



Response Date: 25/03/2026

2026/343 - Violence and physical assault related to football matches

In response to your recent request for information regarding;

I request data regarding incidents of violence and physical assault related to football matches (both grassroots/amateur and professional) within your jurisdiction for the years 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, and 2025.

1. Assaults on Match Officials

Please provide the number of recorded crimes for 'Assault with Injury' and 'Assault without Injury' where the words "referee", "linesman", or "match official" appear in the Investigation Summary field.

1b. For all identified incidents, please provide:

- **The year of the incident.**
- **The specific offence (e.g., ABH, GBH, Common Assault).**
- **The outcome (e.g., Charge, Caution, Community Resolution, or No Further Action).**

Assaults with/without Injury Offences 2021-2025 + occurrence summary keyword search for "referee", "linesman", "match official":

Calendar Year	HO Description	Outcome	Summary
2021	Common assault and battery (Violence without injury)	16. Victim Declines / Withdraws Support - Named Suspect Identified	WHILST IP WAS WATCHING A FOOTBALL MATCH, THE REFEREE HAS ASSAULTED HIM BY POKING HIM TO THE CHEST WITH A FLAG AND PUSHING HIM. NO MENTION OF ANY INJUROES SUSTAINED.
2022	Common assault and battery (Violence without injury)	16. Victim Declines / Withdraws Support - Named Suspect Identified	Victim was a referee at a children's football match. During this a parent of one of the children has approached the victim during the match and assaulted him, thrown to the ground.
2022	Sec 47. Assault occasioning actual bodily harm	08. Community Resolution / Youth Restorative Disposal	IP IS REFEREE AND AFTER GIVING A PLAYER A RED CARD THE SUSPECT HAS APPROACHED HIM ON PITCH AND PUNCHED HIM TO THE FACE, WHICH LEFT A MARK AND HE NOW REQUIRES DENTAL WORK TO HIS BRIDGE

Pencadlys yr Heddlu,
Glan-y-Don, Bae Colwyn LL29 8AW
www.heddlugogleddcymru.police.uk

Police Headquarters,
Glan-y-Don, Colwyn Bay LL29 8AW
www.northwales.police.uk

2025	Common assault and battery (Violence without injury)	08. Community Resolution / Youth Restorative Disposal	IP reporting that he was refereeing a game when named male suspect who was playing football has head butted IP, no injuries disclosed.
2025	Common assault and battery (Violence without injury)	18. Investigation Complete No Suspect Identified	... was playing football this morning, during which time the linesman delayed .. from taking a throw in to enable his team to get back. ... has become verbal at the linesman who has then hit him to the back with the flag
2025	Common assault and battery (Violence without injury)	18. Investigation Complete No Suspect Identified	Ip is a linesman. He was at a football match when a spectator jumped the perimeter fence and pulled the ips shorts down.

THIS INFORMATION HAS BEEN PROVIDED IN RESPONSE TO A REQUEST
UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000, AND IS CORRECT AS AT 20/03/2026