



Warwickshire Rugby Football Union

DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE Season 2018 - 2019

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 9 states, *“Players must respect the authority of the referee. They must not dispute the referee’s decisions. They must stop playing immediately when the referee blows the whistle to stop play”*.

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, coaches 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 Charge 9.27:-

“A player must not disrespect the authority of a Match Official”

“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”

“A player must not make physical contact with Match Officials”

“A player must not use threatening actions or words towards Match Officials”

“A player must not physically abuse Match Officials”

Based on the low, medium and top entries, the Warwickshire Discipline Hearing panel will add 50% onto the recommended sanctions before looking at any mitigation, for example if Low end is 6 weeks 3 weeks will be added on equalling a 9 week sanction, before any mitigation is taken into consideration and any weeks are deducted.

Can you please pass this information onto your players, coaches and spectators and display this notice in your Club house/changing rooms as a reminder.

Thank you

Kim Challis

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Warwickshire Discipline Secretary

(Updated 9.8.18)