

Stafford Rangers FC

Policy on Ejections and Club Bans

Policy Owner: Stafford Rangers Football Club

Venue: Stan Robinson Stadium, Marston Road, Stafford, ST16 3BX

Effective Date: 30th September 2026

Review Date: 30th June 2027

1. Purpose and Scope

Stafford Rangers Football Club ("the Club") is committed to providing a safe, welcoming and enjoyable environment for supporters, players, match officials, staff, volunteers, visitors, sponsors and all others attending or representing the Club.

The Club expects the highest possible standards of behaviour from everyone who is employed by, represents, volunteers with, plays for or visits the Club, whether attending a match at the **Stan Robinson Stadium**, travelling to or from an away fixture, attending another football venue, or engaging with the Club or its representatives online.

The behavioural standards set out in this policy apply to conduct that takes place:

- at the Stan Robinson Stadium;
- at any fixture involving Stafford Rangers FC, whether home or away;
- while travelling to or from a fixture where the conduct relates to Stafford Rangers FC;
- at Club-related events, functions or hospitality facilities; and
- online, including social media, where the conduct is connected with the Club, its players, staff, officials, volunteers or supporters.

The Club will not tolerate behaviour which:

- breaches the Club's Ground Regulations, ticket terms and conditions or other Club rules;
- may breach the rules or regulations of The Football Association ("The FA"), the relevant league or other football governing body;
- is unlawful or may constitute a criminal offence;
- places the safety of any person at risk;
- is abusive, threatening, violent, discriminatory or otherwise unacceptable; or
- brings, or has the potential to bring, the Club into serious disrepute.

This policy should be read alongside the Club's Ground Regulations, ticketing terms and conditions and any other applicable Club policies.

Where there is any conflict between this policy and applicable law or the rules and regulations of The FA or the relevant competition, the applicable law and governing-body rules will take precedence.

2. Ejection from the Stadium

At home matches, a supporter may be ejected from the Stan Robinson Stadium where they:

- fail to comply with the Ground Regulations or Club rules;
- fail to comply with a reasonable instruction from a Club steward, Club official, match official or police officer;
- engage in abusive, threatening, violent, discriminatory or disorderly behaviour;

- enter or attempt to enter an area to which they are not authorised to have access;
- persistently stand in an area where standing is not permitted;
- enter the field of play without permission;
- possess, ignite, use or attempt to use a pyrotechnic, flare, smoke bomb or similar device;
- throw or attempt to throw any object;
- consume or possess alcohol in an area where it is prohibited;
- use or possess illegal drugs;
- damage Club or third-party property;
- engage in unauthorised ticketing, ticket transfer or ticket entry;
- attempt to enter the stadium without a valid ticket or other authority to enter; or
- otherwise behave in a manner which the Club considers to present a risk to safety, security or the orderly conduct of the match.

Where appropriate, a supporter will normally be given an opportunity to modify their behaviour before being ejected. However, the Club reserves the right to eject an individual immediately where the nature or seriousness of the conduct means that an immediate intervention is necessary.

An individual who is ejected may be required to identify themselves to Club officials or stewards and to surrender their match ticket, season ticket, pass or other access credential.

No refund will normally be given where a person is ejected because of their conduct.

3. Corporate Hospitality and Club Facilities

Higher standards of behaviour are expected in corporate hospitality areas and other Club facilities, particularly where guests, sponsors, players, directors, staff or invited visitors are present.

The Club reserves the right to require any individual to leave corporate hospitality or another Club facility where their behaviour is disruptive, inappropriate, abusive, threatening or otherwise inconsistent with the standards expected by the Club.

No refund will normally be given in such circumstances.

The Club may also refuse admission to an individual or group where there are reasonable grounds to believe that they may cause disruption, breach Club rules or present a safety or security risk.

4. Search Policy

Stafford Rangers FC may require searches of bags and personal belongings, conducted by an SIA Level 2 licensed security officer.

Prohibited items will be confiscated and disposed of immediately unless they must be referred to the police.

Prohibited items include, but are not limited to:

- alcohol;
- pyrotechnics;
- smoke devices;
- weapons; and
- illegal drugs.

Stafford Rangers FC may decide whether to deny admission to anyone found in possession of these items.

5. Pyrotechnics and Smoke Devices

Pyrotechnics, flares, smoke bombs, fireworks and similar devices are strictly prohibited in and around the Stan Robinson Stadium and at fixtures involving Stafford Rangers FC.

Any person identified as:

- possessing a pyrotechnic or smoke device;
- attempting to bring one into the stadium;
- assisting another person to bring one into the stadium;
- igniting or using one; or
- throwing or attempting to throw a lit or otherwise activated device

may be subject to an immediate ejection and a Club ban.

The Club may also report such incidents to the police and/or the relevant football governing body.

The FA has confirmed that identified individuals carrying or using pyrotechnics or smoke bombs are subject to automatic club bans and police reporting measures.

6. Pitch Incursions

Entering the field of play without authorisation is prohibited.

Any supporter identified as entering or attempting to enter the field of play may be immediately ejected and will normally be subject to a Club ban.

The Club may report the incident to the police and/or relevant football governing body.

Entering the field of play may also constitute a criminal offence and may result in prosecution and/or a Football Banning Order.

7. Conduct That May Result in a Club Ban

In addition to ejection from the stadium, the Club may impose a Club ban where behaviour is persistent, repeated or sufficiently serious to warrant further action.

Examples of conduct which may result in a Club ban include, but are not limited to:

- serious or repeated breaches of the Ground Regulations;
- serious or repeated breaches of ticketing terms and conditions;
- persistent abusive, foul, insulting or threatening language;
- threatening, intimidating or violent behaviour towards Club staff, stewards, players, match officials, volunteers or supporters;
- discriminatory, racist, homophobic, sexist or otherwise abusive language or conduct;
- discriminatory or abusive behaviour directed at any individual online where it relates to the Club;
- physical assault or attempted assault;
- throwing objects;
- entering or attempting to enter the field of play without permission;
- possession, use, ignition or throwing of pyrotechnics, flares or smoke devices;

- assisting another person to bring prohibited items into the stadium;
- possession or use of illegal drugs;
- unauthorised possession or consumption of alcohol where prohibited;
- damage to Club property or the property of another person;
- theft;
- unauthorised entry or attempted entry to a fixture;
- use, transfer or attempted use of tickets contrary to Club rules;
- persistent standing where standing is prohibited;
- deliberate obstruction of gangways, exits or emergency access;
- behaviour which creates a health and safety risk;
- serious disorder at an away fixture involving Stafford Rangers FC;
- behaviour towards Club representatives or supporters while travelling to or from a fixture;
- serious misconduct through social media or other online platforms where it relates to the Club; and
- any other conduct which the Club reasonably considers sufficiently serious to warrant a ban.

This list is not exhaustive.

8. Length of Club Bans

The length of any Club ban will be determined on the individual circumstances of each incident.

When determining an appropriate period, the Club may consider:

- the seriousness of the conduct;
- whether the conduct was deliberate;
- the risk of injury or harm created;
- whether anyone was injured or placed at risk;
- whether the incident involved discrimination, violence, threats or intimidation;
- whether the individual has previously breached Club rules;
- whether the individual has previously been subject to a Club ban;
- whether the individual cooperated with Club officials;
- any genuine remorse or acceptance of responsibility; and
- any relevant mitigating or aggravating circumstances.

Persistent or repeated misconduct may result in a longer ban.

In particularly serious cases, the Club reserves the right to impose a lengthy or indefinite Club ban, subject to applicable law and any relevant football governing-body requirements.

A Club ban imposed by Stafford Rangers FC is separate from any Football Banning Order imposed by a court. The two sanctions may operate at the same time.

9. Football Banning Orders

A Football Banning Order ("FBO") is a legal order imposed by a court. It is separate from a Club ban.

Where a supporter is subject to an FBO, the Club reserves the right to refuse that person admission to the Stan Robinson Stadium and to impose a Club ban for the duration of the FBO.

The Club may liaise with the police and relevant football authorities regarding individuals subject to an FBO where permitted or required by law.

10. Unauthorised or Ticketless Entry

All supporters must enter the stadium using a valid ticket or other valid authority issued or recognised by the Club.

Attempting to enter a match without a valid ticket, using a ticket which is not valid for the relevant fixture, or assisting another person to gain unauthorised entry may result in ejection and/or a Club ban.

The Club may refer suspected unlawful or fraudulent entry to the police.

The law relating to unauthorised entry to designated football matches was strengthened by the Unauthorised Entry to Football Matches Act 2026, which created an offence covering entering or attempting to enter a designated football match without an eligible match ticket, subject to the statutory provisions and defences. [Legislation.gov.uk](https://legislation.gov.uk)+1

11. Incidents at Away Fixtures

Stafford Rangers supporters are expected to maintain the same standards of behaviour when attending away fixtures as they are at the Stan Robinson Stadium.

The Club may investigate and take action in respect of misconduct involving Stafford Rangers supporters at away fixtures.

Where appropriate, the Club may consider information supplied by the host club, police, league, The FA, match officials, stewards, security personnel or other reliable sources.

Any Club action will be considered separately from any action taken by the host club, police, The FA or another football governing body.

12. Online and Social Media Conduct

The Club recognises the right of individuals to express opinions and engage in legitimate debate.

However, conduct through social media or other online platforms may be considered under this policy where it is sufficiently connected to the Club and involves, for example:

- threats or intimidation;
- harassment;
- discriminatory abuse;
- serious or targeted abuse of Club employees, players, officials or volunteers;
- disclosure or misuse of confidential information;
- conduct which creates a genuine safety or security concern; or
- conduct which otherwise constitutes serious misconduct connected with Stafford Rangers FC.

The Club will distinguish legitimate criticism and opinion from conduct that breaches this policy.

13. Reporting to the Police and Other Authorities

Where an incident may constitute a criminal offence, the Club reserves the right to report the matter to the police.

The Club may also notify or provide relevant information to:

- The Football Association;
- the relevant league or competition;
- the host or visiting club;
- football policing authorities; or
- another appropriate authority,

where there is a legitimate reason to do so and where permitted or required by law.

A Club ban does not prevent the police or another authority from taking separate action.

14. Notification of a Club Ban

Where the Club decides to impose a Club ban, the supporter will normally be notified in writing.

The notification will normally include:

- the date of the decision;
- the conduct or incident giving rise to the ban;
- the length and scope of the ban;
- the date on which the ban begins;
- the date on which the ban ends, where applicable;
- the Club facilities, fixtures or activities from which the individual is excluded;
- any conditions attached to the ban; and
- details of the appeals process.

The Club will use the contact details reasonably available to it, including an email or postal address provided by the supporter.

15. Scope of a Club Ban

Unless otherwise stated in writing, a Club ban will prohibit the individual from attending Stafford Rangers FC home fixtures at the Stan Robinson Stadium during the period of the ban.

Depending on the circumstances, the Club may extend a ban to include:

- away fixtures involving Stafford Rangers FC;
- Club hospitality;
- Club events;
- training or other Club facilities;
- Club-organised travel; and/or
- other activities controlled by the Club.

The scope of the ban will be specified in the banning notification.

A banned individual must not attempt to enter the stadium or attend a fixture in breach of the ban.

Attempting to circumvent a Club ban may result in the ban being extended.

16. Season Tickets and Match Tickets

Where a supporter is subject to a Club ban, the Club may suspend or cancel the use of season tickets, memberships, passes or other access rights for the duration of the ban, subject to the applicable ticket terms and conditions and any applicable legal requirements.

The Club will determine any refund or credit in accordance with its applicable ticketing terms and conditions.

Where a season ticket has been purchased by instalments, any continuing payment obligations will be governed by the applicable ticket purchase agreement and terms and conditions.

17. Appeals

A supporter subject to a Club ban may appeal the decision in writing within **14 days** of the date of the banning notification.

The appeal should:

- state the grounds of appeal;
- explain why the supporter believes the ban should be reconsidered;
- identify any relevant evidence or mitigating circumstances; and
- provide a daytime telephone number or other appropriate contact details.

Appeals should be submitted using the contact details specified in the banning notification.

Email will be accepted as a written appeal. Social media messages, text messages, telephone calls or informal approaches to Club staff will not normally constitute a formal appeal unless the Club expressly agrees otherwise.

Where reasonably practicable, an appeal will be considered by a person who was not responsible for making the original banning decision and who has appropriate authority within the Club.

Following consideration of an appeal, the original decision may be:

- upheld;
- reduced;
- varied;
- revoked; or
- replaced with another appropriate sanction.

The outcome of the appeal will be confirmed in writing.

The Club's internal appeal decision will normally be final.

18. Evidence and Decision-Making

The Club may consider a range of information when investigating an incident, including:

- steward reports;
- reports from Club officials;
- reports from match officials;
- CCTV footage;
- photographs or video recordings;
- ticketing and access records;
- information supplied by the police or other authorities;
- statements from witnesses;
- information supplied by another football club or governing body; and
- relevant publicly available online material.

The Club will seek to act reasonably and proportionately when considering disciplinary action.

The fact that a person has not been prosecuted or convicted of a criminal offence does not prevent the Club from taking action under this policy where the Club has sufficient information to justify a Club sanction.

Equally, any criminal proceedings or football governing-body proceedings are separate from the Club's internal process.

19. Children and Young People

Where an incident involves a person under 18, the Club will take the person's age and circumstances into account when deciding what action is appropriate.

Where appropriate, the Club may communicate with a parent, guardian or responsible adult.

The Club reserves the right to take action against a parent or guardian where they have directly contributed to, encouraged or facilitated serious misconduct, subject to the circumstances of the individual case.

20. Data Protection

The Club will process personal information relating to incidents, investigations, ejections and Club bans in accordance with applicable data protection legislation and the Club's privacy notice.

Information will only be shared with third parties where there is an appropriate lawful basis for doing so, including where necessary for safeguarding, safety, security, crime prevention, football regulation or compliance with a legal or regulatory obligation.

21. Review of this Policy

This policy will be reviewed periodically and may be amended to reflect changes in legislation, The FA's rules and regulations, league requirements, Club procedures or recognised good practice.

The Club reserves the right to take immediate action where necessary to protect the safety and welfare of supporters, players, staff, officials, volunteers and visitors.

B. Alcock

Ben Alcock – Director; Stafford Rangers Football Club

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STAFFORD RANGERS F.C.