



## **TYNECASTLE PARK**

# **UNACCEPTABLE AND DISORDERLY CONDUCT POLICY**

REVIEWED FEBRUARY 2024

## HEART OF MIDLOTHIAN FOOTBALL CLUB UNACCEPTABLE AND DISORDERLY CONDUCT POLICY

### Introduction

1. Heart of Midlothian Football Club was established on its strong family values and the requirement for all associated with the Club to maintain the highest of standards in all that they do. In particular a visit to Tynecastle Park should be a safe and thoroughly enjoyable experience for all and free from the participation in or witnessing of any form of unacceptable conduct. The Club will make every effort to ensure that this occurs through robust adherence to its stipulated policies and associated terms and conditions,

2. The Club condemns and will not tolerate any form of unacceptable or disorderly conduct by any persons at matches at Tynecastle Park or at away grounds and whilst travelling to and from matches,

### Unacceptable Conduct means

3. Unacceptable conduct is conduct which is deemed violent and / or disorderly.

(i). Violent conduct includes actual, attempted or threatened physical violence against any person or intentional damage to property.

The Club has a 'zero tolerance' policy to any violent behaviour directed at staff who are working on behalf of the Club.

### Disorderly Conduct means

(i) Conduct which stirs up or sustains, or is likely or designed to stir up or sustain, hatred or ill will against or towards a group or persons based on their membership or presumed membership of a group defined by reference to a category or against an individual who is or is presumed to be of the following categories:

- age
- disability
- gender reassignment
- marriage and civil partnership
- pregnancy and maternity
- race
- religion or belief
- sex
- sexual orientation

by the person or persons engaged in the conduct to be a member of such group.

(ii) Using threatening, abusive or insulting words or conduct

(iii) Displaying any writing or other thing which is threatening, abusive or insulting, or

(iv) Using words or conduct or displaying writing or other thing which indicates support for, or affiliation to, or celebration of, or opposition to an organisation or group proscribed in terms of the Terrorism Act 2000, and any successive or replacement legislation thereto:

## **Sanctions**

4. Any person engaging in any form of unacceptable or disorderly conduct will be the subject of an investigation the outcome of which may lead to any or a combination of the following sanctions. The Club may impose sanctions independent to and regardless of the outcome of any other agency investigation. Sanctions will be proportionate to the level of the unacceptable conduct.

- Refusal of entry to the stadium
- Removal from Tynecastle Park
- Suspension from attending fixtures involving the Club over a specified time.
- Indefinite ban from attending any fixtures involving the Club
- Indefinite ban from Tynecastle Park
- A report sent to Police Scotland and possible criminal proceedings

## **Racially Motivated Unacceptable Conduct**

5. The Club will strongly challenge all aspects of discrimination and will work to significantly increase the awareness of inclusion and diversity, and the consequences of inappropriate behaviour at football matches. The measures taken by the Club aim to efficiently eradicate racist behaviour at Tynecastle Park, and elsewhere.

## **Information Sharing Protocol**

6. The Club and Police Scotland recognize that the behavior of most persons attending matches at the stadium accords with generally recognized standards of good order but that, occasionally, there is a minority of persons whose behavior falls short of such standards. Accordingly, both parties recognize that by working together and sharing information, where practicable and within the framework of an information sharing protocol, they may endeavor to restrict and, if possible, prevent, that unacceptable behavior of that minority of supporters. The partners recognize that this may, in turn, enhance spectator safety and minimise the risk of crime and disorder at or in connection with any football matches.

## **Awareness**

7. The Club continues to raise awareness through its media channels and forums to reinforce that any form of unacceptable conduct will not be tolerated. These messages are reiterated in match day programmes and over the stadium PA system during match days. The Club will work closely with our supporters' groups to maintain a good relationship with the intention of enhancing the atmosphere and match day experience at Tynecastle Park in support of the team on the pitch.

Further detailed information can be found on the Club's website which lists the Club's policies and charters,

## **Away Grounds**

8. The Club works closely with host clubs and, where appropriate, shares relevant information in respect of supporters' conduct. At away matches, the host club makes visiting supporters aware of their own Policy and asks that all supporters act responsibly.