

CLUB DISCIPLINE CODE

INTRODUCTION

This document outlines the procedures for responding to incidents of unacceptable behaviour during matches/training sessions at Towcestrians RFC and should be read with reference to the club's Child Protection Policy.

Towcestrians Mini and Junior section are committed to the values and rules as applied in the RFU Continuum.

Minis Discipline Code (U6 – U12)

Players:

During competitive games against other clubs every Towcestrian player and visiting player is expected to uphold the values and conduct of fair play.

If during a game situation the referee decides that a player must cease to participate in the match, they must stop the match, call the player or players involved aside and invite the coach of that player onto the field. The referee must explain to the coach and the player why they feel the player's behaviour is unacceptable and instruct the coach to provide a substitute player. The removed player will take no further part in competitive play for that fixture. It is the responsibility of the coach to speak to and educate the player as to why such action was taken. During training sessions the coach will be responsible for identifying any unacceptable behaviour and speaking to the player(s) involved.

Such action will in most cases be sufficient to resolve the situation. However, if a player's unacceptable behaviour continues or is such that further action is considered appropriate, then the matter must be brought to the attention of the Chairman.

The Chairman will take further action as necessary after consulting with the Vice Chairman, Chairman of the Senior Rugby Section and the Child Protection Officer. If the report is about a Towcestrians player, then the player's parents will be consulted over any action to be taken. In the first instance the player and the player's parents will be informed of the unacceptable behaviour as reported and asked to comment.

In the event that the reported incident involves a player from a visiting club, then that Club's Chairman will be written to.

In most cases a written warning will be given. Only in the most extreme cases will banning the player from the club be considered. The length of any ban will be discretionary.

Parents;

In cases of unacceptable behaviour on the part of adults on match days or training days which contravenes the Codes of Practice for the Club (for parents, spectators, match officials and coaches), the following action will be taken:

1. The match or training session should be stopped and the match officials and/or coaches should confer and agree on a course of action appropriate to the circumstances. This may include the match officials and relevant coach warning the adult concerned or requesting the adult to leave the vicinity of the pitch or training area before recommencing the match or training. Only in extreme cases or where the adult refuses to cooperate, will the match or training session be abandoned.
2. The match officials and/or coaches will notify the incident to the Chairman of the Mini/Junior section. If the adult involved comes from a visiting club, then the Chairman of that club will be notified.

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3. It will be the responsibility of the Chairman to take further action as necessary after consulting with the Vice Chairman, Chairman of the Senior Rugby Section and the Child Protection Officer. If the report concerns a parent of a Towcestrians player or an adult otherwise connected to the Club, then in the first instance that person will be informed about the report and asked to comment. In most cases a written warning will be given. Only in extreme circumstances will this lead to banning the relevant adult from attending matches and/or training sessions. The minimum banning period will be six weeks. A report will also be submitted (within 24 hours) to the East Midlands RFC Mini/Junior Discipline Secretary.
4. In all cases where a disciplinary matter has been referred to the East Midlands RFC, they may require further information from the club to provide additional information, including confirmation of the action taken. In exceptional cases the matter may be referred to the RFU for further consideration and sanctions.

Juniors Discipline Code (U13 – U17)

Players:

During competitive games against other clubs every Towcestrian player and visiting player is expected to uphold the values and conduct of fair play.

U13s – U14s: If during a game situation the referee decides that a player must cease to participate in the match, they must stop the match, call the player or players involved aside and invite the coach of that player onto the field. The referee must explain to the coach and the player why they feel the player's behaviour is unacceptable and either instruct that the player to leave the field of play for 10 minutes (yellow card) or in extreme cases send the player off for the remainder of the match (red card).

U15s – U17s: Action will be as above except that it will be at the referee's discretion whether to call the coach onto the field before deciding on what action to take. In these cases it will be the coach's responsibility to consult the referee about the circumstances at an appropriate time.

In the event of any sending off involving a red card, the referee will complete a match report which will be forwarded to the East Midlands RFC Discipline Secretary. It will be the coaches' responsibility to request a copy of this report from the referee and bring the matter to the attention of the Chairman.

During training sessions the coach will be responsible for identifying and dealing with any unacceptable behaviour. If such action involves removing a player from the session, then this must be reported to the Chairman.

The Chairman will take further action as necessary after consulting with the Vice Chairman, Chairman of the Senior Rugby Section and the Child Protection Officer. Following the report, the player's parents will be consulted over any action to be taken. In the first instance the player and the player's parents will be informed of the unacceptable behaviour as reported and asked to comment.

In most cases of unacceptable behaviour during training sessions a written warning will be given. Only in the most extreme cases will banning the player from the club be considered. The length of any ban will be discretionary.

In all cases where a sending off has resulted in a red card, the player involved will be immediately banned from participating in competitive matches pending the outcome of a disciplinary hearing before the East Midlands Disciplinary Committee. In the first instance this will be for six weeks. A report will be submitted to the East Midlands Disciplinary Committee within 24 hours.

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Parents:

In cases of unacceptable behaviour on the part of adults on match days or training days which contravenes the Codes of Practice for the Club (for parents, spectators, match officials and coaches), any subsequent action will be as stated in the Mini Discipline Code.

Useful contacts:

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