

Zero tolerance & fair play

Official club notice — August 2026. Abuse, intimidation, threats or violence have no place at Grimsby United.

Zero tolerance of abuse towards match officials

Applies at all Grimsby United fixtures, home or away, including league, cup, friendly and tournament matches, and to every person representing or supporting the Club.

- Match officials must be treated with respect at all times — disagreement with a decision is never a reason to verbally abuse, threaten, intimidate, surround, approach aggressively or make physical contact with a referee or other match official.
- Concerns about officiating must be raised with the team manager or a Club official, not by confronting the match official directly.
- Grimsby United FC will support its members and formally raise legitimate concerns through the correct Club and FA channels.
- Club action can include removal from the technical area, suspension from training or matches, restrictions on attending fixtures, committee/Welfare Team referral, formal disciplinary action, or removal from the Club in the most serious or repeated cases.
- Physical violence or threats of violence towards a match official will be treated as an extremely serious matter and referred to the relevant league, County FA or The FA.
- This applies during the match, at half-time, after the final whistle, around changing areas, in car parks, online and through social media.

Zero tolerance across the club

Extends to abuse of players, coaches, managers, volunteers, parents, spectators or opposition — at training, fixtures, tournaments, socials and online.

- Verbal abuse, threats, intimidation, aggressive behaviour or violence towards anyone involved in the club is unacceptable.
- Coaches and senior players lead by example. Younger players are watching how adults behave when decisions do not go their way.
- Reports should be made to the team manager, Club Secretary, Club Welfare Officer or committee member.
- Sanctions escalate from a quiet word or written warning through touchline bans, suspension, and removal from the club in serious or repeated cases.
- Passion is part of football. Disagreement is part of football. Abuse is not.
- Respect the badge. Respect the game. Respect the officials.

Safeguarding contact: Club Welfare Officer — grimsbyunitedfootballclub@gmail.com · 07783565426. Immediate risk to a child: call 999. NSPCC Helpline: 0808 800 5000. Where a club policy is less strict than an FA, league or legal requirement, the FA, league or legal requirement always applies.