

# *Somerset County Rugby Football Union Ltd*

**To: ALL SCRUFU MEMBER CLUBS, SCHOOLS, COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES** - for immediate distribution

**SECRETARY/CHAIR TO PASS ONTO: DoR, Head Coaches and Assistant Coaches, Age Grade Coaches and Club Referees for wider distribution**

**RE: GAME VALUES - ZERO TOLERANCE APPROACH TO PLAYER APPEALING / QUESTIONING DECISIONS / GENERAL BACKCHAT**

The RFRU (Rugby Football Referees Union) have recently sent out a letter to all the 38 Referee Societies for referees to reinforce/re-implement our Game's Values. It said: -

*"At Premiership and Championship level, a concerted effort has been made over the last 2 years to enforce Game Values and the Rugby Core Values (Teamwork, Respect, Enjoyment, Discipline and Sportsmanship). Core Values that should translate into Game Values and are what we hold as setting our game apart from others.*

*Unfortunately, at levels below the elite end of the game, a dramatic increase has been seen in players appealing (throwing arms in the air to seek a decision / generally backchatting or challenging and questioning a Match Official when a decision has been made. It is now time to enforce a **ZERO TOLERANCE** approach to this activity and we ask that you ensure that this important message is relayed to all of your Match Officials. These principles should be applied with immediate effect. The approach to stop this type of behaviour will also include the Coaching Pillar.*

*Please direct your Match Officials to engage Captains (and where possible Coaches) before a game as part of the pre match brief and make it completely clear that they should encourage players and coaches to avoid;*

- *Waving arms during live play – appealing*
- *Calling for decisions 'e.g. holding on'*
- *Giving the referee backchat following a decision*
- *Suggesting a card be given*
- *Foul language on pitch or touchline*

## **PROCESS TO FOLLOW**

*The Referees process to be applied at all levels is simple;*

*1st occasion: a player will be spoken to,*

*2nd occasion: the captain will be warned,*

*3rd occasion: will see a team penalised.*

*If the incident is serious enough, the player may be penalised on the first occasion.*

*If this does not solve the matter then clearly sanctions can be escalated accordingly."*

An RFU Task Group involving RFU Discipline, CB Discipline and all Referee Societies to manage / co-ordinate this important national initiative has been established.

**SCRUFU fully support this initiative.**

Regards

Steve Mead

SCRUFU County Chair and Discipline Secretary