

**SOMERSET COUNTY RUGBY
FOOTBALL UNION LIMITED**



DISCIPLINARY GUIDE

2010 - 2011

DISCIPLINARY GUIDE

Foreword

The disciplinary panels of the Constituent Body (“C.B.”) deal with disciplinary matters referred to them under powers delegated by the Rugby Football Union. They employ an independent, transparent and unbiased approach and comply with iRB Regulations 17 & 20 the R.F.U.’s Disciplinary Regulations and Guidelines and the Human Rights Act 1998. The overriding considerations are that the conduct of cases be thorough and fair.

This booklet has been produced to assist those who have any part to play in the disciplinary process.

I hope you will take the time to read it and that it proves helpful. If you are in need of any assistance regarding a disciplinary matter please contact myself or the Disciplinary Secretary.

I am sure that we all wish to see Rugby Football played in the “spirit of the game” and that all involved comply with the Code of Rugby because - *discipline matters.*

Des Chalmers
Chairman of Disciplinary Panels

CONTACTS

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REFERENCES

Relative Laws of the Game: Laws 6 & 10 (Laws of the Game booklet)

iRB Regulations 17 & 20 (www.iRB.org)

Discipline Regulations (R.F.U. Handbook)

R.F.U. Rule 12 (R.F.U. Handbook)

Delegation of Powers (R.F.U. Handbook)

Recommended Adult Sanctions (Appendix 2 of the Discipline Regulations)

Recommended Age Grade Sanctions (Appendix 6 of the Discipline Regulations)

ADMINISTRATION CHARGES

The following charges are payable to Somerset County Rugby Football Union Limited at the conclusion of a hearing: -

Sending's-Off: - and matters other than citings: - £50.00

Citings: - £100.00 (repayable if the citing is upheld)

Fines: -

Failure to return Charge Response Form and other required documents within the specified period £50.00

Other costs and fines may be levied by a Panel at its discretion.

INFORMATION FOR CLUBS

Clubs must comply with R.F.U. Disciplinary Regulation 19.2.1.2. which imposes responsibility for the conduct of its members and where there is a disciplinary offence for the taking of appropriate action in accordance with the Regulations.

Ideally Clubs should have their own Disciplinary Sub-Committees which should consider disciplinary matters at first instance upon receipt of a copy of the Match Official's report or sooner if the evidence of guilt is clear. Where a sanction is required the appropriate provisions of Disciplinary Regulation 19.8.2.4. must be applied.

An automatic suspension from playing or coaching is not appropriate if the Club intends to support the accused in a plea of "Not Guilty".

Club Secretaries must within 48 hours of the conclusion of the match report to the Disciplinary Secretary the name, address and contact telephone number(s) of any player who has been ordered off the playing enclosure *including players under the age of 17 years.*

Following notification of a disciplinary offence the Disciplinary Secretary will send by electronic mail to the Club Secretary a copy of the Match Official's Report, a Charge Sheet and Charge Response Form the latter of which is required to be returned to the Disciplinary Secretary *duly completed and signed by the accused and no other* at the earliest opportunity and in any case without unjustifiable delay.

Upon receipt of the completed form the Disciplinary Secretary will convene a hearing and will notify the Club Secretary of the date and time thereof.

Players should be encouraged to attend the hearing of their case so as to allow for a full examination of all the evidence.

If a club wishes to cite a player it must do so not later than the 14th day following the match.

A citing can be initiated where there is an allegation that a player committed an act of foul play but has not been awarded a red card for the act.

Appendix 4 of the Disciplinary Regulations contains other requirements to effect a valid citing.

Clubs with a Bad Disciplinary Record (as defined by Disciplinary Regulation 19.2.5.9.) will be required to appear before a Disciplinary Panel. Such things as the nature, number and type of offences and the action(s) of Club officials when reporting, confirming and supporting the “disciplinary process” will be taken into account when considering an appropriate sanction. Sanctions can include (but are not limited to) suspension (s) of the Club’s Officers and/or teams, the “shutting down” of the Club, deduction of League(Competition) points, fines and/or relegation in or exclusion from any competition.

INFORMATION FOR MATCH OFFICIALS

Match Officials must send a written (preferably by Email) report of a dismissal, on the current R.F.U. Discipline Report Form (downloadable from the R.F.U. and Referees' Society Discipline Websites), *to the Disciplinary Secretary of the Constituent Body to which the accused's club is affiliated* within 48 hours of such dismissal or within 7 days in the case of Match Official Abuse. A copy of any such report should also be forwarded to the Somerset Disciplinary Secretary.

It is recommended that before writing a report Match Officials should read "Completing a Disciplinary Report" on the Referees' Society website and before despatch contact their Society Disciplinary Officer so that the report can be considered for content.

Match Officials should not be concerned if they are not contacted quickly about a hearing. In some cases the accused may be offered the opportunity to plead guilty by post. In such a case there will be no verbal hearing of the evidence.

Where the contents of a report are challenged the Match Official's attendance at the hearing is most important and he/she should make every effort to attend, if needs be with the Society's Disciplinary Officer.

If a Match Official cannot attend personally a telephone conference call can be arranged but personal attendance is preferable.

If a Match Official refuses to attend or is otherwise unavailable to take part in a hearing then the accused is entitled to challenge the report.

Match Officials should wherever possible be members of their County's Referees Society even if they only officiate at their own club. Membership allows them to use the available training and support facilities and to keep abreast with current best practice on law interpretation, safety and other issues.



RUGBY FOOTBALL UNION

CODE OF RUGBY

Everyone involved in Rugby in England, whether as a player, coach, referee, administrator, parent or spectator is expected to uphold the Core Values of our sport.

Teamwork	Respect	Enjoyment	Discipline	Sportsmanship
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- ✓ Play to win – but not at all costs.
- ✓ Win with dignity, lose with grace.
- ✓ Observe the Laws and regulations of the game.
- ✓ Respect opponents, referees and all participants.
- ✓ Reject cheating, racism, violence and drugs.
- ✓ Value volunteers and paid officials alike.
- ✓ Enjoy the game.

**THIS IS
RUGBY.**

Teamwork **Respect** Enjoyment **Discipline** Sportsmanship