



NORTH SHIELDS

RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

Clubhouse / Pavilion
Preston Playing Fields
Monks Wood
Preston Village
North Shields
Tyne and Wear
NE29 9ND

Tel: 0191 2577352

DISCIPLINARY POLICY AND PROCEDURES

INTRODUCTION

This document forms the basis for the Code of Conduct within the Club and the implementation of Disciplinary Procedures in accordance with RFU Guidelines and Sanctions. All members of the Club are expected at all times to maintain the appropriate standards of behaviour as detailed in the Club's Code of Conduct. Failure to do so will mean that you could be brought before the Club's Disciplinary Panel, who will have, and be expected to deal with, any incidents as deemed necessary. This will include members at all levels, including the Mini & Youth section. This is a requirement of all clubs in membership with the RFU and is to the benefit of everyone.

DISCIPLINARY PANEL

The Disciplinary Panel shall have jurisdiction over club members (including players, coaches, and other affiliates) in matters of conduct on, or associated with, the field-of-play during matches played representing North Shields RFC.

In addition, the Disciplinary Panel shall have jurisdiction over club members (including players, coaches, and other affiliates) in matters of conduct off the field-of-play that reflect upon the game of Rugby Union Football and North Shields RFC.

This could consist of the Club Chairman, Hon. Secretary, Rugby Chairman, Disciplinary Officer, Team or Club Captain, Players' Representative and Mini/Youth Representative as necessary. Any Club Member facing any disciplinary matter is entitled to be represented by any person of their choice. A quorum enabling the panel to convene will be a minimum of three (3) of the above named persons.

Players either sent off or cited will be asked to attend a club hearing before the Northumberland RFU disciplinary hearing, the player will be entitled to representation if required. At this hearing the NSRFC Disciplinary Panel will decide on an appropriate ban which will fall in line with the RFU guidelines. You will then be accompanied /represented by the club Disciplinary Officer at the Northumberland RFU hearing.

Member/Player and Witnesses can attend to give verbal statements and answer questions (or submit written statements) but must leave for the Disciplinary Panel to make a ruling. The decision will be made as a committee taking into account, Club rules, the laws of the game and the Law as necessary, a statement will be prepared of the ruling, reasons and penalty, other than this, the decision will not be discussed outside of the hearing.

In a case where a player must go to a Northumberland County Hearing, NSRFC Disciplinary Officer will represent the Player and the Club giving the ruling, reasons and penalty of the Club Disciplinary Panel whilst demonstrating adherence to the laws of the game.

TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Panel have been invested with the power to verbally caution, give written warnings, suspend or expel members from playing, training or club membership. Of course, this is not an exclusive or exhaustive list, but the Panel have full authority to take such action, as they deem necessary, having heard and studied all evidence provided, including any defence to any allegation.

MEMBERS' CODE OF CONDUCT

The stated aim of the Club is the promotion of, and development and participation in the game of Rugby Football. Players, spectators and all members of the Club are effectively representatives of the Club and the game, and are expected to respect and act accordingly.





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The Club will not tolerate under any circumstances:

- Any incidents of 'foul' play, ie. any offence in breach of the Laws of the Game. This will be dealt with by the Panel irrespective of any action taken by the match day official.
- Any unruly behaviour, either verbally or physically, in the clubhouse.
- Any verbal or physical abuse of any of participants, spectators or officials etc. either prior to, during, or after the game. This includes such from the touchline.
- All members are requested to be aware of the need to temper their activities in the Clubhouse - particularly in respect of children, family, visitors, and indeed anyone using the Club facilities.
- Members are asked to respect the personal space of any visitor to the Club.

Any incident reported to the Committee or Disciplinary Panel must be addressed as soon as possible and certainly within 14 days of the alleged incident. This is to comply with the laws, including the Human Rights Act.

Any member/s involved in the alleged incident will be invited and expected to attend any Disciplinary hearing, and have the opportunity to respond to any of the allegations made.

Where a case is found proven the Panel will decide upon any action to be taken and the person involved will be informed in writing of the Panel's decision. This Code of Conduct must be adhered to.

