



Cheshire Rugby Football Union

(EST. 1875)

Adult Discipline Start of Season Bulletin

Welcome

With the season starting this weekend, I felt it important to remind you of the discipline regulations and procedures for the adult game.

Important – Regulation 19 - click on the link below to access it, points to note:

- 1) Each heading is a hyperlink to help you navigate each section.
- 2) Definitions section and explanatory notes have been added to assist your understanding.

RFU Regulation 19

<https://www.englandrugby.com/run/rules-governance/rfu-rules-and-regulations/regulation-19-discipline>

MOA – Joint initiative with Lancs/Madrefs and Lpool Refs – Respect Marshalls

You will be aware that there has been an increase in Match Official Abuse cases over the last few years which has resulted in Referees deciding to leave the game.

Cheshire and Lancashire CB's are working with Madrefs and Liverpool Referee Society on a joint initiative in an attempt to reduce this decline in referee numbers and reinforce the Core Values of our game (attached), your club need to be aware of the impact on them for repeat offences. **For the avoidance of doubt clubs will only be warned and sanctioned through the direction of the chair of the panel who has heard the proven judgement against either an individual or a club.**

There are also two MOA posters which clubs need to print off and display in their changing rooms and clubhouses – both will be an attachment on the email that is part of this communication.

Respect Marshalls: This initiative has already been circulated to your club and it is hoped that the jackets will be with you by this weekend.

The main point from your perspective is that the Respect Marshall (s) need to introduce themselves to the appointed referee (s) before the matches commence on either the Saturday or Sunday.

Club Discipline/Reporting

- Every club is required to have a properly constituted Disciplinary Committee that is charged with maintaining the standards of discipline within the club. It is strongly recommended that this committee be pro-active rather than reactive. RFU Guidance on the administration of hearings is on the link below:

[RFU Club Disciplinary Guidance](#)

- Adult Discipline

In all circumstances Club Disciplinary Secretaries **must report** red cards to either John Downham (East) or Andy Broadbent (West) within 48 hours of the match with the following information. Failure to do so will incur a late fee £25 which will be added to the hearing costs.

Player's Full Name

Date of Birth

RFU No – **Reg 19.2.6 (a) - All Clubs are further required; To ensure that any person subject to disciplinary proceedings is registered on GMS prior to any disciplinary hearing.**

What the player was sent off for (if known).

Is there a video of the incident

Please note the player is immediately suspended until the hearing.



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- **Video Conference Protocols** – Within the revised hearing documentation is a link to the Video Conference Protocols we are putting in place this season. Please click on the link below and review and circulate to the hearing attendees the video conference protocols in advance of the scheduled hearing.

[Cheshire RFU Video Conference Protocols 2025/26](#)

- **Hearing Costs: Please find below the regulation regarding costs – for information this will be included with the judgement and appeal information.**
19.6.7: Where a person or Club is ordered to pay costs, then, unless the Disciplinary or Appeal Panel grants a longer period for payment, they shall be paid within 30 days of receipt of the invoice, or any other timeframe indicated by the body producing the invoice. If such costs are not paid by the specified date, the matter may be referred to the Panel who may impose further sanctions (such as extending the terms of the previous sanction or imposing a new sanction) until such time as the costs are paid

Bad Disciplinary Record

19.2.25 The RFU may require a Club to attend before a Disciplinary Panel for a bad disciplinary record in the following circumstances:

- **a) where a Club appears before a Disciplinary Panel eight or more times as a result of any of its players or members in a season; or**
- **b) when any team within the Club appears before a Disciplinary Panel on 5 or more occasions for any offence; or**
- **c) when any team appears before a Disciplinary Panel for the same offence on 3 or more occasions.**

Explanatory note: ‘appear before’ means any adult or Age Grade case upheld by a Disciplinary Panel (including those heard in-person, online or on the papers or where a sanction has been recognised by the RFU or CB). The Club should be represented at the hearing by one or more of the following: the Club Chair, Club Secretary, Chair of Rugby, Chair of Discipline, Director of Rugby, or Head Coach.

Cittings

A reminder to all clubs that adult Cittings must be made within **seven days of the event.** Regulation 19 Appendix 4 (12 to 15.8). It is advisable that a club contact John Downham as soon as possible if you anticipate making a citing.

5.12 Administration – John Downham will prepare 5.12 charges

Written Warnings

- **19.3.5** The RFU Head of Discipline or a CBDS has the power to issue a formal written warning to any person or Club for any alleged Misconduct, breach of World Rugby laws, RFU Rules or Regulations. Before doing so, the person or Club shall be given the opportunity to make representations.
- **19.3.6** Any warning given will be retained on the disciplinary record of the person or Club for a period of five years (or such other time as may be specified in the warning) and may be relied upon in future disciplinary proceedings as follows:
 - **a)** to establish a course of conduct of the person or Club concerned; and/or
 - **b)** for the purposes of consideration of sanction in the current disciplinary proceedings.



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Explanatory note: All warnings must be entered on to the Game Management System (GMS) record for the Person or Club

Further Information

If you have any queries relating to general disciplinary procedures or if you need any advice on specific cases relating to your club, please contact one of the following:

Disciplinary Secretary: John Downham – johndownham57@sky.com

Cheshire East Secretary – John Downham - johndownham57@sky.com

Cheshire West & IOM Secretary – Andy Beaumont – andybeaumont2@gmail.com

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