



Ilkley Rugby Club

COMMUNITY BULLETIN (Excerpt)

Here is a summary of some of the issues that have arisen and how they have been dealt with.

- Two clubs have pleaded guilty to playing an under age player in an adult side and were sanctioned including the deduction of 10 and 20 points respectively from the Club's first team's league total.
- One club has pleaded guilty to playing U10 players in an U11 team (U7 to U11 players are not allowed to play up under any circumstances). One club has pleaded guilty to allowing a Dads v Lads (U9) contact game – including scrums - to be played. They were both sanctioned including being required to display notices around their Clubhouse setting out the details of the hearing and the consequences of breaching regulations.
- Clubs have been reminded that it is their responsibility to ensure that all coaches know the Regulations; Guidance and Law Variations that affect the Age Grade that they are coaching. This follows an issue in an U15 game when two sides were allowed to play with unequal numbers in their scrums. The Law Variations make it clear that scrums must always be of equal numbers (player shortages; injuries or sending's off)
- A school teacher coach of a school side has been cautioned about his future conduct in relation to issues of referee abuse.
- Three clubs have been cautioned about their failure to provide or check ID Cards. Further breaches by any Age grade team at these clubs will lead to disciplinary action.
- A number of issues at the start of the season have involved “new” coaches who were not up to speed with procedures, regulations, guidance and Law Variations. It then emerged that these new coaches do not yet hold current RFU CRB checks so should not have been working unsupervised with young people and it is the Clubs responsibility to make sure that their coaches do know and understand the procedures, regulations, guidelines and Law Variations.

- A number of referees have raised concerns about the level and nature of abuse that they have been receiving from coaches, parents and spectators on the touchline during games and subsequently in the clubhouse after games. It is clear that undermining the authority of the referee on the pitch by continually challenging and questioning his decisions is not helping young players on the pitch; these players lose confidence in the referee and may then get into trouble themselves by questioning decisions and talking back to the referee. Clubs must remind their coaches and spectators of the codes of conduct and the core values of our game.
- A number of individuals have been given strong advice or invited to attend the County Disciplinary Committee.
- A number of clubs have taken their own disciplinary action against coaches and spectators who are bringing their own club into disrepute through their behaviour on the touchline or in the clubhouse after games.
- Officials from the CB including the Safeguarding Manager have been meeting with the committees of some clubs to review the ways in which the Club's Age Grade section is being managed. Concerns over roles in the age grade section; CRB checks, Registration and ID Cards; and under-age drinking have been discussed and undertakings given.
- A number of issues have been reported of players suffering cuts and lacerations due to sharp studs/edges on boots with both studs and blades. The referee for the game should check all boots prior to the game.
- A young player with a broken leg was carried off the pitch so that he could receive attention and the game could continue. Emergency First Aiders should always err on the side of caution and not move players until a more qualified assessment has been made by a medical practitioner or paramedic. Keep the player warm – (space blankets in first aid kits!)