



Who is responsible for dealing with an incident?

Coaches, officials and ground marshal's want to put a stop to bad behavior at sporting events, but are often unsure of what they can do to intervene and who is responsible for what. Here are some 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 marshal. Any person who is unsure who the ground marshal is should report the incident to a club committee member.

Approaching the offender - *Responsibility of the ground marshal / club committee*

Only the ground marshal should approach the offender - this prevents the situation escalating.

Issuing warnings - *Responsibility of the ground marshal / club committee*

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

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Taking disciplinary action - *Responsibility of the club committee/
District, State or Territory Association*

If the conduct is repeated or of a serious nature the club committee/judiciary should consider taking disciplinary action in accordance with its rules. This might result in counselling, suspension or expulsion. The issue may be escalated to the District, State or Territory Association for action.

Removing people from the field of play or venue - *Responsibility of
the ground marshal / club committee*

The referee/umpire should communicate directly and immediately with the ground marshal to remove a person from the ground. 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 ground, or otherwise can discipline the person for breach of the code.

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 / club
committee*

If a person feels the behaviour of another constitutes a criminal act the police should be notified immediately by the ground marshal.