East Stirlingshire Football Club

Unacceptable Conduct Policy

Unacceptable Conduct Policy
Policy / Plan Owner Andy Williamson Club Secretary ESFC
Policy / Plan Reviewer Ian Fleming, Matchday Director

Date for Review
February 2027

25/02/2026
Updated with stadium change and review
Andy Williamson

EAST STIRLINGSHIRE FOOTBALL CLUB UNACCEPTABLE CONDUCT POLICY
East Stirlingshire Football Club will adopt a zero tolerance policy on unacceptable conduct at Ochilview Stadium or at any away football stadium.

UNACCEPTABLE CONDUCT POLICY
East Stirlingshire Football Club is committed to fostering a welcoming and inclusive atmosphere at all matches in which the club is represented. To achieve this, we have implemented an Unacceptable Conduct Policy to ensure the safety, respect, and enjoyment of everyone attending our games.

The Club takes a zero-tolerance approach to Unacceptable Conduct in any form. Individuals found to have engaged in such behaviour may face disciplinary action, including the removal of season tickets, bans from stadiums for a specified period, or other appropriate sanctions. In some cases, Unacceptable Conduct may also result in criminal charges.

DEFINITION OF UNACCEPTABLE CONDUCT
Unacceptable Conduct is defined as any behaviour that is violent, disorderly, or otherwise detrimental to the safety and wellbeing of individuals or groups.

Violent Conduct
Any actual, attempted, or threatened physical violence against any person.
Intentional damage to property.

Disorderly Conduct

Disorderly conduct includes, but is not limited to:

Hate Speech or Acts
Behaviour that stirs up or sustains, or is likely or designed to stir up or sustain, hatred or ill will against individuals or groups based on:
- Colour, race, nationality (including citizenship), or ethnic/national origin.
- Membership or presumed membership of a religious or social cultural group with perceived religious affiliation.
- Sexual orientation.
- Gender identity or transgender status.
- Disability.

Threatening or Abusive Behaviour
- The use of threatening, abusive, or insulting words or actions.
- The display of writing, banners, or any item which is threatening, abusive, or insulting.

Pyrotechnic Use
The possession, use, or attempted use of pyrotechnic devices (e.g., flares, smoke bombs, fireworks) within or around the stadium. Pyrotechnic devices pose serious safety risks to fans, players, and staff, and their use is strictly prohibited.

PREVENTION AND ENFORCEMENT
East Stirlingshire FC will take all reasonable and practicable steps to deter and prevent individuals from engaging in Unacceptable Conduct.

When incidents occur, Stewards will be tasked to take appropriate action to address the situation and resolve it effectively. In cases where immediate intervention is deemed unsafe or impractical, the Club will take steps to identify individuals responsible. This may include:
- Written incident reports from Stewards.
- Information gathered during post-match debriefs.
- Evidence from CCTV, social media, or other reliable sources.

If an incident is not subject to a Police investigation, the Club Secretary may conduct further enquiries, prepare reports, and make recommendations to the Board of Directors. Disciplinary actions could include:
- Bans or restrictions for individuals involved.
- Review and improvement of Club procedures to prevent similar incidents.

COMMITMENT TO INCLUSIVITY AND SAFETY

East Stirlingshire FC is fully committed to promoting equality, diversity, and inclusion. We will not tolerate any form of:
- Racism, sectarianism, sexism, or bigotry.
- Harassment or discrimination of any kind, whether physical or verbal.

The Club will continue to work towards dismantling all forms of discrimination by developing practices that are inclusive, respectful, and reflective of the fundamental worth of every individual.

CONCLUSION

The issue of Unacceptable Conduct, including pyrotechnic use, is under close scrutiny. East Stirlingshire FC relies on the co-operation and support of all supporters to create a positive matchday experience for everyone. We encourage fans to report any concerns to Stewards or Club officials. Together, we can ensure a safe, enjoyable, and inclusive environment for all.

WE ARE ALL THE SHIRE.