

DISCIPLINARY GUIDANCE

Working to Together to Grow Rugby in Dorset and Wiltshire



Who is responsible for Discipline?

ALL RUGBY CLUBS – REPRESENTATIVE RUGBY TEAMS – MILITARY UNITS – RUGBY TOURNAMENTS – RUGBY FESTIVALS – AGE GRADE RUGBY – RUGBY TOURS (Including INCOMING TOURS) – SCHOOL – COLLEGES – UNIVERSITIES

are all governed by the same RFU Regulations [Regulation 19](#)

[Appendix 1](#) – [Appendix 2](#) – [Appendix 3](#) – [Appendix 4](#) – [Appendix 5](#)

[Appendix 6](#) – [Appendix 7](#)

Both Outgoing and Incoming tours need the consent of both Union's before the tour can take place.

If a recipient receives a RED CARD during a match, they are banned with immediate effect.

Which means

1. If the recipient of the **RED CARD** is a member of the Military but was representing a Club at the time of the incident, they are unable to represent their Military Unit.
2. If the recipient of the **RED CARD** is a member of a County Championship team (Representative Rugby), they are not permitted to represent their Club – Military Unit – School – College – University.
3. If the recipient of the **RED CARD** is an Age Grade Player, they are also unable to represent their County – Club – School – College.
4. The recipient of the **RED CARD** is unable to enter the field of play during any match (League, Cup or Friendly) or act as the team coach, not even as a water carrier or the holder of a tackle bag.
5. The recipient of a **RED CARD** is permitted to train, as normal.

Reporting a RED CARD.

On the day of the Incident

Inform the Recipient Disciplinary Secretary



**Within 48 hours of the Incident The Recipient Disciplinary Secretary
will inform the following**

Adult – *CB Discipline Secretary – University Lead – Military Discipline Secretary*

Age Grade – *CB Age Grade Discipline Secretary – School – College – University*

RED CARDS issued during a Military Match will be managed by a Military
Disciplinary Panel.

As applicable

What information will be required by the Disciplinary Secretary.

Details of the Reporting Organisation.

Details of the Opposition involved in the match.

Match Status, League – Cup Competition – Friendly.

The contact details of the reporting Disciplinary Secretary.

Recipient's Full Name (Correctly Spelt).

Recipient's Date of Birth.

Recipient's RFU ID Number.

Red Card or Match Official Abuse Reports.

The Referee will submit a copy of their **RED CARD** or **MATCH OFFICIAL ABUSE** report to the Referee Society or the Military Unit Disciplinary Secretary within 48 hours of issuing the **RED CARD**.

The Referee Society Disciplinary Secretary will forward a copy of **RED CARD** or **MATCH OFFICIAL ABUSE** report to the relevant Disciplinary Secretary.

Please ensure that you use the latest version of the report forms.

Download copies are available by clicking the links below

[SENIORS RED CARD](#) – [AGE GRADE RED CARD](#) – [MATCH OFFICIAL ABUSE](#)

Internal Disciplinary Hearing.

It is recommended that an internal disciplinary hearing is held, and the following are informed of the outcome, including a copy of the internal hearing findings.

For an Adult recipient – CB Disciplinary Secretary – Military Disciplinary Secretary (if the recipient is a serving member of the Military) – University Lead.

For an Age Grade recipient – CB Age Grade Discipline Secretary (CBAGDS) School or College.

The CBAGDS will then review the finding of the hearing, or the CBAGDS has the option to refer the outcome to the RFU Age Grade Discipline Secretary for comment.

For a Military recipient, the Disciplinary Secretary for their Military Unit (Army Navy – Air Force).

The Disciplinary Panel to consist of a maximum of three members including an appointed Chair.

The role of the Disciplinary Secretary is to oversee the hearing process and cannot offer any opinion to the panel before or during the hearing process.

It is recommended that before any Disciplinary Hearing, the following are obtained

Witness Statements – Any Video evidence – Medical Reports – Overnight Hospital stays, must be reported to both the RFU and the local CB.

If the recipient is a Players or a member of the Team Support Staff, the recipient's planned future Fixture List.

No person with an interest in the proceedings may sit on the Panel (19.2.3)

Who will hear the charge?

Once the CB Disciplinary Secretary has received all the relevant documents, will then determine who should hear the charge, some charges are referred directly to the RFU for consideration as set out below.

- Players dismissed from the field of play or cited during County Championship matches
- Breaches of World Rugby Regulations 6, 10 and 21 (Anticorruption and Betting, Medical and Anti-Doping) and breaches of RFU Regulations 17 and 20 (Anti-Corruption and Betting and Anti-Doping).
- Breaches of RFU Regulation 21 (Safeguarding).
- All cases involving serious injury.
- All cases under investigation by the Police.
- All cases involving verbal or physical abuse based on a protected characteristic (as defined by the Equality Act 2010).

These are Age, Disability, Gender Reassignment, Marriage and Civil Partnership, Pregnancy and Maternity, Race, Religion or Belief, Sex, and Sexual Orientation.

Complaints regarding a Referee Society admitted to membership of the Rugby Football Referees Union (or an individual member of such a Society).

The RFU Head of Discipline has the power to direct that the RFU, Organising Committee, a Constituent Body, Club or Referee Society shall deal with any matter.

What occur next?

The CB Disciplinary Secretary, will compile the hearing bundle and circulate to all parties before the hearing.

The CB Disciplinary Secretary in conjunction with the CB Chair of Discipline, will convene a Disciplinary Hearing at the next appropriate date.

All hearings will take place via an Online platform or with recipients agreement a papers only hearing.

Except for **Match Official Abuse (MOA)** which will be heard in person by the Disciplinary Panel.

If proven a MOA charge will carry an additional two-week ban automatically.

Any **RED CARD/SANCTION** will remain in force until the following has occurred.

The charge is dismissed against the recipient by the CB Disciplinary Panel.

The ban imposed by the CB Disciplinary Panel as expired.

The ban imposed by the CB Disciplinary Panel is overturned by an Appeals Panel.

How will a sanction be made up?

Any sanction imposed by a Disciplinary Panel can be recorded either in **MATCHES** or **WEEKS**, and this will be at the discretion of the Disciplinary Panel.

Any match planned during the period of a sanction must be classified as a meaningful match.

Which means Interclub matches – Training Matches – Social Matches are not classified as meaningful matches.

The maximum number of matches per week that count towards a sanction is **TWO**.

For 7's Tournaments, one match equals one playing day.

Any matches missed before the process is finalised will count towards the overall sanction total. Therefore, it is in the club's best interest to manage the disciplinary process in a timely manner.

How is a ban recorded?

All sanctions imposed on a recipient will be documented on a Short Judgment Form, which will be circulated to the recipient of the **RED CARD** after the outcome of the disciplinary procedure has been exhausted.

Details of any sanction imposed on a recipient will be recorded on the RFU Game Management System (GMS) within 28 days of the sanction being confirmed.

Details of any sanction issued by a Disciplinary Panel are also recorded on the Discipline Page of the D&WRFU website

<https://dwrugby.co.uk/discipline/>

Mitigating features *

1. Guilty plea
2. Clean record;
3. Youth and inexperience of the Player;
4. Player's conduct prior to and at the hearing;
5. Remorse and timing of
6. Any other off-field mitigating factor(s)

* Please note that these may be amended by World Rugby following ongoing consultations

Aggravating features

There are only 3 factors a Panel can consider in terms of aggravation:-

1. The Players status as an offender of the Laws of the Game
2. The need for a deterrent to combat a pattern of offending (provided the Clubs have been put on notice ahead of the season): and
3. Any other off-field aggravating factor that the Disciplinary Panel considers relevant and appropriate

NOT INCLUDED ARE

Pleading not guilty

Not apologising



Fees Payable.

In accordance with RFU Regulation 19, the Dorset & Wilts Disciplinary Panel will charge a fee of **£85.00** towards the disciplinary hearing expenses. This fee rises to **£100.00** if the process is not complied with.

These contributions cover the administration costs (including Panel travel), the hiring of rooms and equipment. In addition if a club is subject to a disciplinary hearing then that club must pay the costs incurred.

The charge for a citing is £125.00 and any extra expenses must be paid by the club, not by D&W RFU.

The Final Bits of Advice.

Reminder that **5 PROVEN RED CARDS** for a club in a single season will result in a 5.12 charge being brought against the club, as per RFU Regulation 19.

Which means any combination of the following sections listed below who receives a **RED CARD** will be included in the totting up process.

1st – 2nd – 3rd – 4th – Woman's – Girls – Vets – Social Rugby – Minis – Age Grade – Colts – Club Management – Spectators.

Any sanction imposed on a Recipient or club for a RFU Regulation 5.12. charge, will be at the discretion of the Disciplinary Panel and could be imposed on any section of club or the whole Club (**Including the Deduction of League Points**).

Any injuries on Artificial Grass Pitches (AGP) must be reported to both the RFU and the local CB.

Note: Any act of foul play which results in contact with the head and/or neck shall result in at least a mid-range sanction

If in doubt ASK.