Sterling calls for 9-point racism penalty

London:

Clubs should be slapped with automatic nine-point deductions and ordered to play three games behind closed doors if their supporters indulge in racist behaviour, Manchester City and England forward Raheem Sterling has said.

Soccer authorities must adopt radical changes to tackle the menace, Sterling said, after signing a manifesto that calls for consistent and suitable punishment for racist and discriminatory behaviour. “I’d call for an automatic nine-point deduction for racist abuse,” he wrote in a column for the Times newspaper.

“It sounds harsh but which fan will risk racist behaviour if it might relegate their team or ruin their title bid? The club should have to play three games behind closed doors. That way, they lose revenue as a direct consequence of racist behaviour.

“Up and down the game, across the world, black and Asian players, fans and coaches are subjected to racism. Every day, from park football to the Champions League,” Sterling said.

“The people who run the game are doing nowhere near enough to solve the problem. I don’t know how long it’ll take for things to change but we have to start now. I don’t want the next generation of black players to have to put up with this evil,” he said. AFP