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RESPECT

The ArcOframe Stadium, Ruskin Drive Sports Village, St Helens, WA10 6RP

Disciplinary Policy and Procedure

This policy is designed to help and encourage all members of Pilkington Football Club (the “Club”) to achieve and maintain standards of behaviour as expected under the Club’s rules, policies and/or codes of conduct.

The emphasis of this Disciplinary Policy is, in the first instance, on the improvement of the member’s behaviour by working in partnership with them, and where relevant their parent/guardian, rather than just on imposing sanctions. The Club will however, impose sanctions in the most serious cases or where improvement in the member’s behaviour has not been forthcoming.

The Club’s aim is to ensure consistent and fair treatment for all members and no disciplinary action will be taken against a member until a full investigation as to the circumstances of the incident or matter has been conducted by the Club.

Procedure

1. Where, following investigation, a member is deemed by a majority of the Club’s board of directors to have breached a Club rule, policy or code of conduct or has otherwise acted in a way which a majority of the board believes is in contrast to the spirit of this document and/or the Club’s rules, the board shall be at liberty to constitute a disciplinary committee (the “Disciplinary Committee”) to determine the facts relating to the matter and take such measures as the Disciplinary Committee sees fit. If the Club’s board decides to constitute a Disciplinary Committee the member(s) concerned will; be suspended from membership of the Club and shall not be entitled to vote nor attend general meetings for the period of suspension.
2. The Disciplinary Committee will consist of up to four members of the Club’s board plus (if relevant) the Club Welfare Officer, so long as none of them are the subject of the disciplinary action. The chair of the Disciplinary Committee shall have the casting vote if necessary.
3. Either the Club’s board or the member who is the subject of the hearing may request for an independent member to join the Disciplinary Committee. The independent member will be selected on the basis of mutual agreement, and shall for the avoidance of doubt not be someone who has served with the subject of the hearing on any board or committee, and shall ideally not be a member of the Club itself.
4. In the event that it is not possible to agree the identity of the independent member, the Football Supporters’ Association will select the independent member.
5. All members of the Disciplinary Committee shall treat its proceedings as confidential, unless the subject of the hearing waives that right directly, or violates the confidentiality through making public comment about its proceedings.
6. The Disciplinary Committee shall meet as soon as is practicable (where possible within seven days) after the Club’s board meeting which constituted the Disciplinary Committee. The Club Secretary shall notify the member concerned of the time, date and venue of the meeting in writing and invite them to attend or submit their version of events or mitigating circumstances. The member will be required to confirm attendance no later than 48 hours prior to the date of the meeting.
7. If the member is aged under 18, the member will be required to attend with their parent/guardian who may make a representation on their behalf. If the member is aged 18 or over, they may be accompanied by an independent representative who may make a representation on their behalf.



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Pilkington Football Club is the trading name of Pilkington St Helens Football Club Limited, a Community Benefit Society registered with the Financial Conduct Authority under the Co-operative and Community Benefit Societies Act 2014, registration number 8354



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8. The Disciplinary Committee shall act honestly and equitably in assessing the facts of the disciplinary case before it and may impose such sanction as it sees fit, including for example (this list is not exhaustive):

- 8.1 suspension to allow more facts to be gathered, after which time a further meeting of the Disciplinary Committee shall be held;
- 8.2 verbal warning;
- 8.3 written warning;
- 8.4 education;
- 8.5 mentoring;
- 8.6 exclusion from a specified number of matches;
- 8.7 exclusion from a specified number of training sessions;
- 8.8 removal from the team for the remainder of the current season;
- 8.9 refusal to register with a team for the next season;
- 8.10 expulsion from the Club.

If appropriate, the Disciplinary Committee may choose to impose no sanction.

9. The Disciplinary Committee will not ordinarily expel a member from the Club for a first breach of a code of conduct, except in cases where there has been gross misconduct. Instead, but without prejudice to the Club's obligation to adhere to any disciplinary guidance or rules issued by any league or football authority to which it is affiliated, the Disciplinary Committee will seek to apply a sanction of expulsion only as a last resort for serious breaches or where other lighter measures aimed at improving behaviour have not been effective.

10. The Disciplinary Committee will normally regard the following (which is not an exhaustive list) as gross misconduct:

- 10.1 fighting;
- 10.2 assault on another person;
- 10.3 deliberate damage to Club property;
- 10.4 bringing the Club into disrepute by actions or words;
- 10.5 serious negligence or disregard of a Club rule, policy or code of conduct that causes, or could

have caused, unacceptable loss, damage or injury;

- 10.6 serious act of insubordination, including the failure to follow or observe reasonable instructions of a team coach/manager or other Club official.

11. If the member concerned fails to either attend or submit their version of events or mitigating circumstances as envisaged above, the Disciplinary Committee can proceed and make such inferences as it sees fit from such non-attendance or non-submission and the Disciplinary Committee meeting may proceed in the member's absence.

12. The member subject to the disciplinary hearing may appeal against the decision of the Disciplinary Committee within seven days of being notified of the decision. The appeal must be made to the Club Secretary in writing and must identify the specific decision being appealed and set out the grounds of appeal and the reasons why it would be substantially unfair not to alter the decision. If these requirements are met, the Club Secretary shall contact the Football Supporters' Association who shall appoint an independent appeal panel. Since this appeal panel will be independent of the Club, any decisions made by it will be binding on all parties with no right of further appeal.

13. The appeal will take place as soon as possible after the member concerned has requested it, and no later than 28 days following the date of receipt of the request for an appeal hearing.

14. The Club Secretary will communicate the final decision to the member only after the conclusion of the appeal, or when the date for the lodging of an appeal has passed without such appeal being lodged. No member of the Disciplinary Committee shall make any comment about the proceedings publicly.

15. No member expelled from membership shall be re-admitted except by a special resolution of the Club in general meeting.



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