



sport rage

play your part. **stamp out**
ugly sporting behaviour

Dealing with sport rage

Despite everyone's best intentions, sport rage incidents sometimes occur.

While it is mainly the responsibility of ground officials and club committee members to deal with incidents, it is important that everyone understands and supports the process. Here are some of the steps that can be taken, depending on the seriousness of the incident.

■ **Reporting inappropriate behaviour** – *Responsibility of everyone*

Behaviour that contravenes the codes of conduct should be reported to the ground official. Any person who is unsure who the ground official is should report the incident to a club committee member.

■ **Approaching the offender** –
Responsibility of the ground official/club committee member

Only the ground official or club committee member should approach the offender.

■ **Issuing warnings** – *Responsibility of the club committee member*

The first time a person breaches a code of conduct, they might be issued with a warning. The person may not be aware that their behaviour is unacceptable and should be notified of club rules.

■ **Taking disciplinary action** – *Responsibility of the club committee*

If the conduct is repeated or of a serious nature, the club committee should consider taking disciplinary action in accordance with its rules. This might result in counselling, suspension or expulsion.

■ **Removing people from the field of play or venue** –
Responsibility of the ground official

The referee/umpire should communicate directly and immediately with the ground official to remove a person from the field. If the club is in a position to control ground entry, it will be able to evict persons from the ground. Where attendance is not controlled, clubs can request offenders leave the venue, or otherwise can discipline the person for breach of the code of conduct.

■ **Suspending play** – *Responsibility of the referee/umpire*

The referee/umpire may suspend play and refuse to restart until appropriate action has been taken. They may request that a person is removed from the sideline and, in serious cases, abandon the game altogether.

■ **Involving the police** – *Responsibility of the ground official*

If you feel the behaviour of an individual constitutes a criminal act the police should be notified immediately by the ground official. While it is lawful for a club to detain a person who has committed a criminal offence until the police arrive, it is recommended that this is done only as a last resort. Club officials are able to exercise reasonable force in detaining a person who has committed a criminal offence until the police arrive, but this should not be disproportionate to the conduct of the offender.