

FEB 24 POLICY



FOOTBALL CANTERBURY GROUND OFFICIALS (ORANGE HI-VIS VEST)

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

All Clubs participating in a Match sanctioned by Football Canterbury (FC) must provide a minimum of one (1) vested and active Ground Official for each full field (i.e. 2 x half fields, etc) operating. Failure to provide the required number of vested and active Ground Officials within 10-minutes of the nominated kick-off time will result in the offending Club/Team being fined in accordance with the schedule of fees/fines at the time and any other penalties that FC elects to apply.

Note: When a round fixture is played at a neutral or Association controlled venue it is a requirement of both teams to provide a minimum of one (1) vested and active Ground Official.

(Also refer to Rules of Association 7.4 and 7.5)

GROUND OFFICIALS MUST:

- (a) Be 18-years of age or older;
- (b) Wear clothing that readily identifies them as a Ground Official (Orange hi-vis vest);
- (c) Patrol all fields used throughout the relevant match(es) and ensure they are located in positions where they are clearly visible to Participants and which are appropriate for monitoring on-field and off-field incidents and Spectator behaviour;
- (d) Make themselves clearly visible to the Match Officials prior to the commencement of a Match and ensure their name(s) is displayed on the applicable team sheet (**names on the sheet are desirable at all times but mandatory in all finals fixtures**);
- (e) Accompany Match Officials on and off the field of play if required or appropriate to do so;
- (f) Ensure that, at all times, the Spectators comply with the **FA Spectator Code of Behaviour** (Code of Behaviour). If the Spectators are behaving contrary to the Code of Behaviour, a Ground Official must:
 - For Spectators of their own club, if it is safe to do so, remind those Spectators of their obligations under the Code of Behaviour and issue any reasonable directions to those Spectators, including a direction to leave the venue. If those Spectators fail to comply with the Ground Official's reasonable directions, the Ground Official should inform the senior Host Club representative, if in attendance, for further assistance.

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- For Spectators of the opposition club, NOT, unless it is safe to do so, approach opposition Spectators behaving inappropriately and must instead approach opposition Ground Officials (if present e.g. during finals or neutral venues) to resolve any issues. If opposition Ground Officials are not available or not unwilling or unable to assist, and opposition Spectators continue to behave inappropriately, the Ground Official should inform the senior Host Club representative, if in attendance, for further assistance.
 - If any Spectators continue to fail to comply with the Ground Official's or the senior Host Club representative's reasonable directions, then, if required, the senior Host Club representative is to contact the NSW Police of relevant emergency services for support. In this instance, the Ground Official must, within 48-hours of a Match, provide a written report to their Club setting out any inappropriate Spectator behaviour, including any failure by a Spectator to comply with a Ground Official's reasonable direction and/or any failure by opposition Ground Officials to provide assistance in controlling opposition Spectators;
- (g) Be aware of the location of first aid facilities, stretcher, and defibrillator if they are not situated in the technical area;
- (h) Ensure that the area between both technical areas (team benches) is clear, allowing only Ground Officials to enter this area;
- (i) NOT be involved in other duties while acting as a Ground Official (not refereeing, coaching, managing, canteen duties, etc);
- (j) Not engage in any verbal or physical altercations;
- (k) Not consume alcohol or smoke while acting as a Ground Official
- (l) Maintain unbiased opinions/views when performing duties and behave appropriately in accordance with this document and as a representative of the Club; and
- (m) Conduct themselves in a manner that enhances, rather than damages, the reputation and goodwill of FC, the Club and football generally.

Clubs, Teams and Ground Officials that fail to comply with these Roles and Responsibilities may be fined by FC or dealt with in accordance with the FC Judiciary Disciplinary & Appeals Regulations.

