

# Queen of the South Football Club



## Policy Regarding Unacceptable Conduct

As a family and community club, open to everyone, the Board of Directors are keen to ensure that all supporters, players and officials do not engage in any form of unacceptable conduct. That is, conduct which is violent or disorderly. Queen of the South FC will not tolerate Unacceptable Conduct in any form and any individuals who are found to have engaged in Unacceptable Conduct may have an action taken against them. This may include the removal of season tickets and bans from stadia for a specified period / or other appropriate actions. Unacceptable Conduct may also lead to criminal charges.

### Unacceptable Conduct

Under SPFL rules in respect of ground Safety, Behaviour at Matches and Damage to Stadia, each club must ensure that it's players, officials, supporters and any other person exercising a function, or connect with, the club do not engage in unacceptable conduct at a stadium on the occasion of an official match. For the avoidance of doubt, this includes home and away matches played by the club.

For this purpose, unacceptable conduct covers conduct which is violent and / or disorderly.

### Violent conduct includes:-

- Any actual, attempted or threatened physical violence against a person or persons;
- Intentional damage to property.

### Disorderly Conduct includes :-

- Conduct which incites / sustains, or is likely or designed to incite / sustain hatred or ill will against or towards individuals or groups of people because of their:
  - Colour, race, nationality,(Including citizenship) or ethnic or national origin;
  - Membership, or presumed membership, of a religious group or of a social cultural group with perceived religious affiliation;
  - Sexual orientation;
  - Transgender identity;
  - Disability;
- Using threatening, abusive or insulting words or conduct;
- Displaying writing or any other thing which is threatening, abusive or insulting;

### Non Compliance

Queen of the South FC will take all reasonable practicable steps to deter and prevent individuals from engaging in Unacceptable Conduct.

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Queen of the South FC accepts its responsibility under these rules and will not tolerate any form of unacceptable conduct detailed above.

Any official, employee or any other person connected with the Club who engages in such activity will be subject to the Club's internal disciplinary procedures. Any supporter who engages in such activity will be liable for sanctions imposed by the Club which may include withdrawal of season tickets, exclusion or, in the event of persistent offending, an application being made towards obtaining a football banning order.

Where, for reasons determined by the Safety Officer, it is not possible or practicable to directly intervene in an incident all reasonable steps will be taken to detect individuals engaged in unacceptable conduct.

This may include:

- Written or verbal information from stewards or members of the public
- Any information available from post match de-briefs
- Any other source of information available.

Where the incident of Unacceptable Conduct is not subject of a Police enquiry, the Safety Officer acting on behalf of the Club Secretary may, where required, carry out any further enquiry necessary to bring the matter to a conclusion. This may involve preparing reports and making recommendations to the Board of Directors / Operational Committee of the club on any disciplinary action required to be taken against individuals and / or making recommendations within the Club to reduce and eradicate Unacceptable Conduct.

### **Conclusion**

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

The Club are committed to challenging and dismantling all forms of discrimination by developing club practice that is sensitive to all and suitable for all, reflecting fundamental quality and worth of everyone.

William Hewitson  
Chairman