



# Warwickshire Rugby Football Union

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## DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE Season 2012 - 2013

### ZERO TOLERANCE ON BACK CHAT TO MATCH OFFICIALS

In 2010 Warwickshire RFU Discipline Committee became concerned by a worrying trend of an increase in “Back Chat” to the Referees 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 had revealed a trend where failure to deal promptly with instances of “Back Chat” to the Match Officials during the game eventually resulted in severe problems later in the game which then escalate out of control leading to Referees having to dismiss players or in severe cases abandoning the game.

The Discipline Committee had discussed this trend with the Warwickshire Referees Society Executive and agreed that action needed to be taken to curb this problem. As a result of this agreement Referees were asked to adopt a “Zero Tolerance” policy with effect from the weekend of 12<sup>th</sup> March 2011.

This approach was continued for the whole of season 2011 – 2012 and will continue for this season commencing on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> September 2012.

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