



Minety Rugby Football Club

Disciplinary Procedure

Principles

- Minety RFC view discipline on and off the pitch as an essential facet of our Club and its reputation.
- We support the disciplinary system, which protects our sport and upholds its values.
- We observe the sport's laws and regulations and report serious breaches.
- We will ensure that acts of Foul Play and Misconduct (on and off the field of play) are dealt with expeditiously and fairly so that the image and reputation of the Game and our Club is not adversely affected.
- Rugby is a team game and as such inappropriate behaviour at training will not be tolerated and will be referred to the Disciplinary Panel.
- These principles apply to players, spectators and anyone associated with Minety RFC.

General Provision

- Minety's Disciplinary Procedure is aligned with "RFU Regulation 19 – Discipline", full copies of which are available from the members of the club's Disciplinary Panel (see Structure, below and Appendix 3)

Structure

The Minety Disciplinary Committee will consist of the following people:

- Chairperson
- Two panel members
- Panel Disciplinary Secretary

The Senior & Youth Section Committees shall formulate the constitution of their disciplinary committees at their first sitting each season. (For current membership of Panels and RFU contacts, see Appendix 3).

Process

- In all circumstances the Club Secretary or the Chairperson of the Club's Disciplinary Committee **must report** to the Chairman or Secretary of the Dorset & Wilts Disciplinary Panel within 48 hours after the match the name, address and contact telephone number of any player who has been ordered off the playing enclosure, including players under the age of 17.
- The club Disciplinary Committee shall confer within 3 days of the sending off. If a hearing is required this must also be held within 3 days of the sending off.
- Disciplinary Committee hearings shall be conducted in a fair and just manner and in accordance with the fundamental principles of natural justice.
- The player must make every effort to attend both the club disciplinary hearing and the relevant RFU disciplinary hearing (Dorset & Wilts)
- The accused person will be given a full opportunity to answer the charge and call any evidence in support of their case.
- The accused person is entitled to be assisted or represented by a person of their choice.

18th August 2020

- The standard of proof in all disciplinary cases (including before Appeal Panels) is the balance of probabilities. For the avoidance of doubt there is no sliding scale.
- Where a person, Player or Club is sent off and footage has been taken of the match in which the incident in question occurred, the Club which took or commissioned the match footage shall forward a copy of it as soon as possible to the Dorset and Wilts RFU Disciplinary Secretary with jurisdiction of the case. Footage of the incident, where available, will be deposited within 48 hours in a "Dropbox account" and access made available to the: Chairman of the D&W Disciplinary Panel; the Club Chairman; the Club Coach; the Club captain; members of the Club Disciplinary Committee; and an external advisor associated with the club.
- The Minety Disciplinary Committee will undertake an assessment of the seriousness of the Player's conduct which constitutes the offending and will categorise the offence as being at the lower end, mid-range or top end of the scale of seriousness in order to identify the appropriate entry point for consideration of a particular incident(s) of Foul Play. (See Appendices 1 & 2).
- The Chairman of the Disciplinary Committee will forward the report of the Club Disciplinary Committee to the Chairman of the D&W Disciplinary Panel including recommendations relating to proposed sanctions (see Appendices 1 & 2)
- The Standard fee for each case held by D&W RFU is £100. This is reduced to £75 when the club reports the red card within 48 hours, enters a plea, indicates attendance (or otherwise) beforehand and reports the player's GMS number before the hearing.
- The player must pay any fine imposed upon them.
- Team managers, coaches and captains shall ensure the judgement is enforced.
- The Minety Disciplinary Committee reserves the right to impose additional discretionary fines, suspensions or club bans depending on the nature and severity of the incident. These will include:
 - Automatic fines if the card relates to abuse of the match official(s)
 - £10 for a yellow card
 - £20 for a red card
 - Fines for inappropriate behaviour at training will also be imposed at the discretion of the Minety Disciplinary Committee

The Club Secretary will:

- Familiarise himself with RFU Disciplinary Regulations as set out in the current edition of the RFU Handbook.
- Ensure that all team captains know they must report dismissals to him / her or any other designated officer who deals with matters of discipline.
- Will inform the relevant disciplinary body for the game within 24 hours of the game of the sending off.
- Produce any video (made by or on behalf of the Club) at any game in which a player is dismissed or cited. This requirement applies even if the player concerned is a member of the opposition.
- Respond fully and quickly to any correspondence.
- Ensure the player is advised of the time, date and venue of the disciplinary hearing and is provided with copies of the disciplinary papers relating to that hearing.
- Advise the D&W RFU Disciplinary Secretary if the player is unable to attend the hearing.
- Advise the D&W RFU Disciplinary Secretary whether the attendance of the Referee is requested where it is intended to question the sending off report.
- Where a player has been offered a 'postal plea' and wishes to plead guilty and have the case heard in his absence, ensure that the D&W RFU Disciplinary Secretary is so advised within 14 days and that all of the requested information is provided.
- Inform the player and the club of the decision of the RFU disciplinary hearing.
- Ensure all sanctions are correctly applied and disciplinary costs are paid within 21 days of the receipt of the Judgement. If the costs are not paid the player shall remain suspended until such time as they are paid.

RFU REGULATION 19 – DISCIPLINE (APPENDIX 1)

Yellow Cards

Two Yellow Cards in a Match

1. A Player that receives two yellow cards in a match (whether for Foul Play or technical offences) and is ordered off after the second yellow card (i.e. awarded a red card), will have their case heard by the Club's Disciplinary Committee.
2. Where a Player has been ordered off as a result of receiving two yellow cards and one or both of those yellow cards was awarded for Foul Play, then the Player may challenge one or both of the Foul Play yellow cards. There is no right of appeal against the award of a yellow card for a technical offence. If the Disciplinary Panel allows an appeal against one or both of the Foul Play yellow cards the red card shall be expunged from the Player's record. Any yellow card that was not challenged and set aside by the Disciplinary Panel shall remain on the player's record.
3. If a Player has received two Citing Commissioner Warnings (CCWs) or a combination of CCW and a yellow card during a match he shall be treated for disciplinary purposes as if he had been ordered-off during the match.
4. The Disciplinary Panel is required to apply a sanction for the offence of persistent offending, not for the substantive offences relating to each yellow card. In this case the appropriate entry point for persistent offending within a single match is a suspension of one week. Sanctioning in these circumstances should be determined by reference to the methodology in RFU Regulation 19 and in particular to the application of mitigating and aggravating features.

Yellow Cards Received	Entry Point
2 technical yellow cards in a match or 1 technical and 1 Foul Play yellow card in a match	Sending off sufficient
2 Foul Play yellow cards in a match	1 week suspension from playing

5. No disciplinary action will be taken in relation to yellow cards awarded for technical offences.

Appendix 2: Red Cards

Sanction Entry Points

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

	Low End	Mid Range	Top End	Maximum
1). Players must not do anything that is reckless or dangerous to others				
	2 weeks	6 weeks	10 weeks	52 weeks
2). A player must not physically abuse anyone. Physical abuse includes, but is not limited to:				
Biting	12 weeks	18 weeks	24+ weeks	208 weeks
Intentional Contact with Eye(s) *1	12 weeks	18 weeks	24+ weeks	208 weeks
Reckless Contact with Eye(s) *2	6 weeks	12 weeks	18+ weeks	208 weeks
Contact with Eye Area *3	4 weeks	8 weeks	12+ weeks	52 weeks
Punching or striking with hand or arm (including stiff arm tackle)	2 weeks	6 weeks	10+ weeks	52 weeks
Striking with an elbow	2 weeks	6 weeks	10+ weeks	52 weeks
Striking with shoulder	2 weeks	6 weeks	10+ weeks	52 weeks
Striking with head	6 weeks	10 weeks	16+ weeks	104 weeks
Striking with knee	4 weeks	8 weeks	12+ weeks	52 weeks
Stamping or Trampling	2 weeks	6 weeks	12+ weeks	52 weeks
Tripping	2 weeks	4 weeks	8+ weeks	52 weeks
Kicking	4 weeks	8 weeks	12+ weeks	52 weeks

**1, *2 and *3. 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.*

	Low End	Mid Range	Top End	Maximum
3). 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.				
	6 weeks	12 weeks	18+ weeks	52 weeks
4). 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.				
	2 weeks	6 weeks	10+ weeks	52 weeks
5). A player must not tackle an opponent who is not in possession of the ball.				
	2 weeks	6 weeks	10+ weeks	52 weeks
6). 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.				
	2 weeks	4 weeks	6+ weeks	52 weeks
7). A player must not charge or knock down an opponent carrying the ball without attempting to grasp that player.				
	2 weeks	6 weeks	10+ weeks	52 weeks
8). A player must not tackle, charge, pull, push or grasp an opponent whose feet are off the ground.				
	4 weeks	8 weeks	12+ weeks	52 weeks
9). 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.				
	6 weeks	10 weeks	14+ weeks	52 weeks

	Low End	Mid Range	Top End	Maximum
10). Dangerous play in a scrum. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 				
	2 weeks	4 weeks	8+ weeks	52 weeks
11). Dangerous play in a ruck or maul. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 				
	2 weeks	4 weeks	10+ weeks	52 weeks
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 				
	2 weeks	4 weeks	8+ weeks	52 weeks
12). A player must not intentionally charge or obstruct an opponent who has just kicked the ball.				
	2 weeks	6 weeks	10+ weeks	52 weeks
13). A player must not do anything that is against the spirit of good sportsmanship including but not limited to:				
Hair pulling or grabbing	2 weeks	4 weeks	6+ weeks	52 weeks
Grabbing, twisting or squeezing the genitals	12 weeks	18 week	24+ weeks	208 weeks
Other	4 weeks	8 weeks	12+ weeks	52 weeks
2 Yellow cards in a match. See Appendix 1 – Yellow Cards				
14). A player must not disrespect the authority of a Match Official				
	2 weeks	4 weeks	6+ weeks	52 weeks

15). 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.				
	6 weeks	12 weeks	18+ weeks	52 weeks
16). A player must not make physical contact with Match Officials.				
	6 weeks	12 weeks	18+ weeks	52 weeks
17). A player must not use threatening actions or words towards Match Officials.				
	12 weeks	24 weeks	48+ weeks	260 weeks
18). A player must not physically abuse Match Officials.				
	24 weeks	48 weeks	96+ weeks	Life

In respect of offences not referred to in Appendix 2 above, 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 2 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.

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.

Classification of Breach	Description of Classification	Entry Point for Sanction
Low Level Breach	A player under the age of 18 trains with adults without required permission. No injury	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. A player under the age of 18 trains with adults without permission. 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 st XV equating to two wins (possibly 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 but player plays in front row.	Suspension of coach / person responsible for team selection for 6 months; and Points deducted from club 1 st 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 under 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

Appendix 3.

Disciplinary Committee Membership and Contacts

Disciplinary Committee 2020 – 2021

Chair: Andrew Grayson

Secretary: Peter McAllister

1st XV Captain: Ben Scott

2nd XV Captain: Steve Wilson

Video Referral Circulation

Graham Cooke (Video), Andrew Hibbard (1st Team Captain), Andrew Garyson (Chair Disciplinary Committee), Ben Scott (1st XV Captain) or Steve Wilson (2nd XV Captain), other invited members from the club committee, Stuart Scott (Dorset and Wilts RFU Disciplinary Secretary), Gareth Graham (external advisor)

Name	Email	Telephone Contact Number
Andy Grayson (Chairman)	andrew.grayson@live.co.uk	0777324 295395
Peter McAllister (Disciplinary Committee Secretary)	peterjmcallister@yahoo.co.uk	01666 860281
Ben Scott (1 st XV)	bencharlesscott@gmail.com	
Steve Wilson (2 nd XV)	sjw166@gmail.com	07753 191564
Graham Cooke (Video recording)	ghcooke@hotmail.com	0798 128 1736
Gareth Graham (External advisor)	gdgraham@me.com	
Stuart Scott	disciplinechair@dwrugby.co.uk	