

# Prosecution guidance on football-related offences and banning orders

Published on 15 September 2023

The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) updates its guidance

Brief 2 mins read

The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) has updated its prosecution guidance for football-related offences, regarding tragedy-related abuse as a prosecutable public order offence. Offensive messages related to football disasters or accidents – such as the Hillsborough disaster or Munich air disaster – can lead to prosecution under the Public Order Act 1986.

The guidance also highlights football banning orders, which restrict attendance, travel and pub use during matches.

Recent prosecutions for tragedy-related abuse are outlined, emphasising the impact on victims and the broader community.

These include:

- a man banned for wearing an offensive shirt about the Hillsborough disaster
- a suspended prison sentence for a man who sent offensive Hillsborough and anti-Semitic tweets
- a fan sentenced for mocking the Hillsborough tragedy at a Liverpool FC match

Read more about [football related offences and football banning orders](#) and [football tragedy abuse](#) (CPS, 2023).

## Download our latest edition of Brief

This article was published in the July/August 2023 edition of Brief, which brings you updates in police law, operational policing practice and criminal justice, produced by the College of Policing's legal services department.

- Share your ideas and feedback with the Brief team: [brief@college.police.uk](mailto:brief@college.police.uk)

- [College of Policing Brief: July/August 2023 \(pdf\) 553.08 KB](#)

## Brief archive

Download our previous editions covering the latest updates in the policing and criminal justice field.

- [College of Policing Brief: May/June 2023 \(pdf\) 744.1 KB](#)
- [College of Policing Brief: March/April 2023 \(pdf\) 671.41 KB](#)
- [College of Policing Brief: February 2023 \(pdf\) 691.87 KB](#)
- [College of Policing Brief: December/January 2023 \(pdf\) 651.99 KB](#)
- [College of Policing Brief: November 2022 \(pdf\) 1.13 MB](#)
- [College of Policing Brief: September/October 2022 \(pdf\) 634.45 KB](#)

## Tags

Public order