



Kent County Rugby Football Union

Celebrated 125 Years of Rugby 2005/2006



Main County Sponsor

President David M Corry

Please reply to

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To: Club Secretaries

IMPORTANT COMMUNICATION REQUIRING ACTION

At the start of each season the County Disciplinary Sub-Committee points up key issues for clubs attention and action. Recently we have found it necessary to add to those comments in season.

This communication is relevant to all parts of your club from minis through juniors, men and women, boys and girls, all coaches, officials and spectators. It is the clear responsibility of all clubs to ensure that this message reaches its whole membership and is understood throughout their club.

In relevant disciplinary cases you can expect to be asked what action you have taken as a club both to prevent incidents of unacceptable behaviour and to investigate any such incidents. If those actions are deemed unsatisfactory then a charge may be levelled against the club for bringing the game into disrepute.

Of particular concern are the following:

- Behaviour causing games to be abandoned
- Abuse of match officials
- Unacceptable behaviour caused by coaches, club officials and spectators (including parents)
- Unacceptable material on club websites including comments about referees, other clubs and individuals (an area that the RFU are now actively monitoring)
- Spectators and other unauthorised persons entering the field of play during a game
- If a player pleads "not guilty" to an act of foul play that clearly took place then the players' club have a responsibility to investigate who was responsible.

Offences committed by Under 17 and schoolboy players are dealt with by the club or school. Guidance on sanctions can be found in Appendix 6 of the Discipline Regulations contained in the RFU Handbook and also on the RFU website. Most clubs and schools deal properly with these cases through either the club or school disciplinary process seeking advice where necessary from the County Disciplinary Sub-Committee and also advising them of the sanction applied.

When spectators and coaches are reported for misconduct at mini, school and junior games they are dealt with by the County Disciplinary Sub-Committee. Clubs should of course investigate such matters and take appropriate action prior to any County Disciplinary hearing.



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Good practice particularly at mini and junior levels involves publishing Club Codes of Conduct which include Good Parent and Good Spectator Codes and a Good Coaching Guide. It is prudent to ensure players, parents and coaches commit to this ethos at the start of a new season by signing up to such requirements in the form of a letter from the club.

Also at all games there must be adequate space between touch lines and where spectators stand. In senior games this should ideally be marked by a rope or other barrier. In senior games proper use should be made of the technical area. Clubs are responsible for spectators' good behaviour and if necessary should employ club officials to monitor this.

Clubs are reminded that relevant paperwork concerning disciplinary cases must be returned to the Discipline Secretary within a specified time. Increasingly he has had to spend time chasing these responses. **In future, failure to respond by the due date will incur additional administrative costs of £40.00 for each case.**

We have set out our concern and at the same time suggested some good practice. Some solutions are common sense, like monitoring club websites on a regular basis. There has been an increase in the number of unacceptable incidents in and surrounding our game. The solution is firmly the responsibility of clubs.

The County Disciplinary Sub-Committee are available to give advice, our contact details can be found on the County website.

Let's make Season 2011/12 one in which there is a significant improvement in the disciplinary statistics.

Mike Newsom
Chair Kent RFU Disciplinary Sub-Committee

