



**PETERBOROUGH UNITED FOOTBALL CLUB**  
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# PETERBOROUGH UNITED WESTON HOMES STADIUM

**SPECTATOR BANNING POLICY 2025/26 SEASON**



Full members of the Football Association. Associate Members of the English Football League. Registered in England No. 290803. VAT No. 120167319.



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## 1. Purpose of the Policy

This policy sets out the standards of behaviour expected from spectators attending events at Weston Homes Stadium and explains the measures Peterborough United Football Club may take to address misconduct. The aim of the policy is to:

- Maintain a safe, welcoming, and inclusive environment for all spectators, staff, players, and officials.
- Prevent disorder, anti-social behaviour, and criminal activity.
- Provide clear, fair, and proportionate processes for managing unacceptable behaviour, including engagement, warnings, and banning where necessary.

## 2. Scope

This policy applies to all spectators attending any football match or event at Weston Homes Stadium, including home and away supporters, whether inside the stadium, in surrounding areas under the club's control, or while travelling to and from fixtures where the club's reputation may be impacted.

## 3. Standards of Behaviour

All spectators are expected to:

- Behave in a respectful and responsible manner at all times.
- Follow the instructions of stewards, club officials, police officers, and emergency services.
- Comply with the Ground Regulations and Conditions of Entry.
- Treat other spectators, players, officials, and staff with dignity and respect.

## 4. Unacceptable Behaviour

The following behaviours are not permitted at football matches or related events. This list is not exhaustive:

### *4.1 Anti-Social and Disorderly Conduct*

- Threatening, abusive, insulting, or violent behaviour.



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- Use of foul, discriminatory, racist, sexist, homophobic, transphobic, or otherwise offensive language, chanting, or gestures.
- Provoking or engaging in confrontations with other spectators, players, or staff.
- Persistent swearing or behaviour likely to cause distress to others, including families and children.

## *4.2 Discrimination and Hate-Related Behaviour*

- Any form of discrimination or harassment based on race, colour, nationality, ethnic origin, religion, gender, sexual orientation, disability, or any other protected characteristic.
- Displaying or distributing discriminatory banners, signs, symbols, or materials.

## *4.3 Violence and Criminal Behaviour*

- Physical assault or attempts to assault another person.
- Possession or use of weapons, fireworks, flares, smoke bombs, or other prohibited items.
- Damage to stadium property or the property of others.
- Drug-related offences, including possession, supply, or use of illegal substances.
- Theft or attempted theft.

## *4.4 Safety-Related Breaches*

- Entering the pitch or any unauthorised area.
- Standing in seated areas or blocking gangways, exits, or stairways.
- Throwing objects of any kind.
- Failure to comply with safety announcements or steward instructions.

## *4.5 Alcohol-Related Misconduct*

- Being drunk or disorderly.
- Possession or consumption of alcohol in prohibited areas.
- Bringing alcohol into the stadium contrary to Ground Regulations.

## 5. Enforcement Measures

The club adopts a graduated and proportionate approach to dealing with unacceptable behaviour, which may include:

- Verbal warnings or removal from the stadium.
- Engagement through the Yellow Card Scheme (see Section 6).
- Acceptable Behaviour Contracts (see Section 7).
- Club-imposed bans (short-term or long-term).
- Referral to the police and support for criminal or football banning orders where appropriate.



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## 6. Yellow Card Scheme (In Partnership with Cambridgeshire Police)

### 6.1 Overview

The Yellow Card Scheme is a joint initiative between Peterborough United Football Club and Cambridgeshire Police. It is designed primarily for young supporters whose behaviour is of concern but does not yet warrant formal criminal proceedings.

### 6.2 Purpose of the Scheme

- To educate and engage young supporters about acceptable behaviour.
- To provide an early intervention aimed at preventing escalation into criminal behaviour.
- To give individuals an opportunity to modify their conduct without receiving a criminal record.

### 6.3 How the Scheme Works

- When a young supporter is involved in low-level disorder or inappropriate behaviour, the club and police may issue a "Yellow Card" warning.
- The supporter, and where appropriate their parent or guardian, will be invited to engage in a discussion with club representatives and/or the police.
- Expectations for future behaviour will be clearly explained, along with the consequences of further misconduct.

### 6.4 Outcomes

- Successful engagement may result in no further action, provided behaviour improves.
- Further incidents following a Yellow Card warning may result in stronger sanctions, including Acceptable Behaviour Contracts, removal from matches, or referral for criminal proceedings.

## a) 7. Acceptable Behaviour Contracts (ABCs)

### 7.1 Overview

An Acceptable Behaviour Contract is a voluntary written agreement between the club and a spectator (and, where applicable, their parent or guardian). It is used to address ongoing or concerning behaviour without immediately resorting to banning.

### 7.2 When ABCs Are Used

ABCs may be considered when:



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- A spectator has been involved in repeated low-level misconduct.
- A Yellow Card warning has been issued and further concerns arise.
- The club believes structured support and clear boundaries may prevent escalation.

## *7.3 Content of the Contract*

An Acceptable Behaviour Contract will typically include:

- A clear description of the unacceptable behaviour that has occurred.
- Specific expectations for future conduct.
- Any conditions placed on attendance (e.g. seating area, supervision requirements, or time-limited restrictions).
- The duration of the contract.
- The consequences of breaching the contract, which may include suspension or a stadium ban.

## *7.4 Monitoring and Review*

- Compliance with the contract will be monitored by the club, in liaison with stewards and police where appropriate.
- Contracts may be reviewed, extended, or escalated depending on behaviour.

## 8. Stadium Bans

### *8.1 Club-Imposed Bans*

The club reserves the right to impose stadium bans on spectators whose behaviour is deemed unacceptable. Bans may be:

- Immediate and temporary (pending investigation).
- Fixed-term.
- Indefinite, subject to review.

### *8.2 Factors Considered*

When deciding on a ban, the club will consider:

- The seriousness of the incident.
- Any previous warnings, Yellow Cards, or ABCs.
- The impact on safety and the club's reputation.
- Mitigating factors, including age and willingness to engage constructively.



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## 9. Appeals Process

Spectators subject to a club-imposed ban will have the right to appeal. Appeals must:

- Be submitted in writing within the timeframe specified in the ban notification.
- Clearly outline the grounds for appeal. The club will review appeals fairly and impartially, and decisions will be communicated in writing.

## 10. Review of Policy

This policy will be reviewed regularly to ensure it remains effective, lawful, and aligned with best practice, safeguarding responsibilities, and partnerships with Cambridgeshire Police and other stakeholders.



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