

**Army Rugby Union**

**Unit Discipline Aide Memoire 2016**

**The contents of this Aide Memoire have been designed in order to give Rugby Officers a quick reference to the procedure and policy in place should a player receive a red card or be cited during/after a match. All information in this Aide Memoire is covered in more detail in** [**RFU Regulation 19**](http://www.englandrugby.com/governance/regulations/) **and the** [**ARU Handbook**](http://www.armyrugbyunion.org.uk/aru-info/working-with-us/handbook/) **Discipline Section.**

**1 - GENERAL DISCIPLINE POINTS**

* The ARU is a Constituent Body (CB) of the RFU and therefore has the power to hold enquiries and inflict sanctions for foul play and actions bringing game into disrepute.
* The overriding objective of the Discipline Process is to maintain and promote fair play, protect the health and welfare of Players (and others involved in the Game), ensure acts of Foul Play and Misconduct (on and off the field of play) are dealt with expeditiously and fairly by independent means and that the image and reputation of the Game is not adversely affected.
* (Reg 19.5.6) Offenders should be made aware that the standard of proof in all disciplinary cases is the balance of probabilities. For the avoidance of doubt there is no sliding scale.
* Under the provision of Law 6 and Reg 19.5.1, the referee is the sole judge of fact and law during the match. The referee’s decisions on the field of play shall not be altered or overturned. The purpose of the subsequent review of an incident that occurred during a match by a Disciplinary Panel is to determine whether there should be any disciplinary sanctions for an act of Foul Play as provided for in IRB Law 10.
* Players playing for civilian clubs – if suspended must inform unit as the sanction applies for all rugby.
* Unit competitions – must play under RFU Regs – consider the discipline strategy and seek advice.
* Clubs playing in other Union Leagues – report any discipline sanctions to the ARU Discipline Sec.

**2 - DEALING WITH A RED CARD INCIDENT**

* A Player ordered off may not take part or be selected for any match until his case has been dealt with by a Disciplinary Panel. The player (or any other individual) is not entitled to play the Game or be involved in any on-field match day activities anywhere in the world until his/her case has been finally resolved.
* **Units Must (Offending Team)**
  + Coach/Manager/Rugby Officer to ensure Player understands he cannot play until the matter is dealt with.
  + ARU Discipline Sec will contact unit to arrange panel, confirm plea and gather evidence.
  + Make sure you keep in touch with Discipline Sec and ask any advice.
  + Compile statements ready for a hearing. These are to include:
    - Player Statement
    - Witness statements
    - Character Statements
    - Provide video evidence (if available)
  + Collate the following information to provide to the Discipline Secretary.
    - Players DoB
    - Players plea to the red card
    - Players upcoming fixtures (for next 2 months minimum)
    - Details of any previous red cards, sanctions or periods of suspension served (both military and civilian)
  + Make themselves and the Player aware of the hearing procedure and sanction tables as found below:
    - Regulation 19 Procedure [link](http://www.englandrugby.com/mm/Document/Governance/Regulations/01/30/35/19/RFU_Regulation_19_Neutral.pdf)
    - Regulation 19 Sanctions Table [link](http://www.englandrugby.com/mm/Document/Governance/Regulations/01/30/35/21/RFU_Regulation_19_appendix_2_Neutral.pdf)
  + Be prepared to accompany the player to the hearing (recommended to be accompanied by the Rugby Officer)
* Things to consider when preparing for a panel:  
  + Consider the evidence and Regulations at 1 (above) when deciding whether to accept the red card report or not with the Panel.
  + Get your story straight on what happened (particularly if there is no video evidence)
  + Gather credible witness statements as necessary.
  + Know the Regulations – think about what the panel will ask and what they consider during the panel when deciding.
  + Represent the player appropriately – At least Rugby Offr/Coach/Manager (if a Corps or Army player – get representation from those levels).
  + Consider imposing a club sanction (guided by the Regulations).
  + Ensure the player is well briefed and understands what he is coming up for.
  + Understand how the decisions are made – Entry Point, Aggravating Factors, and Mitigating Factors.
* **Units Must (Opposition team)**
  + Compile statements ready for the hearing. T these are to include:
    - Player Statement
    - Witness statements
    - Injury report
  + Be prepared to attend the hearing either in person or by telephone as agreed

**3 - CITING**

* All teams have the right to cite an opposing player or club.
* Clubs must be aware that it is **UP TO THE CITING TEAM TO PROVIDE EVIDENCE AND PRESENT THE CASE** before a Disciplinary Panel. All citing’s must be lodged within 14 days of the completion of the match.
* Any player cited is **FREE TO PLAY** rugby until their case is heard before a Disciplinary Panel, unless they have been cited by an RFU appointed Citing Commissioner (Inter Services only)
* The procedure for citing can be found at the following [link](http://www.englandrugby.com/mm/Document/Governance/Regulations/01/30/35/23/RFU_Regulation_19_appendix_4_Neutral.pdf)

**4 - APPEALS**

* Any player/club receiving a sanction from a Disciplinary hearing has the right to appeal the sanction. All appeals are heard by an RFU panel and will incur a charge of £125.
* All appeals must be lodged within 14 days of receiving the original judgment.
* The procedure for appeals can be found at the following [link](http://www.englandrugby.com/mm/Document/Governance/Regulations/01/30/35/19/RFU_Regulation_19_Neutral.pdf)

**5 - ARU POINTS OF CONTACT**

For any further information please contact:

ARU Discipline Panel Secretary:

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