



Cheshire Rugby Football Union

(EST. 1875)

Age Grade 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 age grade game.

Important - Click on the link below to access them, 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 Reg 19

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

Appendix 6

Includes the following sub-sections

- 1) Alternative Sanction
- 2) Half Game Rule Sanctions - Clubs
- 3) Half Game Rule Sanctions - Schools
- 4) Playing UP/Down Discipline Protocol
- 5) POOAG – Schools/Centres of Excellence/Regional Academies/Colleges

<https://www.englandrugby.com/run/rules-governance/rfu-rules-and-regulations/regulation-19-discipline/regulation-19-appendix-6-age-grade-rugby-disciplinary-procedures>

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 the 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.



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- This season each club is responsible for the convening and administration of its Age Grade Player hearing. I will provide further guidance including alternative sanctions, once a red card is reported. RFU Guidance on the administration on the link below.

[RFU Age Grade Hearing Procedure Guidance](#)

- When a junior player playing in an Age Grade match is sent off by a Society Referee, Association Referee or Club Referee the following information must be sent to the CB Age Grade Secretary John Downham.

Player's Full Name

Date of Birth

RFU No

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

Please note:

- 1) **the player is immediately suspended from all rugby including schools until the CB Age Grade hearing has taken place.**
- **CB review of a club judgement – please note the following extract from Appendix 6.**

7.4. The CBAGDS (John Downham) or the RFU Head of Discipline (David Barnes) shall have the power to review any finding and/or sanction imposed by a Club, College, School, Regional Academy / Player Development Group (PDG) or Coach and, if they are of the view that the finding and/or sanction imposed was unreasonable in all the circumstances, will refer the matter to the NAGDS for consideration. The NAGDS (Ian Skillen) may direct that the Club, School, College, Regional Academy / Player Development Group (PDG) or Coach review the matter and report back to the NAGDS, who, if it is still necessary, may convene a suitably qualified Disciplinary Panel to deal with the matter and it may vary the sanction imposed if considered appropriate to do so.
 - **Video Conference Protocols** – Should the club find it necessary to use video conferencing in its administration this season, please find below a link below to the Video Conference Protocols we are putting in place in our adult administration this season.

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

Bad Disciplinary Record (includes Age Grade judgements)

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.



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Cittings

A reminder to all clubs that Age Grade 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.

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

Sept 25