

Football Crimes, Fines & Misdemeanours 1895-96

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:

The following Coalville Albion players were suspended until 16 September for playing a six-a-side contest on August Bank Holiday: J King, J Tivey, A Martin, I Smith, W Jeffcoat, and T Bradshaw. J Newbold, W Barker, J Ballad and A Redgate of Hemington were suspended until 30 September for playing in the same match.

[LFA meeting – 3 September 1895]

Griffydham Wanderers and London-road were suspended until fines imposed upon them were paid.

[LFA meeting – 3 September 1895]

Edge of Leicester Wanderers' Club was suspended until his subscription to the Oxford Rovers, of which he was a member was paid.

[LFA meeting – 30 September 1895]

Oxford were fined 2d 6d for non-fulfilment of fixture against Syston Swifts on 28 September 1895 and ordered to play the return match at Syston instead of Leicester.

[LFA meeting – 30 September 1895]

W Harley and H Poxon, of Hemington, were both suspended until 30 October for taking part in a six-a-side contest during the close season.

[LFA meeting – 30 September 1895]

William Beckley, of Leicester Richmond Club, was suspended until 11 November for striking a member of the Emmanuel Club during a match on Saturday 28 September and the captain of the former (Watson) was severely censured for his conduct towards the referee for refusing to name the player reported.

[LFA meeting – 30 September 1895]

Hathern Victoria F.C. were fined 2s 6d for failing to send the result of their Shield match to the secretary of the Association.

[LFA meeting – 9 October 1895]

W Worth of Abbey-gate F.C. was suspended from playing with any other club until he had paid his subscriptions to that club. Carnall, of the Syston Excelsior was similarly dealt with.

[LFA meeting – 9 October 1895]

Following reports of disturbances between members and officials of the Willoughby and Abb-Kettleby Football Clubs, Leicestershire Football Association sent both clubs circulars relating to the conduct of players on the field and their actions towards referees.

[LFA meeting – 9 October 1895]

Swannington St George's F.C. protested against their match with Hugglescote St John's on Saturday 5 October at Swannington counting as a Shield match, on account of 6 of the players having taken part in a 6-a-side contest. Having heard evidence from both sides, Swannington were awarded the game.

[LFA meeting – 9 October 1895]

Belton Villa claimed that the Castle Donington ground was not laid out in accordance with the rules of the Association for their Shield match. This objection was upheld by the committee and the match was ordered to be replayed at Belton on 19 October.

[LFA meeting – 9 October 1895]

C Rowell of Hugglescote was suspended until 8 December and J Rowe, of Gresley Swifts, until 25 November for rough play in a match at Ellistown on 19 October.

[LFA meeting – 28 October 1895]

E Barsby, of Countesthorpe, for abusive conduct towards a referee at Countesthorpe, was suspended until 25 November and F Ainsworth, of Kegworth F.C. was treated in a similar manner for using abusive language towards the referee in a Shield match on 19 October.

[LFA meeting – 28 October 1895]

C Hudson and J Hodkin, of Castle Donington F.C., were suspended until 5 November for playing with a club not affiliated with Leicestershire Football Association.

[LFA meeting – 28 October 1895]

Knighton Field Swifts were ordered to pay a fine of 2s 6d to Enderby St John's and to arrange a further fixture or failing the same, to pay a further fine of 5s.

[LFA meeting – 28 October 1895]

Aylestone Park Swifts, Hinckley United, Oakthorpe Albion and Newbold Verdon Victor were elected members of the association. The application of the Leicestershire Athletic Association was referred back for some alteration in their name.

[LFA meeting – 28 October 1895]

Rutland Ironworkers F.C. were ordered by the Lincolnshire Football Association to pay 30s expenses to Melton Rovers from a broken fixture; Knighton Field Swifts were ordered to pay a fine of 2s 6d to Enderby St John's and to arrange a further fixture, or, failing the same, to pay a further fine of 5s.

[LFA meeting – 28 October 1895]

Melton Town F.C. were ordered to pay a fine of 2s 6d to the Leicestershire Association and to arrange home fixtures with Syston Swifts or to pay a fine of 7s 6d in default.

[LFA meeting – 28 October 1895]

Cosby were suspended until they had paid a fine imposed by the association to Earl Shilton.

[LFA meeting – 28 October 1895]

T Warren of Cosby was suspended until 2 December and A. Grewcock of Broughton Astley, until 19 November, for fighting in a match at Broughton Astley.

[LFA meeting – 7 November 1895]

For striking a player in a match at Barlestone, J. Storer of Ibstock Town Swifts was suspended until 16 December.

[LFA meeting – 7 November 1895]

Coalville Town reported Coalville Albion for approaching Messrs Bradshaw, Eyles, and Bent, of the Town Club. After hearing evidence from both clubs, the committee decided the protest was not sustained and Coalville Albion were awarded 5s expenses.

[LFA meeting – 7 November 1895]

Ratby Swifts were fined 2s 6d and ordered to rearrange fixtures with Enderby St John's.

[LFA meeting – 7 November 1895]

Narborough All Saints were fined 2s 6d for failing to keep an appointment with St Mary's Victor.

[LFA meeting – 7 November 1895]

Coallville Town were fined 5s for failing to appear at Ellistown on 2 November.

[LFA meeting – 7 November 1895]

Richmond F.C. were fined 2s 6d to be paid to the Association for failing to keep an engagement with Thursday Rovers.

[LFA meeting – 7 November 1895]

Mountsorrel Castle reported barrow Rising Star for approaching J Parlton. The committee ruled that the player had been approached by the Barrow club, and they were severely censured for their conduct, and fined 10s.

[LFA meeting – 7 November 1895]

Sibley Rangers reported Syston Swifts for approaching George and Henry Wood and for unduly influencing them to play. Syston were fined 10s and the committee of that club were severely censured. In the course of the evidence the Syston Swifts secretary, Mr Hoar, admitted that a collection had been made on the ground amounting to 5s for the players referred to and for this serious breach of the rules he was together with A Cooper (treasurer) and W Smith were severely censured and suspended until 19 November, the amount collected to be forfeited the Association.

[LFA meeting – 7 November 1895]

J. Slater, of Ashby Albion, was suspended until 16 December for violent play at Overseal in the Junior Cup tie.

[LFA meeting – 7 November 1895]

Belgrave St Michael were ordered to pay Syston Swifts 5s for non-fulfilment of a fixture.

[LFA meeting – 14 November 1895]

Melton town protested against their match with Barwell Swifts in their Junior Cup competition on account of the goalposts being not of the requisite height and darkness. The LFA committee decided that as the protest was not made in accordance with the rules of the association but was not sustained.

[LFA meeting – 14 November 1895]

Earl Shilton Victor protested against their match with Earl Shilton Swifts on account of the size of the ground. The committee decided that the protest was not laid out as required by the rules and ordered the match to stand.

[LFA meeting – 14 November 1895]

Eaton Rangers were fined 18s for failing to keep an engagement with Melton Villa and the whole of their playing members were suspended until the fine was paid.

[LFA meeting – 5. December 1895]

Leicester St Peter's were fined 2s 6d, to be paid by 1 January for non-fulfilment of a fixture with Belgrave St Michael's.

[LFA meeting – 5 December 1895]

Syston Swifts were censured for being late in match with Melton Town.

[LFA meeting – 19 December 1895]

Whitwick Town were fined 5s. for failing to meet Coalville Town.

[LFA meeting – 19 December 1895]

Ashfordby Swifts were fined 10s. for nonfulfillment of a fixture with Syston Excelsior.

[LFA meeting – 19 December 1895]

Willoughby were fined 10s., to be paid by January 15, for failing to meet Abb Kettleby.

[LFA meeting – 19 December 1895]

J. Burton, of Leicester Craven, was suspended until January 20 for misconduct.
[LFA meeting – 19 December 1895]

H. Stokes of Hinckley Granvill was suspended till 10 February, and J Burton, of Burbage Albion, till 24 February, for fighting at a match at Burbage.
[LFA meeting – 23 January 1896]

A report from the Hinckley Football Club, complaining of the ill treatment of players by spectators at a match at Shepshed, on 4 January, was considered. After hearing evidence from the officials and the referee, which serious misconduct was proved, the committee ordered the closure of the Shepshed ground until 17 February and banned the Shepshed club from playing within miles of Shepshed until after that date.
[LFA meeting – 23 January 1896]

Charles Kirkland of the Barlestone Rovers was suspended until 24 February for abusive conduct to the referee and refusing to leave the field in a match with Coalville in January 1896. Barlestone's captain, Jospeh Kirkland was suspended till 3 February for refusing to give the name of the player to the referee.
[LFA meeting – 23 January 1896]

H. Stokes (Hinckley Granville) was suspended till 19 February and J Burton (Burbage Albion) were suspended till 24 February for fighting in a match at Burbage.
[LFA meeting – 23 January 1896]

J. Wallace (Kegworth) was suspended till 9 March for refusing to leave the field when ordered and for threatening the referee in a match at Quorn.
[LFA meeting – 23 January 1896]

A report from Northamptonshire Football association was submitted regarding the conduct of Leicester YMCA players at Finedon. As a result, the YMCA club were severely censured and suspended until 27 January. S Bailey, the captain of the team was suspended for refusing to continue the game and for giving misleading information, until 10 February'.
[LFA meeting – 23 January 1896]

Several cases of non-fulfilment of fixtures:

- Barrow Rising star were fined 5s for failing to go to Ashfordby.
- Humberstone-road Wesleyans fined 2s 6d for failing to keep an engagement with Belvoir-street.
- Moira 2s 6d for failing Measham Ratby.
- Clarendon Park Swifts 5s for failing Ashfordby Swifts.
- Hinckley United 2s 6d for failing Stoke Golding; Loughborough Amateurs 2s 6d for failing Whitwick.
- Enderby Granite 2s 6d for failing Thornton.
- Snarestone 2s 6d for failing Ibstock.
- Leicester Wesleyans 2s 6d for failing Groby.

[LFA meeting – 23. January 1896]

Messrs Grudgings and Marvin of the Groby F.C. were suspended until their subscriptions to that club were paid.
[LFA meeting – 23 January 1896]

N. Woodward of Measham Wanderers was suspended until 7 September for misconduct at Overseal on 3 April
[LFA meeting – 9 April 1896]

W. Jones, W. Robey, J. Slater, W. Green, W. Jackson, A. Jones, J. Carter and A. Warrilow, players and F Robey, referee, were suspended until 7 September for taking part in a six-a-side match at Ashby on Easter Monday.
[LFA meeting – 9 April 1896]

The following clubs were field for non-fulfilment of fixtures:

- Melton Town 5s with Ashfordby.
- Barkby 7s 6d with Leicester Belvoir.
- Emmanuel Rangers 5s with Groby.
- Leicester St Peter's 12s 6d with Mountsorrel Castle.
- Belgrav St Michael's 7s 6d with Narborough All Saints.

[LFA meeting – 9 April 1896]

C. Newcombe of Hinckley Granville was reported by the referee of the match between that club and Hinckley United on 3 April.

[LFA meeting – 9 April 1896]

Spectators at the Leicestershire Senior Cup final between Leicester Fosse Reserves and Hugglescote Loughborough's Nottingham-road ground behaved appalling throughout the game towards the officials, especially when the cup and medals were presented. According to the referee they even cheered when players left the field disabled. The Loughborough committee denied it was due to their spectators, but rather to outsiders and that should they be allowed to stage another final they would try their utmost to prevent a repetition of such behaviour.

[LFA meeting- 9 April 1896]

Carr Bros F.C. were reported for non-fulfilment with South Wigston and Oxford Rovers and were fined 5s for each offence.

[LFA meeting – 14. April 1896]

Serious charges were raised against the behaviour Shepshed F.C. players and officials during and after a Northants and Leicestershire League League match. Such was the gravity of the situation that the question was asked whether the club should be allowed to continue. After considerable discussion and a reconstitution of the club, with the appointment of a new secretary, the club was given permission to remain member of the Association.

[LFA meeting – 13 May 1896]

Several clubs were fined for non-fulfilment of fixtures:

- Overseal ordered to pay Measham Wanderers 5s.
- All Saints to pay Earl Shilton Victor 5s.
- Syston Swift 5s to Oxford Rovers.
- Nailstone Woods 5s to Markfield.
- Pool Village 5s to Thringstone Albion and 2s 6d to Ibstock Town Swifts.
- Loughborough Amateur 15s to Leicester Emmanuel.
- St Mary's Victor 2s 6d to Leicester Ferndale.
- Mountsorrel Castle 7s 6d to King Richard's-road.
- Leicester St John' 2s 6d to Freehold rangers and unsuspected until the money is paid.
- Syston Excelsior 5s to Atherstone Wanderers and 2s 6d to Melton Villa.
- Croft 7s to Earl Shilton Town.
- Hugglescote St John's 2s 6d to Stoke Golding and 10s to Earl Shilton Victor.
- Belgrave St Michael's 2s 6d to Barrow Rising Star; and
- Woodgate Rovers 5s to Hinckley United suspended until paid.
- Enderby Granite were fined 2s and ordered to arrange another fixture with Clarendon Swifts

[LFA meeting – 13 May 1896]

Hugglescote St John's and Stoke Golding were both severely censured for the careless manner in which their fixtures were made.

[LFA meeting – 13 May 1896]

J D Jones, A W Pykett, A Deacon, P Wright, W Brown and J Chambers, members of Leicester St Peter's F.C. were suspended until the liabilities of that club were discharged.

[LFA meeting – 13 May 1896]

Decisions off the Leicestershire and Northants League were confirmed, namely: a fine of £3 9s to be paid by Shepshed to Hugglescote Robin Hood; £1 1s to be paid by the same club to Coalville; and £3 be paid by Kettering to Rushden.

[LFA meeting - 13 May 1896]

A NUISANCE - Harry Parker, of Barwell was summoned for playing football on the public highway at that village on May 17 - P. C. Taylor said he saw the defendant and several complaints received from people in the neighbourhood, who had had their windows broken by balls. Defendant denied that he was playing football but was fined 5s and costs.

Leicester Chronicle - 30 May 1896