



Guidelines for Temporary dismissals (sin bins)

The 131st AGM of The IFAB held in London on 3rd March 2017 approved the use of temporary dismissals (sin bins) for all or some cautions/yellow cards (YCs) in youth, veterans, disability and grassroots football, subject to the approval of the competition's National FA, Confederation or FIFA, whichever is appropriate.

Reference to temporary dismissals is found in the **Laws of the Game 2017/18**:

Law 5 – The Referee (Powers and duties):

Disciplinary action

The referee:

- has the power to show yellow or red cards and, where competition rules permit, temporarily dismiss a player, from entering the field at the start of the match until after the match has ended, including during the half-time interval, extra time and kicks from the penalty mark

A temporary dismissal is when a player commits a cautionable (YC) offence and is punished by an immediate 'suspension' from participating in the next part of that match. The philosophy is that an 'instant punishment' can have a significant and immediate positive influence on the behaviour of the offending player and, potentially, the player's team.

The National FA, Confederation or FIFA, should approve (for publication in the competition rules) a temporary dismissal protocol within the following guidelines¹:

Players only

- Temporary dismissals apply to all players (including goalkeepers) but not for cautionable offences (YCs) committed by a substitute or substituted player

Referee's signal

- The referee will indicate a temporary dismissal by showing a yellow card (YC) and then clearly pointing with both arms to the temporary dismissal area (usually the player's technical area)

The temporary dismissal period

- The length of the temporary dismissal is the same for all offences
- The length of the temporary dismissal for The FA Pilot, it will be 10minutes for Adult - Open aged Football and 8minutes for Youth Football
- The temporary dismissal period begins when play restarts after the player has left the field of play
- The referee should include in the temporary dismissal period any time 'lost' for a stoppage for which 'additional time' will be allowed at the end of the half (e.g. substitution, injury, time-wasting etc...)

¹ For the purpose of the 2017/18 Pilot for Temporary Dismissals, this briefing note will act as the guidance in lieu of it appearing on the Standard Code of Rules.

- Where neutral assistant referees or 4th officials are appointed, they will help the referee time the dismissal period – alternatively each Club should nominate where possible a team official to assist. The referee remains the sole judge of the time.
- Once the temporary dismissal period has been completed, the player can return from the touchline with the referee's permission, which can be given while the ball is in play
- The referee has the final decision as to when the player can return
- A temporarily dismissed player cannot be substituted until the end of the temporary dismissal period (but not if the team has used all its permitted substitutes)
- If a temporary dismissal period has not been completed at the end of the first half (or the end of the second half when extra time is to be played) the remaining part of the temporary dismissal period is served from the start of the second half (start of extra time)
- A player who is still serving a temporary dismissal at the end of the match is permitted to take part in Kicks from the Penalty Mark (penalties)

Temporary dismissal area

- A temporarily dismissed player should remain within the technical area (where one exists) or with the team's coach/technical staff, unless 'warming up' (under the same conditions as a substitute)

Offences before/during/after a temporary dismissal

- A temporarily dismissed player who commits a cautionable (YC) or sending-off (RC) offence during their temporary dismissal period will take no further part in the match and may not be replaced or substituted

Further disciplinary action

- All temporary dismissals will be reported in the same manner as other cautionable offences.
- Further disciplinary action will be taken in relation to suspension for accumulating a number of cautions and RESPECT sanctioning for Clubs
- Sin Bin Offences do not attract the £10 Administration fee

Temporary dismissal systems

IFAB have authorised the use of one of the following temporary dismissal systems:

- System A - for all cautions (YCs) or System B - for some but not all cautions (YC)

The FA will be using System B – temporary dismissal for some but not all cautions (YCs) and will apply for C2

Offences - Dissent

- All other cautionable offences are punished with a caution as normal (YC)
- A player who has been temporarily dismissed and then receives a caution (YC) continues playing
- A player who has received a caution (YC) and then receives a temporary dismissal can continue playing after the end of the temporary dismissal period
- A player who receives a second temporary dismissal in the same match will serve the temporary dismissal and then takes no further part in the match. The player may be replaced by a substitute at the end of the second temporary dismissal period if the player's team has not used its maximum number of substitutes (*subject to the next bullet point*)
- A player who receives a second temporary dismissal in the same match and has also received a caution for another YC offence takes no further part in the match and the player cannot be replaced/substituted
- A player who receives a second caution (YC) in the same match will be sent off and takes no further part in the match and may not be replaced/substituted

Frequently asked questions about temporary dismissals in respect to The FA Pilot

What offences do temporary dismissals apply to?

- Temporary dismissals are only for cautions for (C2) - Dissent

Who do temporary dismissals apply to?

- Temporary dismissals only apply to players (including goalkeepers) – they are not used for substitutes, substituted players or team officials

Are temporarily dismissals reported to the appropriate authority?

- Yes all temporary dismissals must be reported after the match
- They will also form part of the continual misconduct charge for cautions and for Club charges in relation to RESPECT Sanctioning

How does the referee signal a temporary dismissal?

- The referee signals a temporary dismissal by showing the yellow card (YC) and then clearly pointing with both arms to the temporary dismissal area (usually the player's technical area if one exists)

How long does the temporary dismissal last?

- The temporary dismissal period:
 - 10 minutes in Adult Open Aged football or in Youth Football that consists of 90 minutes
 - 8 minutes in Youth Football where less than 90 minutes is played
 - begins when play restarts after the player has left the field of play
 - will include any time 'lost' for a stoppage for which 'additional time' will be allowed at the end of the half
- Where neutral assistant referees or 4th officials are appointed, they will help the referee time the dismissal period – alternatively each Club should nominate a team official to assist where possible. The referee remains the sole judge of the time.

What happens if the half ends and the temporary dismissal period has not been completed?

- If a player's temporary dismissal period is not over at the end of the first half, the remaining time is served from the start of the second half (this is the same at the end of the match if extra time is to be played)
- If a player's temporary dismissal period is not over at the end of the match, the player is permitted to take part in Kicks from the Penalty Mark (penalties)
- Any period unserved at the end of the game is lost and does not transfer to the next fixture

Where does the temporarily dismissed player go?

- A temporarily dismissed player should stay in the team's technical area; if there is no technical area the player should stay with the team's coach/technical staff (unless warming up)

Can a temporarily dismissed player warm up?

- For reasons of injury prevention, a temporarily dismissed player is allowed to warm up as if he/she were a substitute

When can the temporarily dismissed player return?

- Once the temporary dismissal period has been completed, the player can return from the touchline with the referee's permission, which can be while the ball is in play

Can a temporarily dismissed player be substituted?

- A temporarily dismissed player can only be substituted at the end of their temporarily dismissal period. However, he/she cannot be substituted if:
 - it is the player's second temporary dismissal
 - the team has already used all its permitted substitutes
- Substitutions must take place during a stoppage in play as per the Laws of the Game

What happens if a temporarily dismissed player commits another offence during a temporary dismissal?

- A temporarily dismissed player who commits any cautionable offence (including Dissent) (YC) or sending-off/red card (RC) offence during their temporary dismissal period is not allowed to play again in the match and may not be replaced or substituted

What happens if a temporarily dismissed player results in the team having less than 7 players?

- Unless it is not the player's 2nd temporary dismissal in the match, the match continues as the player is still under the jurisdiction of the referee. If it is the player's 2nd temporary dismissal, the match will be abandoned at the point of going down to less than 7 players