



Supporter Suspension Policy

Season 2023/2024

Watford Football Club is committed to providing an environment where all supporters irrespective of age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage & civil partnership, pregnancy or maternity, race, religion & belief, sex, or sexual orientation, can enjoy watching football safely and without fear of exposure to disorder, abuse or offensive behaviour.

In achieving this, we are committed to taking the whatever action is necessary to deter or prevent offences or acts of unacceptable behaviour being committed at either home or away fixtures or any other media associated with the Club.

Those persons who are identified as having breached ground regulations, committed offences, or otherwise behaved in a manner likely to harm the Club's reputation will be subject to the action as detailed below.

The Club's Operations Manager will administer the implementation of this policy.

The Club's Operations Director will be the final arbiter of all decisions/appeals made in accordance with this policy.

Arrests Home & Away Fans

Any person arrested for a football related offence which is an arrestable offence or is a breach of the Stadium Regulations will have their Season Card / Fan ID suspended without reimbursement, and will be barred from all matches, home and away, until the matter has been dealt with by the Police.

If the person is bailed to appear before a court, then the ban will remain in force until an outcome is determined.

If the person is found guilty then dependant on the nature of the offence and the sentence imposed by the Court, consideration will be given as to whether the ban will remain in force and if so for how long. All bans will be reviewed 12 months from the date of the conviction.

Where a banning order imposed by the Court has expired and the Club ban is of a longer period, the offender may contact the Club in writing to have their case reviewed.

As the Police are rarely deployed inside the Vicarage Road Stadium on matchdays, enforcement action will initially be undertaken by the Club's Stewarding Staff. Where criminal offences are committed, depending on the severity the Police will be requested to attend the Stadium to deal with the offender(s). Where the Police are unable to attend in a timely manner the offender(s) will be ejected, and the evidence forwarded to the Police for investigation.

Ejections Home Fixtures

The Club reserve absolutely the right to eject from Vicarage Road Stadium any person failing to comply with the Stadium Ground Regulations or whose presence within the stadium is or could reasonably be construed as constituting a source of danger, nuisance or annoyance to any other person.

The Club will arrange for their Season Card / Fan ID to be suspended, without reimbursement.

Where a person is ejected, they will, depending on the seriousness of the behaviour resulting in the ejection, and on completion of an internal investigation, receive a written warning or ban from attending matches home and away.

Ejections Away Fixtures

Any person ejected for a breach of Stadium Regulations at an away fixture will be similarly subject to an investigation and written warning or a ban from attending matches home and away.

Other Acts of Unacceptable Behaviour (including Social Media)

The Club reserve the right to refuse admission, withdraw tickets and/or suspend Season Card / Fan ID of any person who, through their actions, behaviour or opinion bring the Club's name or reputation into disrepute.

The penalties for their actions will be determined as appropriate depending upon the circumstances.

Appeals

All persons subject to the imposition of a ban from attending matches involving Watford football Club have a right of appeal to the Club's Operations Director with 14 days of the decision to impose the ban. All appeals must be submitted in writing.

Note there is no right of appeal any person whilst on bail prior to or subsequent of a charge for a 'Football related' offence or whilst serving a 'Football Banning Order' imposed by a court.

Football and discrimination

The Club want to ensure supporters and their families get the best they can out of football, whether watching it or playing it.

The Club is actively supporting the Football family and its fight against discrimination in the game, through our own initiatives including Watford Welcomes and We Campaign. The Club works closely with the FA, English Football League, PFA, LMA and Kick It Out, Watford Football club will investigate all reports of discrimination.

Where necessary, an educational aspect will be included within the process, prior to suspended Season Cards / Fan ID's being lifted.

Discrimination has no place in football and society in general, this includes all forms of discriminatory abuse that is intended or perceived as prejudicial and leaving individuals feeling uncomfortable, it is not pleasant for other fans either. If fans hear any kind of abuse, they should report it.

No one wants to be on the receiving end of discriminatory behaviour, whatever your protected characteristic maybe. The bottom line is that whether you're a footballer, Club official or supporter (anyone), 'Watford Welcomes'.