and their contribution• Commitment to tackle unacceptable behaviour and conduct• Sanction options• Engagement, diversion and reduction activity• Standards of evidence and arbitration	
Appendices	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• None	
Referenced Policies	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• None	

Stevenage Football Club (SFC) will always endeavour to play an active role within the local community and involve our supporters in identifying areas for change and improvement within the Club. The Club aims to deliver to all supporters a friendly and professional service.

The Club is committed to confronting and eliminating discrimination under any of the protected characteristics whether by age, disability, gender reassignment, marital or civil partnership status, pregnancy race, religion or belief, sex or sexual orientation. We welcome support from all irrespective of the above.

We extend a warm welcome to all supporters when they visit the Lamex Stadium, whether they are our own supporters, supporters of other clubs or individuals who enjoy the game. We are a family orientated, inclusive Club and our efforts in this regard have been repeatedly recognised by the English Football League.

We value the immense contribution our supporters make to the club and we want them to encourage the team but at the same time we wish to show respect for our opponents, match officials, opposition fans and our own staff, stewards and club officials. Supporters can report issues of concern to the Club through a number of methods including in person to club officials and representatives, direct correspondence (letter), e mail, phones or an anonymous text line.

As a club we fully support the FA and the EFL in all that they do as regards behaviour at football. In this respect we, as a Club will take action to prevent and address instances of unacceptable conduct or behaviour by our supporters, either at the Lamex Stadium or any away venue. Likewise we will always seek to involve visiting Clubs if their supporters engage in unacceptable conduct or behaviour here.

Unacceptable conduct or behaviour is clearly defined within the Ground Regulations and these are prominently displayed in and around the Lamex Stadium and readily available through a host of electronic and social media platforms. In light of the COVID-19 outbreak this now extends to all attendees agreeing and adhering to the Club's COVID Supporter Code of Conduct. The Club also recognises the harm and disrepute that matters away from the Stadium or on social media and other electronic platforms can cause.

Any individual who engages in unacceptable conduct or behaviour may be subject to a host of sanctions by the Club. These include, but are not limited to, ejection from the Stadium, verbal and/ or written warnings, exclusion orders of varying periods, the involvement of other agencies and law enforcement and the involvement of other Clubs through the sharing of information/ intelligence concerning such matters.

The Club always seek to be proactive in this area and supporters who have come to notice through unacceptable conduct or behaviour or whom are of concern in this regard may also be invited to engage with the Club and other agencies to modify and change their conduct so as to be able to continue to support the Club with appropriate passion and pride. Acceptable Behaviour Agreements (ABA's) are the most common method for so doing. ABA's set clear expectations and standards from both sides, the individual concerned and the Club, and highlight what is and is not acceptable. It makes all accountable for their actions and facilitates clear communication between the parties in this regard. ABA's will also, where possible, be supported by other diversionary activity.

In cases such as these the Club Secretary and Safety Officer will deliberate on the matter relying on the preponderance of the evidence involved to make a reasoned and considered decision in respect of any sanctions imposed. In cases of particular complexity or dispute the Club Chief Executive Officer (CEO) will be the final arbiter.