



Warwickshire Rugby Football Union



DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE Season 2016 - 2017

ZERO TOLERANCE ON ABUSE OF MATCH OFFICIALS

Warwickshire RFU Discipline Committee are continuing to monitor Abuse of Match Officials from Players, Coaches and Spectators. Law 10.4 (s) states, "All players must respect the authority of the referee. They must not dispute the referee's decisions. They must stop playing at once when the referee blows the whistle except at a kick-off or at a penalty kick following admonishment, temporary suspension, or sending off".

Closer scrutiny of sending off reports have revealed a trend where failure to deal promptly with instances of Abuse of the Match Officials eventually results in severe problems later in the game, which then escalate out of control, leading to Referees having to dismiss players or in severe cases, abandon games. Therefore, in order to try to prevent this the Warwickshire Discipline Committee are continuing with the "Zero Tolerance" policy whereby if a player is sent off for 10.4(s)(m) "Verbal abuse of match officials" – (note there is no "Dissent" anymore) – based on the low, medium and top entries, the Hearing panel will add 50% onto the recommended sanctions before looking at any mitigation, for example low entry is 6 weeks so therefore 3 weeks will be added on equalling a 9 weeks sanction, before any mitigation is taken into consideration and weeks are deducted.

Can you please pass this information onto your players, coaches and spectators and display this notice in the club house as a reminder.

Thank you

Kim Challis
Warwickshire Discipline Secretary

31.8.16

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