

## **Bromyard RFC Disciplinary Procedure**

**Document updated: 10/12/2021**

**Document to be reviewed 1<sup>st</sup> August each year at season start.**



### **CLUB DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE**

Bromyard RFC has a Disciplinary Committee which has the power to inflict appropriate punishment on any player, official or member of the Club for an infringement of any Laws of the Game provided that such powers are without prejudice to the powers of NMRFU to deal with such matters in accordance with the powers delegated to them by the Rugby Football Union.

Bromyard RFC shall be responsible for the conduct of its members, and for investigating any allegations of foul play and/or acts of misconduct which have taken place on Club premises or as part of a club activity unless set out to the contrary of the Disciplinary Regulations.

Bromyard RFC appoints a Disciplinary Panel, consisting of a Chairman plus two panel members and a secretary (who will be appointed but will not be a member of the panel).

A Player need not have been disciplined by an Official in order to appear before a Club Disciplinary Committee.

If a Player is punished for a foul play offence, which was undetected by an Official, Bromyard RFC should inform the Secretary of the opposing Club of the verdict and action taken.

### **CODE OF RUGBY - ADULT**

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

- Play to win - but not at all cost

- 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

Coaches, match officials and other volunteers, are responsible for ensuring appropriate standards of behaviour are maintained at all times and must report all behaviour which falls below these standards. It is also important to ensure that misconduct occurring before and after the game is dealt with as robustly as that occurring during the game. Standards of behaviour should be enforced at all times, even when the behaviour goes unnoticed by match officials.

### **What Needs Reporting?**

The following is an overview of those issues which the RFU regard as serious in respect of which the RFU expects Clubs to take the appropriate disciplinary action:

- Dismissal of a player
- Abuse of Officials
- Action which results in the abandonment of the game
- Misconduct contrary to the spirit of the game
- Yellow cards
- Repetitive behaviour where the player has failed to respond to informal interventions

Coaches and match officials must report all such incidents to a member of the committee **within 48 hours** of the match ending.

### **SENDING OFF**

Where a player is sent off the team captain and/or coach must inform the club secretary and/or the club discipline secretary immediately.

The club secretary must report to NMFRU Discipline Secretary **within 48 hours** after the match the name, address and contact telephone number of any player who has been ordered off the playing enclosure.

Where possible, when a player is ordered-off the field of play, an internal club hearing in accordance with BRFC Discipline Hearing Procedure should be convened by the Club Discipline Secretary as soon as possible.

It may be that the NMFRU Discipline Secretary will require the player to attend a NMFRU Disciplinary hearing before the club has had time to convene, in that case the NMFRU Disciplinary hearing should take priority.

If a player is required to attend a hearing, it is important that they attend with someone from the club familiar with the Laws of the Game (in particular Law 9 – Foul Play), the disciplinary process and knows the player well and can speak on their behalf.

Even if the Clubs Disciplinary Panel has considered the case, please note that the player is still provisionally suspended under RFU Regulation 19 (by virtue of the fact that they were ordered-off) and cannot play until their case has been heard by NMFRU. Both the player and club may face an

additional charge for breaching RFU Rules/Regulations if a player plays before their case has been considered by the NMRFU Disciplinary Panel.

### **BRFC DISCIPLINE HEARING PROCEDURE**

BRFC Disciplinary Panel exists to ensure high standard of conduct within the club and that there is a fair and proper administrative process to deal with any allegations of member's misconduct.

RFU Regulation 19, Appendix 7 sets out a step-by-step process to follow when holding a disciplinary hearing.

#### **1. PRELIMINARY POINTS FOR ALL HEARINGS**

Introduction of the panel

Check there are no objections to the composition of the panel

Introduction of all the parties (names and roles etc.)

Chair then reads out the charge and asks the accused person to confirm if they accept or deny the charge(s)

#### **2. IF THE ACCUSED PERSON ACCEPTS THE CHARGE**

- They should be asked to talk through the incident. During this time, they may be asked to talk through any video footage (if available)
- The accused person will then be asked to put forward any mitigation (Regulation 19.11.10)
- The opposition club (for example, in the case of a youth citing that a club is dealing with) may wish to make submissions on any aggravating factors (19.11.5(b))
- The accused person will then be asked by the panel about their previous disciplinary record (19.11.5.c)

#### **3. THE PANEL SHOULD THEN CLEAR THE ROOM TO DELIBERATE IN PRIVATE**

- The panel will undertake an assessment of the seriousness of the incident (19.11.8) and establish the entry point in line with the sanctions table at Appendix 2 of the RFU Regulations
- The panel will then consider whether there are any mitigating factors (19.11.10)
- The panel should then consider all aggravating factors (19.11.13)

#### **4. THE PARTIES SHOULD THEN BE CALLED BACK AND THE DECISION GIVEN TO ALL AT THE SAME TIME**

#### **5. THE ACCUSED PERSON SHOULD BE ADVISED OF THEIR RIGHT TO APPEAL (AS PER THE CLUB'S INTERNAL CONSTITUTION/ RULES)**

#### **6. IF THE ACCUSED PERSON DENIES THE CHARGE**

- The party bringing the charge (i.e. the Club Disciplinary Secretary) should present the case including calling any witnesses in person or by phone. The accused person or their representative should be given the opportunity to question each of the witnesses
- The video evidence should be shown (if applicable)
- The match referee should be called to give their evidence and the accused person or their representative given the chance to ask questions
- The panel has the opportunity to put any questions to the accused person or any witness

#### **7. THE PANEL SHOULD THEN CLEAR THE ROOM TO DELIBERATE IN PRIVATE AS TO WHETHER OR NOT THERE IS A CASE TO ANSWER. THE PARTIES WILL THEN BE CALLED BACK.**

- If there is insufficient evidence to justify a case to answer then the charge is dismissed
- If it is established that there is a case to answer the panel proceeds to hear evidence from the accused person
- The accused person may give evidence on their version of events, including by reference to the video footage, if available. The Secretary bringing the charge then has the opportunity to ask any questions

- The accused person may then call any witnesses upon which he/she relies and they can be asked questions by the Secretary
  - The panel has the opportunity to put any questions to the accused person or any witness
8. THE PANEL SHOULD THEN CLEAR THE ROOM TO DELIBERATE IN PRIVATE
- If the charge is not proven, the case is dismissed
  - If the charge is proven, the panel should then follow steps 3 – 5 above

## **CODE OF RUGBY – JUNIOR**

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

- Play to win - but not at all cost
- 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

Dealing with Player Disciplinary Issues - Under 7 to Under 12

General Principles

Given the young age of some of the players in this age range, it is imperative that all matters involving issues of discipline are dealt with as quickly and as sensitively as possible always remembering that the welfare of the child concerned is paramount. All actions taken against any child must be fair, consistent and reasonable in the circumstances. Players of this age should be dealt with informally, where possible, and in consultation with a parent/carer. As a general rule all disciplinary matters will be dealt with by the coach in consultation with the match officials and the parent/carer at the time of the incident. Outcomes of disciplinary actions are strictly confidential and must not be reported publicly.

Dealing with Issues of Low to Medium Level Seriousness

Where problems arise on the field of play, match officials and coaches are encouraged to withdraw players from the game rather than have the player dismissed. This should be followed by a discussion with the parent/carer of the child concerned and, if necessary, an informal discussion with the player themselves. Where necessary, informal advice and guidance regarding future conduct should be given to both the parent/care and the player. A written record of the incident and action taken must be kept and a copy given to the Rugby Chairman and the Child Safeguarding Officer.

Dealing with Issues of High Level Seriousness

On the rare occasion when the behaviour complained of is so serious that it requires a more formal intervention (for example, where there is a pattern of behaviour developing and the player has failed to respond to the informal interventions or where there the behaviour involves a serious level of violence such as biting, deliberate stamping etc), the player should be withdrawn

from the field of play by the coach in consultation with the match officials. The matter should then be discussed with the Chairman of Mini Junior Rugby and Child Safeguarding Officer who will decide whether the matter can be dealt with informally or referred for formal action to be taken. A written record of the incident must be kept and a copy given to the Rugby Chairman and Child Safeguarding Officer.

## Dealing with Player Disciplinary Issues - Under 13 to Under 18 Age

### General principles

Coaches, match officials and other volunteers, are responsible for ensuring appropriate standards of behaviour are maintained at all times and must report all behaviour which falls below these standards. It is also important to ensure that misconduct occurring before and after the game is dealt with as robustly as that occurring during the game. Standards of behaviour should be enforced at all times, even when the behaviour goes unnoticed by match officials. Given the age of the players in this age range, it is imperative that all matters involving issues of discipline are dealt with as quickly and as sensitively as possible always remembering that the welfare of the young person concerned is paramount. All actions taken against any young player must be fair, consistent and reasonable in the circumstances and be taken in accordance with the guidelines set out below. Outcomes of disciplinary action are strictly confidential and must not be reported publicly.

### Needs Reporting?

The guidance from the RFU is clear in respect of dealing with disciplinary matters for players in this age range and sets out circumstances in which it expects Clubs to respond. The following is an overview of those issues which the RFU regard as serious in respect of which the RFU expects Clubs to take the appropriate disciplinary action:

- Dismissal of a player
  - Abuse of Officials
  - Action which results in the abandonment of the game
  - Misconduct contrary to the spirit of the game
  - Yellow cards
  - Repetitive behaviour where the player has failed to respond to informal interventions
- Coaches and match officials must report all such incidents to the Chair of Mini Junior Rugby or the Child Safeguarding Officer **within** 48 hours of the match ending

### How Will Disciplinary Matters be Dealt With?

All disciplinary matters for players in these age groups will be dealt with by the Disciplinary Panel and in consultation with the Child Safeguarding Officer. The Disciplinary Panel shall consist of such persons as it is felt necessary to deal with the matter complained of and will include people with an understanding of Age Grade rugby and who have been DBS checked. The coach and the parent/carer will be involved throughout the process by the Club Secretary who will be responsible for providing administrative support and procedural advice.

The Disciplinary Panel will have regard to the guidance set out in Regulation 10 of the RFU Disciplinary Rules and Regulations when dealing with disciplinary matters.

If the matter complained of is denied, it may be necessary to convene a formal disciplinary hearing. However, this would not be done without full consultation with the Child Safeguarding Officer and the parent/carer.

The Disciplinary Panel is authorised to impose all sanctions as set out below (from the RFU Disciplinary Rules and Regulations as they relate to youth players). Where it is felt necessary to consider greater sanction such as expulsion from the Club, the Club Safeguarding Officer must be consulted. A full report of the investigation, hearing if any and outcome will be sent to the NMRFU Safeguarding Manager.

## RFU Recommended Sanctions for Offences within the playing Enclosure - Adult

### Sanction Entry Points

**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<sup>1</sup>**

**Note: Where a Player receives a mid-range or top end sanction, a Disciplinary Committee/Judicial Officer/Appeal Committee/Appeal Officer may, at its discretion, agree that one week of the sanction may be replaced by a “Coaching Intervention” that complies with the World Rugby Coaching Intervention Programme<sup>2</sup>**

#### 9.11 Players must not do anything that is reckless or dangerous to others

Low-end: 2 weeks/matches	Mid-range: 6 weeks/matches	Top-end: 10+ weeks/matches	Max: 52 weeks/matches
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#### 9.12 A player must not physically abuse anyone. Physical abuse includes, but is not limited to:

Biting	Low-end: 12 weeks/matches	Mid-range: 18 weeks/matches	Top-end: 24+ weeks/matches	Max: 208 weeks/matches
Intentional Contact with Eye(s) <sup>3</sup>	Low-end: 12 weeks/matches	Mid-range: 18 weeks/matches	Top-end: 24+ weeks/matches	Max: 208 weeks/matches
Reckless Contact with Eye(s) <sup>4</sup>	Low-end: 6 weeks/matches	Mid-range: 12 weeks/matches	Top-end: 18+ weeks/matches	Max: 208 weeks/matches
Contact with Eye Area <sup>5</sup>	Low-end: 4 weeks/matches	Mid-range: 8 weeks/matches	Top-end: 12+ weeks/matches	Max: 52 weeks/matches
Punching or striking with hand, arm (including stiff-arm tackle), elbow or shoulder	Low-end: 2 weeks/matches	Mid-range: 6 weeks/matches	Top-end: 10+ weeks/matches	Max: 52 weeks/matches

<sup>1</sup> The note does not apply to the following Laws whose low-end entry points already take into account head contact being a potential feature or consequence of such breach reaching the red-card threshold: 9.12 (biting, contact with eye(s)/eye area and striking with head), 9.18 and 9.27 (hair pulling).

<sup>2</sup> The World Rugby Coaching Intervention Programme is only available for foul play offences occurring under the “Head Contact Process”

<sup>3</sup> The “eye” involves all tissues including the eye lids within and covering the orbital cavity and the “eye area” is anywhere in close proximity to the eye.

<sup>4</sup> The “eye” involves all tissues including the eye lids within and covering the orbital cavity and the “eye area” is anywhere in close proximity to the eye.

<sup>5</sup> The “eye” involves all tissues including the eye lids within and covering the orbital cavity and the “eye area” is anywhere in close proximity to the eye.

Leading with the forearm	Low end: 2 weeks/matches	Mid-range: 6 weeks/matches	Top-end: 10+ weeks/matches	Max: 52 weeks/matches
Striking with head <sup>6</sup>	Low-end: 6 weeks/matches	Mid-range: 10 weeks/matches	Top-end: 16+ weeks/matches	Max: 104 weeks/matches
Striking with knee	Low-end: 4 weeks/matches	Mid-range: 8 weeks/matches	Top-end: 12+ weeks/matches	Max: 52 weeks/matches
Stamping or Trampling	Low-end: 2 weeks/matches	Mid-range: 6 weeks/matches	Top-end: 12+ weeks/matches	Max: 52 weeks/matches
Tripping	Low-end: 2 weeks/matches	Mid-range: 4 weeks/matches	Top-end: 8+ weeks/matches	Max: 52 weeks/matches
Kicking	Low-end: 4 weeks/matches	Mid-range: 8 weeks/matches	Top-end: 12+ weeks/matches	Max: 52 weeks/matches

**9.12 A player must not verbally abuse anyone. Verbal abuse includes, but is not limited to, abuse based on: religion, colour, national or ethnic origin, sexual orientation.**

Low-end: 6 weeks/matches	Mid-range: 12 weeks/matches	Top-end: 18+ weeks/matches	Max: 52 weeks/matches
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**9.13 A player must not tackle an opponent early, late or dangerously. Dangerous tackling includes, but is not limited to, tackling or attempting to tackle an opponent above the line of the shoulders even if the tackle starts below the line of the shoulders.**

Low-end: 2 weeks/matches	Mid-range: 6 weeks/matches	Top-end: 10+ weeks/matches	Max: 52 weeks/matches
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**9.14 A player must not tackle an opponent who is not in possession of the ball.**

Low-end: 2 weeks/matches	Mid-range: 6 weeks/matches	Top-end: 10+ weeks/matches	Max: 52 weeks/matches
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**9.15 Except in a scrum, ruck or maul, a player who is not in possession of the ball must not hold, push, charge or obstruct an opponent not in possession of the ball.**

Low-end: 2 weeks/matches	Mid-range: 4 weeks/ matches	Top-end: 6+ weeks/ matches	Max: 52 weeks/ matches
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<sup>6</sup> Head-on-head contact arising out of a tackle situation should ordinarily be sanctioned under Law 9.13 below.



**9.16 A player must not charge or knock down an opponent carrying the ball without attempting to grasp that player.**

Low-end: 2 weeks/matches	Mid-range: 6 weeks/matches	Top-end: 10+ weeks/matches	Max: 52 weeks/matches
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**9.17 A player must not tackle, charge, pull, push or grasp an opponent whose feet are off the ground.**

Low-end: 4 weeks/matches	Mid-range: 8 weeks/matches	Top-end: 12+ weeks/matches	Max: 52 weeks/matches
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**9.18 A player must not lift an opponent off the ground and drop or drive that player so that their head and/or upper body make contact with the ground.**

Low-end: 6 weeks/matches	Mid-range: 10 weeks/matches	Top-end: 14+ weeks/matches	Max: 52 weeks/matches
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**9.19 Dangerous play in a scrum.**

- a. **The front row of a scrum must not form at a distance from its opponents and rush against them.**
- b. **A front-row player must not pull an opponent.**
- c. **A front-row player must not intentionally lift an opponent off their feet or force the opponent upwards out of the scrum.**
- d. **A front-row player must not intentionally collapse a scrum.**

Low-end: 2 weeks/matches	Mid-range: 4 weeks/matches	Top-end: 8+ weeks/matches	Max: 52 weeks/matches
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**9.20 Dangerous play in a ruck or maul.**

- a. **A player must not charge into a ruck or maul. Charging includes any contact made without binding onto another player in the ruck or maul.**

Low-end: 2 weeks/matches	Mid-range: 6 weeks/matches	Top-end: 10+ weeks/matches	Max: 52 weeks/matches
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- b. **A player must not make contact with an opponent above the line of the shoulders.**
- c. **A player must not intentionally collapse a ruck or a maul.**

Low-end: 2 weeks/matches	Mid-range: 4 weeks/matches	Top-end: 8+ weeks/matches	Max: 52 weeks/matches
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**9.25 A player must not intentionally charge or obstruct an opponent who has just kicked the ball.**

Low-end: 2 weeks/matches	Mid-range: 6 weeks/matches	Top-end: 10+ weeks/matches	Max: 52 weeks/matches
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**9.27 A player must not do anything that is against the spirit of good sportsmanship including but not limited to:**

Hair pulling or grabbing	Low-end: 2 weeks/matches	Mid-range: 4 weeks/matches	Top-end: 6+ weeks/matches	Max: 52 weeks/matches
Spitting at anyone	Low-end: 4 weeks/matches	Mid-range: 8 weeks/matches	Top-end: 12+ weeks/matches	Max: 52 weeks/matches
Grabbing, twisting or squeezing the genitals (and/or breasts in the case of female players)	Low-end: 12 weeks/matches	Mid-range: 18 weeks/matches	Top-end: 24+ weeks/matches	Max: 208 weeks/matches
Other	Low-end: 4 weeks/matches	Mid-range: 8 weeks/matches	Top-end: 12+ weeks/matches	Max: 52 weeks/matches
2 Yellow cards in a match	PLEASE SEE RFU REGULATON 19 APPENDIX 1			

**9.28 A player must not disrespect the authority of a Match Official**

Low-end: 2 weeks/matches	Mid-range: 4 weeks/matches	Top-end: 6+ weeks/matches	Max: 52 weeks/matches
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**9.28 A player must not verbally abuse a Match Official. Verbal abuse includes, but is not limited to, abuse based on: religion, colour, national or ethnic origin, sexual orientation.**

Low-end: 6 weeks/matches	Mid-range: 12 weeks/matches	Top-end: 18+ weeks/matches	Max: 52 weeks/matches
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**9.28 A player must not make physical contact with Match Officials.**

Low-end: 6 weeks/matches	Mid-range: 12 weeks/matches	Top-end: 18+ weeks/matches	Max: 52 weeks/matches
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**9.28 A player must not use threatening actions or words towards Match Officials.**

Low-end: 12 weeks/matches	Mid-range: 24 weeks/matches	Top-end: 48+ weeks/matches	Max: 260 weeks/matches
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**9.28 A player must not physically abuse Match Officials.**

Low-end: 24 weeks/matches	Mid-range: 48 weeks/matches	Top-end: 96+ weeks/matches	Max: Life
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In respect of offences not referred to in Appendix 1, appropriate sanctions may be imposed at the discretion of the relevant Judicial Officer, Disciplinary Committee, Appeal Officer and/or Appeal Committee (as the case may be).

Notwithstanding the Sanctions in Appendix 1 and/or the provisions of Regulation 19 in cases where the player's actions constitute mid-range or top end offending for any type of offence which had the potential to result and, in fact, did result in serious/gross consequences to the health of the victim, the Judicial Officers and/or Disciplinary Committees may impose any period of suspension including a suspension for life.

**Bad Disciplinary Record**

When dealing with a Club under the bad disciplinary record provisions a Disciplinary Panel may impose any appropriate sanction, including (but not limited to) a reprimand, a financial penalty or deduction of league points or relegation, exclusion or disqualification from any competition, or a combination of the above. Sanctions may also be suspended if considered appropriate.

## Playing Under-Age Players in Adult Rugby

### Under Age Players who train/play in Adult Rugby

This recommended sanctions table relates to an entry point for a first breach of RFU Regulation 15. The sanction may be increased to reflect aggravating features or reduced to reflect mitigating factors (see below). A second breach is likely to incur a significantly higher sanction.

<b>Classification of Breach</b>	<b>Description of Classification</b>	<b>Entry Point for Sanction</b>
Low level breach	A player under the age of 18 trains with adults without required permission. No injury occurs.	Suspension of coach/person responsible for training for 4 weeks; and Club reprimanded.
Mid-level breach	A player under the age of 18 plays with adults without required permission. No injury occurs	Suspension of coach/person responsible for team selection for 3 months; and Team suspended from playing for 4 weeks; and Points deducted from club 1 <sup>st</sup> XV equating to 2 wins (possibly
	A player under the age of 18 trains with adults without required permission. Injury occurs.	suspended); and Club reprimanded.
High level breach	A player under the age of 18 plays with adults without required permission. Injury occurs, or no injury occurs but player plays in the front row.	Suspension of coach/person responsible for team selection for 6 months; and Team suspended from playing for 3 months; and Points deducted from club 1 <sup>st</sup> XV equating to 4 wins; and Club reprimanded.

Aggravating features may include:

- Intentional breach of regulations
- Club failure to warn teams of regulation and consequences of breach
- Very young player
- Serious injury

Mitigating factors may include:

- Unintentional breach – Club did not know player was under 18 and it was reasonable to assume he was over 18
- Player nearly 18 years old
- Player capable of playing adult rugby and permission would have been granted had it been requested
- Injury not serious

## AGE GRADE RUGBY DISCIPLINARY

The Constituent Body Age Grade Discipline Secretary (CBAGDS) is the person appointed by the CB who has experience dealing with Age Grade matters.

Match in which sent off or cited	Responsibility for the hearing of the player	Sanction to be applied	Hearing outcome notified within 48 hours to
Any Age Grade Match U13 or below	Age Grade Player's Coach	Education focused approach in conjunction with appropriate sanctions	n/a
U14 – U18 Player in a School / College Match	Head Teacher / Principal	RFU SANCTION TABLE TO BE APPLIED IN ALL CASES	CBAGDS*
U14 – U18 Player in a Club Match	Club Age Grade Disciplinary Panel		CBAGDS*
U14 – U18 Player in a Regional Academy Match	Club Academy Manager		CBAGDS*
U14-U18 Representative Match	CBAGDS or NAGDS makes arrangements		NAGDS or RFU Head of Discipline

\*Constituent Body Age Grade Discipline Secretary (CBAGDS) contact details available from local Constituent Body, England Rugby Football Schools Union (ERFSU) or England Colleges Rugby Football Union (ERCFU).

N.B. In all cases guidance can be obtained from the National Age Grade Discipline Secretary (NAGDS) [agegradediscipline@rfu.com](mailto:agegradediscipline@rfu.com)

### Sanction Entry Points

**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**

#### 9.11. Players must not do anything that is reckless or dangerous to others.

<b>Up to U15s Sanction</b>	Low-end: 1 match	Mid-range: 2 matches	Top-end: 4+ matches
<b>U16 to U18 Sanction</b>	Low-end: 2 matches	Mid-range: 4 matches	Top-end: 6+ matches

#### 9.12. A player must not physically abuse anyone. Physical abuse includes, but is not limited to:

<b>Biting</b>	<b>Up to U15s Sanction</b>	Low-end: 4 matches	Mid-range: 8 matches	Top-end: 12 + matches
	<b>U16 to U18 Sanction</b>	Low-end: 8 matches	Mid-range: 10 matches	Top-end: 14+ matches
<b>Intentional Contact with Eye(s)<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Up to U15s Sanction</b>	Low-end: 4 matches	Mid-range: 8 matches	Top-end: 12+ matches
	<b>U16 to U18 Sanction</b>	Low-end: 8 matches	Mid-range: 10 matches	Top-end: 14+ matches

<b>Reckless Contact with Eye(s)<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>Up to U15s Sanction</b>	Low-end: 2 matches	Mid-range: 4 matches	Top-end: 8+ matches
	<b>U16 to U18 Sanction</b>	Low-end: 4 matches	Mid-range: 6 matches	Top-end: 12+ matches
<b>Contact with Eye Area<sup>4</sup></b>	<b>Up to U15s Sanction</b>	Low-end: 2 matches	Mid-range: 4 matches	Top-end: 6+ matches
	<b>U16 to U18 Sanction</b>	Low-end: 4 matches	Mid-range: 6 matches	Top-end: 10+ matches
<b>Punching or striking with hand or arm (including stiff-arm tackle)</b>	<b>Up to U15s Sanction</b>	Low-end: 1 match	Mid-range: 2 matches	Top-end: 4+ matches
	<b>U16 to U18 Sanction</b>	Low-end: 2 matches	Mid-range: 4 matches	Top-end: 6+ matches
<b>Striking with the elbow</b>	<b>Up to U15s Sanction</b>	Low-end: 1 match	Mid-range: 2 matches	Top-end: 4+ matches

<sup>1, 3&4</sup> The "eye" involves all tissues including the eye lids within and covering the orbital cavity and the "eye area" is anywhere in close proximity to the eye.

	<b>U16 to U18 Sanction</b>	Low-end: 2 matches	Mid-range: 6 matches	Top-end: 8+ matches
<b>Striking with shoulder</b>	<b>Up to U15s Sanction</b>	Low-end: 1 match	Mid-range: 2 matches	Top-end: 4+ matches
	<b>U16 to U18 Sanction</b>	Low-end: 2 matches	Mid-range: 6 matches	Top-end: 8+ matches
<b>Striking with head</b>	<b>Up to U15s Sanction</b>	Low-end: 2 matches	Mid-range: 4 matches:	Top-end: 6+ matches
	<b>U16 to U18 Sanction</b>	Low-end: 4 matches	Mid-range: 6 matches	Top-end: 10+ matches
<b>Striking with knee</b>	<b>Up to U15s Sanction</b>	Low-end: 2 matches	Mid-range: 4 matches	Top-end: 6+ matches
	<b>U16 to U18 Sanction</b>	Low-end: 4 matches	Mid-range: 6 matches	Top-end: 8+ matches
<b>Stamping or Trampling</b>	<b>Up to U15s Sanction</b>	Low-end: 1 match	Mid-range: 2 matches	Top-end: 4+ matches
	<b>U16 to U18 Sanction</b>	Low-end: 2 matches	Mid-range: 4 matches	Top-end: 10+ matches
<b>Tripping</b>	<b>Up to U15s Sanction</b>	Low-end: 1 match	Mid-range: 2 matches	Top-end: 4+ matches
	<b>U16 to U18 Sanction</b>	Low-end: 2 matches	Mid-range: 4 matches	Top-end: 6+ matches
<b>Kicking</b>	<b>Up to U15s Sanction</b>	Low-end: 2 matches	Mid-range: 4 matches	Top-end: 6+ matches
	<b>U16 to U18 Sanction</b>	Low-end: 4 matches	Mid-range: 6 matches	Top-end: 10+ matches

**9.12. A player must not verbally abuse anyone. Verbal abuse includes, but is not limited to, abuse based on: religion, colour, national or ethnic origin, sexualorientation.**

<b>Up to U15s Sanction</b>	Low-end: 2 matches	Mid-range: 4 matches	Top-end: 6+ matches
<b>U16 to U18 Sanction</b>	Low-end: 4 matches	Mid-range: 8 matches	Top-end: 12+ matches

**9.13. A player must not tackle an opponent early, late or dangerously. Dangerous tackling includes, but is not limited to, tackling or attempting to tackle an opponent above the line of the shoulders even if the tackle starts below the line of the shoulders.**

<b>Up to U15s Sanction</b>	Low-end: 1 match	Mid-range: 2 matches	Top-end: 4+ matches
<b>U16 to U18 Sanction</b>	Low-end: 2 matches	Mid-range: 6 matches	Top-end: 8+ matches

**9.14. A player must not tackle an opponent who is not in possession of the ball.**

<b>Up to U15s Sanction</b>	Low-end: 1 match	Mid-range: 2 matches	Top-end: 4+ matches
<b>U16 to U18 Sanction</b>	Low-end: 2 matches	Mid-range: 6 matches	Top-end: 8+ matches

**9.15. Except in a scrum, ruck or maul, a player who is not in possession of the ball must not hold, push, charge or obstruct an opponent not in possession of the ball.**

<b>Up to U15s Sanction</b>	Low-end: 1 match	Mid-range: 2 matches	Top-end: 4+ matches
<b>U16 to U18 Sanction</b>	Low-end: 2 matches	Mid-range: 4 matches	Top-end: 6+ matches

**9.16. A player must not charge or knock down an opponent carrying the ball without attempting to grasp that player.**

<b>Up to U15s Sanction</b>	Low-end: 1 match	Mid-range: 2 matches	Top-end: 4+ matches
<b>U16 to U18 Sanction</b>	Low-end: 2 matches	Mid-range: 6 matches	Top-end: 8+ matches

**9.17. A player must not tackle, charge, pull, push or grasp an opponent whose feet are off the ground.**

<b>Up to U15s Sanction</b>	Low-end: 2 matches	Mid-range: 4 matches	Top-end: 6+ matches
<b>U16 to U18 Sanction</b>	Low-end: 4 matches	Mid-range: 6 matches	Top-end: 10+ matches

**9.18. A player must not lift an opponent off the ground and drop or drive that player so that their head and/or upper body make contact with the ground.**

<b>Up to U15s Sanction</b>	Low-end: 2 matches	Mid-range: 4 matches	Top-end: 6+ matches
<b>U16 to U18 Sanction</b>	Low-end: 4 matches	Mid-range: 6 matches	Top-end: 10+ matches

**9.19. Dangerous play in a scrum.**

- a. The front row of a scrum must not form at a distance from its opponents and rush against them.
- b. A front-row player must not pull an opponent.
- c. A front-row player must not intentionally lift an opponent off their feet or force the opponent upwards out of the scrum.
- d. A front-row player must not intentionally collapse a scrum.

<b>Up to U15s Sanction</b>	Low-end: warning <sup>2</sup>	Mid-range: 1 match	Top-end: 2+ matches
<b>U16 to U18 Sanction</b>	Low-end: 1 match	Mid-range: 2 matches	Top-end: 4+ matches

**9.20. Dangerous play in a ruck or maul.**

- a. A player must not charge into a ruck or maul. Charging includes any contact made without binding onto another player in the ruck or maul.
- b. A player must not make contact with an opponent above the line of the shoulders.
- c. A player must not intentionally collapse a ruck or a maul

<b>Up to U15s Sanction</b>	Low-end: 1 match	Mid-range: 2 matches	Top-end: 4+ matches
<b>U16 to U18 Sanction</b>	Low-end: 2 matches	Mid-range: 4 matches	Top-end: 6+ matches

**9.25. A player must not intentionally charge or obstruct an opponent who has just kicked the ball.**

<b>Up to U15s Sanction</b>	Low-end: 1 match	Mid-range: 2 matches	Top-end: 4+ matches
<b>U16 to U18 Sanction</b>	Low-end: 2 matches	Mid-range: 6 matches	Top-end: 8+ matches

**9.27. A player must not do anything that is against the spirit of good sportsmanship including but not limited to:**

<b>Hair pulling or grabbing</b>	<b>Up to U15s Sanction</b>	Low-end: 1 match	Mid-range: 2 matches	Top-end: 4+ matches
	<b>U16 to U18 Sanction</b>	Low-end: 2 matches	Mid-range: 4 matches	Top-end: 6+ matches
<b>Spitting at anyone</b>	<b>Up to U15s Sanction</b>	Low-end: 2 matches	Mid-range: 4 matches	Top-end: 6+ matches
	<b>U16 to U18 Sanction</b>	Low-end: 4 matches	Mid-range: 6 matches	Top-end: 10+ matches



<b>Grabbing, twisting or squeezing the genitals (and/or breasts in the case of female players)</b>	<b>Up to U15s Sanction</b>	Low-end: 4 matches	Mid-range: 6 matches	Top-end: 12+ matches
	<b>U16 to U18 Sanction</b>	Low-end: 6 matches	Mid-range: 12 matches	Top-end: 18+ matches
<b>Other</b>	<b>Up to U15s Sanction</b>	Low-end: 2 matches	Mid-range: 4 matches	Top-end: 6+ matches
	<b>U16 to U18 Sanction</b>	Low-end: 4 matches	Mid-range: 6 matches	Top-end: 10+ matches

**9.28 A player must not disrespect the authority of a Match Official**

<b>Up to U15s Sanction</b>	Low-end: 1 match	Mid-range: 2 matches	Top-end: 4+ matches
<b>U16 to U18 Sanction</b>	Low-end: 1 match	Mid-range: 2 matches	Top-end: 4+ matches

**9.28 A player must not verbally abuse a Match Official. Verbal abuse includes, but is not limited to, abuse based on: religion, colour, national or ethnic origin, sexual orientation**

<b>Up to U15s Sanction</b>	Low-end: 2 matches	Mid-range: 4 matches	Top-end: 6+ matches
<b>U16 to U18 Sanction</b>	Low-end: 4 matches	Mid-range: 6 matches	Top-end: 10+ matches

**9.28 A player must not make physical contact with Match Officials**

<b>Up to U15s Sanction</b>	Low-end: 2 matches	Mid-range: 4 matches	Top-end: 6+ matches
<b>U16 to U18 Sanction</b>	Low-end: 4 matches	Mid-range: 6 matches	Top-end: 10+ matches

**9.28 A player must not use threatening actions or words towards Match Officials**

<b>Up to U15s Sanction</b>	Low-end: 4 matches	Mid-range: 6 matches	Top-end: 12+ matches
<b>U16 to U18 Sanction</b>	Low-end: 6 matches	Mid-range: 12 matches	Top-end: 24+ matches

**9.28 A player must not physically abuse Match Officials**

<b>Up to U15s Sanction</b>	Low-end: 6 matches	Mid-range: 12 matches	Top-end: 24+ matches
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<b>U16 to U18 Sanction</b>	Low-end: 12 matches	Mid-range: 24 matches	Top-end: 48+ matches
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The full RFU Disciplinary Regulations can be found at Section 19

[www.englandrugby.com/governance/discipline](http://www.englandrugby.com/governance/discipline)