



London Society of Rugby Football Union Referees

Process for youth rugby following a red card

In most cases (see below**) the discipline process is handed over to the club of the player involved. The club should decide on any action within 72 hours of the incident, even if a referee's report has not been received. The club should receive the referee's report as soon as possible. The report should use the standard form and initially be sent to the LSRFUR Area Discipline Secretary who will do the necessary forwarding to Club and CB.

Ideally the team coach should get some idea from the ref, immediately after the game, as to the ref's perception of the severity of the offence. Action on match day or quickly afterwards, with the relevant information, will clear up the punishment promptly. This will let the player/coach get on with the game in their club, with the lesson learnt.

The Club should convene a discipline hearing with appropriate club members. Should a suspension from playing be decided then the hearing should take into account the player's age and experience as well as any previous discipline record. The county discipline officer can advise clubs about suitable tariff for serious offences. Should a suspension from playing be decided then the club will be encouraged to follow the RFU age grade sanction table and process for deciding the entry level. The CB's discipline officer can advise clubs about the procedures. For more details the RFU Tariff is available at RFU.com (search for "Regulations").

In any event the club must communicate the outcome of a discipline meeting to the county to which the club is affiliated. Some counties have a youth-specific officer but the main county discipline officer will forward any information as required. The referee's report will have been sent to the county, who will be expecting information regarding the outcome of the club's meeting about the incident. The county discipline secretary will review the sanction given by the club and keep a record of the player involved.

** For offences within the remit of RFU rule 5.12 (bringing the game into disrepute) the CB will take the matter to a RFU discipline panel. This would include incidents involving safeguarding, serious injury (requiring hospital treatment), racial abuse, police/civil action as well as serious cases of referee abuse from players or coaches/parents.

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August 2017