

ETA Disciplinary Log

This is designed as an anonymised record of the outcomes of ETA disciplinary proceedings. It is designed to provide transparency for the ETA's processes, as well as give anyone involved in a disciplinary process an idea of the precedent established in previous situations.

A fuller log entry for these incidents is available if required by disciplinary panel members. If others feel that they should be able to access the full log for an incident, they should email governance@englandtouch.org.uk with their rationale.

Tournament Series / Date if not within tournament (if applicable)	Brief narrative of events	Final resolution
Elite MWNTS R2 2023	A referee on the sideline during a game reported a player shouting onto the pitch including the word 'c-nts'.	The incident was discussed with the player who confirmed he had done it, directing the language at his own teammates. <u>He was banned for half a game, and his club were informed of the conduct.</u>
Elite MWNTS R2 2023	A player was given a rest of game dismissal following a shove on an opposition player	The player appealed the automatic suspension. This was reviewed by a fast track panel and based on their understanding from multiple reports, the referee was right to penalise and escalate the contact, but the additional two game ban was not proportionate. <u>The ban was therefore withdrawn.</u>
Nationals 2023	A player deliberately knocked an opposition player over following a score.	<u>Action taken within that players High Performance squad was accepted as a resolution.</u>
Nationals 2023	A player swore at a referee from the sub box, then made further unacceptable and defamatory comments	<u>The player was banned for three games</u>
Nationals 2023	A player was believed to have sworn at a referee at the end of a game.	On investigation it was not clear which player had made the comment, nor that it was definitely directed at a referee.

		No action was taken against an individual; <u>the regional lead was asked to manage player conduct.</u>
Nationals 2023	A player reported that inappropriate comments were made towards them and teammates during a game by spectators. They were unable to specify which players or team made these comments.	The incident was discussed with regional leads and captains from both teams which had been mentioned as the possible responsible parties. As no more specific identification could be made, no further action could be taken.
ETCC 2022	A referee complained that another participant at a tournament had made a comment referring to their race. An original set of panel resolutions was appealed by both the subject and complainant	The appeals panel resolved that the participant should <u>Undergo training on equality, diversity and inclusivity</u> <u>Make an apology to the referee through mediation</u> The incident is retained against the participants record to be considered in aggravation if there are any future incidents of this nature. The panel noted that due to delays with the ETA process, both due to internal and external factors, stronger sanctions could not be applied. The participant was given a deadline to respond with this apology and proof of training which they did not meet. <u>Their membership with the ETA was suspended and the matter was escalated to FIT.</u>
UNTS series 2022/23	A player complained that they had been accused of spitting at an opponent during a game. The panel investigated and found that the incident they were accused of had occurred, but it appeared to not be deliberate.	<u>No follow up action was required</u>

<p>Elite MWNTS 2022</p>	<p>A player was warned by a referee following a game where they made repeated unacceptable comments during a game.</p> <p>The same player took part in a game officiated by the same referee, and made further unsportsmanlike and unacceptable comments towards them.</p>	<p>The player was banned for half a day of their next tournament attendance.</p>
<p>Dev MWNTS 2022</p>	<p>A player complained about repeated heckling from the stands during a final at the development NTS. The parties responsible were identified by a witness and details of the heckles were logged, including accusations of cheating.</p>	<p>The panel felt that as this was a development tournament, a lower threshold of acceptable spectator partisanship applied.</p> <p><u>A specific player</u> was identified as being responsible for some of the more unacceptable comments. This player was required to write an apology letter to the club that the team being heckled was from, and a note will be held against their record to track future incidents.</p> <p><u>A letter warning of future behaviour</u> was sent to the club affiliated with the main group of spectators, asking them to consider taking internal actions to manage player behaviour when watching other games.</p>
<p>Winter series 2021</p>	<p>A complaint was made by a player that a member of the opposition had made inappropriate physical contact with them during a break in play.</p>	<p>The panel upheld the complaint and specified the following resolutions;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The subject should not play against the complainant for the duration of the 2022 season. ● The subject was formally warned that similar conduct in future would risk their ability to continue playing the sport

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Historic allegations of inappropriate behaviour made by the subject would be reviewed by a separate panel.
Development NTS series 2021	<p>A player repeatedly questioned referees' decisions, then criticised them using explicit language.</p> <p>The player was sin binned, but continued directing explicit language at the referees when they returned to the pitch.</p> <p>The player was then sent for a rest of game dismissal, initially refusing to leave. They then criticised the referees further at the end of the game</p>	<p><u>A playing ban</u> for 50% of the next tournament they participated in. A ban of 100% of the next tournament was suspended on condition of good behaviour at the first tournament back.</p> <p><u>A refereeing ban</u> until the end of August at any ETA tournament, shortened to the 20th of August following discussion with the player.</p> <p><u>A discussion with the HP director</u> to explain the seriousness of their behaviour and its implications for potential England representation</p> <p><u>A discussion with a referee coach</u> to explain the impact on the referees and expectations for the player to show leadership.</p>
Nationals Series 2021	<p>A complaint was submitted by a referee reporting that a player had consistently exhibited backchat towards them during a game, and that at a point in the game said that the referee was ruining the game within their earshot.</p> <p>An additional allegation was that the player had told the referee to stay away from the players. This was contested by the player.</p> <p>This was originally given to a two-person fast track panel who recommended a one-game ban for the player. The player was offered the option to accept the ban on their first game of the day, or have an appeal which would mean the ban may be later in the day.</p>	<p><u>The game ban was suspended</u> as the panel agreed that the disciplinary process was not applied correctly with the panel not hearing from the player. The policy is being rewritten to make this requirement clearer.</p> <p><u>Discussion with the player</u> should be delivered to cover alternative language to be used with the team, especially when within referees earshot, which is less likely to generate antagonism</p> <p><u>Extra coaching for the referee</u> should be delivered to encourage options around dealing with these situations on the pitch rather than requiring recourse to the disciplinary process.</p>

	<p>The player appealed and a different, three-person panel was convened on the day to reconsider the matter. The final sanctions listed are the result of their deliberation.</p>	
<p>Code of conduct review 2021</p>	<p>A complaints process to review a participant's actions under the ETA Code of Conduct was begun in July 2021.</p> <p>The panel found that for two seasons, league fees had been paid late or in an irregular way.</p> <p>They also found that the participant had used email addresses for marketing purposes without obtaining consent to do so.</p> <p>Following an appeal from the subject, a review panel reinvestigated the matter and amended the original resolutions.</p>	<p>A summary of the final resolutions following the appeal are;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The subject must ensure all touch events that they run are correctly affiliated ● Where running an event requires a payment to the ETA, this must be made in advance. ● Every person receiving marketing from the participant should be sent an 'opt in' email, with their details expunged if they do not choose to continue their engagement. ● The subject must attend a GDPR training with a deadline specified for this to be resolved. <p>In addition, internal recommendations were made for ETA staff to attend similar GDPR training and review internal processes.</p>