



Traffic Light System – Guidelines Season 2024/25

The Traffic Light System is a County wide behaviour system that has been developed to empower and assist you as clubs to improve behaviour across grassroots football.

| | | |
|--|--|---|
| | <p>All teams start on green. Good respect scores, no reported problems. Nothing to worry about. Good role models. Positive environment.</p> | |
| | <p>Reported incident. Poor practice or misconduct. Details passed onto SFA.</p> | <p>The duration spent on amber is 3 months (unless immediately actioned e.g. manager/player removed from team)</p> |
| | <p>Referee incident. Zero tolerance for referee abuse. Serious incident. Escalation from amber.</p> | <p>If a second incident happens whilst on amber this triggers a red status.</p> <p>Teams remain on red for a maximum of 6 months - this is reviewed by the league monthly, and changes can be made depending on track record/circumstances.</p> <p>Red status = 3 months before returning to amber.</p> |
| | <p>Meeting with league / CFA with possible removal from the league via SGM.</p> | <p>Two reds = black OR another report whilst a team is on red.</p> |

TLS Status will carry over between seasons. E.g. Red status in May 23/34 will pause and carry over to start of season September 24/25 for that team.

Key Messages for Managers, Spectators and Players

You only get 1 chance if you decide to abuse a referee.

You get a maximum of 2 chances otherwise.

If you are called to an SGM then the vote is likely to go against you!

Team Managers – you don't just manage the players! You need to manage the match day situation, manage yourself, manage your assistants and manage your spectators.

How does it work?

Reports are sent to the league via managers. All reports will include correspondence with either the club secretary, welfare officer or chair. This ensures that club committees are always informed of any issues with teams in their club and can intervene themselves if appropriate.

Reports can also be received via: matchday experience report, low referee marks, referee reports etc.

Minor respect issues dealt with by the league are moved to amber.

League has a tracker of cases that are sent to the CFA. This is updated on a weekly basis. If charged, team remain on red unless positive action shown to be taken. May be moved back to amber and on rare occasions back to green (e.g. removal of manager).

League officials deal with reports as appropriate and can resolve or escalate depending on the nature of the incident.

Any reports involving disciplinary matter that is an aggravated case (discrimination), referee abuse etc sent straight to CFA and DSO. Team advised on red pending CFA outcome.

Any movement on the TLS will be supported by the CFA.

Interventions

The purpose of the TLS is to empower clubs to act knowing that they have support from the league and CFA. The TLS is not intended to ever reach black – leagues operating this system have found that teams respond quickly when on amber or red to return to green status as quickly as possible.

Any of the below interventions will be supported by the league and CFA. If clubs are on amber/red status they can take actions to reduce this/return to green.

| | |
|----------------------------------|--|
| Codes of Conduct | Clubs supported to use Codes of Conduct wherever possible. This can help them manage player/spectator/coach behaviour. |
| Access to refresher training/CPD | Clubs on amber supported to ensure problem coaches attend some form of face-to-face CPD provided by the CFA. |
| Team Meetings | CFA support at meetings, parents contacted directly if clubs have concerns or require additional support. |
| Independent Matchday Monitors | Monitors sent anonymously to clubs – these reports will hold weight with any investigation. |
| Conversation and Education | Some clubs may simply not know where it is going wrong – help from CFA and league to educate. |
| Random spot checks from league | League officials may monitor games to support clubs. |
| Spectator/parent training | Ensure parents understand expectations. Safeguarding Courses |



Respect the referees.

Respect the managers/coaches.

Respect teammates and the opponent.

Respect the game.

The Traffic Light System is fully supported by the league and County FA.

Abuse/Respect issues WILL have consequences for your team.

SGM – Special General Meeting

It is highly unlikely that a team will reach this stage. The TLS is designed to give teams the opportunity to act before getting to this.

Will only be called when interventions have been ignored or joint interventions with CFA have failed.

Can only be called after prior consultation with CFA. A club/team must have been subject to an FA charge before it can be subjected to an SGM.

Can be called by the league management committee at any time/can be called by 2/3 of clubs in membership.

The purpose of the SGM is to consider conduct of team and decide on appropriate action via a vote from the member clubs:

- Remainder of the season = sanctioned friendlies.
- No sanctioned games – withdrawal of fixtures.
- Removal from the league with a requirement to re-apply for membership.