

LFA Football Crimes, Fines & Misdemeanours 1897-98

Leicestershire Football Association ruled football in the county with a rod of iron. Crimes and misdemeanours by players, officials and clubs were severely dealt with. A summary of the punishments handed out in 1892-93 are given below:

Stoke Golding Albion and Kegworth Wednesday were readmitted as members of the Association
[LFA meeting – 14 October 1897]

Several players (J Taylor and C Grudgings – Loughborough Park; H Kelham – Belton Villa) were reinstated for paying fines.
[LFA meeting – 14 October 1897]

Ibstock Albion F.C. were granted permission to play a benefit match for W Adcock on 20 October.
[LFA meeting – 14 October 1897]

J Enney (Thringstone Albion) was suspended for one month from 18 October; for playing in the close season.
[LFA meeting – 14 October 1897]

B Jolley, G Wardle, J Wardle (Thringstone Albion) were suspended for 14 days from 18 October for playing for a non-affiliated club.
[LFA meeting – 14 October 1897]

E Brown (Markfield) was suspended for one month from 18 October for threatening a player at Coalville, after being cautioned by the referee.
[LFA meeting – 14 October 1897]

Belgrave St Michael's were ordered to pay Croft Rising Star 10s travelling expenses for failing to comply with Rule 12 of the Junior cup competition.
[LFA meeting – 14 October 1897]

It was decided to give 100 copies of the association handbook to the Leicester Schools League; Markfield Albion F.C. were reported for playing G Clapham, not qualified by registration, in a junior cup-tie and the match was awarded to Coalville United F.C..
[LFA meeting – 14 October 1897]

Mountsorrel St Peter's F.C. reported against Mountsorrel Castle for playing J Whitehouse, alleged to be in arrears with his subscriptions, was not sustained. *[LFA meeting – 14 October 1897]*

Reports were received both from the Fosse and Loughborough F.C.'s, with regard to their Senior Cup-tie dispute, Fosse on the one hand, for nonfulfillment of fixture, and on the other Loughborough for fixing the kick-off to take place at a time not mutually agreed upon by the two clubs. The executive gave the following ruling after hearing evidence from both clubs:

1. That both clubs be severely censured for not playing the cup tie on the day specified by the association.
2. That the match must be played on Saturday, 30 October (failing a mutual arrangement to play on an earlier date), the kick off to take place at three o'clock and the match to be played to a finish, with Mr. A Peters of Kettering, as referee.
3. That the expenses incurred on 16 October and those incurred in the match now ordered to be played, to be paid by the Fosse club, and the gross gate to be shared by the Loughborough F.C. and Fosse F.C. to be required to guarantee a minimum share of £20 to Loughborough.
4. Loughborough F.C. to be censured for the tone of their report to the association.

[LFA meeting – 25 October 1897]

A protest from Ellistown F.C. against the replayed cu[tie with Ashby Town being allowed to stand on account of the ground being contrary to the competition rules. After hearing the referee's report, the match was ordered to be replayed on Saturday 6 November, at Ellistown, the kick off to take place at 2.45 and to be played to a conclusion. Mr. G Broughton referee.

[LFA meeting – 25 October 1897]

A protest was received from Leicester YMCA against their match in the Shield Competition with St Matthew's Vicarage, being awarded t that club owing to a player not being eligible. It was proved that St Matthew's had broken the rule, and the match was awarded to YMCA.

[LFA meeting – 5 November 1897]

Oxford Victoria were censured and cautioned for not having their ground marked in accordance with rules, and causing delay in the start of the match.

[LFA meeting – 5 November 1897]

Stockingford F.C. appealed against the Hinckley Charity Association as to eligibility of players. After hearing evidence from the association and Stockingford and Nuneaton Clubs, the following ruling was given:-

1. Appeal of Stockingford F.C. referring to eligibility of Marsh and Hawthorne, of Nuneaton Town F.C. be sustained.
2. That Hinckley Charity Association misled the Nuneaton Town F.C. in declaring then men eligible for the replayed match.
3. That the match be replayed on or before December 31 on neutral ground, the officials to be appointed by the LFA and only men qualified on the date fixed for completion of the first round of the competition, ie 2 October, be eligible.
4. That the proceeds of the match devoted to the Hinckley charities after payment of travelling expenses of both teams and other items incurred by the clubs.
5. That the Hinckley Charity Association be severely censured for giving irregular rulings.

[LFA meeting – 10 November 1897]

Earl Shilton Town F.C. protested against their match with Melton Villa F.C. being allowed to stand on the ground of ineligible players taking part. The protest was sustained, and Melton Villa were removed from the competition and the match awarded to Earl Shilton F.C.

[LFA meeting – 10 November 1897]

Thursday Victoria were reported for approaching Payne, of Thursday Rovers. After hearing evidence, the committee decided that for League and other matches Payne was a bona-fide member of Thursday Rovers. The question of approaching Payne was referred to the Emergency Committee, owing to the absence of that player. Thursday Victoria were also reported for approaching Carter of Thursday Wanderers. The charge was not sustained, but for playing Carter Thursday Victoria were fined 5s., and Carter was suspended until the fine was paid.

[LFA meeting – 10 November 1897]

The commission appointed to investigate the charge of alleged misconduct of spectators on the Hugglescote Robin Hoods ground, presented their report, and the following rulings were given:

1. That no general misconduct took place.
2. That the only cause of complaint proven was abusive conduct on the part of John Poole, a member of the Hugglescote Robin Hoods.
3. That J. Poole be suspended from taking any further part in connection with football management and not to be allowed to attend any matches on the Hugglescote ground during the present season.
4. Hugglescote F.C. were ordered to have bills cautioning spectators circulated on the ground.
5. The Leicestershire Senior League be requested to use more discretion in the appointment of referees in the direction of locality and interest in clubs affected by officials appointed.

[LFA meeting – 10 November 1897]

The report of the commission appointed to investigate the charges preferred against Measham Wanderers by Moira Rovers, of making payments to amateurs, was received, and the following rulings were given: —

1. That the charge in respect to Rice was not sustained, he being a properly registered professional. Moira Rovers were severely censured, and cautioned for the reckless manner in which the charge was made, and were ordered to pay reasonable expenses to Rice for attending before the commission.
2. That Cotton, Upton, and Eaton, late of Measham Wanderers, were proved, on their own and the club's admission, guilty of receiving payment contrary to the rules of the F.A., and these players were each suspended for one month from November 15.
3. Measham Wanderers F.C. were suspended one week from November 15, and ordered to pay the costs of the inquiry.

A report by the Measham Wanderers against Moira Rovers was also investigated, but not sustained.

[LFA meeting – 10 November 1897]

The report of Belgrave St. Michael's for alleged misconduct of spectators at Mountsorrel on the Castle Club ground was not proved. At the same time Mountsorrel Castle F.C. were requested to take the necessary precaution to prevent misconduct.

[LFA meeting – 10 November 1897]

S. Grace, of Clarendon Park Congregational F.C., was suspended from November 15 for a fortnight for abusive conduct to the referee whilst acting as linesman.

[LFA meeting – 10 November 1897]

Leicester Granby were reported for irregularities in connection with their Shield tie with Leicester Cumberland F.C. The explanation of the club was accepted.

[LFA meeting – 10 November 1897]

A report from Thringstone Albion Football Club against Swannington for playing a member in arrears was not sustained.

[LFA meeting – 10 November 1897]

Netherseal St. Peters F.C. were fined 2s. 6d. for playing members of Overseal Town F.C. in arrears.

[LFA meeting – 10 November 1897]

St. Paul's F.C. were fined 2s. 6d., and ordered to pay St. Matthew's Vicarage 2s. 6d. for a breach of fixtures, and the secretary of the first named club was suspended for 14 days for failing to reply to association communications.

[LFA meeting – 10 November 1897]

A report from Wilton Excelsior against Market Harborough was not substantiated, and the Harborough Club were asked for an explanation having altered their name without having first obtained sanction from the association.

[LFA meeting – 10 November 1897]

N Hibbert (Hugglescote) and G F Toone (Burbage) were suspended from 29 November for a fortnight, for playing for non-affiliated clubs.

[LFA meeting – 25 November 1897]

C Brewin (Swannington) was suspended for three months from 29 November playing in irregular contests.

[LFA meeting – 25 November 1897]

G Tugby (Whitwick) was suspended for one month from 29 November for disorderly proceedings at Whitwick.

[LFA meeting – 25 November 1897]

J Chamberlain (Ashfordby Swifts) was suspended for one month from 29 November for rough play at Barkby.

[LFA meeting – 25 November 1897]

A report was received from the referee in the Leicester and District League match as to disorderly proceedings between St Mary's Rovers and Market Harborough, in which it was reported that C J B Wood and Clements (Market Harborough), C Wood and Cufflin (St Mary's Rovers) were ordered off the field. After hearing evidence from all the parties concerned, the executive considered the charges not proven, and that there existed much doubt and gave the players the benefit of it. At the same time, it was considered that the referee acted with the best of motive.

[LFA meeting – 25 November 1897]

J Wallis (Kegworth) was suspended for one month from 24 December for kicking an opponent.

[LFA meeting – 20 December 1897]

Bates and J Wortley (Aylestone United) were suspended for 14 days from 24 December for leaving the field before time.

[LFA meeting – 20 December 1897]

C Garrett (Hinckley) was suspended from officiating as referee for the remainder of the season for abusive conduct towards a player at Hinckley on 11 December.

[LFA meeting – 20 December 1897]

St Paul's F.C. were suspended until fines due to St Matthew's Vicarage were paid.

[LFA meeting – 20 December 1897]

Moira Strollers F.C. were ordered to pay Coleorton F.C. 2s 6d and the club and playing members to stand suspended until the amount was paid.

[LFA meeting – 6 January 1898]

Markfield F.C. were ordered to pay Coalville Athletic F.C.. fines awarded on or before 30 January.

[LFA meeting – 6 January 1898]

The Association granted permission to Coalville Albion to play a match at Coalville on 22 January for the benefit of locked out engineers.

[LFA meeting – 6 January 1898]

Monk (St. Saviour's) was suspended until he satisfied the Association that he was financially clear with the affiliated clubs he had joined.

[LFA meeting – 6 January 1898]

Gant and Pedley (Granby) were suspended until subscriptions due to Ivanhoe Swifts were paid, and Granby F.C. were censured for not making proper inquiries.

[LFA meeting – 6 January 1898]

Handcock (All Saints') was suspended until amounts due to that club were paid.

[LFA meeting – 6 January 1898]

S. Brown (Aylestone Park Rovers), were suspended until subscriptions to West-end Albion were paid; Aylestone Park Rovers were fined 2s. 6d. for playing him before he was clear on the books of the West-end F.C.

[LFA meeting – 6 January 1898]

St. Mary's Victor F.C. were fined 2s. 6d. for failing to keep to engagement with West-end F.C., and as it was understood that the club had disbanded, the playing members were suspended from playing until the amount had been paid.

[LFA meeting – 6 January 1898]

T. Bunn (Abbey-gate Rovers) was suspended until his subscriptions, due to the Ferndale F.C., were paid, and the first-named club was fined 2s. 6d. for playing him before he was clear on the books of the club he last played for.

[LFA meeting – 6 January 1898]

Leicester Casuals F.C. were ordered to pay fines due on or before January 15, failing which the club would be suspended.

[LFA meeting – 6 January 1898]

Oakham Rovers were awarded 19s 3d expenses for attending meeting in Leicester to defend a protest made by Melton Rovers.

[LFA meeting – 29 January 1898]

A protest from Earl Shilton Town against Hemington F.C. on account of encroachment by spectators was considered, but not sustained.

[LFA meeting – 29 January 1898]

In connection with disorderly conduct on the part of Earl Shilton players at Hemington, the following ruling was given – A Foster and H Taylor (Earl Shilton) were suspended for 2 months, and their captain was suspended for 14 days.

[LFA meeting – 29 January 1898]

Anstey Town reported Leicester Fosse for non-payment of a guarantee, but Fosse produced a checkbook proving that a duplicate cheque had been forwarded on 23 December – so no action was taken.

[LFA meeting – 29 January 1898]

Coalville Town F. C. were awarded 17s, 3d. expenses. Ashby Albion F.C. were ordered to pay the above amount, and fines due to the association, on or before March 1st, failing which to be suspended.

[LFA meeting – 9 February 1898]

JUNIOR CUP. Market Harborough F.C. protested against their cup-tie with Barrow Excelsior F.C., on account of the ground being contrary to rule. The protest was upheld, and the match was ordered to be replayed at Market Harborough on Feb. 19, kick-off at 3.30, and b played to a conclusion.

[LFA meeting – 9 February 1898]

A protest received from Bagworth F.C. against Whitwick White Cross F.C- on grounds, of ineligible men, and that the ground was contrary to rule. After evidence from clubs and report from referee, the protest was not sustained.

[LFA meeting – 9 February 1898]

A protest was received from Leicester Ferndale F.C. against Loughborough Corinthians, on the ground of an unregistered man. The match was ordered to be replayed at Leicester to a conclusion, Loughborough Corinthians not to play W. Barker

[LFA meeting – 9 February 1898]

SUSPENSIONS. W. Richardson (Stoney Stanton) suspended for the remainder of the season from Feb. 14th, for abusive conduct the referee.

[LFA meeting – 9 February 1898]

E. Marvin, late of Leicester Craven, suspended for a month for playing during suspension.

[LFA meeting – 9 February 1898]

A report was received from the referee in the Rolleston Cup-tie. Fosse v. Syston Swifts, as to the disorderly conduct on the part of the spectators. The Syston Club were severely cautioned, and an intimation given that if any repetition of such conduct occurred again, a heavy suspension would be passed.

[LFA meeting – 9 February 1898]

MISCELLANEOUS. An appeal was made by Coalville Albion F.C against the decision of the Leicestershire Senior League, fining the first-named club two guineas for failing to send players to the championship match.

[LFA meeting – 9 February 1898]

G. Bradshaw (Thursday Wanderers) was suspended for one month from February 28 for abusive conduct to referee.

[LFA meeting – 24 February 1898]

A report by Shepshed F.C. against Trainer of Coalville Albion was not entertained owing to the lack of evidence.

[LFA meeting – 24 February 1898]

The report of Loughborough Corinthians against their former secretary was adjourned owing to the absence of A. W. Clarke.

[LFA meeting – 24 February 1898]

Shepshed F.C. were fined one guinea, severely censured, and cautioned for playing J. Gill, of Stapleford, a registered "pro."

[LFA meeting – 24 February 1898]

Coalville Albion were ordered to pay the fines due to the Leicestershire Senior League on or before March 21, failing which to stand suspended.

[LFA meeting – 24 February 1898]

The dispute between Hinckley League and Burbage Albion was considered. It was ruled that the League having decided that the protest was irregular, they must return the Burbage Albion protest fee.

[LFA meeting – 24 February 1898]

Leicester Thursday Rovers were fined 5s and censured for the manner in which their fixture with Leicester Banks F.C. was treated.

[LFA meeting – 8 March 1898]

Leicester Thursday Victoria F.C. reported the Thursday Rovers F.C. for playing Dolman, alleged to be a member of the first-named club, and in arrear with subscriptions. The committee ruled that Dolman was a member of the Thursday Victoria F.C. for season 1896-97, and he had not resigned. He was also ruled to be a member of the Thursday Victoria F.C. for the 1897-98 season. Dolman was suspended until he was clear on the books of the Thursday Victoria F.C. and censured and cautioned for his treatment towards both clubs. Thursday Rovers were ruled not to have been guilty of any misconduct on the matter.

[LFA meeting – 8 March 1898]

The charges against A W Clarke, the late secretary of Loughborough Corinthians F.C. for misrepresentation as to registrations and for refusing to hand over books and papers of the club were not proven. It was ruled that Mr Clark had not willfully misled the club, and further, that he had not refused to hand over the papers when officially requested to do so.

[LFA meeting - ? March 1898]

Loughborough Victoria F.C. preferred charges of approaching two of their members - Mounteney and Unwin – against Barrow Excelsior F.C.. After hearing evidence – the executive reserved their decision.

[LFA meeting – ? March 1898]

Mr. Harper, referee in the Ashby League match between Boundary v. Swannington reported six of the Swannington players for leaving the field before time. After hearing all the parties the commission gave the following rulings:

1. That the referee's report of charging players with leaving the field was not sustained.
2. That the match was abandoned by the referee, and therefore it was irregular for him to restart the game.
3. That the action of the referee in tendering a misleading report was deserving of censure, and that his expenses in attending before the commission were not allowed.
4. That he should be reported to the Leicestershire Referees' Association for incompetence.

[LFA meeting – 28 April 1898]

Mr. Sherwin, referee of a match between Donisthorpe v. Ibstock Wanderers, at Donisthorpe reported the disorderly behaviour of spectators. The commission gave the following rulings:— -
The ground of the Donisthorpe club was closed until Sept. 19, and that the club was not allowed to play matches within five miles until after that date, and that boys be charged full admission up to December 31. The expenses of the referee and commission were to be paid by the Donisthorpe club.

[LFA meeting – 28 April 1898]

T. Bott (late secretary Belgrave United) was suspended until he appeared before the committee to answer a charge by his late club.

[LFA meeting – 28 April 1898]

H. King (Earl Shilton Town) was suspended until December 31 for rough play at Earl Shilton.

[LFA meeting – 28 April 1898]

J. Weston (Markfield) was suspended until December 31 for unsportsmanlike conduct to the referee at Quorn.

[LFA meeting – 28 April 1898]

J. Foulds and A. Squires (Woodhouse) were suspended until December 31 for unsportsmanlike conduct and refusing to leave the field when ordered at Loughborough.

[LFA meeting – 28 April 1898]

A. Foster (Overseal) was suspended until September 12 for rough play at Burton.

[LFA meeting – 28 April 1898]

W. Freeman (Belgrave St. Michael's) was suspended for season 1898-99 from taking any official part in connection with football for misconduct towards the referee whilst acting as linesman.

[LFA meeting – 28 April 1898]

Fleckney were ordered to pay South Wigston Albion 5s; Richmond were ordered to pay Knighton Fields Swifts 2s. 6d.; Oxford Victoria were ordered to pay Belgrave United 2s 6d.

[LFA meeting – 28 April 1898]

On the adjourned hearing of charges made against T. Chadwick and G. Wakefield (Leicester Granby) for gambling in a match in which they were engaged, the committee ruled that the case was not proven, and no further action be taken.

[LFA meeting – 28 April 1898]

After an investigation of alleged irregular proceedings in the match between Coalville Albion v. Earl Shilton Town took place, the following rulings were given : — "That the condition of players in the match Coalville Albion v. Earl Shilton Town was such that the executive rule the match be not allowed to count in the League championship; that the match be replayed on cup-tie terms not later than September 21 next on neutral ground, and the officials to be appointed by the L.F.A." The Coalville Albion club were censured for supplying intoxicants to the visiting team.

[LFA meeting – 21 May 1898]

For a breach of fixtures Leicester Cumberland were ordered to pay Melton Rovers 7s 6d; Leicester Oxford Victoria were ordered to pay a match with Stoke Golding Albion at Stoke Golding in lieu of a fixture not played due to a confusion of dates.

[LFA meeting – 21 May 1898]

After hearing evidence of the commission of inquiry at Elmesthorpe, the Leicestershire Football Association made the following ruling- *"That the condition of the players in the match Coalville v Earl Shilton Town was such that the executive rule the match be not allowed to count in the League championship; that the match be replayed on cup tie terms not later than September 21 on neutral ground, and the officials be appointed by the LFA."* The Coalville Albion Club were censured for supplying intoxicants to the visiting team.

[LFA meeting – 21 May 1898]