

# Respect

We all have a part to play



## A guide for Team Captains

Being named captain of a team is an honour. It's recognition of a person's ability to organise, lead and motivate others. The best captains are inspirational - they are role models for their team mates providing an example of how the game should be played.

For the FA's Respect programme to succeed it's important that team captains play their part. They need to use their influence to help maintain an environment which allows the teams to play and for referees to officiate. Since the introduction of the Respect programme it has become clear that the team captains have a crucial role to play in helping to clean up the game. A team captain will have ways of communicating with his team mates that the Referee will not and often it's only the captain that can get through to players that are running a real risk of being cautioned or dismissed.

As a captain, you have no special status or privileges under the Laws of the Game, but you do have a degree of responsibility for the behaviour of your team.

To promote Respect the referee will work with you, as the team captain, to manage the players and the game effectively. Research has shown this to be one of the most effective measures of the Respect programme.

Often problems start at matches when individual players are abusive towards the referee, which escalates into several players confronting the referee at the same time – then it's anarchy.

Respect aims to stop this cycle before it starts. The captain can seek clarification of decisions made by the referee and the captain needs to manage his/her team to ensure this is observed. However, this does not mean

the referee will only speak to the captain. Referees remain free to talk to any player if this means they can manage the game better.

Even if you are some way away from an incident when the referee feels he/she needs you involved in a discussion with a player, the referee will call you over. This will ensure that, as the team captain, you remain the point of contact for the referee.

In some cases a referee will proceed directly to a caution if he deems an offence to be serious enough, and is not obliged to call a captain forward for every incident – only those that will assist him/her in the management of the game.

Referees will make use of captains to deal with persistent offending from a team-mate where there is a real possibility of further offending resulting in a caution or a dismissal. Captains will also be called forward where additional support is required to calm a player down.

“ For **Respect** to succeed we require team captains to play their part in creating a fair, safe and enjoyable environment in which the game can take place. Be a leader not a follower. ”

Here are some examples of each of these types of behaviour

#### Harassment:

- Running towards the referee in an aggressive manner.
- Players surrounding the referee to protest a decision.
- Repeatedly asking questions about decisions in an attempt to influence the referee or undermine his/her responsibilities.

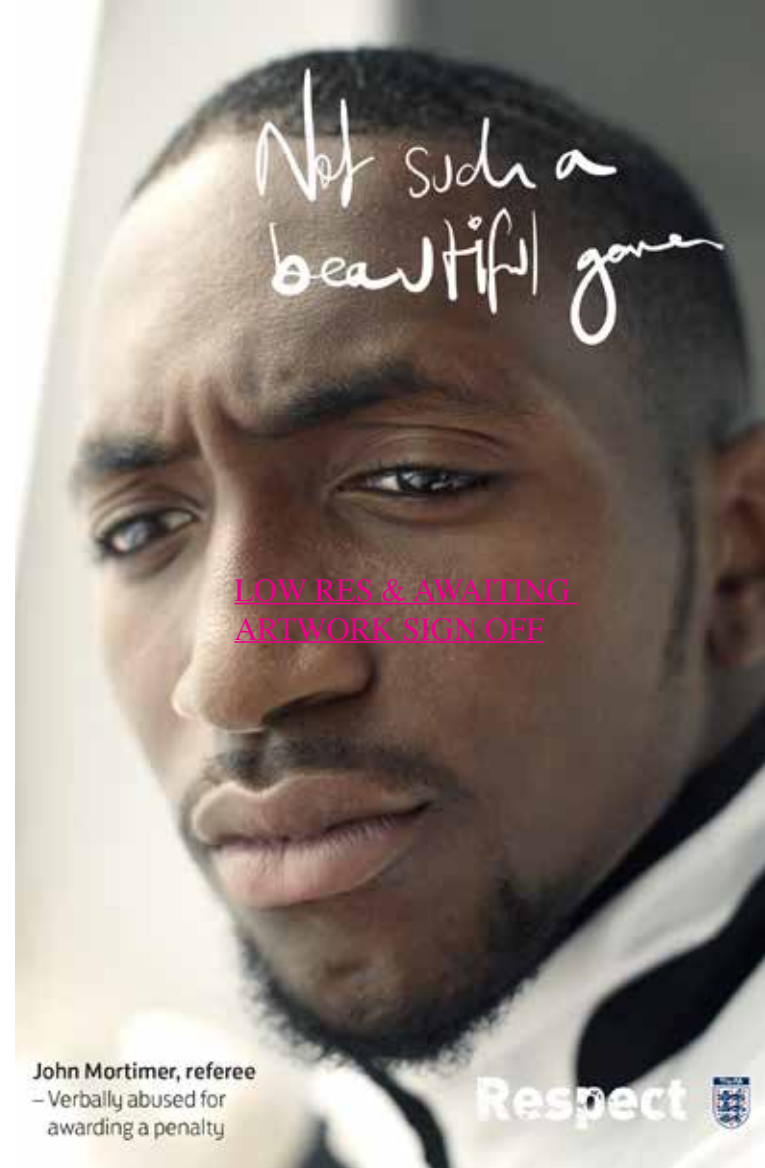
#### Challenging:

- Passing comment to other players about a referee's decision-making.
- Repeatedly moaning at the referee about decisions.
- Gestures that obviously are made in a derogatory manner, such as a shaking of the head or waving of the hand.

#### Captains have been asked to:

- Ensure they wear a captain's armband.
- Ensure all players understand what they can/cannot do in relation to the referee and what is meant by 'unwanted behaviour'. No-one's trying to curb enthusiasm – just instil more discipline.
- Ensure vice-captains (who should be appointed one if there isn't one) is aware of these rules, in case captains are unavailable for a game, or have to leave the field.
- Share in the responsibility of focusing teams on playing the game rather than trying to 'ref' the game

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“ Captains have a crucial role to play in helping to clean up the game ”

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