



BUCKINGHAMSHIRE COUNTY
RUGBY FOOTBALL UNION

Please reply to:

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AGM Discipline Report season 2023/24

Bucks Discipline Committee had another busy season, we had an increase from last season. The disappointing issue is the behaviour towards match officials increased, this is being dealt with by Bucks RFU and Discipline Chair as needs to be removed from our game, disrespect and abuse of match officials is not acceptable behaviour.

The concern re world rugby tackle height regulation did not impact as much as expected, only 3 red cards issued at clubs, AGR & schools. Referees managed the situations and only issued Red Cards if needed. Also, coaches & teachers worked hard during the season to improve tackle height to avoid the head-on-head incidents.

Bucks Discipline Panel dealt with the below cases involving Bucks Clubs, plus had 2 Formal hearings heard by RFU Discipline due to seriousness of the cases. The RFU also dealt with a racial & physical abuse against a Bucks player by a Berks player, the case was proved, the player received a large sanction.

Bucks Discipline Panel had a couple of cases that resulted in substantial match bans for players. A club received a 2-match adult level ban from all club male senior rugby teams in leagues/cup games from the start of the 2024/25 season, plus getting a formal warning re future behaviour in the 2024/25 season that could result in a 40-point deduction from 1st XV.

Match Official Abuse, unacceptable behaviour by players, coaches, spectators plus entering the field of play without referee permission & getting involved in incidents will not be tolerated by RFU & Bucks Discipline. Hearings could result in substantial sanctions being issued to players, coaches or the club & could result in point deductions to 1st XV, if implemented by discipline panels.

In my role as Bucks Age Grade Discipline Sec (CBAG), had 5 club & 1 school sending offs, these were dealt with internally by clubs or Schools, with sanctions issued by both clubs & schools, see below in blue. All AGR sanctions were ratified by RFU AGR Discipline Officer.

| CLUB / School (AGR in Blue) | Reg 19 - OFFENCE | Reg 19 - OFFENCE NUMBER | FINAL SANCTION MATCHES |
|--------------------------------|--|-------------------------------|--|
| Amersham & Chiltern | 2 Yellow Cards | 9.27 | 1 Match |
| Amersham & Chiltern | Strike to head with knee | 9.12 | 5 Match |
| Amersham & Chiltern | Strike to head (Headbutt) | 9.12 | 52 Match Ban - (26 to be served and 26 suspended) |
| Amersham & Chiltern | Strike with Elbow | 9.12 | 2 Match |
| Aylesbury | Dangerous Tackle | 9.13 | Reduced to Yellow and Education required |
| Aylesbury | Kicking | 9.12 | 2 Match |
| Beaconsfield | Strike with Hand | 9.12 | 1 Match |
| Beaconsfield | Punch / Strike | 9.12 | 1 Match |
| Beaconsfield | 2 Yellow Cards | 9.27 | SOS |
| Bletchley | Strike to head with knee | 9.12 | 5 Match |
| Bletchley | Dangerous High Tackle | 9.13 | 3 Match |
| Buckingham | MAO (Disrespect) | 9.28 | 2 Match |
| Farnham Royal | MAO | 9.28 | 2 Match |
| Farnham Royal | CITING / Punching | 9.12 | 3 Match |
| High Wycombe | MAO (Disrespect) | 9.28 | 2 Match Coach Touchline Ban |
| High Wycombe | MOA | 9.28 | 1 Match |
| High Wycombe | Dangerous play in a ruck or maul | 9.20 (b) | 1 Match |
| High Wycombe | Conduct prejudicial to the interests of the union and the game | 5.12 | 2 Match all Senior Team Club Ban (plus 8 suspended) from start of 2024/25 season |
| John Hampden School | 2 Yellow Cards | 9.27 | SOS |
| Marlow | MAO | 9.28 | 3 Matches |
| Marlow Ladies | Dangerous High Tackle | 9.13 | 3 Match (1 served, 1 suspended, 1 alternative "Tackle Safety" course) |
| Milton Keynes | Strike to head (Headbutt) | 9.12 | 6 Match Ban |
| Olney | Punch / Strike | 9.12 | 1 Match |
| Olney | Punch / Strike | 9.12 | 1 Match |
| Olney | Punch / Strike | 9.12 | 1 Match |
| Olney | Punch / Strike | 9.12 | 2 Match |
| Olney | 2 Yellow Cards | 9.27 | SOS |
| Phoenix | MAO (Disrespect) | 9.28 | 2 Match |

I would like to thank Bucks Discipline Chair Michael Spencer KC, and the discipline panel members for their help and support this season, it's been a busy and challenging season for

the panels dealing with some difficult discipline cases. Also, a big thanks to Mark Lay who has stood down from being a panel member due to work commitments. We will be recruiting new panel members, if interested please contact me.

There will be an RFU Discipline Conference in the 2024/25 season. I will be attending with other panel members. There is a rewrite of regulation 19 (discipline reg) plus some changes to sanctions etc & I will feed back to CB & Clubs re changes once known.

Please take note of the bottom of this report regarding the RFU regulations concerning entering the playing area without the referee's permission, speaking with referee at the half-time interval, within a 30-minute period after the game & enter the Referee's changing room unless invited to do so by the Referee (I suggest this should be discussed in the referees pre match briefing where approval maybe approved)

If any club would like a visit, presentation, or discussion re Discipline, please contact me to discuss &/or arrange.

Many thanks

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Regulation 19.5.5: Entering the playing area without referee permission.

Discipline has the power to provisionally suspend any individual for a period of up to four weeks if such individual has entered the playing area without the permission of the Referee and is subject to a disciplinary or safeguarding investigation as a result.

Regulation 12.5: Approaches to Match Officials.

No person (other than the Match Officials team or Match Officials coach) shall approach the Match Officials at any time during the half-time interval and up to 30 minutes after the match to discuss any issue arising from the match nor enter the Referee's changing room unless invited to do so by the Referee.
