

## **Football Crimes, Fines & Misdemeanours 1896-97**

**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 1895-96 are given below:**

Mountsorrel Castle were suspended from the Leicestershire Football Association from the start of the 1896-7 season until fines imposed were paid in full.

*[LFA meeting – 3 September 1896]*

In September 1896 numerous players from Ashfordby Swifts, Gresley Swifts, Leicester Emmanuel, Overseal Town were suspended for one month for playing in 6-a-side matches.

*[LFA meeting – 3 September 1896]*

A Marriott and J Poynton [Linton Swifts] were suspended from 1-28 September 1896 for playing in a 6-a-side match.

*[LFA meeting – 3 September 1896]*

Syston Swift appealed against the North Leicestershire League retaining deposit of £1 1s. After hearing evidence from Messrs Utting (Kegworth) and G M (Syston) the executive upheld appeal and decided that Syston Swift F.C. should receive back the deposit minus a 5s 2d levy inflicted by the League. Syston Swifts were severely censure for discourteous treatment of the League.

*[LFA meeting – 25 September 1896]*

Syston Swifts were reported by the referee for disorderly conduct caused by their spectators last Saturday [18 September]. They were severely censured and cautioned and ordered to have bills printed and posted on their ground warning spectators as to their future conduct.

*[LFA meeting – 25 September 1896]*

The adjourned case in which Barrow Excelsior spectators were reported with respect to an alleged assault upon the Loughborough Park players was considered. The committee decided that the allegations were not sustained, but that H. James of Excelsior, and A. Sharpe of Loughborough Park were suspended until 22 October for disorderly conduct. The two clubs in question were ordered to pay the expenses incurred by the referee in attending the meeting to give evidence.

*[LFA meeting – 25 September 1896]*

In connection with the match between Markfield and Rothley on 12 September J. Hickling (Rothley) was suspended until 22 October. H. Burton [Markfield] till 9 November for a similar offence and refusing leave field the field when ordered.

*[LFA meeting – 25 September 1896]*

West Humberstone Swifts were fined 2s 6d for breaking and engagement and ordered to play a match with Syston Rangers at Syston.

*[LFA meeting – 25 September 1896]*

The players and officials of the Willoughby club were suspended until such time the fines due to Abb Kettleby were paid.

*[LFA meeting – 25 September 1896]*

A communication was received from the Football Association instructing the LFA to investigate and report upon the financial state of the Coalville Charity Association.

*[LFA meeting – 25 September 1896]*

F. Modley, Belgrave St. Michael's, was suspended until subscriptions due to Leicester North End were paid.  
*[LFA meeting – 23 October 1896]*

Barlestone Rovers were fined 2s. 6d. for failing to keep engagement with Barlestone United, and were ordered to arrange another match with the last-named club.  
*[LFA meeting – 23 October 1896]*

Leicester North End were fined 5s., to be paid to the association, for failing to keep engagement with Anstey Town, and were severely censured for want of courtesy to the latter club.  
*[LFA meeting – 23 October 1896]*

A commission investigated the match between Fleckney and Kibworth and made the following rulings:

- The report against Mr Pryce Evans, referee, was not sustained – that gentleman having fulfilled his duties in a very able manner.
- Suspension of W Folwell [Fleckney] until 31 December for dangerous play, which necessitated him being ordered off the field by the referee.
- E Atkinson [Kibworth] was suspended until 31 May 1897 for betting in a match in which he played.
- E Deacon, assistant secretary to the Fleckney Club was suspended from taking part in football for interference with the game while officiating as linesman and for refusing to obey the referee's orders.

*[LFA meeting – 23 October 1896]*

At the October meeting of the Leicestershire Football Association:

- Melton Rovers were fined 2s 6 for playing an unaffiliated club.
- Leicester Caven were suspended for 4 weeks for disorderly conduct in a match against St Mary's.
- F Bond [King Richards-road] and g Norman [Oxford Rovers] were severely censured for rough lay.
- H Buswell [Oxford Rovers] was suspended from taking part in football until 1 May 1897 for insulting a referee whilst acting as linesman.
- A White [Thurmaston overs] was cautioned for questioning referee's decisions in the match between his club and Barkby.

*[LFA meeting – 23 October 1896]*

LEICESTERSHIRE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION. THE COMPLAINT AGAINST LOUGHBOBOUGH FOOTBALL CLUB. On Wednesday the executive of the Leicester County Football Association heard a charge of misconduct reported by the referee, Mr. Pennington, against Loughborough Football Club, in the match with Walsall, on October 10th. After hearing exhaustive evidence the committee came to the conclusion that whilst disorderly conduct did occur, it was not of a character to justify the extreme course of closing the ground. They severely censured the club, and suspended Mr. Lakin, a committee man, until May for imputing dishonourable motives to the referee, and ordered him to apologise. They also called upon the committee to apologise to Mr. Pennington for the general misconduct towards him, and to pay the cost of the inquiry, and publish bills warning spectators.

*Nottinghamshire Guardian - Saturday 31 October 1896*

E Bennistone [Coalville Town] was suspended November for one week for disorderly conduct to the referee in the Senior Cup tie against Loughborough.  
*[LFA meeting – 7 November 1896]*

G Gilbert [Syston Rangers] was suspended for 5 weeks for using bad language to the referee and refusing to leave the field when requested, at Melton on 31 October.  
*[LFA meeting – 7 November 1896]*

W H Ward, R Buxton, A Kemp, and F Andron were suspended until 7 December for inducing a player to remain on the field after he had been ordered off by the referee.  
*[LFA meeting – 7 November 1896]*

W Copley was ordered to pay Leicester Emanuel 3s within 14 days or be suspended.

*[LFA meeting – 7 November 1896]*

C. Bates [Moirs Rovers] as suspended until 4 December for playing in a six-a-side tournament.

*[LFA meeting – 7 November 1896]*

Leicester Waverley were fined 2s 6d for being 50 mins late in Rolleston Cup i.e. a Enderby.

*[LFA meeting – 7 November 1896]*

Loughborough Park were fined 2s 6d and reused to play another match a Thringsone or pay a further fine of 12s 6d.

*[LFA meeting – 7 November 1896]*

Blackfordby fined 2s 6d and ordered to arrange another match with Ibstock Swifts or pay a further fine of 5d.

*[LFA meeting – 7 November 1896]*

Swannington StGeorge's were fined 2s 6d and required to arrange a match with Coalville United or would be fine 7s 6d.

*[LFA meeting – 7 November 1896]*

YMCA were ordered to play a match at Countesthorpe, and take half the proceeds of the gate.

*[LFA meeting – 7 November 1896]*

F Kitboune [Hemington] was suspended from December 1 to 31 for playing in a 6-a-side match [second offence].

*[LFA meeting – 7 November 1896]*

W. Jackson, Anstey Town, was suspended until January 4 for disorderly conduct.

*[LFA meeting – 7 December 1896]*

Anstey Town F.C. were cautioned and censured for the conduct of their spectators, and were ordered to publish bills.

*[LFA meeting – 7 December 1896]*

E. Broughton, Wigston Excelsior, was suspended until January 4 for sending an abusive communication to the association.

*[LFA meeting – 7 December 1896]*

At the 22 December meeting of the Leicestershire Football Association

- Noon, J. Bishop, A Newbold, H. Bradley, J. W. Pollard, J. H. Bolton, H. Kirchin, and O. Sutton, players of Mountsorrel St. Peter's, were suspended from December 29 to January 5 for leaving the field before time at Loughborough on December 12.
- E. Orton (Coalville Town) and T. Smith (Coalville Albion) were suspended from December 28 to January 12 for misconduct at Coalville on Saturday 19 December.
- Ashby Albion F.C. were fined 2s. 6d. and severely censured for making a collection for an amateur player, and ordered to register W. Cranage as a professional.
- Belton Villa F.C. were fined 2s. 6d. and severely censured for playing J Waring, of Shepshed United, before ascertaining his financial position with the last-named club.
- J. Waring was suspended until the amount due to Shepshed United was paid. Market Harborough F.C. were fined 2s 6d. and censured for playing G. Clements and H. Ireson before ascertaining their position with Market Harborough Excelsior F.C., and the players referred to were suspended until their subscriptions were paid to the last-named club.
- G. Norman (Oxford Rovers) was suspended until January 18 for disorderly conduct on December 12.
- Blackfordby F.C. and playing members were suspended until fines due were paid.

- Many players were suspended due to non-payment of club subscriptions, in particular to clubs they had left recently. Neal and A. Townsend (King Richard's-road), for example were suspended until subscriptions due to West End Albion were paid and H. Orchard (West End Albion) was suspended until subscriptions due to King Richard-road were paid.
- W. Brown (Hemington) was suspended until Dec. 30 for playing with a club not affiliated.
- The following case, of non-fulfilment of fixtures were dealt with. Thurmaston to pay Anstey Town 5s, Croft to pay Earl Shilton Victor 5s., Thurmaston to pay Imperial 5s., Rothley Swifts to pay Leicester Rutland 5s. , Aylestone Park Rovers to pay Belgrave St. Michael's 2s. 6d. St. John's Institute to arrange another match with Cumberland F.C., or pay 2s. 6d.

Belgrave St Michael's were ordered to pay Melton 5s for non-fulfilment of a fixture  
*[LFA meeting – 14 January 1897]*

In January 1897 George Harry Newton (21), secretary of Loughborough Emmanuel and the newly formed Loughborough & District League was found guilty of fraud and sentenced to 6 months hard labour,

Glen Parva were ordered to explain why they played whilst suspended.  
*[LFA meeting – 27 January 1897]*

Swannington were ordered to pay Woodville travelling expenses in the Shield competition or be suspended.  
*[LFA meeting – 14 January 1897]*

Linton Swifts were ordered to pay Oakthorpe Albion 10s for breach of fixture and he later club were fined for playing an unaffiliate club.  
*[LFA meeting – 14 January 1897]*

Leicester Railways United club were suspended and ordered to explain their conduct to the association.  
*[LFA meeting – 14 January 1897]*

At the 25 February meeting of the Leicestershire Football Association:

- An appeal by the Hinckley Town F.C against the Hinckley and District League for the return of their deposit fee of £1 la. was not sustained.
- Findley and H. Hives, respectively of Ellistown and Sileby, were suspended for 5 weeks until 31 March for abusive language to Mr. Middleton, the referee in a match on the ground of the former club.
- The executive passed a ruling to the effect "That they would not consider cases of non-fulfilment of fixtures unless it is shown an attempt has been made to mutually settle the disputes."
- W. West, Enderby F.C, was suspended until March 15 for disorderly conduct in Junior Cup tie ; and H. Weston, Wigston, the referee in the match, was suspended until March 15 for failing to report the occurrence in accordance with the laws of the game.

The referee's report as to the misconduct of players of Enderby F.C. was received at the 12 March meeting of the Leicestershire Football Association. The following members of that club were dealt with: G. Nutt was suspended until September 13, 1897, for misconduct, and refusing to leave the field when ordered, and for inciting a player to disobey the rulings of the referee; D. Young and A. Martin were suspended until the end of the season, and J. W. Clarke until April 5. Mr. Salt, the secretary of the Enderby Club, was complimented upon the assistance which he rendered to the referee.  
*[LFA meeting – 12 March 1897]*

In March after an investigation regarding disorderly proceedings in the match between Melton Villa and Ab Kettleby was received. A. Wilmott (Melton Town), who was playing for Ab Kettleby, was suspended until the end of the season for misconduct and refusing to leave the field when requested. Mr. Eaton, referee in the same match, was suspended from acting as referee until April 5 for permitting that player to continue playing after he had been ordered off the field.  
*[LFA meeting – 12 March 1897]*

A protest by Hemington F.C. against Earl Shilton Excelsior for playing unregistered men in the Junior Cup semi-final on 6 March was sustained, and the last-named club was removed from the competition, and the match awarded to Hemington.

*[LFA meeting – 12 March 1897]*

A complaint by Leicester Clarence as to the treatment of their players in the Shield semi-final, at Whitwick, was received, and it was decided to recommend the Whitwick Club to provide better dressing accommodation for players.

*[LFA meeting – 12 March 1897]*

W. Palmer, late of West Humberstone Swifts (a club under suspension), having paid his share of fines, was reinstated.

*[LFA meeting – 12 March 1897]*

Linton Swifts and Earl Shilton Swifts were ordered to pay fines due to affiliated clubs by Monday next, failing would result in suspension. Somerby F.C. were suspended until various reports by clubs had been settled.

*[LFA meeting – 12 March 1897]*

At the 27 April 1897 meeting of the Leicestershire Football Association:

- Freebairn (Leicester Fosse) was severely censured and cautioned for disputing decisions of referee and linesman, in the match Leicester Fosse v. Lincoln City, at Lincoln.
- W Jones (Loughborough) was suspended until October 1<sup>st</sup> for deliberately kicking an opponent in the match between Burton Wanderers and Loughborough.
- A report from the referee in the Senior League match between Loughborough Reserves v. Whitwick, stated that players of the Loughborough F.C. left the field of play, and that the chairman of the Loughborough club had induced the players to leave the field, the executive ruled that the state of the weather was so exceptional that they felt a severe censure upon the players for leaving the field without referees permission would meet the case. — Mr. Dormer, the chairman of the Loughborough Club, was censured for calling players off the field. G. Nutt (Enderby) was suspended from September 13 (the date to which he was already suspended) to October 8, for playing during suspension.
- The report of the commission appointed to investigate the referees report of disorderly conduct on the part of spectators, in a Lough- borough League match— Woodhouse v. Mountsorrel Castle, at Woodhouse — was received, and the following rulings were passed : The ground of the Woodhouse Club was closed until September 13. Raynor (Woodhouse) was suspended until October 8 for abusive conduct towards the referee. The Woodhouse Club was ordered to pay the expenses of the referee and Commission of Inquiry, at Loughborough.
- Ashby Albion F.C. were fined 2s. 6d. for playing Cranage before receiving the acknowledgment of the professional form from the Football Association.
- Countesthorpe F.C. were fined 2s. 6d. for playing W. Garnet, a member of South Wigston F.C., in arrear with subscriptions to last-named club.
- Rolleston Cup competition— Mr. Brett presented the accounts of the competitions, which showed a balance, after deducting all expenses, of £48 15s. 8d., and the amount was divided amongst the following charity institutions: Infirmary Commemoration Endowment Fund, the Wycliffe Society for Helping the Blind, Royal Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Children, £10 each; Dis- charged Prisoners' Aid and Police-court Mission, District Nurses' Fund, and Ragged Schools, £5 each; and Female Orphan Asylum, £5 15s. 8d. — The committee revised the rules in the direction of preventing extra time being played in the semi-final and final ties, and that clubs in semi-final and final ties shall pay their own travelling expenses, and which are to be submitted to the Leicestershire Rugby Union and Leicestershire Football Association.

At the 18 May 1897 meeting of the Leicestershire Football Association:

- An inquiry into the management of Thringstone Albion F.C. was held, and it was decided that, subject to the secretary of the association being satisfied, that a meeting of the whole of the

officials had been held, and that if the cash-books when produced were be found to be in accordance with the laws of the Football Association, the club would be allowed to continue.

- For non-fulfilment of fixtures the following rulings were passed: The executive decided to take no action in the reports of Thurmaston, Belgrave St. Michael's, All Saints' United, and St. Paul's, against Barrow Excelsior, Thrussington, Barlestone, and Richmond respectively.
- Harborough Excelsior were ordered to pay Welford F.C. (affiliated to Northamptonshire F.A.) 7s. 6d.
- Blaby were ordered to pay Markfield 5s., and the latter club to pay Ibstock Wanderers 5s.
- St. Matthew's Excelsior to pay All Saints' 2s. 6d.
- Quorn Havelock to pay Groby 5s.
- Blaby to pay Aylestone United 2s. 6d.
- Woodville to pay Swannington 7s. 6d.
- Belgrave St. Michael's to pay Thurmaston 2s. 6d.
- Leicester Ferndale were censured for unsportsmanlike conduct towards Groby F.C.
- Leicester Old Boys' F-C were awarded 2s. in each of the following cases: Leicester Rutland, North \_ End, and Richmond.
- The following clubs were ordered to pay fines due to various clubs and the association within -4 days, failing which to be suspended. Groby, Ratby, Great Bowden, and Countesthorpe.