

LANCASHIRE AND CHESHIRE AMATEUR FOOTBALL LEAGUE



Established in 1909

COOLING OFF PERIOD PROTOCOL - SEASON 2025-2026

As a pre-emptive measure to avoid unnecessary confrontations or situations arising at the end of play, a 'Cooling off' period has been introduced for all Lancashire and Cheshire Amateur Football League fixtures.

Under this protocol, team managers, coaches, other club officials, players, etc, may **NOT** approach the match officials at half-time or until at least **TWENTY (20)** minutes after the game has finished.

A traditional after-match handshake and thank you is permitted, as is a request to speak with the match official after the 'Cooling off' period, but any derogatory comment or action will be considered a breach of the 'Cooling off' Protocol.

'Cooling off' periods include:

- Half-time
- After the end of every game
- Applicable to all occupants of the Technical Area, all players and club officials.

Benefits of having such a post-match 'Cooling off' Protocol:

- Prevents obvious public dispute on the field of play that detracts from the image of the game.
- Reduces the likelihood of confrontation / misconduct and all that the aftermath entails.
- Reduces the adrenaline levels in everyone concerned.
- Allows a calm, rational conversation to take place at the appropriate time that should benefit both parties.
- Allows all parties to have a period of reflection and a reduction in the stresses the game produces.
- Allows the match officials time to complete the official paperwork.
- Gives the opportunity for an Observer to be present so that he can watch, listen and offer advice or an opinion, if appropriate to do so.
- Reduces pressure on referees.