



Cove Rangers Football Club

Unacceptable Conduct Policy

Version 6.0 - 1st July 2020

Member of the Scottish Professional Football League

Introduction

Cove Rangers Football Club will not tolerate unacceptable conduct from their Employees, Directors, Committee Members, Players or Supporters at any Stadium which the Club is playing at.

As a Cove Rangers Supporter you have a key part to play in this Programme

Unacceptable Conduct Policy

Cove Rangers Football Club aims to create and maintain an environment where spectators can enjoy the game of football, safe in the knowledge that they are free from all harassment, abuse, unacceptable or disorderly conduct.

Definition

Unacceptable Conduct is conduct which is violent or disorderly.

Conduct is violent where there is:

- Actual, attempted or threatened physical violence against a person or persons,
- Intentional damage to Property

Disorderly Conduct involves any activity which fuels hatred or ill will against or towards individuals or groups of people because of:

- Gender
- Age
- Colour, race, nationality (including citizenship) or ethnic or national origin.
- Membership or presumed membership of a religious group or of a social or cultural group with perceived religious affiliation
- Sexual orientation
- Transgender identity
- Disability

- Using threatening, abusive or insulting words or conduct towards individuals or groups.
- Displaying writing or any other item such as a banner which is threatening, abusive or insulting
- Damage to Club property

Should you witness any examples of the above please do not hesitate to contact the nearest Steward, Police Officer or Club Official to report the incident.

Racism

Cove Rangers Football Club condemns racism in any form, either on or off the pitch.

Cove Rangers Football Club aims to create and maintain a working and spectating environment free from racial harassment and abuse. Everyone connected with the Club has a responsibility to prevent racial harassment or abuse.

Examples of racial abuse/harassment which will not be tolerated are:

- **Physical** - This being intimidating gestures, physical or threat of physical violence or assault.
- **Verbal** - Derogatory remarks about a person's skin colour, nationality or appearance, an individual's culture and racist jokes.
- **Non-Verbal** - Graffiti, banners, defacing notices or posters, negative stereotyping or written threats.

Proven racial harassment or abuse will lead to action being taken against spectators by the Club which may result in a short term or life ban being imposed on the individual(s) by the Club. The matter will also be reported to the Police and Cove Rangers Football Club will give their full support to the Police in any criminal actions.

Management, Players, Directors, Committee Members and other employees of the Club have a responsibility to make it clear that such behaviour by anyone connected with Cove Rangers Football Club is unacceptable.

Supporters should also note that racist taunts and abusive or threatening behaviour will not be tolerated by Cove Rangers Football Club and, accordingly, Supporters will be encouraged to condemn and report such behaviour to the nearest Steward, Police Officer or Committee Member.

Any Supporter (home or visiting) behaving in such a manner will face eviction from the Stadium and their actions will be reported to the Police. They also face the risk of being banned from our home matches for life.

The only way to ensure that this form of behaviour is not found at Balmoral Stadium is for the Staff and Supporters to work together to ‘ *Keep Racism out of Balmoral Stadium* ‘ To this end the Club fully supports and promotes through their Match-Day Programme the campaign ‘ **Show Racism the Red Card.** ‘

Sectarianism - Kick Out Bigotry

While most fans follow Club football in a responsible manner, there are occasions where individuals are intent on causing trouble and use football as an excuse for bigoted and unacceptable behaviour.

By working together to remove bigotry from our football grounds we can demonstrate that Scottish football fans and, in particular, Cove Rangers Football Club fans:

- Respect people of all backgrounds.
- Want their support for the Club to reflect the diversity of modern Scottish Society

Cove Rangers Football Club supports the pledge at www.kickoutbigotry.org/pledge, and encourages all its Supporters to also sign the Kick Out Bigotry Pledge.

Consequences

ANY PERSON ENGAGING IN UNACCEPTABLE CONDUCT MAY BE SUBJECT TO ANY, OR A COMBINATION OF THE FOLLOWING:

- Removal from Balmoral Stadium or any away venue that the Club is playing at

- Suspension from attending home matches involving Cove Rangers Football Club
In respect of an away match the opposing Club will be advised of any suspension and will be requested to refuse admittance to the person(s) involved
- Indefinite ban from attending home matches involving Cove Rangers Football Club
- Suspension or ban from the Cove Rangers Football Club Committee
- Suspension or ban as a Player, Coach or Manager from the Cove Rangers Football Club
- Suspension from carrying out Match-Day duties e.g. serving drinks in Boardroom and Hospitality Suite, working in the Refreshment Hut/Pie Shop, selling Programmes, Raffles etc.,
- Being reported to the Police and, therefore, subject to possible criminal proceedings.

Responsibility and Summary

Everyone connected with the Club has a responsibility to prevent and discourage any form of abuse and as such are responsible not only for their own actions but also those of others. We would, therefore, encourage everyone to bring to the Club's attention, any incident or behaviour, of individuals or groups of individuals, deemed to be in breach of this Policy.

Whilst it is appreciated that behaviour such as that listed above involves the minority in our society, Cove Rangers Football Club wishes to ensure that we continue to maintain the highest standards both on and off the field of play and that the name of 'Cove Rangers Football Club' is associated with good and sporting behaviour at all times.

Document Control

Mandatory Review Date (To be reviewed and published annually)

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