

Ballymena United Football Club Spectator Code of Conduct.

The IFA have introduced a code of conduct due to the implication under Article 55 of the FIFA Disciplinary Code. The potential measures that the club may invoke for any issues arising in relation to discrimination, racism or sectarianism in football range from match suspension and banning from the Ballymena Showgrounds. This decision will not be taken lightly by the club however any issues if deemed necessary will be escalated to a disciplinary committee who will determine the outcome.

The crowd at the Ballymena Showgrounds does not, nor are expected to, watch the game in silence. The Club recognises that encouragement of both teams by shouting, cheering and non-abusive singing has a positive influence of the game atmosphere and can contribute to the overall enjoyment of the match.

As a club, Ballymena united are encouraged by their spectators and their good behaviour, and the support and passion that is shown for their team. However, if deemed necessary the club will take steps to prevent people from behaving in a manner which could potentially jeopardise the safety and enjoyment of those around then and or bring the club into disrepute.

Any supporter that publicly disparages, discriminates against or denigrates someone in a defamatory manner in relation to race, colour, language, religion, ethnic origin, sex or sexual orientation- will be subject to investigation by an investigatory committee and may be evicted from the ground and face further sanctions as seen fit by Ballymena United Football Club.

Supporters are kindly asked to refrain from the following:

- The use of sectarian, racist, homophobic, sexually offensive or any other inappropriate language.
- Displaying any racist or sectarian emblems or banners.
- Using foul, abusive or insulting language, gestures or threatening behaviour.
- Throwing missiles or entering the pitch.
- Behaviour that may jeopardise the safety and enjoyment of those around them.
- The consumption of alcohol or drugs to an extent where they are a nuisance to others and a danger to themselves and others.
- Bring the club into disrepute or assist or encourage others to do so through their own acts or omissions.

Supporters are encouraged to:

- Respect all players, team attendants and match and club officials.
- Follow any directions and or instructions given by stewards and club officials.
- Respect other supporters.
- Comply with all current ground rules.
- Report any suspected breaches to a steward or club official.
- Observe the code of conduct at both home and away games.

Visiting supporters are also to respect our Code of Conduct. ALL supporters please note that observing the Code of Conduct is a condition of your entry to the ground. Any person not observing the Code may be ejected from the ground and may face further sanctions.

This policy must be applied fairly, equally and consistently to all persons, irrespective of age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage or civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation or any other unjustifiable grounds .

It also runs in conjunction with any agreements held between Ballymena United Football Club, the Police Service of Northern Ireland, the Irish Football Association, Northern Ireland Football League and Mid and East Antrim Council.